



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 3 March 2026

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TUESDAY, 3 MARCH 2026

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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

ASSENT TO BILLS

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

The Honourable P. Weir MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

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

Date of assent: 19 February 2026

A bill for an Act to amend the Electoral Act 1992, the Local Government Electoral Act 2011, the Referendums Act 1997 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes

A bill for an Act to amend the Youth Justice Act 1992 and the Youth Justice Regulation 2016 for particular purposes

A bill for an Act to amend the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021, the Major Events Act 2014, the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001, the Racing Act 2002, the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes

These Bills are hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely

Governor

19 February 2026

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 19 February 2026, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 19 February 2026 [[241](#)].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Absence of Member

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have received advice from the member for Ferny Grove that he will be absent from the House from 3 to 5 March, inclusive of those dates. The member's notification complies with standing order 263A.

Questions on Notice

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, there has been a recent increase in the number of lengthy questions on notice containing multiple parts. I wish to remind members of the rules for questions. Standing order 115(a) provides that questions shall be brief and relate to one issue. Previous Speakers have warned that members who ask multi-part questions run the risk that some or all parts will be ruled out of order and that some or all parts will not be answered to their satisfaction.

Questions with multiple small parts that are concise and specific to a single issue will be in order—the parts are all closely related and, whilst the question could logically have been asked in an unbroken sentence, the separation into parts simply adds clarity. An example is a question seeking the same data for several categories of procedure performed by Queensland Health.

However, an increasing number of questions contain many often lengthy parts that may relate to one policy area or topic but are insufficiently connected to each other to be considered part of the same question. The question could not logically have been asked in an unbroken sentence and the separation into parts is providing a way to ask more than one question. An example is a question about social housing seeking a range of data about social housing properties and information about the government's policy plans for social housing.

I have requested clerks at the table to closely review these types of questions. They are to be brief and relate to the same specific issue. If a more concise question cannot be negotiated with the member asking the question, the Clerk will refer the question to me for a determination and it may be ruled out of order.

Second Reading Debate, Contributions



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, before commencing debate of bills this week, I wish to remind members of the rules regarding relevance, further to my rulings on 29 April 2025 and 11 June 2025. Standing order 139 limits the scope of debate on the second reading of a bill to the principles of the bill; the portfolio committee's examination and report; and any amendments recommended by the committee. Discussion of the committee's scrutiny of the bill should remain within the context of the principles of the bill to be relevant.

To put it another way, a topic raised in the committee's inquiry or report is only relevant to the extent that it is discussed in the context of the principles of the bill. Standing order 139 does not mean that one phrase or sentence in a submission to a committee or the committee's report or a statement of reservation or dissent can become a new or alternate debate to debate on the bill. It is acceptable to discuss alternative policy positions canvassed in the committee's inquiry and/or report, but the speech must return to the bill and cannot turn into a lengthy recital of another policy and effectively ignore the content of the bill. I have circulated a more detailed statement with examples from last sitting week. I seek leave to incorporate this in the *Record of Proceedings*.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT—RELEVANCE OF DEBATE TO SECOND READING OF BILLS

MR SPEAKER: Honourable members,

Before commencing debate of Bills this week, I wish to remind members of the rules regarding relevance further to my rulings on 29 April 2025 and 11 June 2025.

Debate on the second reading of Bills is the opportunity for members to express their views on the Bill before them, having regard to the committee's scrutiny of the Bill. It is acceptable to discuss alternative policy positions canvassed in the committee inquiry and/or report; but the speech cannot turn into a recital of another policy and ignore the content of the Bill.

Standing Order 139 limits the scope of debate on the second reading of a Bill to the principles of the Bill, the portfolio committee's examination and report, and any amendments recommended by the committee.

For example, last sitting week the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025 was debated and passed by the House. The principles of the Bill (or policy objectives) related to electronic monitoring as a condition of youth bail. While it was acceptable to discuss alternative policy responses to bail conditions for young offenders, it was outside the scope of the Bill's principles (or policy objectives) and therefore irrelevant to debate on the Bill, for a member to focus on ways of responding to crime that are not related to electronic monitoring. So called, Castle Law, was in no way relevant to the issue of electronic monitoring of youth offenders. (see RoP, 11 February 2026, pp173-174).

Discussion of the committee's scrutiny of the Bill should remain within the context of the principles of the Bill to be relevant. SO 139 does not mean one phrase or sentence in a submission to a committee or the committee's report or a statement of reservation or dissent can become a new or alternate debate to debate on the Bill.

For example, last sitting week the Electoral Laws (Restoring Electoral Fairness) Amendment Bill 2025 was debated and passed by the House. The principles of the Bill (policy objectives) included, among other things, applying existing caps on political donations to a financial year instead of the period between general elections. The statement of reservation to the committee's report included a sentence calling on the Government to state its position on expenditure caps during the debate and rule out any increases. While this could be briefly referred to during the debate as a possible corollary of the Bill, the issue of expenditure caps was not within the principles of the Bill and could not become the focus of a member's contribution so as to create an alternate debate to the debate on the Bill (see RoP, 10 February 2026, p59).

Where the substance of a member's contribution extends beyond the scope of SO 139, they will be asked to return to the principles of the Bill.

I appreciate that members may wish to raise matters that they see as related to the Bill, but which are outside its scope. Members should make use of the many other speaking opportunities provided in the parliament's program, to raise those matters in the House.

Other opportunities for members to raise such matters include through the questions on notice process, corresponding directly with Ministers, and writing to committees.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Same Question Rule

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have considered the application of the same question rule to the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026. In summary, the same question rule is enlivened by clauses 117 and 118 of the bill, contrary to standing order 87. A motion to suspend standing order 87 would be required for these clauses to be considered. I seek leave to incorporate my full ruling circulated in my name.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—APPLICATION OF SAME QUESTION RULE TO FIGHTING ANTISEMITISM AND KEEPING GUNS OUT OF THE HANDS OF TERRORISTS AND CRIMINALS AMENDMENT BILL

I have considered the application of the same question rule to the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026.

The Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill was introduced on 10 February 2026. It seeks to amend provisions of the *Youth Justice Act 1992* that have already been considered by the House in this session of Parliament in the context of amendments contained in the *Making Queensland Safer Act 2024* and the *Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Act 2025*.

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

Clauses 117 and 118 of the Bill propose amendments to provisions of the Youth Justice Act 1992 that are substantially the same as amendments previously considered and agreed to by the House in the same session of parliament due to the passing of the *Making Queensland Safer Act 2024* and the *Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Act 2025*. This is contrary to Standing Order 87.

Accordingly, I rule that the same question rule is enlivened by clauses 117 and 118 of the Bill contrary to Standing Order 87. A motion to suspend Standing Order 87 would be required for these clauses to be considered.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Panel of Temporary Speakers

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, in accordance with standing order 11, I advise that I have discharged Mr Mark Furner, the member for Ferny Grove, from the Panel of Temporary Speakers and appointed Mr Joe Kelly, the member for Greenslopes, to the panel.

Reynolds, Dr P

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I would like to say a few words about Dr Paul Reynolds, who recently passed. Paul Reynolds was a widely published academic, serving from 1974 to 2007 at the University of Queensland. Paul was also a political commentator on national and state politics. Paul also had a long association with the Australasian Study of Parliament Group Queensland Chapter, of which, as Speaker, I am patron. Paul served as its chair and a member of the executive board for many years.

After retiring from his position at the University of Queensland in 2007, Dr Reynolds worked as an honorary research fellow at the Queensland Parliamentary Library. In 2010 then Speaker Mickel asked Paul to undertake an oral history project to record significant events in Queensland's parliamentary history since the 1950s and the context surrounding each. Given Dr Reynolds' association with the ASPG, parliament and the Parliamentary Service, I think it appropriate that I note his contribution and condolences be passed on to his family and friends.

Parliament House, Artwork

 **Mr SPEAKER:** This sitting week we are showcasing two more works from the regional council artwork collection, originally assembled in 1979 to mark the completion of the Parliamentary Annexe. The first work is a scene from Statue Bay on the Capricorn Coast by Genny Hannan. Born in 1943, Hannan did not undertake formal art college training, instead developing her skills through a number of art courses with the further education department. She pursued her practice with the long-term goal of studying portrait painting. This work was donated by the Livingstone Shire Council.

The second piece is a scene of Redland Bay by Judy Holmes. Holmes was born in Chinchilla and studied art at Moreton Bay College and the technical college before working as a commercial designer. She later undertook further study and moved into teaching art while continuing to exhibit her work. Working across both painting and sculpture, she has received various awards throughout Australia, including the Westfield prize for sculpture and the Redland watercolour prize. This artwork was donated by the Redland shire council. Next sitting week we will feature two more artworks, continuing our showcasing of the regional communities represented in the chamber.

Visitors to Public Gallery

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Northside Christian College in the electorate of Everton, Pine Rivers State High School in the electorate of Pine Rivers and OneSchool Global Toowoomba Campus in the electorate of Toowoomba South.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Bird, Ms LR

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.39 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this State by the late Lorraine Rita Bird, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland.
2. That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased lady 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.

Lorraine Rita Bird was born in Charters Towers on 12 February 1942. She went to school at Cardwell State School and St Patrick's Girls College and later studied at the Mackay TAFE College. Ms Bird enjoyed a wide and varied career, from antique dealer and costume restorer to a Lifeline telephone counsellor, community development worker and theatre director and as inaugural secretary of the National Trust of Queensland's Mackay branch.

Ms Bird joined the Australian Labor Party in 1979 and went on to serve as a councillor on the Pioneer Shire Council from 1985 to 1991. She contested the state seat of Whitsunday and won it from the incumbent Geoff Muntz at the state election of December 1989. In so doing, Ms Bird helped the ALP under Wayne Goss to form government in Queensland for the first time in 32 years.

In her first speech in this place Ms Bird named work-based child care, greater equality and job opportunities, and a greater degree of community safety for women and the aged among her top priorities. During her three terms in this House Ms Bird served on many parliamentary committees including public accounts, criminal justice and members' ethics. During 1996 and 1997, she served as shadow minister under Peter Beattie as leader of the opposition, firstly in the portfolio of tourism and later in the portfolio of public works and administrative services. She lost her seat at the 1998 election to One Nation.

Lorraine Rita Bird passed away on 17 November 2025 aged 83 years of age. On behalf of the government, I place on record our thanks for her service over many years. I extend my sympathy and that of this House to her family and friends, particularly her husband, John, who joins us in the House today. Vale, Lorraine Bird.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.41 am): I rise on behalf of the Queensland Labor opposition to express our deepest condolences on the passing of Lorraine Rita Bird, a former member of this House. Lorraine Bird was a proud regional Queenslander, born in Charters Towers, and a proud member of the mighty Labor Party. She entered this House and the history books

in 1989 as the first ever Labor member for Whitsunday. She won in that Goss landslide by just 12 votes. Despite this close result, Lorraine was a strong representative and earned the trust and respect of her community, going on to serve the people of the Whitsundays for three terms.

It was not just her victory as the first Labor MP for the seat of Whitsunday that earned her a place in the history books. Lorraine was also the first woman to serve her community in this place. In her first speech, Lorraine spoke of how 1989 was a turning point for women in Queensland. When Lorraine was elected to this House, just 10 women had been elected before her. It is thanks to women like her who led the charge on female representation and advancing the rights of women that there have now been more than 100 women serve in this parliament.

Lorraine was a proud champion of her community, a staunch advocate for regional Queensland and the contribution it makes to our state, and an outspoken warrior for all women and the important role they play in society—and the role she knew they would play into the future. On behalf of the Queensland Labor opposition, I extend our sincerest condolences to Lorraine's husband, John; her daughters, Sandra and Patrizia; and her extended family and friends. We thank her for her service to this parliament, to the Labor Party and to the people of the Whitsundays. Vale, Lorraine Bird.

 **Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (9.43 am): I rise to contribute to the condolence motion and to express my sorrow to John and the family on the passing of his wife, a former member for Whitsunday—Lorraine Rita Bird. I do so wearing trousers today as a nod to Lorraine, who in 1990, after receiving permission from the Speaker, became the first female MP to wear trousers in the Queensland parliament. It may not seem much but it was another step, as outlined by the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition, on the road for women in this House. Today we mark over 100 women who have been elected to parliament—and what a fitting week in which to deliver her condolence motion, with International Women's Day occurring this week.

Ms Bird spoke of being immensely proud of being a female representative in this House and for our community and was a fierce advocate for women's rights right across the great state of Queensland. This morning I spoke with John, who is well recognised across the Mackay community as an established accountant in the partnership that was Brown and Bird, which delivered a lot of not-for-profit support right across our community as well with their auditing functions, so I acknowledge him today. He expressed to me her passion for our local community. Back then the seat of Whitsunday was a much bigger electorate, taking in parts of the Mackay electorate and also the Burdekin electorate. It was bigger than the electorate I represent today. Her advocacy for the Bruce Highway, her continued advocacy for the tourism and sugar industries—and she predicted that the tourism industry would employ greater numbers than the sugar industry into the future, and I think it probably does now—and her delivery of community health services in Airlie Beach are a legacy that she has left.

In her first address in this House she touched on just what it means to be a North Queenslander, especially one who calls the Whitsunday region home. She said—

We are a mixed bag to say the least, but this makes us so much more ready to grasp the new opportunities that these uncertain times present, to take the risks of venturing new fields and to endure the inevitable hard times. We are people who have learnt from the past that there are no easy solutions and that we must all make a positive contribution if the community as a whole is to prosper.

I think all of us enter this House with that vision for and representation of our electorates in mind.

Ms Bird was a lover of the arts and advocated for the region that she called home. She spoke of the beauty and the need to take great care of the environment and our natural beauty but also the people. Her contribution to the arts and her feminist views were expressed in this House when debating the Classification of Films Amendment Bill in 1993, when she spoke of how women and their roles were misrepresented by the media and filmmakers and that there was a lack of opportunity for substantial roles for women and the impact that was having on children and the next generation. That was not too long ago—back in 1993. I think I was in year 10 then.

I want to thank Ms Bird's family, particularly John and her children, for giving up their mum and their wife in the time that she served this parliament. It is more challenging for regional members in this House not just when they leave for Brisbane but also when they have to travel across their electorate and be away from their family. The sacrifice that she has made I know lives through her children and grandchildren. Vale, Lorraine Bird.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (9.47 am): Lorraine Rita Bird was born on 12 February 1942 and passed away on 17 November 2025. She was educated at Cardwell State School and St Patrick's Girls College and attended Mackay TAFE, obtaining a regional Queensland education and knowledge she proudly brought to local government and state parliament.

I remember Lorraine Bird as a formidable force who knew her own mind. She marched to the beat of her own drum and stood up for what she believed, regardless of any pressure placed on her to do things differently such as women wearing trousers in parliament—and I join the member for Whitsunday in wearing trousers today as well.

She worked hard and tirelessly for her local community, and her family was very respected and loved by her ALP branches. She was the member for Whitsunday when it covered a much larger area than today's Whitsunday electorate, taking in Bowen, Collinsville and Mount Pleasant as well as the current footprint. The roads were more difficult to travel then, with a lot of rail crossings, narrow roads and no overtaking lanes. However, this did not slow her down. She took it all in her stride and ensured that she represented the whole of her community.

Lorraine was a fiercely protective mother of daughters Sandy and Patrizia, and she was devastated by the premature death of her son, Derek, as a young adult in an accident. John, whom I acknowledge in the gallery, informed me this morning that that death occurred due to a motorcycle accident when he was just 23 years old.

Throughout her entire life Lorraine fought to get her family, particularly her daughter Patrizia, the health services and support they needed to meet their challenges and live full and rewarding lives. Her support for her daughters was never-ending. For example, back in the day of the Miss Australia Quest the Mackay division held the Miss Pioneer Pageant. Sandy was an entrant. Lorraine relentlessly supported Sandy's fundraising to ensure she had a healthy fundraising total for the use of charities in the community.

When Lorraine married John in 1981—and I acknowledge John Bird in the gallery—they became a tight team. With John's political brain—which I have had experience of—and Lorraine's drive, their skills complemented each other to form a mighty political machine. Lorraine began her political career as councillor on the Pioneer Shire Council in 1985 before being elected as the member for Whitsunday on 2 December 1989, succeeding Geoff Muntz. Her election victories were always a knife-edged result, winning by slim margins each election, but she was able to hold onto the seat until 13 June 1998.

Lorraine worked tirelessly across her electorate and took up causes to improve the lives of families in the Whitsundays and Mackay. Notably, she fought hard against the then Bjelke-Petersen government which closed the Collinsville power station. This had dire effects on the local community. Lorraine campaigned to get it reopened—and it was, by a Labor government—but it was closed again in later years by another LNP government, and that was a great disappointment to her.

Regional towns and cities across Queensland have thriving arts communities, and this can only be achieved by local champions. Lorraine served as a director the New Moon Theatre Company. Their performances delighted and entertained the community and gave budding actors a chance to hone their skills. She was also the inaugural secretary of the Mackay branch of the National Trust of Queensland. Lorraine's interest in antiques turned into a successful small business antique dealer venture. She also honed her skills and passion in collecting and restoring vintage gowns and costumes.

Lorraine Bird lived a full, productive life with many varied interests and projects. She was a loyal member of the Australian Labor Party. She would not only follow Labor Party candidates in state and federal elections but would always ensure she would only vote for local government candidates with true Labor values. I thank her for her loyal service during her public life representing her constituents and the people of Queensland. I also thank the former member for Mackay, Julieanne Gilbert, who assisted me in writing these words. I am sure she will not mind me, on behalf of us both, expressing our sincere sympathies and condolences to all family, friends and loved ones. Vale, Lorraine Rita Bird.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (9.52 am): I rise to speak to the condolence motion for Lorraine Rita Bird. I acknowledge her husband, John Bird—or 'Birdie', as we all know him in the Labor Party—in the gallery today. I know that her daughter Sandy and Sandy's son were hoping to be here today but had to decline at the last minute due to illness.

I have to say what a pleasure it has been to do some extra research on Lorraine for the purposes of speaking to this motion today because, although I thought I knew a fair bit about her, it turns out, as so often happens when you are doing this kind of research, that I did not know a lot of things. As an ordinary member of the Labor Party I had, of course, known who Lorraine Bird was from the moment she was elected to state parliament in 1989—the first Labor member for the seat since it was created

in 1949. Whitsunday had been held by the National Party since its inception. Interestingly, it was National Party preferences that caused the ousting of Lorraine in 1998 and led to the election of One Nation member Harry Black. However, it was when I became chief of staff to the then education minister and subsequently worked for the ALP organisation that I got to know more closely who Lorraine Bird was.

Can I tell you, Speaker, that she was fearless and intrepid—and I think I can say even a bit scary—if she felt that a minister, a staff member or the ALP had not done what she considered to be a good enough job for her electorate. I am sure there was a little part of that which had to do with Whitsunday being such a marginal seat. As has been said already, she won it by 12 votes in the first election and it continued to be marginal over the next two elections. Anyone who has been or is in a marginal seat—and there are those people on both sides of this House—knows what it is like and how stressful it is to be in a marginal seat. Anyone who has been or is a minister knows what it is like to be lobbied by a marginal seat MP—continually. I like to think we are all pretty committed to lobbying for our electorates—that is what we are here for—but there is something just a bit different about a marginal seat MP. The good ones lobby all the time incessantly, relentlessly and unforgivingly. They take no prisoners; there are no compromises ever, at all. That was Lorraine Bird, and I mean that in a nice way. She was the best champion for her beloved seat and her constituents were so fortunate to have had this woman represent them; however, it was not just because she knew she had to win her seat in successive elections. This was a woman who was passionate about a number of issues and passionate about the needs of her electorate, and you could see that in her speeches.

I acknowledge the wonderful resource written by John McCulloch titled *Women members of the Queensland parliament 1929-1994*, which contains an excellent summary of the topics she covered. If anybody ever wants some background on our female members, I can highly recommend that resource. I read that particular document. I had a great chat with former member for Mackay Julieanne Gilbert about Lorraine. Julieanne not only knew Lorraine as a local member and a member of the Labor Party but also grew up not far from the corner store that Lorraine ran in Mackay and went to school with Lorraine's daughter Sandy. I asked Julieanne what she remembered of the issues Lorraine most strongly advocated on and she distinctly recalled tourism for her beloved electorate, small business, the arts, child safety and children with disabilities as being constant themes. I asked Birdie the same question and he said to me in his quiet way, 'What she said in her maiden speech, Di. That's what she meant then and that's what she continued.' You can see that she spoke about things like child care and equality for women. Birdie said, 'Particularly domestic violence and women—those issues meant so much to her.' When you go through Lorraine's speeches—and, as has been acknowledged already, we note that she was only No. 11 on the list of 100 women in Queensland parliament—her references to equality for women and respect for women were so strong. Perhaps one of her very early speeches gives us an insight. She said—

My approach to issues of social welfare will be from the perspective of a woman who was married at 15, a mother at 19 and a sole parent at 26.

She was especially sensitive to the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and women in general and spoke often about initiatives for them or ones that she thought should be in place. You can see that her speeches are about women's affairs in general, including women's health and eating disorders—which is amazing when so little was known about it in those days—breast cancer screening and Women's Infolink. Poignantly, just yesterday many of us were at the Red Rose Foundation breakfast talking about the effects of pornography on attitudes towards women and its inextricable link to domestic violence. We can see that Lorraine Bird was talking about pornography in 1992 when she presented a petition praying that parliament enact laws which set standards for the presentation, exhibition, promotion and sale of soft pornographic magazines in newsagencies and other retail outlets. The member for Whitsunday just referred to Lorraine speaking in 1993 to the Classification of Films Amendment Bill. She said—

Viewers of pornography have also been shown to be more callous towards sexual exploitation and more tolerant of rape and violent sexual acts.

We speak of that so often today.

As for letting the boys get away with any misogynist comments at all in this House, having read some of the feisty exchanges she had on that front—and there was a funny one between her and Wendy Edmond and Kev Lingard—I would say it would be a brave man who did that in Lorraine Bird's presence.

I often think one of the strongest measures of an MP as a person is how they live their life after their parliamentary career is over. From what I know, Lorraine Bird as a former MP was just as passionate as Lorraine Bird the MP. After 1998 she continued to advocate for children with disabilities, for the arts and for a range of other issues. She continued her commitment to the Labor Party—always at branch meetings, always supporting whatever was going on. Julieanne Gilbert told me that right to the end she was always insistent on finding out the background of any council candidates—as my friend the member for McConnel said—acknowledging that the formal party political system does not operate in regional Queensland elections. For Lorraine, she had to make sure she was not voting for anybody unless they were in the Labor Party or in the union movement or had distinctly shown they were supportive of one of them or both.

Before I finish I want to acknowledge Birdie, her second husband, whom she married in March 1981. Lorraine and Birdie were a formidable team. It was she and Birdie together who won Lorraine the seat of Whitsunday three times, always in challenging circumstances. It was she and Birdie together that made it possible for Lorraine to be such a fearless advocate for her electorate. Where Lorraine was, there was always Birdie; where Birdie was, there was always Lorraine. I thank him for the enormous impact he made with her. We are all the better for having fearless champions such as Lorraine Bird to show us how to be good at what we do in this House. Our respect to her; our condolences to her family. Vale, Lorraine Bird.

Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will commence at 10.46 am.

PETITIONS

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

Maryborough Special School, Pedestrian Safety

Mr Barounis, from 640 petitioners, requesting the House to install a pedestrian crossing to improve safety at Maryborough Special School [\[222\]](#) [\[223\]](#).

Sunbury State School, Pedestrian Safety

Mr Barounis, from 480 petitioners, requesting the House to install crossing traffic lights on Alice Street, Maryborough, in the vicinity of Sunbury State School [\[224\]](#) [\[225\]](#).

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

Macleay Island, Bus Services

2,091 petitioners, requesting the House to provide an effective inclusive Translink bus service on Macleay Island [\[226\]](#) [\[227\]](#).

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

Coomera TAFE Marine Centre of Excellence

Mr Crandon, from 287 petitioners, requesting the House to fast-track stage 2 of the Coomera TAFE Marine Centre of Excellence [\[228\]](#).

South Brisbane, Visy Site

Dr O'Shea, from 1,938 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake community consultation and to incorporate this feedback into any decision regarding the redevelopment and future use of the Visy site on Montague Road, South Brisbane [\[229\]](#).

Narangba Rail Crossing

Mr King, from 2,450 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade the Narangba rail crossing and end traffic congestion [\[230\]](#).

Mansfield, Hooning

Ms McMillan, from 389 petitioners, requesting the House to install advanced anti-hooning surveillance cameras in Mansfield [\[231\]](#).

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

Transgender Youth and Children

365 petitioners, requesting the House to reinstate trans rights and healthcare to trans youth and trans kids [\[232\]](#).

Roads, Tolls

1,509 petitioners, requesting the House to remove tolls from Brisbane tunnels and bridges [\[233\]](#).

Stanthorpe Hospital, Renal Dialysis Unit

683 petitioners, requesting the House to do all in its power to establish a permanent renal dialysis unit at Stanthorpe Hospital and to equip Stanthorpe Hospital with at least three dialysis chairs to accommodate the current and projected local patient demand [234].

Weapons Licences

2,481 petitioners, requesting the House to bring in legislation that means new citizens to Australia must wait five years before they can apply for a weapons license [235].

Mt Challenger, Crystal Brook and Kelsey Creek, Wind Farm Project

4,419 petitioners, requesting the House to suspend the proposed Mt Challenger and Crystal Brook/Kelsey Creek Wind Farm Project in its current form and assess alternative, more suitable sites [236].

Dogs, Protection

1,694 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 to protect dogs from heat and unsafe ute transport [237].

Moreton Bay Regional Council

1,009 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures regarding the Moreton Bay Regional Council's planning scheme administration [238].

Electricity Supply

5,478 petitioners, requesting the House to reject all future development proposals for wind, solar and hydrogen power and support new or refurbish existing coal fired power stations for a reliable affordable stable power supply [239].

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS (SO 31)

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

13 February 2026—

[187](#) Primary Industries and Resources Committee: Report No. 13, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 27 August 2025 and 18 November 2025: Erratum

19 February 2026—

[188](#) Education, Arts and Communities Committee: Report No. 14, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 15 October 2025 and 18 November 2025

[189](#) Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner: Report on the results of the inspection of the records of the Crime and Corruption Commission pursuant to section 362 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, dated December 2025

[190](#) Governance, Energy and Finance Committee: Report No. 18, 58th Parliament—Queensland Audit Office Annual Report 2024-25

[191](#) Governance, Energy and Finance Committee: Report No. 19, 58th Parliament—Cross Border Commissioner Annual Report 2024-25

[192](#) Governance, Energy and Finance Committee: Report No. 20, 58th Parliament—Energy and Water Ombudsman Queensland Annual Report 2024-25

[193](#) Governance, Energy and Finance Committee: Report No. 21, 58th Parliament—Consideration of Auditor-General Report 3: 2025-26—2025 status of Auditor-General's recommendations

26 February 2026—

[194](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Bleijie), pursuant to section 103 of the Planning Act 2016, in relation to the Ministerial Call In of a development application at 1641 Roys Road, Coochin Creek made by Murray Bell and Associates on behalf of Coochin Creek Property Pty Ltd

[195](#) Medicines and Poisons Act 2019: Extended Practice Authority 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners' (Version 7)

[196](#) Medicines and Poisons Act 2019: Extended Practice Authority 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers' (Version 5)

[197](#) Medicines and Poisons Act 2019: Extended Practice Authority 'Midwives' (Version 6)

[198](#) Medicines and Poisons Act 2019: Extended Practice Authority 'Registered nurses' (Version 7)

[199](#) Medicines and Poisons Act 2019: Extended Practice Authority 'Pharmacists' (Version 10)

27 February 2026—

[200](#) Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 27, 58th Parliament—Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Assisted Reproductive Technology Act 2024:

- [201](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 11
- [202](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 11, explanatory notes
- [203](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 11, human rights certificate

Assisted Reproductive Technology Act 2024:

- [204](#) Assisted Reproductive Technology Regulation 2026, No. 12
- [205](#) Assisted Reproductive Technology Regulation 2026, No. 12, explanatory notes
- [206](#) Assisted Reproductive Technology Regulation 2026, No. 12, human rights certificate

Major Events Act 2014:

- [207](#) Major Events (AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026) Regulation 2026, No. 13
- [208](#) Major Events (AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026) Regulation 2026, No. 13, explanatory notes
- [209](#) Major Events (AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026) Regulation 2026, No. 13, human rights certificate

Criminal Code Act 1899:

- [210](#) Criminal Code (Prohibited Symbols) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 14
- [211](#) Criminal Code (Prohibited Symbols) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 14, explanatory notes
- [212](#) Criminal Code (Prohibited Symbols) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 14, human rights certificate

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

- [213](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Disaster Assistance (Primary Producers) Loans Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 15
- [214](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Disaster Assistance (Primary Producers) Loans Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 15, explanatory notes
- [215](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Disaster Assistance (Primary Producers) Loans Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 15, human rights certificate

Medicines and Poisons Act 2019:

- [216](#) Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 16
- [217](#) Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 16, explanatory notes
- [218](#) Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 16, human rights certificate

Fisheries Act 1994:

- [219](#) Fisheries Legislation (Saucer Scallops) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 17
- [220](#) Fisheries Legislation (Saucer Scallops) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 17, explanatory notes
- [221](#) Fisheries Legislation (Saucer Scallops) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 17, human rights certificate

REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

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

Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2025

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—

'Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2025'

Insert—

'Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2026'

Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—

'Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025'

Insert—

'Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026'

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Weather Events, Recovery

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (10.05 am): To start the year, Queenslanders across the north, north-west and central regions of our state have experienced widespread and damaging flooding. Properties and pasture land in towns like Clermont, Einasleigh and Rockhampton have been impacted, with communities from Burketown to Birdsville suffering isolation. Right now, large parts of the south-west are preparing for further river rises as large amounts of water flow through the Georgina River and Eyre Creek.

We have seen our emergency services crews assisting people right across the state. Overnight we have seen Queensland's LifeFlight helicopter assist in rescues across the border in South Australia and Northern Territory. There are those who say that Queensland hospitals are for Queenslanders; well, I say that Queensland helicopters are for Australians in their hour of need. We want to thank those heroes for responding. The water will be welcomed by most graziers and tourism operators in the long term, but the challenges with lengthy isolations for many weeks will be met with a diligent response by our government.

The state is bracing for another monsoon trough and two tropical lows which are forecast to develop further in the coming days. While we continue to work on recovery and responding to a vast flooding event, we again must start to prepare. With so much of the state saturated, floodwater could rise quickly if another rain event eventuates. We have pre-positioned assets throughout regional Queensland, and we will respond in whatever way is required. I am really grateful for our police, emergency services, utilities workers, council staff, business owners, neighbours and graziers who continue to work together through these disasters and who are now turning their eye to the next. They show us that during a disaster you can count on a Queenslanders.

Youth Justice

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (10.07 am): Too many Queenslanders have had their lives ripped apart by youth criminals after a decade of decline under Labor. We have a laserlike focus on dealing with crime in this state. It is the reason that our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws were our first order of business upon coming to government. We are delivering stronger laws, putting more officers on the ground and investing in early intervention and rehabilitation.

Last year we expanded Jack's Law and made it permanent to give police the powers they need to remove weapons from the streets. Since then, police have scanned thousands of people and seized weapons right across the state. Our enhanced State Flying Squad is the largest rapid response ever in Queensland's history. In its first year, the Flying Squad was deployed more than 100 times to crime hotspots to restore safety. Last week we launched Operation Forge—a statewide police crackdown on break-ins, robberies and stolen cars—but there is still a long way to go. We said we would continue to strengthen our laws. Every change will be about strengthening the laws after a decade of Labor weakening the laws.

Today we will introduce legislation to expand our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. Twelve new offences will be added including conspiring to murder, unlawful stalking and abusing somebody with a disability. It will increase the number of Adult Crime, Adult Time offences in Queensland to 45. There must be consequences for actions. Our government will continue to turn the tide on youth crime by delivering a justice system that puts victims first. This is exactly what we are delivering. Reversing years of rising youth crime will not happen overnight, but Queenslanders elected this government with a mandate to act and that is exactly what we are delivering. We are standing on the side of victims, not offenders. I have listened to them and we must keep going. We will make the tough decisions to restore safety where you live.

Youth Justice

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.09 am): The Crisafulli government made a promise to Queenslanders—a promise to restore safety to communities, to see fewer victims of crime and to strengthen youth crime laws to ensure there are consequences for actions. That is exactly what we are doing. I am pleased to update the House that today I will introduce a bill to expand Adult Crime, Adult Time to include an additional 12 serious offences to continue to restore safety where you live.

We delivered the first tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time laws before Christmas in 2024, just as we promised. Then last year we delivered further Adult Crime, Adult Time laws on the advice of the Expert Legal Panel. Today we are building on those strong foundations by expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time to continue to drive down the number of victims of crime in this state. Unravelling a decade of Labor's weak laws does not happen overnight, which is why we promised Queenslanders we would continue to strengthen our laws. It is also why we promised Queenslanders we would establish an expert legal panel, and I would like to thank them for the advice they have provided to the Crisafulli government. They were appointed for a year and they have done a significant amount of work in that time and laid the foundations for strong laws.

Today, make no mistake: our work is not done. While the bill I will introduce expands Adult Crime, Adult Time, I make this commitment to Queenslanders: we will continue to strengthen our youth crime laws and we will make more changes if they are needed. While those opposite spent a decade weakening our laws, we stand on the side of victims and will strengthen our laws. Under the previous Labor government victim numbers rose 193 per cent. Under the Crisafulli government victim numbers have fallen 7.2 per cent. Serious repeat—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs GERBER: I hear those opposite interjecting.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: When I call order, I expect the House to come to order.

Mrs GERBER: I hear those opposite interjecting. They are still not supporting our strong laws that have seen the number of serious repeat offenders fall 17 per cent and that have seen proven Adult Crime, Adult Time offences fall 27 per cent when under those opposite victim numbers rose by 193 per cent. It is still early days. We are coming off an extremely high base thanks to the previous Labor government, but it demonstrates our strong laws are starting to work. They are working alongside our early intervention and rehabilitation programs.

We know that our strong laws need to go hand in hand with early intervention and rehabilitation, and that is why we are delivering programs right across the state to ensure youth can stop offending and turn their lives around. For the first time, every youth offender who leaves detention gets 12 months of rehabilitative support with our Staying on Track program. Under Labor, they barely got 72 hours. The Crisafulli government has a plan to restore safety to communities—a plan we are delivering, a plan Queenslanders backed. However, Queenslanders do not know where the Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues stand when it comes to Adult Crime, Adult Time. Will they back Adult Crime, Adult Time, or will they follow through—

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs GERBER:—and I hear them—with their secret plan to unwind Adult Crime, Adult Time?

Ms McMillan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mansfield, I cautioned you earlier and you continued to interject. You are warned under the standing orders.

Community Safety

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (10.13 am): The Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland. We are delivering what Queenslanders voted for: safety where you live, with a 7.2 per cent reduction in victims, fewer stolen cars, fewer homes and businesses broken into, fewer robberies and more police on the front line, but there is more work to do. Before the election we committed to ending Labor's soft-on-crime approach. That includes being soft on drugs and antisocial behaviour.

Labor's three-strikes drug policy is an absolute failure. The latest Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission national wastewater report shows that drug use in Queensland is on the rise. In 2024, more methylamphetamine was consumed than in any other year; cocaine and heroin use is the highest it has ever been. Why? It is because Labor allowed drug use to flourish. Under Labor's failed diversion scheme, offenders could be caught with dangerous drugs like fentanyl and heroin multiple times and still avoid meaningful consequences. This must end. We need to send a clear message that taking illicit

drugs is not acceptable or safe. To see this we only need to look at the US, where states are now frantically trying to undo disastrous drug policies responsible for a huge spike in addiction, crime and ultimately overdose deaths. The Crisafulli government is determined to not let that happen in Queensland.

Today we will introduce the illicit drug enforcement and diversion framework, which restores deterrence and consequences for dangerous drug offending. There will be no more three-strikes policy. Labor's catch-and-release program was an embarrassment. You cannot be tough on crime if you are soft on drugs. The bill will also target antisocial behaviour, protecting Queensland cities and towns under siege. Labor's legacy of weak laws left police powerless. The member for Cairns was so concerned about it that he wrote to me just last year. I promised him the Crisafulli government would act and we would deliver on that promise to him and to all Queenslanders. I just hope the member for Cairns will support our solution and not be beholden to the Labor left, because we know it is regional Queensland that has been hit the hardest. This cannot continue.

The Crisafulli government is taking decisive action, introducing designated business and community precincts and giving police strengthened powers to deter, detect and respond to antisocial behaviour. Like in safe night precincts, police will be able to issue banning orders, prohibiting people who behave in a disorderly, offensive, threatening or violent way or who disrupt the peaceful passage or enjoyment of others in the precinct. The Crisafulli government committed to giving police the laws and resources they need to do their job and to make Queensland safer, and we are delivering on that commitment.

Finally, while I am on my feet I say that suggestions made today that police in some way are not prioritising, protecting or investigating crimes committed against children or by children are categorically incorrect and insulting. Suggestions that complaints to police about being assaulted made by anyone in Queensland are not being thoroughly investigated and included in victim numbers are incorrect. In 2024 Labor passed the Queensland Community Safety Bill, which amended section 100 of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act. The changes which commenced in May 2025 addressed an inconsistency within the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act. Police continue to investigate and report all matters under the relevant act, including the Criminal Code, the Youth Justice Act, the Child Protection Act and the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act.

Child Sexual Abuse, Vicarious Liability

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (10.17 am): The Crisafulli government is committed to making Queensland safer and standing up for the rights of victims. As we expand our landmark Adult Crime, Adult Time laws, I want to update the House on a major turning point for victims of institutional abuse following the recent High Court decision handed down on 11 February this year in *AA v The Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church for the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle*. The court's decision in *AA* has far-reaching ramifications for survivors of historical child sexual abuse.

In that case the High Court turned to a fundamental question: what duty does an institution owe to a child in its care? The focus in *AA* was not on the relationship between the institution and the abuser but on the institution's responsibility to protect children under its supervision. In a clear majority decision the High Court held in *AA* that institutions owe children in its care, supervision and control a non-delegable duty of care. Importantly, under this duty institutions cannot shift or delegate responsibility for a child's safety to another person. Rather, they remain legally accountable for ensuring reasonable care is taken when delegating responsibility to an individual even where the wrongful act is committed by that individual.

In delivering this judgement, the High Court overturned its own 2003 decision in *Lepore*, expanding non-delegable duties to include intentional criminal acts such as sexual assault. This represents a significant development in Australian law and underscores the importance of the High Court's reasoning for victims and survivors of historical abuse. The outcome of *AA* means survivors are not confined by the employer-employee test established in *Bird v DP*, which reaffirmed the longstanding principles governing vicarious liability. While the ACT and Victoria have acted after *Bird* by enacting legislation to broaden the longstanding principles of vicarious liability, those changes have now been overtaken by the High Court decision in *AA*, which provides a strengthened avenue for justice. Put simply, *AA* has expanded avenues for historical child abuse victims to bring forward claims. Unlike those opposite, the Crisafulli government takes a careful and considered approach when it comes to such important legislative reform. The decision was handed down on 11 February this year.

A government member: Two weeks ago.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you. It was two weeks ago. At my first available opportunity I am standing here updating the House.

A government member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that. Unlike those opposite, we take that careful and considered approach, and we will continue to do so—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Dick interjected.

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

Mrs FRECKLINGTON:—and we will carefully monitor the AA decision, as we have with Bird, and its impact on victims, including by engaging in a coordinated national approach such as SCAG, where reforms are developed responsibly and carefully. I note that, at the SCAG meeting on Friday, New South Wales has taken the lead in reviewing the impact nationally on the most recent decision of AA. Unlike those opposite who seem to have an issue with adding extra for victims, the AA decision adds—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I refer to your ruling of 24 June 2025 where you outlined specific instructions around ministerial statements that they be temperate in language and not an opportunity for these misguided political attacks and I would submit to you—

Mr SPEAKER: I have your point of order.

Mr de BRENNI:—that the minister is defying your ruling.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! One of the reasons we get this is when there is banter coming from both sides. The minister has the call—nobody else. Minister, you know my ruling around informing the House of what is happening under your portfolio.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I will continue because this is a vitally important thing, particularly in relation to avenues available to victims. I will note the AA decision adds to the multiple legal avenues already available to survivors of historical child sexual abuse, including the National Redress Scheme and our state's existing civil liability laws. Finally, I want to assure the House that the rights of victims to access justice remains a paramount priority. To victims throughout our criminal justice system, know that you have no greater advocate than the Crisafulli government.

CFMEU

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.23 am): The Crisafulli government continues to take strong action in the construction industry to end the intimidation, fear, bullying and misogyny that we saw by the CFMEU. It is important that in a ministerial statement I explain why we are expressing that strong view against the CFMEU and its behaviour and pointing out how that behaviour was allowed to happen under the former Labor government and why this government is forced to take strong action against the CFMEU. That is why we set up the royal commission into the CFMEU given, in the few sittings it has had this year, the testimony coming from the construction industry and the behaviour that was allowed to be perpetrated under those opposite for 10 years. We have to keep reminding Queenslanders why we, the Crisafulli government, are taking this action because of not only the inaction but also the favouring of the CFMEU by the former Labor government over 10 years, whether it be legislative, promotion, jobs—

Mr Crisafulli: IR.

Mr BLEIJIE:—and industrial relations reform. That is why we are taking the stance we are, and it is not just us: look at the testimony in the CFMEU inquiry. I want to table a letter for you, Mr Speaker, but before I do I will read from this letter. This was a letter from the Australian Constructors Association, Ai Group, Civil Contractors Federation, Infrastructure Association, Master Builders and QMCA. This is a letter they wrote to—get this; get ready for this!—former premier Anastacia Palaszczuk on 28 January 2021 with respect to BPIC and the warnings they gave. The letter states—

During this time, industry consultation on the changes has been sporadic and previously communicated industry concerns regarding the scope and application of the changes have largely been left unaddressed.

... we are concerned that the proposed policy changes will significantly increase the cost of construction in Queensland, reducing the number of projects that the State can afford to construct and therefore the number of people that can be employed.

The Draft BPICs do not represent 'Best Practice' industrial relations, nor do they reflect Principles. They resemble a pattern enterprise agreement with highly restrictive and costly provisions.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 28 January 2021, from various representatives from the Australian Constructors Association, the Australian Industry Group, the Civil Contractors Federation Queensland, the Infrastructure Association of Queensland, Master Builders Queensland and the Queensland Major Contractors Association, to the former Premier, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, regarding the Buy Queensland Procurement Policy and request for meeting [242].

One would think that if you were a government that got that letter you would say, 'Wow, we're going to listen and we're going to stop with our policy of BPICs.' You would think that that is what you ought to do—but, no, the Labor government doubled down and introduced it, and introduced it retrospectively, driving up the cost by 30 per cent, particularly with the first project in Townsville with the stadium where it retrospectively applied BPIC. However, it gets worse. Not only was Anastacia Palaszczuk sent this letter but—ready—cc-ed on this letter—

Mr SPEAKER: Just before you go on, Deputy Premier, just remember to use correct titles.

Mr BLEIJIE: Yes, indeed. I have anticipated what you would say, Mr Speaker, so I have it down here. Cc-ed on that letter to Anastacia Palaszczuk were the members for Woodridge, Springwood, Miller, McConnel and the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr O'Connor: It's the witness list!

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the honourable housing minister—the witness list. The commission of inquiry is independent and it will do its job, but I would love to see the cabinet documents on BPIC. I would love to see who put it forward. I would love to see the decision-making process. I would love to see when those opposite abolished the 24-hours right-of-entry notice for CFMEU officials going on to construction sites that we introduced, that they got rid of and that we brought back. I would love to see the cabinet decision about that. I would also love to see the cabinet decision when the Labor Party got rid of the Queensland construction compliance branch.

All of these lessons should be learnt, but they are not, because the federal Labor government is about to embark on federal BPIC despite all of these issues. I want to say this very strongly: I have written to the federal workplace relations minister, Ms Rishworth, and I have said to her that we have raised concerns, we have highlighted the impact of Queensland BPIC from the former state government and we will not support a federal BPIC. Imagine productivity across the country! Imagine the cost increases with a federal BPIC, and that is what I am concerned about and the Crisafulli government is concerned about. I say to the federal government: learn the lessons from the former state Labor government, learn the lessons from the royal commission into the CFMEU and do not follow the mistakes of the former Queensland Labor government. Do not proceed with a federal BPIC. If we do, productivity will decrease across the country more than what we have already seen.

You only have to take the person who has supported federal BPIC—who has endorsed it: the CFMEU. Who endorsed state BPICs under Labor? It was the CFMEU. So I respectfully say to the federal Albanese government and Minister Rishworth: do not do it—do not implement federal BPICs because Queensland ain't going to be part of it. We do not back it, we do not support it and we will call it out—whether it is former failed Labor ministers who introduced it or the current failed Labor federal ministers.

Trade

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (10.29 am): The Crisafulli LNP government is delivering for Queensland businesses and supporting them to compete and succeed on the global stage. On this side of the chamber we know that Queensland exporters are at the heart of our state's economy. During this time of global trade volatility we are doing what those opposite did not: supporting our local exporters to diversify to new markets, seize new opportunities and succeed on the global stage.

Now more than ever our exporters need to be able to pivot and respond to changing international trade conditions, and we are backing them every step of the way to do so. We are providing practical support, advice and guidance to adapt to the changing global landscape and to identify new markets and how to strike when the opportunities present themselves. A key example of this is our Market

Accelerator Program. It is a new program designed to equip businesses with the tools that they need to thrive in highly competitive international markets. They can be experienced exporters, new to exports or looking for an injection to enter into a new market after much planning. Through matched grants of up to \$30,000, we are giving these businesses the opportunity to fast-track their global ambitions and secure contracts in new markets. Through the Market Accelerator Program we are investing \$750,000 to help our exporters reach new heights, and we are encouraging all businesses across the state to take advantage of it. Even the member for Cairns is excited about the wonderful opportunities now on offer thanks to the Crisafulli LNP government delivering for Queensland. This is in stark contrast to the decade of decline under the former Labor government—and it was nice to see the member using his social media platform for good for a change.

The Market Accelerator Program delivers more than just grants; it enables our businesses to take their place on the world stage and proudly fly the flag of innovation and enterprise. Delivered by Trade and Investment Queensland, the Market Accelerator Program is a vital part of our broader strategy to boost economic growth and create jobs across the state, because when Queensland businesses succeed the whole state succeeds. They create jobs for Queenslanders, generate investment in our communities and strengthen our economy for the future.

Our government is responding in real time to the needs of our exporters. We know that some Queensland businesses will be impacted by the conflict in the Middle East so we are supporting them to adapt and mitigate the fallout of the situation, where possible. We are extending the application period for the Market Accelerator Program to Friday, 13 March to enable businesses affected and looking to pivot immediately to access matched funding of up to \$30,000 to navigate that process. The Market Accelerator Program is yet another example of how we are fostering growth, innovation and resilience in our state's economy and supporting our local exporters to adapt to international headwinds. After a decade of decline under those opposite, the Crisafulli LNP government is committed to ensuring our economy thrives and telling the world that Queensland is back and open for business.

Resources Industries

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (10.33 am): Queensland's coal industry is the backbone of our economy. It employs thousands of Queenslanders, delivers billions of dollars in royalties to the state and keeps the lights on for Australia and our global trading partners. During Labor's decade of decline investor confidence sunk to rock bottom, putting thousands of Queensland coal jobs and regional communities at risk—and it is not just us saying that. When the member for Woodridge and the member for Murrumba were at the helm, Queensland plunged to a diabolical 39th place on the Fraser Institute's Annual Survey of Mining Companies Investment Attractiveness Index. That is right: mining companies would rather do business with Tanzania and Namibia than Queensland under those opposite. That is the legacy of those opposite—a state rich in resources but choked by Labor's anti-mining agenda. Well, not anymore.

I am pleased to inform the House that the latest Fraser Institute survey tells a very different story. Queensland has now surged to 13th globally on the Investment Attractiveness Index—a remarkable turnaround in only a year and a strong endorsement of the Crisafulli government's plan to deliver a better lifestyle through a stronger economy. Importantly, this is the first survey to reflect investor sentiment during our time in office, and it shows that confidence is returning—that our policies are working, that our message that we are open for business is resonating not only here in Queensland but also right across Australia and, indeed, the world. While this is a massive improvement, it also shows that there is more to do.

We are not taking our foot off the pedal. Last month, the Crisafulli government approved a \$314.9 million extension of the Ensham Coal Mine near Emerald. This approval has secured the future of more than 700 jobs in Central Queensland and provides certainty for workers, families and local businesses that rely on the resources sector. This decision will allow the Ensham mine to continue operating for a further nine years, tapping into a potential further 88 million tonnes of coal and repositioning Queensland as a reliable supplier to domestic and international markets. The project was approved by the federal government under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, and the state approval follows the completion of a greenhouse gas emissions reduction management plan.

The Crisafulli government is righting the ship by giving mining proponents a fair hearing and delivering confidence to investors so that they can create jobs. The Crisafulli government is taking a commonsense approach. We will give proponents a fair hearing, back responsible development and ensure Queensland remains open for business. We are backing in our mining sector because we back Queensland mining families and we back our apprentices. More importantly, we are backing regional Queensland.

Health System, Data Reporting

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.36 am): The Crisafulli LNP government made a promise to Queenslanders that we would get ramping down and stabilise the elective surgery waitlist, and the data is encouraging. The Crisafulli LNP government is delivering on our core commitments after a decade of decline under those opposite. The latest quarterly data—

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: They do not want to hear it. They were very anxious for it two weeks ago, but now they do not want to hear about it. They are mysteriously silent. The latest quarterly data shows that the government is healing Labor's health crisis, revealing that ambulance ramping was 37.3 per cent in the December quarter—the lowest it has been in five years and the biggest single drop in a decade. That is what the data is showing. This is as a direct result of our calm and methodical policy and investments: our record \$1.8 billion investment in elective surgeries that has reduced the elective surgery waiting list by over seven per cent; our investment statewide in transit lounges—including in Gladstone, where I was only last week to announce further investments in that hospital that was shamefully left abandoned by those opposite; and our fully funded Hospital Rescue Plan to deliver more than 2,600 beds across the state.

It also includes instituting the 24-hour patient safety directive those opposite were so against. The evidence and our stakeholders and clinicians were clear: patients staying in ED longer than 24 hours should be a 'never' event. Since our directive, those breaches have reduced by 36 per cent. Beyond our hospitals, the Queensland Ambulance Service estimates that statewide improvements in ramping have delivered a reduction in operational overtime and put approximately 100 hours per day of ambulance capacity back into the system—equivalent to 20 paramedics on the road delivering services.

I want to contrast that to the alternative of those opposite. I want to remind the House what those opposite did. The member for Waterford cut the monthly reporting of health data—removed it from the system. Why did she want to obscure that data? Perhaps it is because she broke her promise to Queenslanders to reduce ramping to 28 per cent within 12 months—it was left at 45.5 per cent—and to reduce the elective surgery waitlist but left it at 64½ thousand. We reinstated monthly data. We are committed to consistently reporting, no matter what the numbers show. We are prepared to stand behind it—we are making the investment—not only when it reveals a record-breaking drop, as I have just reported for the December quarter.

We have three failed former health ministers opposite: the members for Woodridge, Murrumba and Waterford. Labor inherited ramping at 15 per cent and left the quarterly figure at its highest at 45.5 per cent. That was a decade of decline under those opposite. There is more work to be done. We have our work cut out for us, there is no doubt about it, but this data shows we are making a strong start and delivering a fresh start for Queenslanders.

Social Housing

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (10.39 am): The Crisafulli government is turning around the housing crisis we inherited by delivering supply, supply, supply in every corner of Queensland. Well over 100,000 lots for new homes have been unlocked by the Deputy Premier through the RAF, the LAP and many PDAs. There is not a three-letter acronym the Deputy Premier has not used to unlock more homes in our state. Projects delivering roads and sewer, water, electricity and communications connections, which have been holding back housing for years, are finally underway. Housing approvals have increased by 11.9 per cent—a clear sign that confidence is returning to the market and our reforms are getting more homes out of the ground.

Labor opened an average of just 509 social homes per year. Right now we have almost 6,000 social and community homes under contract or construction across our state, the overwhelming majority of which have been contracted for delivery since we were elected on 1 November 2024. We are growing our housing pipeline to deliver more than 2,000 social and community homes per year by the end of this term—four times the annual average that the former government achieved. Delivering new homes has never been more important because the social housing system left by Labor was a mess. The waitlist for social housing grew by 81 per cent and annual eligibility checks of existing tenants had not been undertaken for over five years. We had no idea whether almost half of Queensland's social housing tenants were even eligible for it or whether they were paying the right amount of rent. That meant one in four tenants were paying too much rent and high-income earners and property owners were allowed to live in social homes. Neighbours and communities were living in fear from policies which put zero consequences on antisocial behaviour. While Queensland's population grew by 16 per cent, the number of social homes in our state grew by just six per cent—barely a third of the rate.

Just when I thought the things we inherited could not be any worse, some very helpful people alerted me to the issue of social housing sales. This was not on my radar because our focus is on building homes. We only sell social homes in very specific circumstances like when they are too expensive to repair, where the opportunity to deliver more homes cannot be delivered by our department, or through our Sales to Tenants program. Thanks to these very helpful people who raised this issue, I have now learned that the former Labor government sold 1,960 social homes.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Lee: Who sold the assets?

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Hervey Bay, you know you do not interject when I am on my feet so you are warned.

Mr O'CONNOR: I heard an interjection 'Who sold the assets?' I can inform members that it was mostly the member for Springwood. He sold 1,377 social homes during his time as housing minister. That is almost 2,000 social homes that we do not have right now to help our most vulnerable Queenslanders. By contrast, only 16 social homes have been sold since the Crisafulli government was elected. Almost all of those homes have been sold to our long-term tenants whom we are proud to see achieve the dream of home ownership.

Thank to you the Labor Party for highlighting all the social homes sold by the Labor Party, but please stop trying to scare vulnerable Queenslanders with yet another misinformation campaign that those opposite know is completely false. The Crisafulli government is delivering the biggest investment into building social and community housing in Queensland's history. We are giving community housing providers the certainty they need to grow. Queenslanders deserve facts not fear. We are delivering supply sooner and at scale so more Queenslanders can have a place to call home.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing Orders



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (11.45 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That standing orders 87, 96 and 150 be suspended to allow:

1. the Local Government (Empowering Councils) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 and any amendments circulated by the minister to be moved and considered.
2. the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026 and any amendments circulated by the minister to be moved and considered.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR



Mr SPEAKER: I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery for question time today by Mr Reatau Rau, Consul-General of Papua New Guinea.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 11.46 am.

Victims of Crime, Data Reporting

 **Mr MILES** (10.46 am): My question is to the Minister for Police. It has been reported today that the Crisafulli government has been misreporting and fudging the number of child victims of assault since April. Considering this is the second time the LNP has been caught with incorrect victim numbers, what other changes to victim reporting has the minister kept hidden from Queenslanders?

Mr PURDIE: I reject the premise of most of that question. I am happy to answer it and explain it to those opposite, but firstly I want to make it very clear that it is the top priority of this government and our Queensland police to protect victims of crime—all victims of crime, particularly vulnerable victims of crime being children and women the subject of domestic and family violence. It is a top priority; it always will be. It was not necessarily the top priority of those opposite because year on year on year, as those victim numbers went up 20 per cent on 20 per cent, they sat on their hands and did nothing. I am happy to explain it to them. I know you do not like props, Mr Speaker, so I was not allowed to bring in butcher's paper and crayons to explain it to those opposite.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Waterford.

Mr PURDIE: Law and order, crime, policing and protecting victims of crime was not their strong point, but I would suggest from what we have seen in the first 14 months of this government that potentially it is ours. What I need to do is explain to them their legislation that they tabled in 2024. I am happy to read from their parliamentary documents: clause 107 amends section 100 to remove doubt that should a police officer believe domestic violence has been committed but is unable to commence a DFV process under section 100 of the DFVP Act, this section does not limit—

Ms Fentiman interjected.

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

Mr PURDIE: Their amendment in 2024 goes on to say that this section does not limit the police officer's responsibility to take action under another relevant act. This is their legislation that was passed in the parliament in 2024 and, as we know, police abide by the law and they enact the law. I want to assure all of the people in this House that every complaint police receive from a vulnerable child is investigated as an offence in the Criminal Code or in accordance with the Child Protection Act. Similarly, any complaint received by a parent against a child who may have committed a crime is fully investigated by the police under the Youth Justice Act or the Criminal Code.

This is what their legislation says. It is in black and white. It is in their documents to parliament. I know it is not their strong point but let us get to the bottom of why those opposite are trying to muddy the waters. It is because they refuse to admit our tough-on-crime approach, including Adult Crime, Adult Time, is starting to work. It is starting to drive down the number of victims of crime in Queensland and they are trying to unwind Adult Crime, Adult Time.

Mr Bailey interjected.

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

Victims of Crime, Data Reporting

Mr MILES: My next question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Is the Premier's claimed reduction in victim numbers now in tatters?

Mr PURDIE: I thank the member for the question. What is in tatters is their soft-on-crime approach, which they adopted for 10 years in Queensland. For 10 years they proudly watered down the laws, there were fewer police and victim numbers were up 20 per cent year on year. What they need to do is accept that they got it wrong. They need to accept that their approach is in tatters. We have a vastly different approach with more police, tougher laws and consequences for actions coupled with early intervention and rehabilitation.

Before Christmas 2024 those opposite had to be dragged kicking and screaming into this chamber to support Adult Crime, Adult Time. They were adamant it was not going to work but it has on every KPI. Let us look at break and enters. In 2024, under Labor, break-ins at homes and businesses

hit 45,475. In 2025, there were 40,363 break-ins across Queensland. That is a reduction of over 5,000. That means 5,000 fewer homes were broken into. What is in tatters is their soft-on-crime approach. They are reluctant to support Adult Crime, Adult Time, which is starting to work. Every step we take will be about giving police more powers—

Mr Mellish interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Aspley, I will ask you to withdraw that statement.

Mr MELLISH: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr PURDIE: What is in tatters is the chaos in their caucus. They need to accept that our tough-on-crime measures, coupled with more police, are starting to work and we are protecting victims of crime in Queensland. What is in tatters is their 10 years of decline and their overt soft-on-crime approach, which they were proud of. The member for Waterford is on the record saying that the reason she ran for Labor was to water down the Youth Justice Act. The architect of Labor's youth crime crisis is the member for Waterford. It is on the record.

Ms FENTIMAN: Mr Speaker, I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

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

Mr PURDIE: I withdraw. It is on the record: those opposite, when in senior positions in government, proudly watered down the law. They refuse to accept that their soft-on-crime approach did not work. Our approach, including Adult Crime, Adult Time, is starting to work. It is sending a strong message that there are consequences for actions and we know that that is a strong deterrent to young offenders. Every step we take will be about reversing their soft-on-crime laws and giving our police more laws to do their job. They need to come to terms with the fact that, as much as they try to muddy the waters and unwind Adult Crime, Adult Time, it is starting to work. They need to get on board, support our Adult Crime, Adult Time legislation and protect victims of crime in Queensland.

Crisafulli LNP Government, Achievements

Mr FIELD: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering on our commitments to Queenslanders, and is the Premier aware of any instances where strong action and leadership were lacking during a decade of decline?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the member for a fine question. It is important that we discuss the fresh start that we are giving Queensland and also the contrast that the member asked for. Firstly, I want to say that the member was called to serve with a focus on youth crime and he can be proud of his efforts and his advocacy. He can be proud of what he has achieved. Likewise, as a local member he can be proud of his advocacy for some Olympic and Paralympic infrastructure in his part of the world, rather than trying to chase it away. That is a refreshing take. We know where the undermining for rowing in Rockhampton is coming from—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: There it is; we heard it again.

An honourable member: Rowing in different directions.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I take the interjection; we will get that one recorded. I will reflect on some of the contributions made in ministerial statements. I listened intently to the health minister, who made some promises around reducing ambulance ramping in the state. There have been some good early signs. We said we would stabilise the elective surgery waiting list by Christmas and the minister did a little better than that. I thank him for his advocacy. I think about housing and the work that the ministers responsible for infrastructure, housing and home ownership are doing in driving opportunities. We said that we would make sure cost-of-living relief was permanent and that we would make sure we had a relentless focus on government doing things on time and on budget. The changes we have made in taking on the CFMEU are all about making sure infrastructure can be delivered on time and on budget and Queenslanders do not have to pay.

The member asked for contrasts. Interestingly, this morning I was listening to the member for Cairns interjecting. I could not help but think it has been six months since their caucus, and some female members particularly quite rightly spoke loudly and clearly about the things the member for Cairns said. I will remind the Leader of the Opposition about some of those things. There were statements such as,

'As a family, we couldn't decide whether to have nana buried or cremated so we let her live.' Another was, 'A Christian friend of mine said sex between two men'—and we know where that went. Another: 'I accidentally filled the escort with diesel and she died.'

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. There is no relevance to the question posed by the member.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question talks about strong action and leadership and the contrast between the former government and the current government after a decade of decline.

Mr SPEAKER: I am listening closely. Premier, you have the call.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Six months on, here is the question: the Leader of the Opposition said there would be training regarding respect and dignity, so has the training worked? Has the member for Cairns learned his lesson? Is he still making inappropriate comments online? These are the questions that need to be answered. The Leader of the Opposition was prepared to outsource his leadership but it has been six months, so I thought I would loop back around and ask the Leader of the Opposition whether he has checked with the member for Cairns. Is he conducting himself in a better manner now? Is he still using accounts? Has the Leader of the Opposition held him accountable for his behaviour or does it continue today?

(Time expired)

Victims of Crime, Data Reporting

Mr DICK: My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Will the minister speak with the Acting Commissioner of Police to ensure all victims of crime are recorded as they were prior to the secret change to reporting in April 2025?

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I am not going to the minister until we have silence.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There is an imputation in that question. I ask you to consider that matter.

Mr SPEAKER: I do not see that there is an imputation. Minister, I call you to respond to the question.

Mr PURDIE: Mr Speaker, as I said before, it is a shame that you will not let me bring in butcher's paper and crayons to explain the amendments that they made. As I have already tried to explain, every complaint the police receive from a victim or an adult is recorded, as it always has been. It is investigated and it forms part of the statistics the police keep and release. It is still a top priority.

I take offence. From someone on this side, as others on this side have, I have put people in jail for assaulting kids. In fact, there is someone still in jail who I know I put there for life for murdering his de facto—beating her to death in front of their three-year-old child. For those opposite to come in here and suggest that we are not treating this or recording it appropriately is insulting not only to this parliament but also to our police. It is insulting to our police who day in and day out are responding to these calls for service. They are investigating every complaint.

As outlined, any complaint made by a child is investigated, not only if it is a Criminal Code offence but also under the Child Protection Act, and recorded. Every complaint received from a child—any vulnerable victim—is a top priority for the police and will continue to be.

All those opposite are trying to do is undermine the credibility of our police who work around the clock in trying circumstances. Do you know what their approach was, Mr Speaker? This is obvious now. Fewer police and weaker laws led to, in one police district alone, 200 unanswered calls for service at any one time, and 85 per cent of them potentially were DV related. They thought that if we had fewer police who could not respond to a DV victim, then the crime could not be recorded. That was their strategy to drive down reported crime. We have a vastly different approach. We are sending more police. We have sworn in over 600. We have increased the head count, actually, by over 600.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Pine Rivers, you are warned.

Mr PURDIE: We are responding to those calls. Now when a vulnerable victim of domestic violence calls police at Logan or elsewhere, they get a more timely response from police. We have more police, we have tougher laws and we want them to respond more quickly to those calls for service. They legitimately thought if we had fewer police and they stopped answering the phone and stopped answering these calls for service by vulnerable victims, reported crime would go down. That was their approach.

We have a vastly different approach. We have more police. We have more police answering the phone, taking these complaints and entering these complaints onto the system. We are proud of that because we will always prioritise victims of crime. Our police do a fantastic job. For weeks now we have seen those opposite in here and on social media undermining the police—undermining the great work of our police, like they are right now. It is insulting. It is insulting to our police, and that is what is most concerning.

(Time expired)

Workplace Safety

Mr JAMES: My question is of the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. How is the Crisafulli LNP government fostering safe and respectful workplaces and is the Deputy Premier aware of any examples where this was not done during a decade of decline?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the honourable member for Mulgrave for the question and congratulate him on taking a tough stance against the CFMEU, protecting women in the workplace and protecting the rights of workers to go to work, earn a good day's pay and be happy and go home safe to their families. Whether it is in the CFMEU, construction worksites, or whether it is in parliament, we take a stand on behalf of the workers.

The member asked me about examples where, in contrast, this was not done during a decade of decline. As the honourable Premier just said, the honourable Leader of the Opposition said that the member for Cairns, after posting misogynistic videos against women, including asking for prostitutes to be filled with fuel and killed—that was on his Facebook post—and having women over there saying they had counselled him and met with him—the Leader of the Opposition outsourced his leadership and employed a lawyer to do an investigation. What is the result of the investigation, I would ask the member for Cairns, and has the member for Cairns learnt anything? I suggest not.

You only have to go onto the member for Cairns' MP Facebook page. I can reveal today that the member for Cairns, on 10 September 2025, after the incident of the misogynistic comments that he was forced to apologise for, he posted an anti-Israel post. A person then commented on his MP Facebook post, and I quote—

We should be cutting diplomatic ties with Israel and expelling the ambassador. Israel is committing genocide. Israel is a terrorist state with cells in many countries including Australia. Notice how it activates those cells when things aren't going Netanyahu's way.

Not only did he keep that comment on his Facebook site, he also gave it a thumbs up.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! As I said, quarrelling across the chamber will not be tolerated.

Mr BLEIJIE: I table a copy of the member for Cairns' Facebook post with that absolute anti-Semitic comment that he has liked, love-hearted and gave a thumbs up on his MP page.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, containing extract, dated 10 September 2025, from the Facebook page of the member for Cairns, Mr Michael Healy MP, regarding Israel and additional commentary [243].

Claiming that Jews have cells around the world and can be activated is one of the oldest anti-Semitic tropes in the book. Who could forget after the war the propaganda by the Nazis? Everyone would be familiar with this cartoon that the Nazis put out with the octopus. Everyone will remember that.

Mr SPEAKER: Do not use props.

Mr BLEIJIE: I table a copy of that.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Nazi-era Antisemitic Propaganda Poster' [244].

That was Nazi Germany saying that Jews have tentacles all around the world. The member for Cairns is saying the same thing about Jews in 2026. Is the Leader of the Opposition now going to sack him? He should! He deserves to be sacked!

(Time expired)

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

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

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I am not apologising and I am not withdrawing that, for his comment. It is disgraceful. Member for Cairns, you are an anti-Semitic person in this chamber. You are an anti-Semite.

Mr Healy interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: You are an anti-Semite. You are anti-Semite!

Mr SPEAKER: Just one moment.

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

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, before that, it is convention that you do withdraw and that behaviour was disorderly, so I would ask that you apologise. Please withdraw and apologise.

Mr BLEIJIE: For the dignity of the House and convention, I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: And apologise for the display after I called for order.

Mr BLEIJIE: I apologise to you, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. I call the member for Gladstone.

Victims of Crime, Data Reporting

Mr BUTCHER: My question is to the Minister for Police. Today it has been reported that almost 1,000 child victims of assault were excluded from the Premier's victim data. How many child victims of other offences in the home, not just for assault, have been excluded in the Premier's victim data?

Mr PURDIE: I thank the member for the question. As I have tried to explain, and I do respect the opposition police spokesperson—I know he has close connections to the police—but I am disappointed that he has bought into this chaos in their caucus when it comes to supporting our tough stance on crime. If those opposite are not going to take my explanation that every assault complaint from a child is investigated thoroughly and recorded and forms part of victim numbers, I am happy to read a statement that Assistant Commissioner Kath Innes has released. In response to the statements reported in the media today, the following can be attributed to Assistant Commissioner Kath Innes who stated—

The Queensland Police Service... is committed to ensuring community safety and reducing victim numbers through a range of enforcement, prevention, and disruption strategies.

The QPS will always prioritise and investigate allegations of assault committed by or against young vulnerable members of our community.

Amendments to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012 in no way diminishes the responsibility of police to investigate reports of assault and harm involving young people in a Domestic and Family Violence setting.

The QPS remains steadfast in its commitment to community safety and protecting those most vulnerable in our community.

I will say it again: every complaint received from a vulnerable victim, whether it be from a child or a victim of domestic violence—who are overwhelmingly female—is the highest priority of police. It is investigated and it is recorded, and it will continue to be. I do not know how I can make it more simple for those opposite. As I said at the start, I know that this is not their strong suit. I know that law and order, crime and policing are not their strong suit. They did nothing when the number of victims of crime went up 20 per cent year on year.

I do welcome the fact that they are now interested in the number of victims of crime, but those opposite are praying that the number of victims goes up. We take a vastly different approach. Every complaint and every crime reported to police will continue to be prioritised accordingly, investigated thoroughly and recorded, as they always have been.

They need to accept that our approach is starting to have an effect. It is protecting victims of crime and reducing the number of victims of crime in Queensland. We have had over 5,000 fewer break-ins, and there has been a reduction in the unlawful use of vehicles and robberies as well. Instead of trying to unwind Adult Crime, Adult Time and muddy the waters, those opposite need to come in and apologise for their soft-on-crime approach.

(Time expired)

Workplace Safety

Mr HUNT: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the Deputy Premier advise the House how the Crisafulli LNP government is stamping out threatening behaviour on Queensland worksites, and is he aware of any alternative approaches during a decade of decline that failed to do so?

Mr J Kelly interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Greenslopes!

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the member for Nicklin for the question, and I take the interjection from the member for Greenslopes, who alleges that I should take it outside. I do not have to because the member for Cairns put the post up on his own Facebook page. It is already up there. I would encourage the member for Greenslopes, instead of defending the member for Cairns, to actually say—

Mr J KELLY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have been misrepresented. I take personal offence. I ask the member to withdraw unqualified.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. We know that the member for Cairns has a different view from us when we talk about safe workplaces. The Queensland parliament is a workplace. His electorate office and our electorate offices should be safe workplaces. Queensland—

Mr J Kelly interjected.

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

Mr BLEIJIE: Queensland should be a safe place for our Jewish community, and we should at all times defend and protect our Jewish friends and families across Queensland. The member for Cairns has been known to use his personal Facebook page to promote misogynistic views and hate against women. Now, as I have just revealed, he has used his MP page for anti-Semitic views across the state, liking posts and love-heating comments on anti-Semitic posts.

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

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. We know that the member for Cairns has put up posts on his personal page. He has put up anti-Semitic posts and liked anti-Semitic posts on his MP page. One would think the member for Cairns would have learned his lesson when this last happened, but he has not. I can reveal today that he has just changed the name on his personal Facebook page to 'Heals Mick'. I can reveal today that 'Heals Mick' is the member for Cairns. I want to quote from—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I listened very carefully to the question put by the member to the Deputy Premier. The response to date has not been in any way relevant to that matter, so I would ask you to draw him back to a relevant response.

Mr SPEAKER: The question was in relation to threatening behaviour, and it was a broad question. Deputy Premier, I ask you to be conscious of that.

Mr BLEIJIE: On 25 August a post was put up with the heading 'Australia-Israel Relationship at "Worst Place" Since 1948', 'Heals Mick' commented—

With the criminal element now running Israel, and the murderous actions being directed by its government and carried out by the disgraceful Israeli Murder squads, grossly and inaccurately named the Israeli Defense Forces, I am proud that our relationship is not good. We should cease all diplomatic engagement as we did with Germany during WW2.

These comments are unforgiveable, and the Leader of the Opposition has no choice but to sack the member for Cairns. He has now changed his Facebook personal page to another name and he does not think we will know who it is. That was not a like on a post; that was his comment—the member for Cairns' own words—equating the State of Israel and its relationship with Australia with that of Nazi Germany. Six million Jews lost their life because of Nazi Germany!

Mr HEALY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I utterly refute that and take offence. I ask that the member withdraw. It is the furthest thing from the truth.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. I table a copy of the post, and I ask an attendant to take it over to the member for Cairns and let him read his own words. They are disgraceful.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, containing extract, dated 25 August, from the Facebook page 'NTD Australia' and a comment from 'Heals Mick', regarding the Australia-Israel relationship and additional commentary [245].

He owes an explanation to our Jewish community. We are passing laws this week to protect our Jewish family and friends and what they have contributed, but he is laughing about it. He still laughs about it. He is a disgrace. What is the Leader of the Opposition going to do about the member for Cairns? The member for Cairns is an anti-Semite.

Mr SPEAKER: Time has expired.

Mr BLEIJIE: He is an anti-Semite!

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, that is the second time you have run over and I have had to ask you to stop. You are warned.

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

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.

Mr Healy interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence at what the member for Cairns just said about me, and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Cairns, did you make a comment?

Mr HEALY: I withdraw.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Mr Whiting interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Bancroft. We are getting out of hand here. If any member speaks when I rise they will be named. Be warned.

Victims of Crime, Data Reporting

Mr WHITING: My question is to the Minister for Police. Today it has been reported that almost 1,000 child victims of assault were excluded from the Premier's victim data. How many adult victims of crime in the home—not just for assault—have been excluded from the Premier's victim data where the perpetrator was a youth offender?

Mr PURDIE: I thank the member for the question, even though it is incorrect. That takes me back to the start: Labor changed the law, police abide by the law and every complaint from a child or an adult to the police is investigated fully and recorded.

Mr Martin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Stretton.

Mr PURDIE: What they are trying to do is undermine and unwind our tough-on-crime stance—Adult Crime, Adult Time. How do they explain the drop in break and enters, stolen cars and robberies?

Mr Martin interjected.

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

Mr PURDIE: Their heart is not in it. We know that because they had to be dragged in here kicking and screaming. They are praying for the number of victims of crime to increase in Queensland. They were adamant that Adult Crime, Adult Time would not work, but they need to accept that it is starting to work—that their approach failed victims of crime in Queensland, even vulnerable victims of crime.

I do not know how I can answer this question more clearly. All of those offences under the Child Protection Act or the Youth Justice Act where an adult commits a crime against a young person or a young person commits a crime against an adult are investigated. All of those complaints are investigated with the highest priority by police.

It is so disappointing. I have no issue with those opposite coming in here trying to undermine my integrity when it comes to protecting victims of crime, fighting crime and maintaining law and order, but I take offence at them constantly undermining our police overtly—not just in this place but on social media as well—because we want to build confidence in our police. We know child abuse and domestic and family violence is under-reported in Queensland, as it is elsewhere. The way we encourage victims to come forward and report offences, which does increase reported victim numbers, is by having confidence in the police.

They come in here and on social media and undermine our police. All that is doing is sending a message to vulnerable victims that police cannot be trusted to record it or to investigate it properly. It is insulting and it is disgusting. We are trying to rebuild our police. We trust our police. Those on this side trust our police. We understand what they need to protect victims and to drive down crime.

What we know and what they know is that their approach did not work, and they are trying to come up with a distraction. They need to come in here and admit that they got it wrong and that our tough-on-crime approach, particularly Adult Crime, Adult Time, is starting to work and the number of victims in Queensland is starting to go down. They need to admit that they got it wrong, not try to undermine police, muddy the waters, and undermine and unwind Adult Crime, Adult Time. They need to admit that they got it wrong and support our tough-on-crime approach.

Justice System, Integrity

Mr KEMPTON: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. How is the Crisafulli LNP government embedding consequences for actions in the justice system, and is the Attorney aware of any instances where actions were not followed by appropriate consequences during a decade of decline?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I would like to thank the member for Cook for that very important question. I know that those opposite during their decade of decline did not care about integrity. We know that. We know that from all the integrity scandals time and time again. What we see here today by the deeply divided Labor opposition in Queensland is another social media scandal by the member for Cairns.

Ms Mullen interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Shockingly, the shadow minister for multicultural affairs is sitting here mimicking—

Ms Farmer interjected.

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

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Where does the shadow minister stand on behalf of the Jewish community in this great state? Does she stand with the member for Cairns or does she stand with the government who is protecting the Jewish community? The hide of the shadow minister for multicultural affairs to open her mouth when we have just seen the social media comments from the member for Cairns—

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, member for Woodridge!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON:—not just on his MP page but under his pseudonym 'Heals Mick'—

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Woodridge, the Attorney-General has the call.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you for your protection, Mr Speaker. The person who is obviously cowering under the protection of the weak Labor opposition leader, the member for Murrumba—

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Woodridge, I have cautioned you a number of times today. You are now warned.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: No wonder the member for Woodridge is interjecting and has to withdraw from the chamber!

Mr SPEAKER: Attorney, just focus on the question.

Mr DICK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Members of parliament are permitted to go to the toilet. I take personal offence and ask the member to withdraw.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw.

Mr DICK: That is not the reason I am leaving—

Mr SPEAKER: You have made your—

Mr DICK:—although I don't like listening to you either!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. No wonder the member for Woodridge is all hot and bothered—it is his faction!

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. You had all but 60 seconds ago warned the member for Woodridge. He stood on his feet and continued to interject after you had already warned him, and I ask that action be taken against him.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I will take some advice. The member for Woodridge was making a point of order. He went to leave the chamber and came back in. He took personal offence for which the Attorney has withdrawn. I would encourage the Attorney-General to come back to the question because we seem to have strayed a bit.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: When it comes to integrity and consequences we know that the Leader of the Opposition has not taken any action against the member for Cairns. As has been revealed, when the member for Cairns is not calling for the end of diplomacy with Israel, he is trying to equate the world's only Jewish nation with Nazi Germany. It is absolutely abhorrent. It is shameful. The member for Murrumba, as the Leader of the Opposition, needs to take some action.

Mr HEALY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence to what the member is saying and ask that she withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. The member for Cairns fails to find a group that he cannot offend. Honestly, it is now up to the Leader of the Opposition to do something and sack that frontbencher of his.

(Time expired)

Victims of Crime, Data Reporting

Ms McMAHON: My question is to the Minister for Police. Eight months after the reporting changes were made the minister told parliament no changes had been made to the way police record offences associated with domestic and family violence incidents. Today the minister told the media there was. Can the minister advise which statement is correct?

Mr PURDIE: I am not sure how I can simplify this any more than I have. The changes were made in 2024 under the Queensland Community Safety Bill—Labor's bill—and the police, as they do and as we expect them to do, abide by the law. As I have said today on multiple occasions in the last 45 minutes, it is still the highest priority of our police, as it is this government, to protect vulnerable victims of crime, particularly children or adults suffering at the hands of domestic and family violence.

The police will continue to take those complaints, record them, investigate them and run them out as thoroughly as they possibly can. It is their top priority. Whether they are offences under the Child Protection Act or the Youth Justice Act or the Criminal Code, those complaints are recorded, and the member should know that from her previous occupation outside of this place. I do not know how many more times I can explain it to those opposite. They amended the law. Police abide by the law. It fixed an inconsistency between sections 100 and 22 of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act and police abide by that.

All those opposite are trying to do is muddy the waters and undermine and unwind Adult Crime, Adult Time. That is the real question today. The real question today is: why are they trying to undermine our police? Why are they trying to undermine the work that our police have done in the last 14 or 15 months to protect victims of crime? It is because they refuse to accept that they got it wrong. They were divided. Before Christmas 2024, we all know, as reported, they were dragged in here kicking and screaming—some wearing headphones not wanting to be here, sucking their thumbs wanting to be in a happy place.

We are united in our support of our police. We back our police. We back our police with tougher laws. They watered down the laws, and that unfortunately ended in tears for victims of crime right across Queensland. They might be trying to muddy the waters but, as I said, all of the figures show that houses are being broken into, cars are being stolen and there are robberies. Victims across the board are safer in Queensland under this government, which has delivered more police and provided them with the tougher laws they need right across Queensland. We have delivered more police in our first year than they did in their whole first term. We have tripled the number. We delivered more than 600 police in the first year of this government; they delivered 174. Their strategy was fewer police and weaker laws. Police could not answer the phone and subsequently could not record the crime. We have a vastly different approach: more police, tougher laws, responding to crime and protecting vulnerable victims—particularly children and victims of domestic and family violence—and we make no apologies for that.

Victims of Crime

Mrs STOKER: My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. How is the Crisafulli LNP government putting the rights of victims ahead of the rights of offenders, and is the minister aware of any previous instances where offenders were put first during a decade of decline?

Mrs GERBER: I thank the member for Oodgeroo for the question, for standing with victims and for supporting the Crisafulli government in restoring safety where you live. Today we are introducing tough new laws: expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time to a further 12 offences. We know that those opposite do not support Adult Crime, Adult Time. We know that they tore themselves apart over it last time. We also now know that members of the Labor Party have written to the Leader of the Opposition calling for him not to support Adult Crime, Adult Time. The *Australian* has reported on it.

That same failure of judgement is on display today with the member for Cairns. That same failure to stand with victims is on display today with the Leader of the Opposition still supporting the member for Cairns. We know that six months ago the member for Cairns posted Facebook comments and a video that propagated sexual violence against women and supported domestic violence against women. We know that he did that and right now, today, we hear that he has a fake profile called 'Heals Mick' where he is once again spewing hate against victims. I will read from that profile. He has publicly equated Israel, the world's only Jewish nation, to Nazi Germany and called for the Australian government to cease all diplomatic engagement. He said that the Israeli Defence Forces should be renamed 'Israeli Murder Squads', which is a horrific reference to the Nazi murder squads that carried out the systemic murder of Jews. It is horrendous. It is vile. Those are his comments and the Leader of the Opposition has to show some leadership.

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

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

Mrs GERBER: I withdraw. Those are the words of the member for Cairns and I take offence to that, too. It is vile. It propagates anti-Semitic conduct in this country and in this state. He should be sacked. The Leader of the Opposition needs to show some leadership. He cannot show leadership around Adult Crime, Adult Time and he cannot show leadership around this issue. The member for Cairns is a disgrace. It falls to the Leader of the Opposition to show leadership and deal with the anti-Semitic, vile conduct of the member for Cairns. The Leader of the Opposition is failing to demonstrate leadership. It is either him that goes or the member for Cairns. Ultimately, the member for Cairns needs to be held to account.

Mr Nicholls: It should be both.

Mrs GERBER: It should be both; I take that interjection. The member for Cairns needs to be held to account. Mr Speaker, you know what happened last time. He apologised, but he is right back in here doing the exact same thing with a fake profile. It is a test of leadership for the Leader of the Opposition—

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

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken offence and asks that you withdraw. You have 10 seconds left.

Mrs GERBER: I withdraw. The member for Cairns should stop posting such vile commentary and the Leader of the Opposition needs to show some leadership and bring him to heel.

(Time expired)

Primary Industries, Water Licences

Mr KNUTH: My question without notice is to the Minister for Natural Resources. Primary producers are facing higher land valuations due to the inclusion of water licences while the proposed shift to tradeable water allocations may force farmers to compete in the open market for essential water. Will the minister instead amend the Land Valuation Act 2010 to exclude water licences from land valuations to ease financial pressure on farmers?

Mr LAST: I thank the member for the question. When we talk about water in Queensland we are talking about something that is critical to this state, not only for our cities but also for our primary producers right across the state. I will take this opportunity to talk about water entitlements because they comprise two parts: water allocations and water licences. I will explain the difference between those two and how that is impacted through the valuation process.

Water allocation is a title that is separate from land and can be bought and sold independently like land. They are separate from the land with their own registrable title and are held as personal property. It is important to note that the added value of a water allocation does not form part of the statutory land value. A water licence, on the other hand, is an entitlement to take water that is attached to land and, unlike a water allocation, is not an asset separate from land. Water licences cannot normally be sold independent of the land unless there are management rules in place to allow that. As a water licence is not personal property, the added value of a water licence is included as part of the statutory land value, so water licences are included. The inclusion of the added value of water licences into land valuations was confirmed by the Court of Appeal case of Webster handed down in March 1995 and supported by a Land Court decision in 2023 for a property in the Tablelands, the member's own electorate, which reflects continued support for the inclusion of the added value of water licences into statutory land valuations.

As the member pointed out, land valuations throughout Queensland are undertaken in accordance with the Land Valuation Act 2010, which requires that the inclusion of the added value of a water licence into the associated statutory land valuation is part of that process. Later this week the Valuer-General will brief all members in this chamber ahead of the issue of the annual valuation program, and I encourage everyone to take the opportunity to attend those sessions. Fifteen local government areas will be included this year: Burdekin, Douglas, Etheridge, Gladstone, Gold Coast, Hinchinbrook, Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Mareeba, Noosa, North Burnett, Redland, Sunshine Coast, Tablelands and Western Downs. That follows consultation with government and industry stakeholders—

(Time expired)

Multicultural Communities

Ms JAMES: My question is to the Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism. How is the Crisafulli LNP government prioritising the safety of Queensland's vibrant multicultural communities, and is the minister aware of any approaches that allowed these communities to be targeted during a decade of decline?

Ms SIMPSON: I thank the member for Barron River for the question and I acknowledge the great work she is doing in her community by engaging with a diverse number of Queenslanders. I particularly want to address the issue of our Jewish community throughout Queensland and the Jewish community she is engaging with Rabbi Ari. There has been great trauma in the history of our Jewish community because they know what it is like to have literally millions of their family members murdered. They know what it is like to come to a country and have freedom and the belief in peace in a new land for their generation. They are not large in number but they are large in heart, and they have contributed mightily to the power of Queensland's excellence, development and prosperity in their 160 years.

However, we have seen a decade of decline and division under Labor, where they tolerated anti-Semitism and looked the other way when some of their own members in fact put fuel on the fire of anti-Semitism. We saw this ancient scourge once again given fuel. I call out what has been happening because it is in contrast to where we have stood up and are bringing forward new laws, which I cannot talk about because of the rules of the House. We are ensuring that we are standing with our Jewish community. We understand that they deserve to be safe and feel safe.

By contrast, let us look at the Labor Party under the Leader of the Opposition. Instead of making Queensland safer, they are giving succour to those who are in fact seeking to undermine the very safety of our Jewish community. We see the Leader of the Opposition look the other way when one of his own members, the member for Cairns, not only tolerates but promotes anti-Semitic posts which are putting fear into the hearts of our Jewish community.

Mr HEALY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence to what the member is saying and I ask that she withdraw.

Ms SIMPSON: I withdraw.

Mr MILES: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

Ms SIMPSON: I withdraw. I refer to the published pages of the member for Cairns and the fact that those anti-Semitic posts are still there. They talk about Israeli terrorist cells in Australia and that old anti-Semitic trope. No wonder our Jewish community has felt unsafe when we have a Labor Party which is undermining their very safety by what they tolerate. It is time there were consequences for the actions of the member for Cairns because he has behaved appallingly.

(Time expired)

Victims of Crime, Data Reporting

Ms ENOCH: My question is to the Minister for Police. Yesterday the Minister for Police told reporters he was 'very confident' that the government's victim data included all victims. Today it has been revealed the released figure does not include more than a thousand child victims of assault. Can the minister advise if the Crisafulli government kept the change to reporting hidden to make DV data look better?

Mr PURDIE: Mr Speaker, as I said at the start, I might have to seek your relaxation so I can bring in some butcher's paper and crayons to explain this to those opposite. I know you do not like props, Mr Speaker.

As I have said in every answer, it is a top priority for our police to investigate all crimes committed against victims in Queensland, particularly vulnerable victims of crime, being children or women who are victims of domestic and family violence. As those opposite know, I have been in those situations when I worked at the child abuse unit and the homicide squad. I have no issue with those opposite coming in here and trying to undermine my commitment to protecting victims of crime in Queensland, but they are undermining our police every step of the way.

It is really clear now that we have one side in here that do not trust our police or back our police and whose approach is watered-down laws and fewer police who cannot respond to calls for service, and we have one side, the Crisafulli government, that proudly backs our police with tougher laws and more police to answer more calls for service and enter those complaints onto the system which are recorded as a victim number. We have a vastly different approach. When more police answer the phones, take the complaints and record them, any sensible person understands that you get more reported victims of crime. Their approach, as has been reported, led to one police district having 200 calls for service outstanding. The police were unable to answer these calls for service which were overwhelmingly from vulnerable victims of domestic and family violence.

Those opposite come in here and continually undermine our police and the work they do while we are trying to build confidence in our police. We want vulnerable victims to have the confidence to ring up and report their crime; we want them to make a complaint to the police which they will investigate and record. All those opposite are trying to do is undermine our police and undermine our tough-on-crime stance, particularly Adult Crime, Adult Time. They refuse to answer the question of whether they support it. Do they now support our tough-on-crime Adult Crime, Adult Time stance or are they still divided? They were adamant it was not going to work, but the early figures are starting to show they were wrong.

All of these questions today do not explain the figures: robbery is down 16 per cent; unlawful entry—which is break and enter of homes and businesses—is down 13.2 per cent; and unlawful use of a motor vehicle is down 3.2 per cent. They can try to muddy the waters and undermine our police, but will they now admit they got it wrong because our tough-on-crime stance is starting to work.

(Time expired)

Domestic and Family Violence

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 leading by example when it comes to tackling the scourge of domestic and family violence, and is the minister aware of any previous approaches that should never be followed?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have one minute.

Ms CAMM: I thank the member for her question. I stood with her last week at CADA, along with those opposite including the Leader of the Opposition, when we opened the doors of their new premises. Our government funded \$8 million to expand the high-risk team for domestic and family violence. When those members opposite were in government, they allowed high-risk victims to be at risk because they did not find the money to expand high-risk teams into those areas.

Today we have seen that a senior member of the opposition has embarked on social media posts around anti-Semitism at a time when we need to show leadership. I call on the shadow minister for multicultural affairs to stand in this House and apologise—or will they back this shadow minister from North Queensland as they did in August? Will they come into this House during MPIs today and back that member on his comments on his social media?

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

FIGHTING ANTISEMITISM AND KEEPING GUNS OUT OF THE HANDS OF TERRORISTS AND CRIMINALS AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 10 February (see p. 35).

Second Reading

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (11.47 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

On Sunday, 14 December 2025, two gunmen opened fire on community members at a Hanukkah celebration at Bondi Beach resulting in the death of 15 innocent Australians. This despicable attack was not only an act of extreme violence against innocent people; it was also an assault on Australia's social fabric and on the rights of communities to live, worship and gather without fear. After what happened in Israel on 7 October 2023, and particularly following the aftermath of the Bondi Beach terrorist attack, the Jewish community has borne a heavy burden of fear and trauma.

Just over a week ago, on Friday, 20 February 2026, we saw an individual charged after a vehicle rammed into the gates of a Brisbane synagogue. The Vice President of the Jewish Board of Deputies has commented upon the deep distress that this incident has caused to the Jewish community. I echo the statement of the Premier: 'alleged incidents like that are another signal that the proposed laws in this bill are necessary'.

These events emphasise a regrettable truth: when hateful narratives are allowed to circulate unchecked, they can progress from rhetoric to intimidation and, ultimately, to catastrophic violence. Our laws must be adaptable and able to intervene earlier on this path. This bill does exactly what it says. The Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026 addresses two connected public safety challenges that our community faces: the growth of anti-Semitism and the ongoing risk posed by guns and other dangerous weapons in the hands of terrorists and criminals. Taken together, the measures in this bill are preventative in nature, targeted in their operation and designed to ensure Queensland's criminal law and policing frameworks remain capable of responding to contemporary threats. In that sense, this bill is not only reactive to recent events but also forward facing in its design.

On 27 February 2026, the Justice, Integrity, and Community Safety Committee tabled its report on its examination of the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026. The committee made one recommendation: that the bill be passed. The Crisafulli government would like to thank the committee for its support of the bill. I would like to acknowledge and express my appreciation to the community members, peak bodies and organisations, and the government representatives, who provided submissions and appeared before the committee.

I foreshadow that I intend to move two sets of amendments during consideration in detail of this bill. Firstly, we have listened carefully to Queenslanders and will be prescribing our prohibited phrases via legislation rather than regulation. The first set of amendments will remove the regulation framework for prescribing particular expressions as prohibited expressions and instead proscribe the two phrases in this bill. These phrases are: 'globalise the intifada' and 'from the river to the sea'. The new prohibited expressions offence in the bill as introduced will operate with respect to these two phrases and these two phrases only. The effect of the amendments will be that no other phrases can be proscribed by regulation in the future. Given this amendment, Queenslanders should rightly expect bipartisan support for the bill.

It is important to remember that this bill is in direct response to a specific attack on Jewish people. To be clear, the offence provision maintains that it is not merely reciting or displaying the words that makes it an offence. The expression must be used in a way that might reasonably be expected to cause a member of the public to feel menaced, harassed or offended. This means the conduct must be capable of causing a significant emotional or psychological response such as causing someone to feel threatened, repeatedly targeted, significant anger, significant resentment, outrage, disgust or hatred. I will emphasise this point. This offence is designed to focus on conduct that would cause a reasonable member of the public to feel menaced, harassed or offended. It is not directed at legitimate journalism, academic analysis, artistic expression or historical discussion. Rather, it is aimed squarely at behaviour that uses extremist material as a tool of menace or provocation, particularly in public spaces.

The second set of amendments to be moved during consideration in detail of the bill addresses an oversight made in the development of the bill and will ensure the reasonable excuse defences for the prohibited expressions offence operate as intended and consistently with those available for the prohibited expressions offence. Specifically, these amendments will ensure that the equivalent of section 52D(2)(a)(iii) of the prohibited symbols offence, which makes it a reasonable excuse for the person to engage in the conduct that is alleged to constitute the offence in opposition to the ideology represented by a prohibited symbol, will apply to the prohibited expressions offence. I reiterate: this bill is in response to a specific attack.

The bill strengthens the existing framework dealing with prohibited symbols under the Criminal Code by authorising the minister administering this law to prescribe particular classes of, or all state sponsors of, terrorism or terrorist organisations listed by the Australian government as a prescribed organisation in Queensland for the purpose of the existing prohibited symbols offence applying to the symbols used by an entity so prescribed to identify the entity or a part of it.

The bill also enhances protections for religious leaders and places of worship. Existing offences are modernised so that their language reflects contemporary practice and penalties are increased to recognise the seriousness of attacks on ministers of religion while they are carrying out their functions. In addition, a new offence is introduced to protect people entering and leaving places of worship. This offence deters conduct that is designed to obstruct, harass or intimidate individuals exercising their right to practise their faith. The offence of wilfully disturbing religious worship is also strengthened, reflecting the reality that deliberate disruption of religious observance is not merely offensive but can cause deep and lasting harm to community cohesion. The bill recognises that attacks on religious premises and worshippers should not be considered as isolated incidents affecting a minority. They are symbolic attacks on our entire community. Accordingly, the law should treat such conduct with appropriate seriousness, acknowledging the broader social impact of these offences.

The bill will also outline an extensive set of reforms to our weapons legislation. The Crisafulli government is proudly introducing a package which will see Queensland impose the toughest penalties in the country deterring criminal behaviour and the misuse of firearms, particularly for the most high risk offences which compromise community safety:

- unlawful possession, supply and manufacture of weapons, with all penalties increasing depending upon the category of firearm;
- shortening of weapons (increasing from four to 14 years imprisonment);
- modifying the construction of weapons (increasing from four to 15 years imprisonment);
- altering identification marks on weapons (increasing from four to 14 years imprisonment); and
- unlawful trafficking of weapons (now attracting a maximum penalty of life imprisonment).

This is a test of whether the Miles-led Labor opposition supports stronger laws and stronger penalties to keep Queenslanders safe. There is no better way to deter and stamp out unlawful behaviour than ensuring there are real consequences for actions. These new measures are consistent with our government's tough-on-crime approach and will make Queensland safer. The real question is whether the Labor opposition can bring themselves to support it. Will they stand with the Jewish community in their time of need?

The bill also introduces a specific offence dealing with the reckless discharge of a weapon towards a building or vehicle, recognising that such conduct creates an obvious and unacceptable risk even where, by chance, no-one is injured. The offence will attract a penalty of 16 years imprisonment, with a circumstance of aggravation providing for 20 years imprisonment when connected to organised crime or a hate crime.

Like with youth crime, Labor have a track record of being soft on gun crime, and I will explain why. This is a provision that the former Crisafulli opposition tried to incorporate into their 2024 Community Safety Bill, but then premier Miles and his Labor government rejected the move to make Queensland safer. We tried to make drive-by shooting a standalone offence, and Queenslanders would already be benefiting from this strong measure if it were not for Labor's soft-on-crime approach. Now that we have the privilege of being in government, we are delivering. Will the opposition backflip on their previous position and support our move, or will they double down and show once again that they are still soft on criminals with guns?

The bill also addresses emerging technological risks by creating offences for possessing or distributing digital blueprints used to manufacture firearms using 3D printers or milling machines. This is a forward-looking measure aimed at preventing the proliferation of untraceable weapons outside of the legitimate firearms industry. This new offence will align Queensland with other jurisdictions and will prohibit the possession and distribution of blueprint material for the manufacture of 3D printed firearms. The maximum penalty is 10 years imprisonment.

This has been a growing concern for some years, and Labor failed to support it in 2019 when the LNP opposition first attempted to address the rise in 3D printed guns and the possession of blueprints used to manufacture illegal guns. Seven years ago, the LNP opposition introduced a private member's bill, the Weapons and Other Legislation (Firearms Offences) Amendment Bill, stating—

The manufacture of 3D printed guns poses a threat to our community. ... this new offence goes one step further by holding offenders to account for merely having possession of—

the blueprints. Labor did not support our attempt to strengthen the weapons laws in 2019. Further, they saw New South Wales and Tasmania implement a ban on 3D blueprints, but they sat back and watched crime spiral out of control here in Queensland and did nothing. Here we are seven years later, delivering what Labor failed to do.

The framework for firearm prohibition orders, FPOs, is also being strengthened. FPOs are an important tool for preventing access to weapons by individuals assessed as posing a serious risk to community safety. The bill refines the administration processes for making these orders and strengthens enforcement mechanisms by expanding police search and compliance powers, ensuring that these orders will be practical and effective. These amendments will align Queensland with other jurisdictions and provide consistency by limiting decisions regarding the issuing of FPOs to the commissioner. While every other jurisdiction got the FPO scheme right the first time around, Labor's distrust of the police meant it left the power to issue an FPO with the courts, meaning intelligence like that from our national security agencies could not be disclosed.

Labor now states, 'You can't be tough on crime if you are soft on guns.' Well, what a contradiction! Labor legislated a convoluted process to make the FPO scheme unworkable and it worked in handicapping our police, because not one FPO has been issued under Labor's framework. Put simply, Labor does not back our police and it never has. Those opposite are soft on crime and soft on criminals with guns. By contrast, we will follow best practice and give the police the tools they need to keep Queenslanders safe. We will fix Labor's botched laws because we trust our police. If the commissioner deems someone high risk and unfit to possess a weapon, then we want that acted upon quickly so that community safety is not compromised. It is a pity that Labor has never shared that view.

In addition, the bill tightens licensing and suitability requirements for obtaining or renewing a weapons licence. The bill allows an authorised person to consider a broader range of relevant information in determining a person is a fit and proper person for a weapons licence, including details of a relevant offence where a court has ordered that no conviction be recorded or the rehabilitation period for the conviction has expired. A 'relevant offence' is defined to include offending that relates to:

- the improper use of weapons, firearms or the storage of firearms; or
- the use or threatened use of violence; or
- the possession or distribution of a digital blueprint of a firearm on a 3D printer

I want to make it clear that this expansion is intended to meet public expectations by giving police and authorising officers the tools they need to properly assess whether someone is fit and proper to hold and retain a firearms licence. A judgement on a licence holder needs to be proportionate to the offending. For instance, a one-off storage indiscretion should not immediately rule a licence holder ineligible to hold a firearms licence but a pattern of negligence should be and will be taken into account going forward. Equally, it meets public expectations that authorised officers are aware of and may consider circumstances where an applicant has improperly used a firearm with violence on even one occasion, as that may be enough to compromise their eligibility, even in circumstances where a conviction has not been recorded.

The bill will also limit eligibility for a weapons licence to Queensland residents who are Australian citizens unless the person can demonstrate that they require a licence for genuine purposes such as to allow them to participate in sports or target shooting or an occupational requirement. Our approach fits with community expectations that only citizens deserve the privilege of possessing firearms while providing reasonable carve outs, ensuring Queensland businesses and people's livelihoods are not impacted. Further, the bill ensures that the potential risk of firearms being stolen is reduced through a number of measures. To deter the stealing of firearms, the Criminal Code will be amended to increase the maximum penalty for this offence from 10 years to 14 years imprisonment. On 22 August 2024 during debate of the Community Safety Bill, the then Crisafulli LNP opposition proposed this same amendment to increase the penalty for stealing firearms from 10 to 14 years. As the shadow minister in the Crisafulli LNP opposition, I stated—

Today the LNP will show leadership and offer solutions. I will table amendments to increase the maximum penalty for stealing a firearm or ammunition in Queensland from 10 years to 14 years imprisonment. The LNP believes the focus should be applied to criminals who steal firearms because, as we have seen in other states, this does act as a deterrent and reduces the number of unlawful firearms that end up in the hands of violent criminals or organised criminal gangs, ultimately improving community safety.

Stakeholders of all persuasions had been calling for this strengthening measure, as stolen firearms pose the highest risk to community safety, and yet then premier Miles and Labor did not support it, compromising Queensland's safety and showing once again that they are soft on crime. Labor acknowledged that 75 per cent of stolen firearms are never recovered but not only failed to act; it refused to respond even when we tried to assist by governing from opposition. The explanatory notes from Labor's Community Safety Bill 2024 stated—

The increased availability of firearms within the community grants further opportunities for these deadly weapons to be misappropriated. The rate of firearms reported as stolen has also increased by at least 21% within the last decade, with over 779 firearms reported stolen in 2023. Coupled with continuing challenges in recovering stolen firearms and the longevity of a functioning firearm, there is a corresponding increase in the risk that these weapons come into the possession of high-risk individuals and are used in the commission of an offence. The risk to the community is apparent when considering the increased number of reported offences involving firearms in Queensland, which has risen at least 30% in the last decade, with approximately 3,352 reported firearm offences in 2023.

Labor knew there was an issue and chose to ignore it, even when prompted. All it took was for Queensland to elect a Crisafulli LNP government and the job is finally getting done following a decade of decline under Labor.

We will also strengthen the storage requirements for a category A, B, C, E and M weapon which will be enhanced through requiring these weapons to be stored in a solid steel container exclusively. Sporting shooter associations advocate for the secure storage of weapons and recommend storage containers be made of metal. Likewise, gun control organisations have advocated for stronger storage requirements to mitigate against the likelihood of firearms being obtained by criminals seeking to use them in other offending. Importantly, we have listened to feedback and have outlined a practical path forward. There will be a 12-month transition period for affected firearm owners, ensuring there is sufficient time for compliance. This is just another step that our government is taking to minimise the risk of firearms being stolen, ensuring that everyone plays their part to keep Queenslanders safe. The former Labor government failed to deliver this modernising provision which left Queensland standing alone as the only Australian jurisdiction permitting use of older and less safe timber and wood storage containers. Where Labor failed, the Crisafulli government is delivering.

Finally, the bill will enhance our laws that address acts of serious crime. The bill will introduce a new Criminal Code offence that will prohibit acts done in preparation for or planning to commit serious violence. This new offence is modelled on similar Commonwealth legislation and will apply in

circumstances where an offender has not decided precisely what they intend to do and will be limited to the preparation for, or planning of, offences likely to cause the death of or grievous bodily harm to another. This new offence will be supported by another amendment in the bill which improves on the existing section 540 of the Criminal Code. This offence prohibits the making or possession of an explosive or other dangerous or noxious thing by a person who intends to commit a crime by using the thing. The bill will clarify that this offence will have application to dangerous or offensive weapons and instruments which include firearms, knives and other bladed items.

The bill also refines the framework for controlled operations by giving this policing strategy an expanded scope and by making it clear that such operations may be undertaken not only to gather evidence but also to disrupt and frustrate serious criminal activity. This reflects modern policing practice where preventing harm and disrupting criminal enterprises is often just as important as securing a prosecution after the event. The amendments will lower the offence threshold for controlled operations, controlled activities and surveillance device warrants to bring Queensland into alignment with other jurisdictions by providing a three-year imprisonment offence as the threshold. Under Labor, Queensland was the only jurisdiction in Australia with a seven-year imprisonment offence threshold. Every other state and territory prescribes a threshold of three years imprisonment. Crucially, police are currently unable to commence controlled operations to counter serious offences that fall between these limits, including riot, which has a maximum penalty of three years; going armed so as to cause fear, which has a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment; and aggravated threats of violence, which has a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment.

The provisions in this bill are directed at early intervention. They are designed to ensure where individuals are taking concrete steps towards committing acts of extreme violence, particularly involving dangerous weapons, the law can respond before lives are lost. In doing so, the bill shifts the focus from purely reactive enforcement to proactive disruption of serious harm. It is the paramount responsibility of a government to protect its citizens. Queenslanders rightly expect their parliament to put in place legislation that will protect them. They expect to be able to practise their faith without fear, to live free from intimidation and to know that responsible firearms laws will be enacted to protect the community. The bill meets that expectation. The reforms in this bill are targeted, proportionate and supported by safeguards and appropriate oversight. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (12.10 pm): Hate speech of any kind is not tolerated in Queensland, or anywhere else for that matter. Queenslanders deserve, and they also expect, to be able to go about their daily lives in their communities without being vilified or attacked. Everyone deserves that respect. I acknowledge that this is not always the case for some people in our community. I, and the Queensland Labor opposition, stand with them to call out all forms of hatred, violence, vilification and anti-Semitism in Queensland.

The legislation before us today is primarily in response to the tragic event which occurred at Bondi in New South Wales on Sunday, 14 December 2025 which shocked the whole nation. This horrific and vile event took the lives of 15 innocent people, injured more than 40 others and impacted the lives of thousands of people. I, like all Queenslanders, will remember them and the lifelong pain this hideous act has caused their families, friends and the community.

We all have a responsibility to take steps to ensure our community is rid of hatred. Not just those who are in this chamber but all Queenslanders have a responsibility to be respectful to each other, accepting of individual backgrounds, and appreciative of our vibrant and diverse multicultural communities in Queensland. Not one politician in the Queensland parliament—or in any parliament—has a monopoly on wanting to ensure our communities and faith-based communities feel safe and are safe.

As parliamentarians, we have a responsibility to ensure the laws which are being considered and passed by this chamber are evidence based, are sound and will actually achieve the desired outcome and not give false hope. That is why our Labor leader wrote to the government on 17 December 2025 offering bipartisan support to work through any proposed legislation as a result of not only the Bondi event but also the tragic Wieambilla event we saw in Queensland. We did this in good faith, to work with the government of the day to bring all Queenslanders along on the journey to ensure we had strong, workable laws that all Queenslanders understood and accepted. However, the Crisafulli LNP government has taken the path of division over consensus, a path of political expediency over good governance. The LNP government not only rejected our offer of bipartisanship; it could not even muster the energy to respond to our good-faith letter.

The Labor opposition will always back action that protects Queensland's multicultural communities and keeps guns out of the wrong hands. What we will not do, though, is give the attorney-general—Liberal, Labor and in particular the current Attorney-General—the most extreme unchecked power in the country to criminalise phrases, either spoken or in writing, that they alone decide are offences.

It was clear from the committee process, truncated as it was, that the bill goes too far on criminalising freedom of speech and not far enough on gun reform. You cannot be tough on crime if you are a government that is weak on gun reform, but you can be tough on crime without being reckless with freedom. The bill deals with many elements. We believe that the gun reforms in the bill are a good start but need to go further. However, let me be crystal clear: I, and the Labor opposition, do not support or condone acts of violence, hatred or vilification against the Jewish community or any other community in Queensland. We all have a common goal; however, it is clear that we—and many Queenslanders—have different ways to achieve it.

The opposition supports other elements of the bill that will protect religious worship. These increased penalties and new offences bring them into line with modern community standards in Queensland. Queenslanders should be able to go about their lives and attend religious services and faith-based activities without fear, knowing they are protected. That is why we will support the new measures in this bill, but legislation is only one tool. As the Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies said—

No piece of legislation can stop anti-Semitism or, for that matter, racism generally ...

That is why we are calling on the government to implement wraparound supports and early intervention programs through adequate funding to address the root causes and impacts of social tension where early intervention can make a lasting difference.

The Queensland Labor opposition does not believe that the reforms in this bill go far enough and are a missed opportunity to keep Queenslanders safe. It is clear that the Premier is too scared of his party room to make any serious and meaningful reforms to weapons licensing here in Queensland. I am advised that there has been around \$280,000 of donations to the LNP from pro-gun advocates, firearms dealers and members of the firearms industry and groups over the years, so it does not take a genius to work out why the LNP do not want to undertake any meaningful weapon and gun reforms in Queensland. The Alannah & Madeline Foundation said in their submission—

We are deeply dismayed that this Bill ignores the options agreed by National Cabinet. It ignores the prioritisation of public and individual safety and the prevention of the misuse of weapons ...

They go on to state—

It is unclear to us on what basis the Queensland Government has determined not to act on the specific recommendations from the State Coroner—a recommendation which, if implemented, would likely save lives.

It is disappointing that gun safety advocacy bodies did not even get a chance to put their case forward during the public hearings in respect of the bill. I table articles outlining this issue.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 19 February 2026, titled 'Gun laws under fire: Groups demand change' [\[246\]](#).

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 20 February 2026, titled 'Safety switch on gun laws: Two pro bodies called up but Port Arthur group denied' [\[247\]](#).

The Crisafulli LNP government have not implemented the agreement of National Cabinet to sign up to a national gun buyback scheme, and the LNP continue to drag their heels on implementing recommendations from the Wieambilla coroner's report. At the time of this announcement, the Minister for Health said he was implementing a new ministerial directive to make mental health reporting mandatory in respect of high-risk patients. It is my understanding that public health officials already have an obligation to report health matters to the weapons licensing authority; however, this approach is only as good as someone presenting to a public health facility displaying mental health issues with the mental health practitioner knowing they are a weapons licence holder. It precludes those weapons licence holders or those who seek a licence who do not present at a public health facility or, if they do, do not present mental health symptoms.

It is time the Crisafulli LNP government stop being weak, unshackle themselves from their firearm lobby overlords and the right-wing conservatives in their party room and deliver real, positive gun reform in Queensland that will protect Queenslanders. As the brother of a serving police officer I say it is time to implement mandatory mental health checks for weapons licence holders in Queensland. This will

protect Queenslanders and protect our hardworking police officers on the front line every day. It is time Queensland signed up to the national gun buyback scheme, because any reduction in the number of weapons and firearms in Queensland—there are over a million—makes our community safer. In fact, the CCC said—

... we live in a borderless environment.

And—

... anything that provides a coherent, consistent, national inter-operative policy is actually going to be a positive step in allowing law enforcement to cooperate.

This is not about taking firearms away from law-abiding citizens such as farmers, sporting shooters, pest controllers and so on. This is about Queensland not being the weakest link in the armour against gun reform and it is about a government putting aside their internal differences and doing what is right for Queenslanders. This is about putting in place barriers to minimise and stop situations like what happened at Wieambilla and Bondi—something the LNP laws would not have stopped or changed.

The Queensland Police Union has called for much stronger investment by the Crisafulli government in firearms investigations and compliance activities and also outlined that strong legislation and stiff penalties alone are insufficient to deter terrorists and criminals and keep guns out of their hands. It is time that the Crisafulli LNP government delivers further investment in weapons licensing and also provides them the appropriate tools such as through mental health checks to keep Queenslanders safe.

If the government were serious about stamping out vilification and hate crimes in Queensland they would not have paused the laws in the respect-at-work bill. The Queensland Council of Unions stated that the respect-at-work reforms also included enhanced vilification protections, including on the grounds of race and religion, to protect Queenslanders. The Law Society calls for the implementation of changes to Queensland's anti-discrimination laws contemplated by the respect-at-work legislation. It is time the Crisafulli government stopped playing politics with this matter and unpaused the laws already considered by this House which would strengthen antivilification and anti-discrimination protections for all Queenslanders.

I now turn to the prohibited expressions element of the bill. Many Queenslanders have told us the bill should be called the 'Criminalising Freedom of Speech Bill'. First, let me start with what was in the bill and what was considered by the committee before the Premier was rolled by his backbench in yesterday's LNP party room meeting. The LNP's bill was set to give extraordinary powers—basically unchecked before they are used—to the Attorney-General to prescribe phrases to be banned, either spoken or in writing. While I accept that the Attorney-General would need to consult with the Crime and Corruption Commission, the Human Rights Commission and the Queensland Police Service, the Attorney-General only has to consult, and if any of them do not agree, the Attorney-General can still ban a phrase. The Department of Justice said—

It is a matter for the Attorney-General to be satisfied of. The Attorney-General will be able to satisfy herself using evidence that she sees fit to meet the test.

The Attorney-General could wake up one morning and say, 'Oh, I don't like expression A and expression B', do a google search to satisfy herself, consult with the three government funded agencies that do not have veto powers and then slip out a new regulation that afternoon banning an expression. Under laws introduced, an expression can be lawful at the start of the week and banned by the end of the week without Queenslanders being any wiser. I say this because I am informed that when the government recently banned a number of new symbols under the existing legislation there was no press release and no fanfare; they were stumbled upon on the Queensland Legislation website. Which Queenslander regularly checks that website? I do not even check that website and I am a politician. While I accept that the parliament can move a disallowance motion after the regulation is made to have a debate about the merits of it, there is no public scrutiny of any proposed new expressions prior to them being banned.

There were many submitters to the parliamentary inquiry raising concerns with the overreach of ministerial powers given to the Attorney-General. The Bar Association said—

the arrogation of the power to ban phrases to the responsible Minister involves problems of both policy (lack of debate) and practicality (lower likelihood that people will be aware what they are not allowed to say)

The Institute of Public Affairs stated—

The bill sets a dangerous new precedent of authorising a government by declaration to outlaw words.

The Archdiocese of Brisbane stated—

Where expressions may be prescribed by regulation, safeguards must be especially robust. The Bill provides insufficient statutory criteria governing when expressions may be prescribed.

For once I agree with Campbell Newman when he described the laws as a significant abuse, and on 7News said—

This can be used against people in the future by their political opponents who happen to be in government.

And—

I think every Queenslanders should be very, very worried about it.

The laws give the attorney-general of the day extraordinary powers with very few checks and balances. While I understand the Attorney-General has said that there will be a commonsense approach, the actions of this government to date do not give me or Queenslanders any hope and comfort of a commonsense approach. As outlined in our statement of reservation, these LNP laws, due to their subjective nature and their ability to be used with minimal scrutiny, leave the door open for abuse by any government or attorney-general, in particular the current Attorney-General. This overreach reeks of an LNP government that has failed to learn the lessons of the Fitzgerald era. As the Queensland Council of Civil Liberties Vice-President Terry O’Gorman said about the laws—

This is up there with the excesses of the Bjelke-Petersen government.

Clearly these views were so concerning for the LNP’s backbench that they were ready to cross the floor and vote against it. That is what we were hearing anyway. Those voices were so loud that they have been forced to flip-flop on a position the Premier, Attorney and police minister have spent two weeks defending. All of a sudden, after a meeting yesterday, they flip-flopped and changed it. Well done to the backbenchers! Maybe it was the LNP caucus finally standing up for their values, like the member for Mackay did last time we were in this chamber. What an absolute champion!

The LNP’s values page on their website states—

Freedom of conscience, freedom of religion, freedom of expression and freedom of association as the building blocks of a robust and fair society.

In a speech in this chamber in 2019 the member for Nanango said—

On the issue of human rights there is nothing more precious than the right to freedom of speech.

In 2019 in this chamber the now Deputy Premier said—

What we want is freedom of speech. We want the ability for members to talk about issues important to members’ electorates.

He certainly showed that this morning! Hasn’t that quote aged well? The Premier might have used the early weeks of parliament to slip his abortion gag past his party room, but he could not quite sneak this one through. The Premier’s division, chaos and crisis has turned a chip into a crack throughout the backbench.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to relevance and the long title of the bill. I seek your guidance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): I am paying attention. Make sure you stay relevant to the bill.

Mr BUTCHER: Thank you for your advice. I am speaking to foreshadowed amendments, Mr Deputy Speaker. The Premier and his ministers have been trying to pressure a position out of us for the last two weeks, but maybe they should have been more concerned about being on the same page as their backbench. The Premier and the Attorney-General said they would only prescribe two phrases. However, the Minister for Police let the cat of the bag the other week, when 7News reported him as saying, ‘The parliament of the day will have, will determine in the future if any other slogans or phrases will be included.’

The consultation for this bill was an absolute sham, and now there have been amendments released at the last minute—we have not seen them as they have not been distributed—that completely change its intent.

An opposition member: They are still drafting them!

Mr BUTCHER: I will take that interjection. Obviously the LNP are still drafting those so we will wait and see. The two phrases now proposed have not been examined by the committee. In fact, the deputy director-general in the Department of Justice said—

There are no expressions that are prescribed through the bill. I do not think it is appropriate for me to comment on any potential or hypothetical expressions given that that would be a matter for government in terms of what they prescribe.

That is from the department. Apparently, it was not appropriate for us to ask questions then and we do not have the opportunity at all to ask questions now.

In a question to a witness the LNP's own chairperson asked, 'Would you accept that phrases can mean different things to different people,' and I thank the chair for asking that question. It is a great question. Rather than being calm, methodical and consultative, the LNP have trashed the parliamentary process and any other opportunity for meaningful consultation.

For those reasons and based on strong feedback through the submissions and consultation with Queenslanders, or lack thereof, we cannot support the proposed vilification and hate speech laws in their current format, noting that we do not have the amendments before us at the moment. They propose to strip away Queensland's freedom of speech while not actually addressing the issue of anti-Semitism, gun violence and terrorism. In a last-minute feat of political gymnastics, the Premier has lost the plot.

I am proud to be part of a united team, led by the Leader of the Opposition, as it is our team that will always stand up for Queenslanders. Instead, what we see from those opposite is chaos and division. We have seen it and we have heard it from regional National Party members of the LNP who are upset with this bill because it attacks their freedom of speech. I thank all those National Party members from regional Queensland for standing up to the Premier. We have heard rumours that the likes of the members for Bonney and Clayfield are upset that the bill does not go far enough in respect of gun reform, which I am sure is what their communities want. I understand that the member for Mirani ruled out any changes to gun reform so we will watch with interest as he crosses the floor, just as the courageous member for Mackay did during the last sitting on another matter dealing with freedom of speech. The LNP are divided on this matter. The ALP are united and we are strong. We believe in freedom of speech, we believe in gun reform laws and we believe that more work needs to be done on strengthening vilification and hate speech laws in this parliament.

The tragic day of 14 December 2025 will be in the minds of Queenslanders each and every day for months and years ahead. We owe it to current and future generations to get these laws right, not rush them. We must ensure we have strong, evidence-based laws that will work and that will stand up to constitutional and legal challenge. Unfortunately, the Crisafulli LNP government has introduced laws that the overwhelming majority of submitters to the truncated committee process believe need further work in respect of the vilification and hate speech provisions. We believe that they need more work, but that does not mean that action should not be taken to stop hate speech in the community. However, the proposal put forward by the LNP raises more questions than answers. I move—

That the words 'now read a second time' be deleted and the following words inserted:

1. withdrawn and redrafted to remove the following provisions and elements with the remaining elements contained in a separate bill, to be reintroduced and considered during this week's sitting:
 - (a) elements of clause 4 that deal with expressions;
 - (b) clauses 7, 19 and 20.
2. the removed elements in 1. be referred back to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee to undertake full and proper examination and report back to the House by 17 April 2026.'

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Honourable members, an amendment has been moved. Anyone who wishes to speak now will be speaking to that amendment.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (12.35 pm): I rise to speak to the motion that the member for Gladstone has just moved. This amendment is necessary because this morning the police minister foreshadowed new new laws. While we are preparing to debate the new laws that the Premier has spent the past 17 days championing, the police minister has announced that there will be new new laws that we will get to see at some point in the future. Judging by the interjections from the Attorney-General, it is the intention of the government to force the parliament to vote on these new new laws without any parliamentary oversight and without any opportunity to consult with the community or the multicultural groups affected by these changes. This shows how shambolic the handling of these laws has been from day one.

The new laws, not the new new laws, were rejected by the LNP's party room yesterday. We understand that some members of the LNP were concerned enough about free speech that they were considering voting against them. However, it had never been our understanding that there would be enough of those dissidents to reject laws championed by the Premier, championed by the Attorney-General and the police minister and championed by the cabinet and the entire government. We know that some ministers have been grumbling that they did not support the laws in the first place and that the Premier announced them before they were even endorsed by cabinet. That is the kind of chaos we have seen throughout the handling of these laws. The public was not consulted before they were announced. The cabinet did not endorse them.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Order, member for Coomera!

Mr MILES: The parliamentary committee was given just 17 days to consider the laws and the hundreds of submissions that were made opposing them—hundreds of submissions in just 17 days. The LNP members of the committee ignored those submissions, they toed the Premier's line, they did their job and then the party room rejected them. Let us not forget that through those 17 days the Premier was demanding to know how Labor would vote: 'I demand to know how Labor will vote on these laws.' What he did not know was how the LNP was going to vote on his signature laws! I have never seen a party room reject signature laws from a standing premier, which is what happened yesterday.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Coomera, I cautioned you. You are warned.

Mr MILES: This motion is so important because throughout those short 17 days the parliamentary committee was told that it was not to consider the two phrases that the police minister now says will be included in his new laws. Repeatedly, people who were submitting and members of the committee were told that they could not raise those two phrases because they were not in the bill. That is despite the Premier saying that they were in the bill in black and white and despite the police minister now announcing his intention to include them. The Director-General of DJAG said—

There are no expressions that are prescribed through the bill. I do not think it is appropriate for me to comment on any potential or hypothetical expression. They said the bill does not prescribe any particular phrases but sets a framework for the Attorney-General. No expressions are prescribed by the bill. Any future decisions are for the Attorney-General.

So, throughout the entire hearing process, one could not discuss the two phrases and now the minister, without even showing us the legislation, foreshadows that they will be included, even though the parliamentary committee could not consider them. That is why the motion moved by the member for Gladstone is so important and so appropriate. The parliamentary committee should consider the laws that the parliament will ultimately consider and pass. In this case, the government has forced the parliamentary committee to consider laws which are not the laws that the parliament will consider and ultimately pass.

This entire process has been clever politics from a clever politician, but it has backfired spectacularly, and it all could have been avoided. We wrote to the government in December last year and offered, on behalf of the opposition, to work with them on a bipartisan bill that could have bipartisan support. The Premier decided, the clever politician that he is, to rush through his own laws without any consultation and to reject that offer from the opposition. He announced them without taking them to cabinet and they have ultimately been rejected by the LNP party room in the most embarrassing rebuke of a premier that I have seen.

We on this side of the House stand in support of stronger gun laws that will keep the community safe, in opposition to anti-Semitism and also in support of freedom of speech. This Premier and this LNP government want to take Queensland backwards—backwards to a day when our community was not safe from stockpiles of guns, backwards to a time when the National Party sent the police in with batons to arrest hundreds of young people protesting peacefully. On this side of the House, we will stand by our values and we will call upon the government to allow the parliamentary committee to consider the laws that they are demanding that we vote upon, demanding that we debate, without even showing the courtesy of circulating the amendments. I commend the motion moved by the member for Gladstone.

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (12.42 pm): It will come as no surprise that I rise to speak against the shadow police minister's motion that is before the House. Let's put some facts on the table. I think the member

for Gladstone has probably forgotten to tell the Leader of the Opposition or maybe the Leader of the Opposition has just been too busy trying to sort out the chaos in his caucus to read the letter that the shadow police minister has written. Let's recall. When was that, police minister?

Mr Purdie: In December. Miles wrote it.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: In December. I will apologise to the member for Gladstone, because he probably would remember it. It was actually the Leader of the Opposition who wrote to us and said, 'Urgent! We need to recall parliament. We have to recall parliament and we have to debate it without any community consultation. We have to debate whatever is happening without going to committee.' He says one thing and now, all of a sudden, he does another. That is pretty obvious, flip-flopper! What he is doing with this motion—

Mr MILES: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. I understand it has been a difficult day for the opposition. They are trying to work out what they are going to do about the member for Cairns. What are they going to do about the anti-Semites over there—the ones who are happy to protest on the streets; anti Jewish people? It is out of control in the Labor Party and we know that. We know that from submissions to the committee. I will talk about that in a minute. In an attempt to buy time to protect the member for Cairns, he wants this very important bill into anti-Semitism and keeping guns out of the hands of terrorists and criminals kicked into the long grass.

First of all they say, 'Oh, no, the Attorney-General will have too much power.' Okay. We listened. Then they said, 'Oh, no, we do not want to do that. Hang on. We have the wrong talking points.' That was pretty obvious from the shadow police minister's contribution. Of course, the Minister for Police has foreshadowed the amendments because obviously we are making crucial amendments to the bill to enshrine the phrases in legislation out of necessity. Why do we have to do that? To ensure—

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, they may want to hear this—to ensure that future Labor governments cannot quietly come in and try to change the regulation. We know that on this side of the House we support the Jewish community. We know by the actions and the silence of those opposite that they do not. They say one thing in public and then come in here and do another.

Let's talk about the fact that we just had to listen to the shadow police minister talk about how bad the legislation is and how ridiculous it is that we listened to Queenslanders. Then he says, 'Oh, but we are going to vote for it. We are going to support it.' Is the member for Gladstone opening the door to ensure the truth comes out about the Labor opposition here in Queensland? They are deeply divided under the leadership of this weak leader, the member for Murrumba. He is the one who stood by the member for Cairns when he wrote diatribe and liked things on Facebook around misogynistic comments and women, and promoting sexual violence against women. I will give credit where credit is due to the member for Waterford. The Labor backbench should listen to this—it may help when you go to vote for your next leader: the member for Waterford at least had the gumption to come into this House and say, 'I got him in, I sat him down and he listened to what I said.' However, obviously he has not because of what has happened—and what we have seen in this chamber today—with the vile anti-Semitic likes on his Facebook, but, worse than that, he actually writes it himself under a pseudonym. Unbelievable!

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I draw your attention to the requirement for the Attorney to be relevant to the debate. I ask you to provide her guidance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Attorney, I am sure you will continue to be relevant to the motion. Thank you.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. What we are doing here today is talking about the motion moved by the member for Gladstone who actually wants—we have it in his motion here—the protection of the Jewish community kicked into the long grass until 17 April 2026.

So, we have the flip-flopping Leader of the Opposition who wanted it in before Christmas. He did not want it to go to community consultation. He did not want the honourable member for Nicklin and his committee to conduct an inquiry. I am sure there are some on the other side who actually participated; I know they went to Townsville. They had wonderful hearings up in Townsville, and that community understood that we need to particularly keep guns out of the hands of criminals and terrorists and support the Jewish community.

With that, I would like to take a moment, because it is important, to honour the memory of those who have fallen in Bondi and the Jewish community in Queensland. Today we will hopefully be debating the bill, which has been before the committee. There has been an opportunity for feedback. The crucial amendments will ensure a future Labor government cannot quietly try to remove the phrases or repeal a regulation. We know that we have a member for Cairns who obviously does not support what we are trying to do in relation to anti-Semitism.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. A moment ago you gave guidance to the Attorney about being relevant and she has strayed back to the same subject matter, which has no relevance to this bill. I ask that you provide her with guidance on her obligations under the standing orders.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): I will take some advice. Attorney-General, please make sure you are relevant to the amendment that has been moved.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The Leader of the Opposition requested parliament be re-called back in December so we could debate the issue that is at hand. Therefore, taking the Leader of the Opposition's recommendation on that, I move—

That the question be now put.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Before the question is put, I submit to you that your obligation is to be satisfied that the matter has been sufficiently debated and that no members' rights have been infringed upon. I am aware—and I submit to you, Deputy Speaker, that you also are aware—that there are other members of this House who seek to express views that are varied and relevant—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, I will listen to the point of order in silence, thank you.

Mr de BRENNI: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Members should be well aware of their obligation during points of order. I submit to you that careful consideration should be given as to whether or not there has been sufficient debate on this motion, given its scale and significance at an international, national and state level, before this question is put.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In relation to the point of order raised by the Manager of Opposition Business, this is a procedural motion. The shadow minister obviously foreshadowed that, and there has been a response by the Leader of the Opposition as well as a minister from the government side in relation to this as a procedural motion. I submit to you that that is sufficient debate with respect to the procedural motion as moved.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have been taking some advice and listening very closely. I am also of the opinion that this amendment is more of a procedural motion. Standing order 88 refers to a closure motion and the rights that the Manager of Opposition Business spoke about. I feel that the contributions of the member for Murrumba and the Attorney-General have satisfied those rights regarding that procedural motion. Therefore, I will put the question.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question now is that the amendment be agreed to. All those of that opinion say 'aye'.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My understanding is that you have put the question that the shadow minister's amendment be agreed to. The ayes have that—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Manager of Opposition Business, the question was the motion that the Attorney-General moved, not the amendment.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr de BRENNI: The question that the Attorney asked be put was that the shadow minister's amendment be agreed to.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. The motion that the Attorney-General moved was to close the debate, and I outlined my sufficiency in that space. Therefore, I just put the question with regard to the amendment. I will put the question again.

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

AYES, 34:

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

Grn, 1—Berkman.

NOES, 52:

LNP, 52—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Chiesa, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O’Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr Butcher) negatived.

Debate, on motion of Mrs Frecklington, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.01 pm to 2.00 pm.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Housing Affordability

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): If it feels like things are only getting harder to afford then you are in the majority of Queenslanders. Rents, the mortgage, energy bills, grocery bills, the cost of insurance, the pinch at the petrol pump—all up. But you do not need to take my word for it; that is what the ABS is saying. When asked, it is the feeling of Queenslanders from the coast to the cape.

This year Queensland has won a few awards but not the kind you would write home about. Did you know it now costs more to rent on the Gold Coast than in Sydney—almost \$100 a week more in fact. That equates to about \$850 per week for rent on the coast. Brisbane and regional Queensland are not much cheaper. For many families, even those with dual incomes, that is completely unaffordable. If you are paying those high rents, which creep higher and higher each year, you often have little left over for bills, discretionary spending or even saving. That fact makes saving to buy a home a distant dream and, for the many young people I have spoken to, damn near impossible.

New statistics released by Domain last week have confirmed that the cost of an entry level market home in Brisbane is now more expensive than Sydney. It is more expensive and takes longer to save for. That translates to almost five years to save a 20 per cent deposit for an entry level unit and over six years to save for an entry level house. Those numbers do not lie. This is an affordability crisis and it is only getting worse under the LNP.

You cannot ease a housing unaffordability crisis by axing the delivery of affordable homes. The Crisafulli government has axed the pipeline of thousands of affordable homes on the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast and in Brisbane. The LNP has axed the delivery targets that would have delivered 10,000 social and affordable homes. With Brisbane house prices continuing to spiral out of control, where are essential workers like nurses, police and teachers going to live? Under the LNP does Brisbane become an enclave only for the uber rich?

The fact that Brisbane’s house prices are going to increase by twice the amount of Sydney’s should be a wake-up call, a wake-up call that the LNP’s housing policy is failing Queenslanders. The LNP have sensationally claimed that affordable housing targets—the ones that they scrapped at new developments—do not work in addressing supply, but they should tell that to the Lord Mayor, because it was Lord Mayor Adrian Schinner who was calling for a higher affordability target—a 30 per cent affordability target—as part of the Woolloongabba precinct. I table that article for the benefit of the Deputy Premier.

Tabled paper: Article from ABC News online, dated 31 January 2022, titled ‘Calls for Woolloongabba Cross River Rail precinct to include more affordable housing’ [\[248\]](#).

The Lord Mayor goes so far as to call for essential workers to be given priority access to affordable housing near schools and hospitals—those same essential workers, frontline workers, who now cannot afford to buy or rent anywhere near where they work, and they never will if the LNP continue with their solution to sell off government land to the highest luxury builder, pricing first home buyers and the working-class further and further out of their communities.

David Crisafulli and the LNP said they had a solution to the housing crisis, but clearly they did not. It is just getting worse. Imagine being a young Queenslander. How on earth do you save for a home deposit? How can you save for a home when everything else costs more under the LNP? Under the LNP universal power bill relief has disappeared and bills have only gone up. Under the LNP car rego has skyrocketed, and house and unit prices and rents keep going up too. As I said, under the LNP the dream of home ownership is fast becoming just that—a dream. That is a direct result of the housing stress everyday Queenslanders are experiencing. The LNP have argued that there is no clear metric for housing stress, but if I can help those opposite with some advice: the standard for housing stress—

Mr Bleijie: No, not from you—rejected.

Mr MILES: The Deputy Premier might reject housing stress. He might tell people who want a home to cry him a river, but these are the real experiences of working Queenslanders trying to afford a house. The standard for housing stress is when a person is paying more than 30 per cent of their income just to keep a roof over their heads. When rents and house prices are growing by something like 10 or 15 per cent a year, how can working people keep up? I know wages certainly have not grown by 10 per cent in a year. Our teachers are hard pressed to even get a 3.5 per cent increase. Our analysis shows that an average nurse now pays 39 per cent of their income to live in Brisbane, an average teacher pays 40 per cent and an average police officer pays 37 per cent—and the Deputy Premier says cry him a river.

At the same time, the social housing waitlist is ballooning and families are being forced into homelessness. Some of those families are those struggling the most. I recently received a message from Jarrad, a parent to four young kids. His partner has breast cancer and is on a disability pension. Jarrad himself is on a carers' pension to support her through her treatment. Because of their pensions they do not qualify for housing assistance or the social housing waitlist. They have applied for 42 rentals and been knocked back. Jarrad says to me his partner is dying and should not be living in a car. How is this acceptable? How is this a standard the LNP is willing to accept?

Under this LNP government, an additional 10,000 people are on the waitlist for a home. That is about how many social and affordable homes the LNP have axed during this term by scrapping targets. Some of those decisions have been in their own backyards. To make matters worse, the LNP have a plan to sell off more social homes. Their budget appropriation includes \$120 million in revenue from the sell-off of social homes in the middle of a housing crisis. That is about 300 social homes set to be sold in a year. Under Labor, the sale of social homes was stopped to ensure we had the social housing supply we needed. Let me be very clear: that program was stopped by Labor—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! There will be no quarrelling.

Mr MILES:—contrary to the claims from the housing minister and restarted by the LNP. Revealed in a question on notice, the government confirmed the pause had been lifted and homes would be sold from this financial year. When we spoke about this, the Deputy Premier said, 'Cry me a river.' This is the Premier's right-hand man saying 'cry me a river' about social homes being sold off.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! I cannot hear the speaker. Order!

Mr MILES: That is his response to people like Jarrad and his family, who are arguably going through some of the toughest days of their lives. It goes to the core of this issue and the core of the LNP's ideology around vulnerable Queenslanders. The Deputy Premier has repeated that the answer to the housing crisis is supply, supply, supply. Instead of building affordable supply those opposite are opening the door, cutting the chain and tying the bow on luxury developments for their mates—mates who can now donate to them. How politically convenient! The reality is that right now working people—frontline workers, families and those in housing stress who do not know how they will keep the lights on tomorrow—do not have the money to buy a \$1.4 million unit in Banyo. They are not after a luxury townhouse. They want a roof—any roof—that is not the roof of their car or a tent.

Labor Party, Performance

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.10 pm): What we have just witnessed is like when the old member for Murrumba was so desperate to cling to power when he was premier that he would do and say anything to stay in the job. For a year he has tried to get his footwork in as the Leader of the Opposition, and now he knows he is under immense threat from his own members. They are all doing videos. They are all outsourcing their own tactics. We see it every week with different videos. The member for Gaven is doing her own thing. The member for Woodridge is doing things.

Mr O'Connor: They are having a crack.

Mr BLEIJIE: They are all having a crack because they know he ain't got it. He now knows he is under so much pressure internally that he misleads. His desperation is back to where it was when he was the premier. We see it and he just mentioned it. He repeats misleading statements. He talks about 'Cry me a river.' I was asked about Labor's attack on our housing policy and I said, 'Cry me a river. The Labor Party will not lecture anyone about housing because we have a housing crisis caused by the Labor Party.' That is what it was. But no, he goes out there and does videos misleading Queenslanders and taking them on a desperate journey. He is misleading and he should be truthful, because he is exposing himself as to why he was overwhelmingly rejected at the last election. He is a reject with a capital R. I know it, we know it and they know it. Every time they look at your Facebook posts your Labor colleagues get the big stamp out: 'reject'—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Deputy Premier is well aware of his obligation to address his comments through the chair.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Thank you, Manager of Opposition Business. I will keep an eye on that. I appreciate your advice.

Mr BLEIJIE: That is why he cannot take action against the member for Cairns. I was in here during his 10-minute speech. He has an anti-Semite sitting behind him and he did not mention it once. For 10 minutes the Leader of the Opposition had the chance to say that he has counselled the anti-Semite member for Cairns and he did not even mention it.

Mr HEALY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and ask that the member withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, would you withdraw, please.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. The Leader of the Opposition just showed why he cannot continue as Leader of the Opposition. There were serious accusations raised against the member for Cairns this morning. We quoted the member for Cairns' own anti-Semitic statements online and the Leader of the Opposition has not even addressed the issue. He does not even have the intestinal fortitude to address the issue. Stand in this place and say that you took him out, you looked him in the eye and you dealt with it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair, please.

Mr BLEIJIE: But he could not because he knows that if he takes action against the member for Cairns the right wing of the Labor Party will say it is over. They will join with the old guard and it is 'lights out' for the member for Murrumba. That is why he is not taking action against the member for Cairns. That is weakness at the highest level. If you cannot take action against a senior shadow minister, a former member of the Labor Party cabinet, then you do not deserve to lead an opposition in this state. Give us someone with credibility! It is an absolute disgrace. We saw it this morning in comments on the member's MP page and his personal page, where he is essentially saying that Israel has planted Jewish Queenslanders in secret terrorist cells that are waiting for the Israeli government to say 'activate the cells in Queensland'. Which Jews is he talking about? Is he talking about members of the Jewish Board of Deputies—

Mr HEALY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, would you withdraw, please.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. I would say to honourable members and even the member for Cairns: if you do not want your comments regurgitated back at you, do not say them in the first place. Do not type them on your Facebook page in the first place. He has not apologised, he has not withdrawn them and

he has not denied them. Has the member for Cairns apologised to the Jewish community? No, he has not. Has the opposition leader taken action for the last time he made misogynistic comments about women? No, he has not even taken action on that. Today the Leader of the Opposition has failed. He is a reject. He is weak. We know it and the Labor Party knows it. That is why you will not last much longer in that seat, mate!

Housing Affordability

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.16 pm): I am very pleased to rise this afternoon on a matter of public importance. I will start by saying ‘loopy, baby, loopy’ because that is what Queenslanders are getting from our state’s pantomime Deputy Premier—or, as the *Courier-Mail* now calls him, ‘eccentric’. Let’s look at the achievements of our eccentric LNP Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie since the parliament last met—fresh from abusing the International Olympic Committee; fresh from denigrating the esteemed president of World Rowing, Jean-Christophe Rolland, an Olympic gold medallist, by calling him ‘Pierre from Paris’; 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 bears no resemblance to reality; and fresh from denigrating Queenslanders who disagree with the Deputy Premier by calling them ‘loopy’.

What did the eccentric member for Kawana say when he was asked about the LNP’s plan to sell public housing assets? He said nothing. He attacked Labor and said, ‘Cry me a river.’ I say to the Deputy Premier that there are Queenslanders in this state who are crying themselves to sleep each and every night because they cannot get an affordable home for themselves, their partner or their children. That is to the shame of the Deputy Premier.

One of the reasons for all of this is that the Crisafulli LNP government’s housing affordability crisis continues to deepen, and the key factor in this worsening crisis is the decision-making of the Deputy Premier. He continues to axe affordable housing and scrap affordable housing targets at a time when, according to the latest Domain report, for the first time ever it now takes longer to save for a unit in Brisbane than in Sydney. It now takes four years and eleven months—almost five years—for a young couple to save a 20 per cent deposit for an entry-level unit and six years and three months for a young couple to save 20 per cent for an entry-level house. Brisbane entry-level house prices are up 20.6 per cent, or \$146,000, in just 12 months under the LNP, reaching an incredible \$856,000. Brisbane entry-level unit prices are up 24 per cent, or \$127,875, in 12 months under the LNP to reach \$660,000. Rapid price increases and lack of supply are the biggest issues ahead of interest rates. So much for that ‘supply, baby, supply’ nonsense from the Deputy Premier.

For a typical young couple, repayments on entry-level homes put them in mortgage stress immediately—50 per cent of income on repayments for a house and 38.6 per cent of income on repayments for a unit. The Housing Industry Association said, ‘Despite clear advice from the Queensland Productivity Commission’—and remember all that carry-on about how the Productivity Commission under the LNP was going to change things—‘the state has rejected key planning reforms’.

Under the member for Kawana, Queensland now has the worst performing planning system for housing in the nation. Congratulations, LNP. Give yourselves a gold medal. The HIA says that Queensland has made limited progress since 2024, despite the severity of the housing affordability crisis and clear reform advice from the LNP’s think tank, their Productivity Commission, being available.

When it comes to housing supply performance, Queensland is responsible for about 20 per cent of the National Housing Accord targets. In 2024-25 Queensland delivered 33,448 dwellings against an annual target of 49,230. Under the LNP, this represents a shortfall of 15,800 homes for Queenslanders. Good on you, LNP. Give yourselves another gold medal. The HIA links this underdelivery directly to the LNP’s planning system failures.

The bottom line is that, until the planning minister improves the efficiency, accuracy and transparency of the planning system, this LNP government will continue to underdeliver homes and drive up prices. I can tell the House now that, after everything we have heard in the House today, that is what Queenslanders are worried about. They want an affordable roof over their head, but things are going backwards under the LNP.

Labor Party, Performance

 **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) (2.21 pm): I want to thank the good people of Mackay—a third of whom are in my electorate—for the alert they provided to

residents on the Mackay crime watch page. I know the member for Mackay shares this concern with me. We saw the Deputy Leader of the Opposition driving around the Mackay Hospital car park last week. It was quite hilarious—

Mr Nicholls: First time he's been there.

Ms CAMM: I take that interjection from the health minister. I think it is the first time he has been to the car park. He drove around and filmed himself while he was looking for a park. I then read the social media comments from locals right across the Mackay region, including from former Labor voters who had voted for Labor for over 100 years but who saw the former Labor government deliver nothing for our Mackay Hospital except chaos and crisis—in the maternity ward right through to the car parking debacle, let alone the helipad issue. When we were in opposition, we campaigned for that helipad to help people when they needed it. I want to acknowledge the good work the health minister is doing in supporting our region and the broader region that relies on that health service. I am very pleased with the work he is progressing with the car park, the helipad and the Hospital Rescue Plan.

The Deputy Premier spoke about those opposite vying to be the next Leader of the Opposition, and those auditions are well underway. The member for Gaven is on her socials and out there engaging with the broader community, testing that new brand to see how it goes. We saw the Deputy Leader of the Opposition block the comments because I do not think he liked the feedback he received from the Mackay constituents when he came to Mackay. They have not forgotten the Labor government and we will continue to remind them each and every day about our representatives in the Mackay region.

I turn to the comments of a shadow minister and former cabinet minister with regard to his views on anti-Semitism and women. These views have been articulated not by us but by comments made all over social media. The opposition are associated with these comments that breed hate and breed anti-Semitism at a time when our nation has experienced the worst terrorist attacks on our soil. The Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and in fact all members of the opposition are sitting there in silence and condoning those comments on social media.

We all know that, when we get into parliament, we wear a hat as the representative of our community and some are sworn into cabinet or take on a leadership role in opposition. As an MP, there is a certain standard to uphold in the way you conduct yourself. We now have somebody who wants to flip their surname and their first name around—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order on my left!

Mr Mellish interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Aspley, you are warned.

Ms CAMM:—and go under a pseudonym to articulate their true beliefs. That is what we have seen from a senior shadow minister. If I say this person's name, they will claim to take personal offence but I do not know how someone can take personal offence to the words they have written themselves. The member said—

With the criminal element now running Israel, and the murderous actions being directed by its government and carried out by the disgraceful Israeli Murder squads, grossly and inaccurately named the Israeli Defense Forces, I am proud that our relationship is not good. We should cease all diplomatic engagement as we did with Germany during WW2.

I wonder what Penny Wong in the federal government would think of those comments with the job she has right now. I hope the Leader of the Opposition can show some leadership and stand up and call out the disgraceful and disgusting comments made by one of his senior shadow cabinet members. There is some talent sitting on their backbench who should be brought forward and those who have sat around the table and made the decisions that left this state in a mess should be retiring.

Housing

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (2.26 pm): The housing minister has not had a good week. There was shocking affordable housing data that came out, and he decided what he would do in response to that is go and get some nice photos visiting homeless camps. With a bright shirt and sympathetic smile—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! Members to my left, you are interjecting on your own member of the team.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bonney, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms SCANLON: He visited with a bright shirt and sympathetic smile, but the very next day those homeless encampments were dismantled by police and bobcats. Of course, George Street Beat did not miss him, did they: compassion one day, clearance the next.

Queenslanders notice these sorts of things. The polling has shown that 56 per cent of Queenslanders are dissatisfied with the response of the government to housing in Queensland. Not even one in five people think they are doing the right thing on housing here in Queensland. It is not just the general public who think they are doing an atrocious job on affordable housing; their own backbench is incredibly restless as well and they are literally saying it. There are news articles and rumours from those opposite saying, 'We really need to do more on housing because clearly it's not cutting through.'

We have seen that same division today on the bill before the House, and we saw that same chaos on public housing asset sales. Despite what the housing minister is now trying to suggest, I want to put some facts on the record. The budget locks in over \$100 million from public housing asset sales. The reason I know that is they literally confirmed it in a question on notice. At estimates the director-general confirmed there is 'an expectation of sales'.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Ms SCANLON: The member for Currumbin might want to look at what the information says because it states very clearly that there was a secret plan to flog off public housing. It is either that or they were cooking the books, but they cannot have it both ways. The member for Bonney can keep posting videos of us. If only the 10,000 extra social housing tenants were living in his head rent free in the same way that we are, then maybe he would not be in this sort of trouble.

While he was busy talking about Labor this morning there was one thing the housing minister did say that I do agree with, and that is that the Deputy Premier certainly does like a three-word slogan, so I thought maybe I would add some additional ones: 'too many homes', 'not my backyard', 'someone else's street' or 'anywhere but here'. Of course, the Deputy Premier loves to say he is for supply, just not when it is affordable and not when it is in his backyard.

The member for Bonney seems to disagree with the Deputy Premier on a lot but goes strangely quiet when it comes to affordable homes being cut. In the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct there was prime public land next to the hospital right near Griffith University. Under Labor that site was slated for nearly 900 homes; 176 needed to be affordable and 87 accessible. The LNP came in and flogged it off. They delivered fewer homes and none of them are going to be affordable. They are all luxury homes. I wonder what conversations might have taken place with the Deputy Premier. Once upon a time the member for Bonney wanted affordable housing on this site, but this is just another thing he has turned his back on. Of course, it does not stop there. We were told affordable housing conditions were apparently the problem, that developers do not want to build affordable homes.

Ms Grace: Oh, rubbish.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection because that excuse does not stack up. Under Labor, our fast-track approval program had developers lined up to approve 30,000 homes, with 15 per cent needing to be affordable homes. They wanted to build, but the LNP have either cut those projects because they are in their own backyard or stalled those projects. Let's be clear: they are happy to sell off public land with no affordable housing, but then they want to block private developments that include it. They are ripping conditions off one site and blocking supply on the other, and that is what they call a housing policy.

While the member for Bonney can continue denying the fact they clearly had a secret plan to sell off public housing, it does not make an awful lot of sense when the member for Kawana—who should now be known as 'Bleijie White'—is saying that they are going to flog off public land. That does not make an awful lot of sense.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Gaven, I will remind you please to refer to members by their correct titles. You have been here long enough to know better.

Ms SCANLON: Queenslanders see it and they are not buying it.

Member for Cairns

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (2.31 pm): I rise this afternoon to reflect on the latest revelations regarding the member for Cairns, the shadow minister for tourism. The member for Cairns has a pattern of deceit. He has a pattern of divisive behaviour and, as we have discovered this morning, the member for Cairns—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Minister, would you withdraw, please?

Mr POWELL: This is going to be a long speech. I withdraw. The member for Cairns has a pattern of deceit and divisive behaviour and we have learned this morning that it also includes anti-Semitic—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, would you withdraw, please?

Mr POWELL: I withdraw. Sadly, this is not a one-off mistake. The member for Cairns has this pattern of atrocious behaviour, and I am not going to let the people of Far North Queensland nor the people of Queensland forget it. Time and time again the member for Cairns has let down people including in the tourism industry—an industry for which he purports to be the shadow minister and a long-term member. We have discovered that he puts politics above that industry, above the people of his community, above the people of Far North Queensland and, indeed, above the people of Queensland. He comes up with secret plans to slash the tourism industry budget, and I will come back to that in a moment. When that does not keep him busy enough, he also fuels anti-Semitic hate on social media.

How can Queenslanders trust the member for Cairns? Why on earth should they trust him? The truth is that they cannot. The member for Cairns' record makes that crystal clear. Let me unpack each of those elements I spoke about earlier. There is the deceit. What the member for Cairns did not tell the people of Far North Queensland or indeed the people of Queensland is that he and the member for Murrumba as the then premier had a secret plan to slash the tourism budget in the department of tourism, as it was back then, by 95 per cent—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr POWELL:—members opposite should refer to their own documentation—from \$160.8 million to just \$7.636 million.

Ms Grace: You can do better than that.

Mr POWELL: The member for McConnel can pull out the calculator and do the math. She can work it out. What is worse is that in the lead-up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games he was also planning on cutting the Tourism and Events Queensland, TEQ, budget by \$100 million. This is the same organisation that he sat on the board of, appointed by then tourism minister Kate Jones; he was a hand-picked member of the TEQ board. He was going to slash their budget by \$100 million. That is the deceit. That is what those opposite were planning to do under the tenure of the member for Cairns when he was tourism minister.

Let's talk about the divisive behaviour. I have never heard a member talk down his region more than the member for Cairns. Every opportunity to talk down the—

Mr HEALY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find that offensive. It is ridiculous and inaccurate and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr HUNT: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on that point of order.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members on my left.

Mr HUNT: Mr Deputy Speaker, I draw your attention to the frequency of these frivolous points of order. Maybe you could counsel the member—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nicklin, there is no point of order to the point of order.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can members to my left spare me the exasperation, please? I have a point of order from the member for Cairns. It is personal offence. Minister, would you withdraw?

Mr POWELL: I withdraw. More than \$15 million is being spent on the Smithfield mountain bike track in the electorate of Barron River, a real boon for mountain biking across Far North Queensland. We are righting the wrongs on the Wangetti Trail, bringing that world-class tourism icon to the Far North—something those opposite could never do.

The member talks about not attracting enough sporting events. Where was their investment in Barlow Park so it can host further events? I am pleased to announce that more than \$2 million of the \$7.6 million that we recently announced through our Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund is going to Far North Queensland. Unlike the member for Cairns and those opposite, the Crisafulli government knows how important tourism is to the Far North and we will continue to back it despite the way the member for Cairns keeps talking it down.

Let me turn to these anti-Semitic comments, and we have heard about them from other members today. The member has liked something on his own MP page. It says—

We should be cutting diplomatic ties with Israel and expelling the ambassador. Israel is committing genocide. Israel is a terrorist state with cells in many countries including Australia. Notice how it activates those cells when things aren't going Netanyahu's way.

The member actually liked that on his own MP page. He can pretend he did not write it, but he certainly liked it. He then backed it up with this comment—

With the criminal element now running Israel, and the murderous actions being directed by its government and carried out by the disgraceful Israeli Murder squads, grossly and inaccurately named the Israeli Defense Forces, I am proud that our relationship is not good.

Disgusting! That needs to be called out and I will continue to do so.

Member for Cairns; Vocational Education

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (2.38 pm): Before I start my contribution, I would like to place on the record my absolute rejection of the claims made earlier this morning. I have deep connections with the Jewish community and I stand against vile acts of anti-Semitism and racism and always have. Those sentiments are completely unacceptable in a modern society. What also is unacceptable is the killing of innocent men, women and children overseas. I will always voice my concerns about what is happening in Gaza, Israel, Iran, Ukraine and anywhere else that innocent lives are being indiscriminately lost. The theatrics of this morning are a smokescreen for the division within the LNP's own ranks and this government's failure to deliver what matters for Queenslanders. We hear way too much about what they think of us but not much about their policies. They have waited so long to get into government, yet we hear absolutely nothing.

What is unfolding across Queensland's training system is not reform and it is not renewal; it is retreat. Under the Crisafulli LNP government, TAFE Queensland is being hollowed out at precisely the moment our state faces critical workforce shortages. The so-called 'refresh' of the TAFE Queensland board was anything but routine governance. Board members with years remaining on their terms were removed without explanation. Deputy chair Jody Currie was reportedly given no reason for her dismissal. At the same time, new appointments with clear Liberal National Party affiliations were installed. This is the kicker: the appointment of Tim Rawlings, a former Queensland Young Liberals president, as chief executive and other politically linked figures to influential positions sends a message that allegiance to the party matters more than allegiance to students and industry. This flagrant disregard for process is absolutely stunning.

The consequences are already being felt on the ground. Courses are being cut, programs destabilised and communities left uncertain about their future. The fact that all of this is happening during a jobs crisis is absolutely unbelievable. TAFE is not an optional extra in our economy; it is foundational infrastructure. In the 2025-26 budget the LNP, from what I can see, has no new funding for free TAFE at all—not one additional state funded place. Every fee-free training position it now points the finger to is funded by federal Labor. Canberra is carrying the load while Queensland shirks from its responsibility. As I said, with a jobs shortage and a cost-of-living crisis, it is enormously concerning.

What is more concerning in a broader and deeply-troubling context with regard to this is that questions continue to hang over the Premier's own involvement in the failed training company SET Solutions. Public records show that while a minister in the Newman government the Premier funnelled \$320,000 in taxpayer funds to the company before later becoming its sole director. The company was subsequently placed into liquidation, owing \$2.7 million to creditors. Media reports revealed that Mr Crisafulli was pursued in the Supreme Court of Victoria for insolvent trading and paid \$200,000 in a confidential settlement to liquidators. Two of those payments were made while he was a shadow minister and while he was the opposition leader.

These are not minor administrative oversights. They go directly to the questions of judgement, of competence and of integrity in the vocational training sector. When the same political leadership that presided over a failed private registered training organisation now oversees Queensland's public TAFE system while fee-free places are being absolutely canned and while Skilling Queenslanders for Work is being cut and the governance is being politicised, Queenslanders are entitled to ask whether ideology is driving policy, because here is the simple truth: you cannot solve a housing crisis without carpenters, electricians, plumbers and concreters. You cannot deliver hospitals, transmission lines, renewable energy hubs or defence infrastructure without apprentices in the pipeline. You cannot strengthen regional economies while you are starving training infrastructure.

Member for Cairns

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (2.43 pm): There have been many conversations today about the member for Cairns and some would say that his behaviour in recent times—and I think he has just backed that up now given the comments he made when he introduced his speech—has been quite bizarre with regard to his—

Mr HEALY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Nicklin, you are warned.

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Lytton, you are warned—both of you under the standing orders. The quarrelling across the chamber will cease. Member for Everton, will you withdraw please?

Mr MANDER: I withdraw and, Mr Deputy Speaker, I would make a suggestion to the opposition leader that what he should do is withdraw the member for Cairns's access to Facebook. That would do all of us a favour and do the people of Cairns a favour as well. This bizarre behaviour was experienced by me in recent times when the member for Cairns challenged me to a fight. How bizarre that someone like him would challenge someone like me to a fight. My response to that was that the shadow minister should stick with shadow boxing and that he should pull himself off the canvas after that knock-out blow in the election last year and concentrate on the important things of his electorate rather than these bizarre types of stunts that he pulls to distract his electorate from his underperformance in that area.

A government member: His upper cut.

Mr MANDER: That is correct. I take that interjection—an upper cut. That behaviour was bizarre and I will give him the benefit of the doubt and say that he was a bit tongue in cheek about it all, but there is definitely nothing tongue in cheek about the comments that he has made on Facebook and to come out with an explanation like he has to say—

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection as well in that he did not deny it. Those comments were made and it is bizarre to think that anybody else could interpret it in any other way than being anti-Semitic. These are the exact things that members of the federal Labor Party such as Penny Wong, of all people, and the Prime Minister have been talking against in that this type of commentary and this type of behaviour incites hatred. I want to let the Jewish community in this state know that the government of Queensland has your back. We have your back. We will make sure that this type of behaviour does not continue in the future, because everybody in this state has a right to exercise religious freedom and to feel safe in their place of worship, safe when their kids go to school and safe in their own home.

Mr Kempton interjected.

Mr MANDER: Or when they go out on a picnic, as was the case at Bondi Beach. I take that interjection from the member for Cook. The behaviour from the member for Cairns has been at best bizarre and at worst purely anti-Semitic. The question that has to be asked of the opposition leader is this: is he going to call this behaviour out? We all know the saying that the standard you pass is the standard you accept, and if this behaviour continues—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr MANDER: This happened already when he was caught out for the disgraceful behaviour on his Facebook page by liking these one-line jokes which were so anti-women it was not funny.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members on my left! Minister, just pause for a moment please. Pause the clock please. Members on my left, we will have order.

Mr MANDER: He was liking comments like—

I was actually thrown out of Weight Watchers for making sarcastic comments at the weekly weigh-in. As you can imagine, I accepted the decision with huge grace, because they threw her out as well.

Another was, 'I accidentally filled the escort with diesel. She died'—like, like, like, liking all of these comments that are obviously totally and utterly inappropriate.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection that he shared those comments as well. The women from the Labor opposition caught him out last time. They should call him out this time. The Leader of the Opposition should be calling out this behaviour for something that is totally and utterly unacceptable. We have heard the people of Queensland. The Australian government and the Australian opposition have also called it out. Now the opposition leader needs to call it out as well.

Ms McMillan interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Mansfield, that is highly disorderly. You are warned under the standing orders.

Cost of Living

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (2.48 pm): God, it is so good to be mansplained to by the member for Everton about misogyny! This is the guy who gave evidence at a parliamentary committee that it was such a shame there were too many women on the Parole Board. Give me a break!

I want to speak today about how difficult it is for families right now in Queensland. If you talk to families in any of our communities, they say that they are working hard but they are falling further and further behind. They are feeling the pinch. It is this Premier who promised them that he would fix the cost of living and fix housing, but we are in an affordability crisis and a housing affordability crisis. What do we see from those opposite? We see a Deputy Premier who is more obsessed with Trump Tower and delivering luxury apartments than delivering affordable housing. I am sorry, but I do not think nurses, teachers or cleaners can afford an apartment at Trump Tower. Rather than meeting with the developers of Trump Tower—only weeks after new laws allowing developers to give them money; isn't that a coincidence?—perhaps they should focus on keeping their election promises.

I think the Premier is probably a little too busy this week to be keeping those important promises, with all of the division and the chaos we are seeing within the backbench. Only weeks after we saw a member of the government cross the floor for the first time since the 1980s, we now see, on the eve of debate of a bill, the backbench rolling the Premier, the Attorney-General and the Minister for Police. That is why this Premier is too busy to keep those commitments to Queenslanders about cost of living and housing affordability. He has an absolutely chaotic caucus on his hands that he is trying to manage.

In the last few weeks we have seen figures that demonstrate just how difficult it is for Queensland families to get ahead right now. In terms of inflation, prices continue to rise faster here in Queensland than the national average. Electricity is up 43 per cent. Housing costs have risen 7.4 per cent. Rents are up 4.9 per cent. In terms of insurance premiums, there was another promise. This Premier said that insurance premiums would come down because of his action on crime, but insurance premiums have skyrocketed four per cent—double the national increase of 2.2 per cent.

How are families supposed to get ahead right now? The prices of groceries are up and energy bills are atrocious. What relief have we seen from the LNP government that has lots of levers to help people with their car rego, to help people with their energy bills—all of those good things that our Labor government did that went straight into the household budget to help families. We have seen nothing. They scrapped the discount on rego. They scrapped the energy rebates. It is so difficult right now for families. Inaction by this Premier and this government is making it harder for Queensland families to keep their heads above water.

This government say they want to take action on cost of living and housing. They keep talking about housing—‘Supply, supply, supply. We need more supply’—but all they are supplying is luxury apartments and they are scrapping affordable housing projects. That is the sort of supply they think Queenslanders need right now. Hardworking Queenslanders struggling to pay the rent and first home buyers looking to get into the market cannot afford those luxury apartments. In fact, the news we had just recently that it is actually more expensive to get an entry-level apartment in Brisbane than it is in Sydney is the ultimate gut punch to those first home buyers trying to get into the market, but what have we seen? We have seen absolutely no action. This Premier said during the election that if families were struggling then cost-of-living relief would continue. He has absolutely broken his promise to Queenslanders who are doing it tough—another broken promise.

Queenslanders understand that there are global factors that influence inflation—of course there are—but this government has not delivered one policy to help families manage that inflation. Housing costs, energy costs, the cost of groceries—everything is going up, and we have heard nothing from this Premier about his plans to help families. They are asking for a fair opportunity to get ahead, and that is the standard this government should be held to.

Gregory Electorate, Weather Events

 **Mr DILLON** (Gregory—LNP) (2.53 pm): I rise to inform not only the House but also the people of Queensland about the significant weather event that is unfolding in the western part of my electorate—the western and south-western part of the state of Queensland. This weather event is essentially bordered by Mount Isa to the north, the Barkly Tableland and Alice Springs across the border into the Northern Territory. Properties that are being affected in Queensland include some signature places that will be familiar to a lot of members—Glenormiston, Linda Downs and Marion Downs. In the coming weeks, properties such as Glengyle and others in the far south-west will also be substantially affected. Communities are cut off by creeks such as the Mulligan, the Pituri Creek, the Georgina River, Hamilton Channels and, ultimately, all of this forms substantial parts of Eyre Creek. The communities that we see isolated now—and that will continue to remain isolated—include Bedourie and Birdsville; Boulia will have some access restored today and it will recover substantially in coming weeks.

In some cases we have seen properties receive over 700 millimetres of rain in very short periods of time, with the community of Birdsville receiving its annual rainfall in one 24-hour period. This gives rise to a different event a la the 1974 references which will see the entirety of the channel system isolated for eight to 10 weeks, rather than on a rolling effect as has previously been the case.

On behalf of my constituents I would like to extend our gratitude to Minister Perrett and the Department of Primary Industries for their very swift activation of assistance for fodder support for livestock in that region should that be required, as well as to the police minister and his staff for ensuring not only road safety but also the critical air resupply of communities from Boulia to Bedourie. This event happened so quickly that some people in those communities were not able to ensure groceries were in place in advance.

This is the second event in this region in 11 months. It has highlighted a massive blind spot in the federal government’s capacity to accurately reflect weather conditions on the ground—whether it be with rain radar, with rainfall recording stations or with river height gauges that can send timely advance notice to people downstream and ensure in advance that resupply can happen. We will continue to respectfully advocate—very forcefully but respectfully—to the federal government to ensure timely installation before another wet season. This one still has six weeks to run—or more in places, with March the pre-eminent season for continued rainfall across this region. Just because they are a long way from Canberra does not mean that the constituents of places like Birdsville, Bedourie and Boulia are out of sight and out of mind. The Bureau of Meteorology may not place the same importance on delivering them the timely information they provide to people in Sydney or Melbourne, but this government will be resolute in asking for—in fact, demanding—better support from the Bureau of

Meteorology for the farmers, for the people who live in these communities and for people who are travelling—whether they be truck drivers or tourists—to ensure we can prevent them from being isolated and to support those people who are isolated.

I highly commend the work of the Diamantina and Boulia shire council mayors and their staff. Mayor Francis Murray and Mayor Rick Britton have done fantastic work to ensure their communities are safe. They have communicated with the Premier and others to ensure we can be on the ground with the necessary support. I would like to single out Kev Barr, who has had the shortest retirement in the history of work supervisors in local government. I think he finished last week and he was called back into action to address the gaps in the Bedourie levee bank. They are not gaps through lack of maintenance; they are the road access into and out of the community. They are also the primary access to the town's golf course. I extend a big thanks to Kev Barr. That community's safety will be better placed as a result of his renewed efforts with the team. It will be approximately four or five days until the water begins to peak at Bedourie. We will keep a watching brief on that work.

I would like to call out and thank the police resources and the LifeFlight helicopter based in Mount Isa for the terrific work, night-time rescue or evacuation of Tobermorey Station in our neighbouring constituency of the Northern Territory. A number of people were evacuated there as there was a levee at imminent risk of failure. We all know that these rescues are not simple, but there is an added degree of complexity when they are undertaken at night. We are all in a much better place for having people of this quality in our region.

Democracy

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (2.58 pm): With urgency motions becoming the norm under the guise of efficiency, it appears politics is being prioritised over people. A letter to the editor of our local newspaper stated—

Democracy doesn't break overnight. It erodes slowly, every time a politician dodges a straight answer, every time a community is fobbed off, every time accountability is replaced with a theatrical performance.

There has never been a more instrumental time to replace politicking with real reform to decrease division and unrest occurring across communities around Australia. We can only do this by addressing our underpinning governance systems, as well the public sector, to ensure they are not the construct of the politics nor used to 'get the upper hand' over political rivals. However, as I have learned, it is the politics not people who determine whether flaws are fixed. This raises the question why those who govern do not want to fix them.

The Premier, responding to my request for an independent inquiry into an upper house or suitable alternative as a pathway to end the dysfunctions of our parliament, said it was not a priority for Queenslanders. That is understandable, as we seek quick relief, and commitments to fix the system itself do not fit easily into a slogan nor are as vote grabbing as addressing the symptoms themselves. Yet, ultimately, if the system itself is not sorted we will continue the same same, the blame, the seesawing, the tit for tatting, the inefficiencies and the wasted taxpayer dollars that have become the norm. Major issues will remain unresolved and unsustainable, whether housing or hospitals, energy or insurance premiums, without instrumental change and that is regardless of who is in government. As I said last sitting, how can any government unlock land for housing but not incorporate the genuine affordable housing that is the greatest need?

Effective systems do not see announcements without consultation nor details as occurred regarding the proposed Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority. Why add another level of expensive bureaucracy when what is needed are more resources on the ground to manage our waterways. Effective systems do not see six years to resolve the lease for Noosa Hospital so they can expand their emergency department to reduce ambulance ramping at SCUH, nor for volunteers to get what is needed such as interpretive signage the Friends of Kinaba have been seeking for 15 years—15 years! Effective systems would not close the Noosa Dental Clinic, with the need so great that waitlists are many months long and vouchers are used to refer to other clinics. We need a dental chair increase, not closure. In relation to the Noosa North Shore airfield, there has been no response from the minister to our request to extend the temporary use period for recreational clubs needed as the government did not do as they said they would nor have they provided community consultation data requested since June last year or ensured the working group operated as requested and promised by the previous government.

Effective systems would not see issues raised by communities and their MPs for years ignored, with any type of action only after endless outrage once it becomes an overwhelming crisis. Housing and illegal e-bikes are just two of many examples. The reality is that both could have been nipped in the bud when first raised. Disengagement and disillusionment were once associated with the rise of extreme movements. However, they have been spreading into everyday households driven by a loss of faith in our systems and major political parties. Queenslanders will act if they feel ignored by governments, with Australia Institute research showing increasing support for minor parties and independents for several decades. The question we should all be asking is: how far are we from the tipping point?

In 2024 the Public Sector Commission was authorised to act independently to provide frank and fearless advice driven by a commitment to efficiency, ethics and delivering outcomes for Queenslanders. To prevent the failings we continue to see, we need the commission to do exactly that. As well, we need reform of our parliament to ensure transparency, accountability and representation, to become effective and efficient, to deliver more and to address expectations. There is that old saying, 'If you keep doing the same thing you will keep getting the same results.' I again respectfully ask this government to be bold. Now is an incredible opportunity to end the seesawing and waste. Make remedying the wrongs a 2028 election commitment as it is very much a matter of public interest and importance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Woodridge, it has been brought to my attention that in your MPI you used language akin to that which has been ruled in the past to be unparliamentary. I would ask if you could withdraw, please.

Mr DICK: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Woodridge. I appreciate that.

EXPANDING ADULT CRIME, ADULT TIME AND TAKING A STRONG STANCE ON DRUGS AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (3.04 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Drugs Misuse Act 1986, the Drugs Misuse Regulation 1987, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Regulation 2012, the State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014, the Youth Justice Act 1992 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill 2026 [249].

Tabled paper: Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes [250].

Tabled paper: Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights [251].

I am proud to introduce the Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill. This bill is about protecting Queenslanders. It is about their right to feel safe in their homes, in their workplaces and in their communities, and it is about delivering fewer victims of crime in this state. The Crisafulli government was elected with a clear mandate to restore safety where you live and ensure there are consequences for actions. That is exactly what we are delivering. This bill strengthens community safety in three strong and decisive ways. First, it strengthens our tough Adult Crime, Adult Time laws, expanding the scope by 12 serious offences and ensuring that serious crimes attract serious consequences. Second, it scraps Labor's failed drug diversion policy which saw thousands of repeat drug offenders walk away without facing consequences for their actions. Third, it promotes community safety in designated business and community precincts, giving our police the tools they need to restore safety to our shopping centres, community hubs and business districts. These reforms are about making our communities safer, because Queenslanders deserve to feel safe and they expect that if a crime is committed the offender is held to account. That is what Queenslanders voted for and that is exactly what we are delivering after a decade of decline from those opposite.

I will turn first to the part of the bill expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time. For 10 years, Labor loudly and proudly weakened our youth crime laws. They made detention a last resort, removed breach of bail as an offence and created a generation of serious hardcore repeat youth offenders. The decisions Labor made had real-world consequences. They meant courts were constrained, consequences for actions were missing from the youth justice system and victims and their families were left unseen and unprotected. Year after year Queenslanders called for change as youth crime escalated and victim numbers skyrocketed. Under Labor's decade of decline, victims of crime increased 193 per cent. Car thefts surged, break-ins climbed, robberies rose and rape and attempted rape increased by more than 90 per cent. Between 2018 and 2023, the average daily number of serious repeat youth offenders increased by 64 per cent. What did those opposite do? Labor sat back and watched the numbers grow, all the while weakening youth crime laws, putting the rights of offenders before the rights of victims. Queenslanders demanded change and the Crisafulli government listened. We promised to put victims first, to restore safety where you live and to ensure there are consequences for actions, and that is exactly what we are delivering.

In December 2024, the Crisafulli government introduced the Making Queensland Safer Laws. Those laws ensure that detention is no longer a last resort for youth offenders, that the impact on victims is a primary consideration during sentencing and that there are consequences for actions. Those laws introduced the first tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time, making youth offenders liable to the same maximum, minimum and mandatory penalties as adults for 13 serious offences. That was the first step in turning the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis.

Since introducing our Making Queensland Safer Laws, more than 4,000 youth have been charged with over 19,000 offences under Adult Crime, Adult Time. Under our tough laws, youth offenders are now facing serious consequences for their actions. It is still early days and we are coming off an extremely high base, but already we have seen fewer victims of crime, with a 7.2 per cent drop in victim numbers across the state. We have seen fewer youth becoming serious repeat offenders, with a 17 per cent drop in serious repeat offenders, and proven Adult Crime, Adult Time offences have fallen by more than a quarter, with a 27 per cent drop. These results show that we are starting to turn the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis, but we know the job is not done and we will not stop strengthening our youth crime laws until Queenslanders feel safe in their own homes and there are fewer victims of crime in this state.

Judges and magistrates have described Adult Crime, Adult Time as a clear signal from the government that serious youth offending must now be treated with the seriousness it warrants. To quote some sentencing remarks for youth offenders charged under Adult Crime, Adult Time, magistrates and judges have said: 'This sentence is going to be different, because the laws have changed'; 'The court needs to sentence you in a way that meets what we call community expectations, and that means the community is sending you a message that this will not be tolerated'; and 'You've got to understand that the world has changed—and you have to change unless you like the idea of being in custody for a long part of your life.' Youth offenders are hearing the message loud and clear: if they commit an adult crime then they will face adult time, and the reduction in proven Adult Crime, Adult Time offences backs this up.

However, the work is not done. As promised, we established the Expert Legal Panel to provide advice on crimes that should be included as Adult Crime, Adult Time offences, and in 2025 the Crisafulli government added an additional 20 serious offences. The Expert Legal Panel was appointed for 12 months, with their term ending on 11 February 2026, and their advice will be released as part of the committee process. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the members of the panel for their careful, independent and considered advice over that time.

Over the past year the panel has undertaken a thorough and detailed examination of the offences that were referred to them for consideration to be included as part of Adult Crime, Adult Time offending. In providing their advice, the panel considered the level of harm, the seriousness of the offence, whether the offence involved the use of violence or was likely to create conditions in which serious harm may be caused, the impact of these crimes on victims and the broader risk to community safety. The Expert Legal Panel has laid the foundations for our strong laws and, make no mistake, our work is not done. We will continue to build on these foundations and strengthen our youth crime laws and if more changes are needed then they will be made. The 12 serious offences contained in this bill are crimes no Queenslanders should ever have to experience. They involve conduct that is violent, calculated and deeply damaging.

This bill makes the following offences under Adult Crime, Adult Time:

- section 61(1)—Riot, if the circumstance stated in paragraph (a) of the penalty applies where an offender causes grievous bodily harm to a person, causes an explosive substance to explode, or destroys or starts to destroy a building, vehicle or machinery;
- section 210(3)—Indecent treatment of a child, if the child is under the age of 12 years, or section 210(4A), if the child is a person with an impairment of the mind;
- section 216—Abuse of persons with an impairment of the mind;
- section 309—Conspiring to murder;
- section 311—Aiding suicide;
- section 315—Disabling in order to commit an indictable offence;
- section 315A—Choking, suffocation or strangulation in a domestic setting;
- section 316—Stupefying in order to commit an indictable offence;
- section 319—Endangering the safety of a person in a vehicle with intent;
- section 322(a)—Administering poison with intent to harm, if the poison endangers the life of or does grievous bodily harm to the person;
- section 339(2)—Assaults occasioning bodily harm, if the offender publishes material on a social media platform or, under section 339(3), pretends to be armed with a dangerous or offensive weapon or is in the company of others, or, under section 339(5), if the offender commits the offence with one of the circumstances of aggravation in subsection (2) or (3) and the circumstance of aggravation stated in section 52B applies; and
- section 359E—Unlawful stalking, intimidation, harassment or abuse.

These are serious crimes. They involve planned and coordinated violence, the exploitation of children and vulnerable individuals, the deliberate incapacitation of victims in order to commit further harm and strangulation by a person you are supposed to be able to trust. These offences can leave victims physically harmed, psychologically traumatised and, in some cases, fighting for their lives. If a youth commits one of these offences, they must face serious consequences. If a youth conspires to murder, disables someone to commit an indictable offence or strangles a partner in a domestic setting then the law should reflect the seriousness of that crime. We will not wait until a child is violated. We will not wait until someone is targeted in a planned conspiracy to take their life. If a youth chokes, suffocates or strangles someone in a domestic setting, the law will treat their conduct with the seriousness it warrants.

We are taking action now because we stand on the side of victims. We make no apology for doing what needs to be done to make Queensland safer, ensuring there are consequences for actions and fewer victims of crime. If a youth commits a serious adult crime then they will face adult time. If a youth offender drugs or stupefies in order to commit an indictable offence or disables a person in order to commit an indictable offence then the consequence must reflect the severity of their actions and the seriousness of that harm.

Queenslanders also expect the law to protect our most vulnerable. That is why indecent treatment of a child under 12 and indecent treatment of a child with an impairment of the mind are included in this bill. Where a youth sexually touches or exploits a vulnerable child or person, the law must protect that victim and hold the offender to account.

The Expert Legal Panel also gave consideration to the application of sections 535, 536, 538 and 545 of the Criminal Code to the Youth Justice Act and considered that they applied. Accordingly, this bill expands Adult Crime, Adult Time to include the general attempts, including the simpliciter offence of attempted robbery, as well as other offences of conspiring to commit an Adult Crime, Adult Time offence and being an accessory after the fact to an Adult Crime, Adult Time offence. This codifies the Expert Legal Panel's advice, recognises the potential harm caused to victims by these offences and acknowledges that simply because an attempt was unsuccessful does not lessen the significance of the offending for the victims of such crimes.

Whenever we have spoken about strong laws, we have also always committed to delivering early intervention and rehabilitation. That is why we are delivering the largest investment in early intervention, crime prevention and rehabilitation programs in Queensland's history, with a \$560 million commitment to stop youth reoffending and help turn young lives around. We have already delivered two rounds of grants for our \$50 million Kickstarter early intervention initiative, with new programs up and running right across the state targeting at-risk youth showing early signs of disengagement, antisocial or criminal behaviour to help them turn their lives away from crime and reconnect with education, training or a job.

We know that the best way to stop crime is to intervene early, and that is why we are also delivering our Regional Reset program in nine locations across the state. The Regional Reset program includes a short-stay reset and intensive mentoring to help at-risk youth re-engage in education and the community. It gives youth the opportunity to hit the reset button and be placed into a structured, disciplined environment that gives them the tools and support they need to turn their life around so they can make better choices.

We are also delivering \$50 million for four crime prevention schools across the state and \$40 million for two specialised youth justice schools that are designed to get disengaged and high-risk youth away from crime and into education or employment. This is about preventing crime before it happens and intervening before kids become serious repeat criminals. For youth who commit serious crimes there are consequences, and this bill ensures that. However, there is also rehabilitation. Every youth offender in Queensland's detention centres will have access to Staying on Track, which is 12 months of intensive rehabilitation to break the cycle of crime and prevent them from reoffending.

This bill also restores common sense to Queensland's drug laws. In April 2023, those opposite came into this House and weakened Queensland's drug laws. They removed consequences for drug offending and replaced them with a system that allowed repeated offending without accountability. Let us be clear about what that actually meant in practice. Under Labor's three-tier diversion scheme, on the first occasion an offender was found in possession of illicit drugs police were required to issue a warning—no discretion. They were ordered to let them go with a warning and without any accountability for their actions. Under Labor, on the second occasion police were required to refer the offender to a drug assessment program. Under Labor, on the third occasion, again, there were no consequences for actions but another diversion and another referral to a drug assessment program. Even after that, under the previous Labor government an offender could still access court ordered diversions. That meant that, under the previous Labor government, an individual could be caught with dangerous drugs on up to five occasions before facing any kind of penalty or punishment.

It does not end there. Labor also expanded the types of drugs to which this three-tier, get-out-of-jail program could apply. It would no longer be limited to just cannabis. Instead, Labor expanded their approach to include all schedule 1 and schedule 2 drugs, which are drugs such as methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, fentanyl, ketamine, MDMA and GHB.

While those opposite may suggest that weakening Queensland's drug laws is a 'good progressive Labor policy'—and that is exactly what they said when they came into this House and made Queensland less safe—that could not be further from the truth. There is nothing good about weakening our laws because illicit drug use is not a victimless crime. We will not stand by and let illicit drug use destroy someone's life. We know it can lead to addiction, an overdose and mental health issues. It can lead to drug induced cardiac conditions, chronic liver disease and long-term neurological harm.

In 2023 alone, Queensland recorded 310 unintentional drug induced deaths. Last year, more than 1,100 Queenslanders were admitted to public hospitals for illicit drug poisoning. This is not harmless behaviour. It affects not only the drug user but also the community. These are hard drugs and they can devastate communities. They are linked to organised crime, to property offending and to domestic and family violence. These are the drugs that fuel violence. Under Labor's model, so long as an offender said those drugs were for personal use, the ability for police to use their discretion to lay charges and commence court proceedings—commence consequences—was removed.

The Crisafulli government made a commitment to Queenslanders that we would restore safety where you live, and that is exactly what we are doing. This bill repeals Labor's three-tier drug diversion scheme and replaces it with the targeted Illicit Drug Enforcement and Diversion Framework. Under our framework, diversions are limited to first-time, low-risk offenders. This means, for minor cannabis possession—not more than 50 grams—an eligible first-time offender can be offered a single opportunity to complete a diversion program. One opportunity—that is it.

For first-time offenders in possession of small quantities of other dangerous drugs, police will have the discretion to issue a penalty infringement notice. That notice carries a financial consequence, and an offender may choose to either complete a drug assessment program or pay the fine. The fine will only be waived if the offender successfully completes that drug assessment program. However, importantly, if they offend again, they will be charged and they will be prosecuted because when a government allows repeat drug offending without consequence it does not reduce crime; it facilitates it. We will not wait for that drug use to ruin someone else's life.

This is about protecting victims of drug-fuelled violence. Too often it is the family living with violence that is impacted, or the elderly couple who have had their home broken into, or the woman experiencing domestic violence fuelled by methamphetamine use. This is about protecting the children who are exposed to parental drug use and intervening early before they become known to the child protection and youth justice systems.

This is about restoring accountability and sending a clear message that drug offending will not be ignored. We will not stand by and allow crime to be normalised in our parks, near our schools or in our shopping centres.

This bill is also about making business and community precincts safer—for the bakeries that open at 5 am, the chemists that know their customers by name, the newsagents, the hairdressers, the family-run cafes and all of the businesses and community areas in between. Too often, these places have been plagued by antisocial behaviour. Business owners are locking their doors during business hours, staff are having to clean urine and faeces from their shopfronts before they can even open their doors and customers are avoiding entire precincts, afraid of being harassed, abused or assaulted. That is not acceptable to Queenslanders, and it is not acceptable to us.

In places like Cairns, Townsville, Mackay and Maryborough, the Crisafulli government has brought together business owners, residents, police and local councils to hear firsthand about the impact of antisocial behaviour on their communities. These forums were about listening to locals, understanding the problem and working with them on the ground to find real solutions.

Across Queensland, the Crisafulli government has already backed our police with high-visibility patrols, targeted operations and crackdowns in business districts and town centres where, under the former Labor government, antisocial behaviour was allowed to fester. Police have made arrests for public nuisance, assault, drug possession and stealing. Weapons have been seized and repeat offenders have been held to account. We know that boots on the ground and police patrols are only part of the solution, and that to be able to make a meaningful impact in these communities our police need targeted powers. This bill takes a strong stance against antisocial behaviour and establishes designated business and community precincts. These precincts will be declared by regulation, in consultation with local government, where it is necessary to enhance public safety or public amenity, reduce antisocial behaviour occurring or reduce or prevent disruption in the area.

In a designated precinct, where a person behaves in a disorderly, offensive, threatening or violent way, whether that be assaulting someone, threatening damage, stealing from a shop, unlawfully possessing a weapon, using drugs in a public place or engaging in other offensive conduct, police will have the power to direct that person to leave and not return for up to 24 hours. If they return and breach the move-on direction, police will have the power to issue a banning notice excluding them from that precinct for a month. If they breach that banning notice, that is a criminal offence.

The bill also provides police the discretion to issue a banning notice to a youth, where appropriate, in the circumstances. This supports police to respond to youth behaving in a disorderly or violent manner or posing an unacceptable risk to the safety of a relevant public place, in the same way as adults, recognising this behaviour is equally disruptive whether it is committed by a youth or an adult. Police banning notices will act as an enforcement tool for police to prevent further youth offending. To provide appropriate safeguards, police must explain the conditions of the banning notice to the youth, ensuring they fully understand the requirements of the banning notice and the consequences of breaching that notice. Police must also provide a copy of the banning notice to a parent, guardian or, where the youth is in the custody of the state, the chief executive, unless it is not reasonably practicable to do so. Let me be very clear: this is not intended to limit the ability of police to immediately issue that banning notice where it is necessary to address community safety concerns. Section 602J of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act will apply to any banning notice issued which allows the recipient of the banning notice to enter the precinct where it is necessary for their residence, employment or education.

By strengthening police powers, the Crisafulli government is putting community safety first, protecting families in business and community precincts and backing small and family businesses. Jack's Law will also apply in these precincts, enabling police to conduct wandering operations to detect knives and other weapons.

This bill ensures our hardworking, frontline police officers have the tools they need to act early, interrupt disorderly behaviour and restore safety where you live. This bill is the Crisafulli government delivering strong new laws to protect Queenslanders, to ensure there are consequences for actions, to restore safety where you live and to ensure there are fewer victims of crime in this state.

First Reading

Hon. LJ GERBER (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (3.27 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee.

RESOURCES SAFETY AND HEALTH QUEENSLAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Message from Governor

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (3.28 pm): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): The message from Her Excellency the Governor recommends the Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

RESOURCES SAFETY AND HEALTH QUEENSLAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2026

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

I, DR JEANNETTE ROSITA YOUNG AC PSM, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—

A Bill for an Act to amend the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999*, the *Coexistence Queensland Act 2013*, the *Land Access Ombudsman Act 2017*, the *Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024*, the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*, the *Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999* and the *Resources Safety and Health Queensland Act 2020* for particular purposes

GOVERNOR

Date: 03 March 2026

Tabled paper: Message, dated 3 March 2026, from Her Excellency the Governor, recommending the Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 [\[252\]](#).

Introduction

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (3.28 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999*, the *Coexistence Queensland Act 2013*, the *Land Access Ombudsman Act 2017*, the *Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment*

Act 2024, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999 and the Resources Safety and Health Queensland Act 2020 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Primary Industries and Resources Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 [\[253\]](#).

Tabled paper: Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes [\[254\]](#).

Tabled paper: Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[255\]](#).

Today I rise to introduce the Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. This bill implements important reforms to institutions and regulatory processes to support a safer resources sector that continues to grow and underpin Queensland's long-term prosperity. Amendments are being made to strengthen Resources Safety & Health Queensland by enhancing governance, accountability and operational oversight. Improvements to coexistence institutions are also proposed, revising governance arrangements and reducing the financial burden on the resources industry by repealing a proposed industry funding model. Procedural and administrative amendments to the mining tenement framework will be introduced, streamlining requirements and removing unnecessary provisions to improve clarity and efficiency to provide certainty to resources companies that want to do business in Queensland.

Queensland's resources industry is the cornerstone of our economy, contributing billions of dollars annually and supporting thousands of jobs across the state. Last year alone the resources sector contributed more than \$115 billion to our economy and supported nearly 550,000 direct and indirect jobs. It also delivered billions of dollars in royalties that fund essential services such as schools, hospitals, roads and police that benefit all Queenslanders.

As we use our natural resources, we must also protect the rights and livelihoods of landholders and local communities. Resources Safety & Health Queensland was established in 2020 as the independent regulator responsible for safety and health outcomes across Queensland's mining, quarrying, petroleum, gas and explosives industries. With this regulatory model operating for five years, a review of the model was warranted. As such, I commissioned Professor Susan Johnston from the University of Queensland to undertake this review last year. The review assessed Resources Safety & Health Queensland's effectiveness, governance and operational performance, reflecting our government's priority to strengthen accountability in the resources sector and ensure ongoing safety and public confidence. The review made 16 recommendations. Importantly, it confirmed that the model had not increased safety or health risks. It recommended retaining Resources Safety & Health Queensland as an independent statutory authority while establishing a governing board to provide strategic oversight.

The findings of the review were sobering. It found that the current model provides limited oversight and accountability and lacks clarity around the role of the commissioner, constraining overall effectiveness. It also identified opportunities to: strengthen the coal and mineral safety and health advisory committees; address leadership and cultural challenges; improve technical expertise in the explosives inspectorate; and enhance investigations, enforcement and information sharing.

This bill delivers reforms to implement the government's response to those recommendations requiring legislative change, including establishing a skills-based governing board to provide strategic oversight and accountability while maintaining operational management through the chief executive officer. The role of the Commissioner for Resources Safety & Health is abolished, with all statutory functions transferred to the governing board, including oversight of the resource advisory committees. The reforms also change the way in which the chief executive officer may be appointed or removed.

These reforms will strengthen transparency, coordination and confidence in Queensland's resources safety and health system. Importantly, the men and women who work in our resources sector deserve a safety regulator they can trust. These reforms will ensure the system is doing its job and delivering on the Crisafulli government's commitment to making Queensland safer. Recommendations that are operational, focusing on strengthening Resources Safety & Health Queensland's internal structure, leadership and regulatory effectiveness, are being implemented by Resources Safety & Health Queensland.

The bill also enhances Queensland's coexistence framework through changes that will support the more efficient operation of the office of the Land Access Ombudsman. Importantly, the Land Access Ombudsman industry funding model, introduced by the former Labor government, will be repealed. This approach will support industry to assist in managing growing operational costs, fostering a more supportive environment for growth and investment in this important industry for Queensland. The Land Access Ombudsman will continue to be directly funded by the government, ensuring coexistence outcomes are strengthened by retaining and expanding this function and ensuring landholders and resource companies have access to a trusted independent body to assist with the negotiation and resolution of land access disputes.

To optimise efficiencies, the chief executive officer of Coexistence Queensland will be taken to be the Land Access Ombudsman under the bill and the appointed members of Coexistence Queensland as the Land Access Ombudsman's advisory council. This recognises synergies between both institutions to produce improved coexistence outcomes across Queensland. If a conflict of interest arises from the dual nature of these roles, the Land Access Ombudsman will delegate the relevant function to an appropriately qualified officer within the office of the Land Access Ombudsman. This will support the independence of the Land Access Ombudsman along with the neutrality of the CEO of Coexistence Queensland.

The office of the Land Access Ombudsman will transition to a statutory body, with the costs of this minimised by co-locating this office with Coexistence Queensland. A cost-sharing arrangement between offices will also be put in place to support the efficient management of government funds. Measures will be put in place to ensure the appropriate separation of each office in delivering their functions. This arrangement will take effect from 1 July 2026.

Another area of reform in this bill is implementing procedural and administrative amendments that will streamline and provide clarity to the mining tenement framework by amending the Mineral Resources Act 1989. This bill is compatible with the human rights protected under the Human Rights Act 2019. I note that the proposed legislative amendments to deem the Coexistence Queensland members as the Land Access Ombudsman advisory council and the chief executive officer of Coexistence Queensland as the Land Access Ombudsman engage the right to take part in public life under section 23 of the Human Rights Act by limiting the eligibility and access to appointment. However, this human right is not limited as the appointment to the Coexistence Queensland positions, when vacant, is open to all eligible individuals. This upholds the principles of fairness, transparency and equal access to public roles. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. DR LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (3.36 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to Primary Industries and Resources Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr J Kelly): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Primary Industries and Resources Committee.

FIGHTING ANTISEMITISM AND KEEPING GUNS OUT OF THE HANDS OF TERRORISTS AND CRIMINALS AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 357, on motion of Mr Purdie—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (3.37 pm): I rise in support of the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026. Less than three months ago, dozens were

injured and 15 innocent lives were tragically taken in the Bondi Beach attack. This horrific event was a clear act of anti-Semitic violence directed at the Jewish gathering. In response, the Crisafulli government has introduced legislation to ensure a tragedy like this never occurs here in Queensland. This is more than a bill; it is a reflection of who we are and what we stand for as Queenslanders. It is protecting every member of our community, ensuring people feel safe where they live, where they work and where they worship.

At this juncture, I acknowledge the Jewish community across Australia. I acknowledge the Jewish community, in particular our Queensland Jewish community, and the Jewish Board of Deputies. I give a special shout-out to Jason Steinberg and everyone who welcomed the Premier, the police minister and me to the Holocaust Museum while this bill was being reviewed.

Symbols and images have power. This bill strengthens Queensland's existing prohibited symbols framework, which was introduced by the former Labor government, including expanding the offence of publicly displaying, distributing or publishing prohibited symbols, to allow those used by terrorist organisations and state sponsors of terrorism or their members to be caught by the offence.

Words, like symbols, have the power to harm. We have seen that words can lead to violence, violence can lead to attacks and attacks can lead to terror. The bill introduces a new offence to publicly recite, publicly distribute, publish or publicly display a prohibited expression. As the Minister for Police and Emergency Services has stated, amendments will be moved during consideration in detail of the bill to proscribe two phrases in legislation rather than through regulation as prohibited expressions for the purposes of this new offence. Those two expressions—heinous expressions, expressions that call for the annihilation of an entire civilisation—are 'from the river to the sea' and 'globalise the intifada'. Let me be clear: this bill is a direct response to a specific attack on a group of people.

By amending the bill to enact the phrases in legislation rather than establishing a framework for prohibited phrases to be proscribed through regulation—and I note the framework set up by the former Labor government—we are protecting our Jewish community from when Labor eventually get back into power. We must protect them. We know that Labor are divided—and we have seen it in this House today—when it comes to supporting and protecting our Jewish Queenslanders. Many of those opposite support causes that seek to criticise and intimidate our Jewish Queenslanders. Some even support causes that seek the destruction of Israel.

As I have said, symbols and words have power that can cause intimidation and fear. Let me read one submission the committee received in relation to the bill. This submission—and I will table it—demonstrates exactly why we intend to amend the legislation to stop those opposite from secretly winding back any protections for our Jewish community. It states—

I lost my political career because I would not stand up and say I was pro-Palestine. I lost my political career due to antisemitism. These laws are needed to protect my community.

...

At this time I was running to be pre-selected for the State election. I was seen as the winner before even getting to preselection based on my union backing, political mentor, support team and the work I had done for years leading to this in my community.

The submission says that one day, when they saw a Palestinian flag, she immediately questioned this on social media. It goes on—

Due to my post my political mentor told me either you are pro-palestine or I am ending my support of you and taking the Unions with me. My Jewish husband was sitting next to me and I calmly replied, "I am not pro-palestine and I am absolutely not pro-war but there is no way I could sleep at night knowing I had compromised on my values to win an election".

That is from a former candidate who wanted to run for the Labor Party. That is why we know that the Labor Party, for all intents and purposes—the shadow minister for multicultural affairs cannot even stop talking because she knows the shameful actions of Labor who when in government will do everything they can to make sure our Jewish community are no longer safe.

The Crisafulli government has given a guarantee to the Jewish community: we will stand with them and we will protect them. That is exactly why we are doing this. This submitter goes on to say—

These laws are needed—clearly. When the general public, politicians, universities, workplaces and community organisations think it's ok to be proudly anti-Jewish—

like we are hearing from those opposite—

our social cohesion is on the brink of full destruction.

...

I commend the Government on their stance and reiterate the message that the Jewish community saw Bondi coming. We warned everyone and have been living in fear since Oct 7. That feeling does not belong in Australia.

I table that submission.

Tabled paper: Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 27, 58th Parliament—Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026, submission No. 119 [256].

I implore every single Labor member of this chamber to read it, because that is why the Leader of the Opposition stands by the vile, horrific comments of the member for Cairns. That is why the shadow minister has not stopped talking to try to defend the member for Cairns.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr J Kelly): Pause the clock. Resume your seat. I am going to take some advice. Attorney-General, I was allowing your contribution to continue while you were speaking directly to a submission but, based on the Speaker's ruling of this morning, you are now straying into matters where you are debating generally other things that have happened in this chamber today. I ask you to come back to the long title of the bill.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: We are making these crucial amendments to the bill to enshrine these phrases in legislation out of necessity—to ensure Labor cannot quietly try to remove these phrases and repeal a regulation when they are in government.

For many Queenslanders, the right to practise their faith freely and without fear is under threat. The bill strengthens existing protections and introduces new offences to address conduct that targets religious worship.

The disturbing religious worship offence is also updated to align with modern drafting. What happened under Labor? The fine was \$10 and never increased with indexation. The penalties for this offence have also been increased.

The bill recognises the profound harm caused by attacks on places of worship. The bill introduces a new special case of punishment for wilful damage to a place of religious worship that will carry a maximum penalty of seven years imprisonment. These measures send a powerful message: Queensland will not tolerate attacks on our faith communities regardless of where they come from.

Finally, the bill also introduces reforms aimed at preventing the misuse of firearms by terrorists and organised criminal groups. These reforms are designed to improve community safety for all Queenslanders.

The government has taken a careful and thoughtful approach to respond to the atrocious acts that occurred at Bondi Beach before Christmas last year. The package of reforms in this bill provide a coordinated and considered response to emerging threats and is designed to strengthen protections to enhance community safety across Queensland, particularly for our Jewish community.

The Crisafulli government is committed to taking this considered and measured approach to the horrific attacks on Bondi Beach—and this is exactly what we have done. I urge all members of this House to support this bill and stand with us against hate to build a stronger, safer, more inclusive Queensland.

 **Ms MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (3.48 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill. I want to begin with a simple premise: each and every member of this parliament has a responsibility to ensure our Jewish community feel safe and are safe. Indeed, we have a responsibility to ensure that all Queenslanders are safe. What happened in Bondi was an act of hate against the Jewish people. The loss of 15 innocent lives who were simply enjoying the first day of Hanukkah celebrations is a national tragedy and something that will be an ongoing stain on our national identity.

The Bondi attack shocked the nation. Such moments naturally demand reassurance, firmness and resolve from government. This is why the Labor opposition wrote to the government in December following the Bondi attack to offer our bipartisan support on drafting laws that could make a real and meaningful difference in addressing both the motive and the means by which Bondi was able to occur. That offer was ignored. Instead the government pressed ahead, introducing laws into this parliament with no real consultation, rushed through in 17 days with little regard for the unintended and unrealised consequences of a key plank of their bill.

I read these words recently and they seem apt when considering this government's actions: 'What has emerged appears more performative than principled, more political than legal, and troublingly vague at precisely the moment when precision is most needed.' When the former Labor government introduced the serious vilification and hate crime laws into parliament in 2023, we did so after nine months of deep, meaningful and widespread consultation. We recognised the complexity of the issues and the importance of ensuring that any laws would be proportionate, evidence-based and workable.

These laws were roundly supported. Right now in Queensland we have existing criminal and civil protections for serious vilification under the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 and the Criminal Code. These laws already enable individuals and the Queensland police to take action against a person who knowingly or recklessly incites hatred towards, serious contempt for or severe ridicule of a person or group of persons on the grounds of race and religion. As the Queensland Law Society pointed out in their submission—

... there are existing offences that we say are broad enough to capture the conduct contemplated by this Bill.

We also have laws which Labor introduced in the Respect at Work and Other Matters Amendment Bill which provide for enhanced anti-discrimination and vilification protections, including on the grounds of race and religion. These reforms were developed over four years of consultation. The Crisafulli LNP government have sat on these laws for the past year, so if they were truly serious about protecting Queenslanders from hate, vilification and discrimination they would have allowed these laws to commence. This is their hypocrisy.

I now turn to some of the provisions in the bill. The bill either creates new offences relating to religious worship or increases the penalties for existing offences relating to religious worship. As outlined in our statement of reservation, the Queensland Labor opposition supports these proposed amendments. In recent times we have seen unacceptable attacks on places of worship, most recently at the Brisbane Synagogue and the Bald Hills mosque. We strongly believe that every Queenslanders should feel safe to practise their faith without intimidation or fear, and we welcome the enhanced provisions relating to this aspect of the law.

The bill will also expand the prohibited symbols framework to include symbols of terrorist organisations and state sponsored terrorism as recognised through the Commonwealth Criminal Code and determined through a set of federal protocols and legislative criteria. The Labor opposition will support this provision, but we urge the government to take note of the concerns of our Muslim communities in relation to this provision. In particular, a number of stakeholders have raised concerns regarding the misidentification of the Shahada, which is a declaration of faith representing one of the five pillars of Islam. Regrettably, some terrorist organisations like Hamas and Isis have coopted the written Arabic script of the Shahada for their flags. Further education and community awareness must occur to ensure that law-abiding Queenslanders are not caught up in this misidentification, and we urge caution to be exercised by our police in recognising the difference between prescribed symbols and genuine religious expression.

In the time remaining I will focus on the most serious changes to the law being contemplated by this bill which relate to prohibited expressions. What we are seeing today is simply extraordinary. There is no calm and there is no method; this is just pure chaos. We have not seen these foreshadowed amendments. After weeks of defending these laws, after the Premier said 'we are delivering a strong and considered response' and after the government's own parliamentary committee recommending the legislation pass as is, we find ourselves here.

The government are scrambling at the last minute because they got caught out giving themselves unchecked power to trample on freedom of speech in Queensland. They realised the community was on to them, so they have now decided to put their prohibited expressions directly into the legislation. This action means that in the future the decision to continue to impinge on freedom of speech will be more scrutinised and subject to committee processes and public consultation, but not in this instance. We have just gone through a parliamentary committee process but, in fact, we were not able to interrogate these phrases because they were not in the bill. When one of the committee members specifically asked how one of the phrases would satisfy the legislative requirements, the Department of Justice responded—

There are no expressions that are prescribed through the bill. I do not think it is appropriate for me to comment on any potential or hypothetical expressions given that that would be a matter for government in terms of what they prescribe.

When the committee member indicated it was not hypothetical in that government have announced their intention to proscribe two phrases, the chair called the committee member argumentative, so we find ourselves with amendments which we still have not seen that have been rushed in with no public consultation or scrutiny through the parliamentary committee process. This is clearly outrageous. The people of Queensland deserve better. Our Jewish community deserves better than the haphazard, chaotic mess the government has created. This needs to be put to the people of Queensland to have their say and not put through as some last-minute amendment because LNP

members have overridden the Premier in their party room and are spooked about freedom of speech. We knew they would be spooked because the champions of freedom of speech realised they were on the wrong side of this debate. What they really meant was 'we support freedom of speech until we don't and need to use it to wedge the Labor Party'—except it looks like they did not wedge us: they wedged themselves.

What happened to force the government to move these amendments? On 18 February the Premier insisted his government's reforms were very tight and very specific and would stand the test of time. He addressed the National Press Club on the same day. When questioned on whether he would reconsider these laws in the face of overwhelming criticism from significant stakeholders regarding impinging on freedom of speech, he said that these laws would stand up. He also said that the arguments from critics would not hold up and that the government found the right balance. These are the Premier's own words 11 days ago, so what has happened? It looks like the Premier has been rolled by his own party room.

We have been very consistent. We said that we would consider the laws in a calm and considered manner, and this is what we have done. We read all 412 submissions. When the Queensland Human Rights Commission, the Archdiocese of Brisbane, the Anglican church, Muslim organisations, legal and academic experts, unions, respected multicultural organisations, the Institute of Public Affairs and even Campbell Newman consistently raised the alarm on these laws, we listened. We also met with the Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies in a meeting that was productive, frank and respectful.

The Premier said that he was going to be calm and methodical, but today they have made a significant amendment to this legislation that was not consulted on through the shortened committee process—an amendment that the people of Queensland and stakeholders were not allowed to consider because it was not in the original bill, and an amendment that clearly his own LNP committee were not aware was coming because they recommended the original legislation be passed. How embarrassing for those committee members who were forced to defend the original legislation. How disrespectful to the Queensland Police Service and the Department of Justice, which briefed the committee on the premise of the original legislation.

In the short time we have become aware of these amendments, we also do not know what basis the government is using to bring forward these expressions in the legislation. My questions to the Minister for Police, who has foreshadowed amendments, are many. Has the government used the existing provision to determine the two prohibited expressions that will now be in the legislation? What evidence has the government relied on to satisfy these elements? What criteria or guidelines is it using? How will the government determine what is extreme prejudice? How often will an expression need to be used to satisfy the government that it is regularly used? How many or what proportion of a relevant group would need to see the expression as being solely or substantially representative of an ideology of extreme prejudice? We have so many more questions about what the government is doing. One of the things we also know is that this is going to be a very difficult offence to prove and difficult and costly to detect, investigate and prosecute.

Social harmony is built not by suppressing speech but in how we protect disagreement without fear. I do not deny the reality or seriousness of anti-Semitism—it exists and we must confront it, and of course it must be prosecuted when it crosses into vilification or violence—but it is clear that this legislation may ultimately fail our Jewish community because it will create more division, more confusion and more fear in our communities. We needed clarity and we got ambiguity. We needed reassurance and we got deepening mistrust. I am again reminded of these words: 'In moments of national trauma, governments are tested not by how loudly they act but by how carefully they think.' What is clear in these most crucial of times is that the Crisafulli LNP government has prioritised politics over principles.

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (3:58 pm): 'Never again' is now. 'Never again.' Those words echo throughout Jewish history and the conscience of the free world. They were spoken after the horrors of the Holocaust as a promise to future generations that the hatred which led to such unspeakable evil would never again be allowed to take root. Yet in recent times we have been reminded that the words 'never again' cannot simply be a slogan. They must be a commitment that requires vigilance, leadership and, where necessary, legislative action.

On 7 October 2023, the world watched in horror as terrorists launched the deadliest attack on Jewish people since the Holocaust. Innocent civilians were murdered in their homes, families were taken hostage and communities were devastated. The brutality of those attacks shocked humanity and reminded us of the persistence of violent anti-Semitism, but what also shocked many of us in Australia

was what followed. In the days and months after those atrocities we witnessed scenes in our own streets that many believed would never occur in this country. Instead of universal condemnation of terrorism, we saw cheering and elation in the streets of Sydney. We see regular protests in which the slogans 'from the river to the sea' and 'globalise the intifada' are chanted openly and aggressively with what I will call the useful naive joining in increasing numbers. Those words are not calls for peace; they are calls for the elimination of the world's only Jewish state and, in many contexts, they have been used to justify violence against Jewish people.

For members of the Jewish community here in Australia, hearing those chants is deeply confronting. Many told our committee that they felt fear and isolation in a country that has long prided itself on tolerance and multicultural respect. As chair of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee that conducted the inquiry into the bill, I want to place on record my appreciation to everyone who participated in the inquiry process. We received submissions from community organisations, faith groups, legal bodies, industry representatives and individual citizens. We held hearings in Brisbane and Townsville to hear directly from members of the public whose lives have been affected by anti-Semitism and hate speech. There were immediate calls from people in regional Queensland who wanted their voices heard on these important issues, and I want to place on record my thanks to the people of Townsville and the hardworking government members from that area who rallied together with short notice to ensure that their voices were heard.

One of the most powerful moments in the inquiry came during the Townsville public hearing when Rabbi Rubin addressed the committee. The rabbi spoke about the lessons he learned from Holocaust survivors in his community. He recalled how, when he was younger, older members of the Jewish community warned him that hatred could rise again even in countries that felt safe. As he told the committee—

They used to tell me, 'Be careful. One day it can happen here too.' I had the youthful audacity to laugh at them and say, 'Not in Australia. This is a safe place.'

Then we saw what happened in Bondi. Rabbi Rubin went on to explain that, although the Jewish community in North Queensland is relatively small—about 1,000 people spread across the region—when anti-Semitic incidents occur, the sense of vulnerability is profound in those communities. His message to the committee was simple: societies must act early to stop hatred becoming normalised.

In her powerful evidence before the committee in Townsville, Dr Sarah Kleinman spoke with extraordinary courage, telling us—

Today I am standing before a crowd of people ... and outing myself as a Jewish Australian.

A frontline doctor, naval reservist and longstanding contributor to her regional community, Dr Kleinman described how anti-Semitism in her lifetime has 'progressed from whispers to a roar', culminating after 7 October in a climate where she no longer feels safe to run along the Strand without checking for protests or to attend public events for fear of being singled out as 'the only Jew in the crowd'. These testimonies were not political arguments; they were personal stories about fear, dignity and belonging.

During the Brisbane hearing, we also heard strong support for stronger legal protections. The Victims' Commissioner reminded the committee that anti-Semitism is not merely offensive speech; it is a form of hatred that has historically led to violence and persecution. She stated—

Anti-Semitism is an ancient and pernicious scourge. Victims of anti-Semitic hate crimes must have the harm caused to them appropriately acknowledged by our justice system and their ongoing safety protected.

That sentiment reflects a principle that should unite every member of this House: every Queenslanders deserves to feel safe regardless of their faith, heritage or identity.

The committee also heard from organisations that welcomed the bill's measures to strengthen community safety and prevent the misuse of firearms by terrorists and criminals. These provisions rightly focus on the access to weapons of those who seek to do harm and have struck the right balance with the rights of legitimate ownership and use.

Our Brisbane hearings also highlighted the voices of Jewish community organisations and leaders who told us clearly of the rise in anti-Semitism in Australia. Community representatives spoke about a surge in hateful rhetoric since the events of 7 October. They described a climate in which Jewish Australians increasingly feel that hostility towards them is being normalised. That should concern every one of us in this chamber.

The committee carefully considered the evidence placed before us. As with any legislation, there were differing views expressed. However, after considering the evidence and hearing directly from affected communities, the committee recommended that the bill be passed. We accept the amendments that came from listening to the feedback given by the community, and it will be substantially the same law the committee recommended be passed. The committee recommended the bill be passed because the core objective of the bill is both clear and necessary: to ensure that Queensland's laws reflect the seriousness of anti-Semitic hatred and the real risks posed by extremism.

Queensland is a proudly multicultural state. People of many faiths and backgrounds live here peacefully and contribute enormously to our society. Jewish Queenslanders have been part of that story for generations. They are doctors, teachers, small business owners, volunteers, police and community leaders. They are our neighbours and our friends. They deserve the same sense of safety and belonging that every Australian expects.

When Jewish Australians hear chants calling for the destruction of Israel or the 'globalisation of the intifada', many hear echoes of history's darkest chapters. When synagogues require security guards, when children feel unsafe wearing religious symbols, when families hesitate before attending community events, something has gone wrong. The role of parliament is to ensure that the law protects those communities and sends a clear message that hatred and intimidation will not be tolerated. That is what this bill seeks to achieve. It strengthens Queensland's response to anti-Semitic hate and extremist conduct, it ensures that the justice system recognises the seriousness of hate-motivated behaviour, and it strengthens safeguards to prevent weapons from falling into the hands of those who would use them to harm others.

Most importantly, it demonstrates that this parliament stands firmly with communities targeted by hatred. The phrase 'never again' carries a profound moral responsibility. It reminds us that the horrors of the past did not begin with violence alone. They began with words—words that dehumanised, words that spread conspiracy and hatred, words that convinced ordinary people that their neighbours were enemies. History teaches us that, when such rhetoric goes unchallenged, it can lead to unimaginable consequences. Today, this parliament has the opportunity to reaffirm a simple principle: that Queenslanders will not tolerate anti-Semitism or hatred directed toward any community. We will not look away, we will not remain silent and we will not allow the lessons of history to be forgotten. 'Never again' is now.

 **Ms McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (4.07 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the bill before the House today. As Australians, I think we can all say that we were equally horrified by the events of Bondi last year. Australians have always prided themselves on having a democratic, equal, welcoming society. We have been a multicultural society for decades, and we have often been held up as a success story in the global multicultural world. We also acknowledge that in the global world there are dark hearts and dark minds and that, unfortunately, in this world there will be people who will act upon those, as we saw last year. Australia is clearly not immune to that.

No part of our community in Australia should feel fear for being who they are, for who they worship or for what they believe. This is not the case in many countries around the world, and that is why Australia is the lucky country. But we are lucky only up to a point. We are lucky because we have a robust democracy, as evidenced by the fact that we are debating a bill like this before the House. We have that privilege.

Australia has always been considered a safe haven for immigrants from around the world to have the freedom to practise religion. Alongside that freedom, what they appreciate is the freedom of expression and the freedom of association. These are the hallmarks of an Australian society.

I should note that the short title of this bill starts with 'fighting anti-Semitism', a real problem that we have seen not only in the last few months but certainly over the last few years. However, let's be clear: there is no mention of the words 'Semitism' or 'anti-Semitism' in the bill. It is not contained in the bill. The words that are being debated and mentioned are not contained in the bill. I understand there are some foreshadowed amendments, but it is not like the committee got to consider them. It is not like the few limited bodies that were involved in the consultation will get an opportunity to do so. No, I foreshadow that, much like a lot in this debate, the amendments will be introduced a few minutes before we have to vote on them because scrutiny is not something the government likes to display. I will enjoy looking at these foreshadowed amendments minutes before we have to vote on them because that is the type of transparency we see. In this House we are criminalising behaviour and we are criminalising speech, and we are doing so without even knowing what those words are.

There are general protections in this bill that protect places of worship and services. These are worthy and they should be supported because they do not specify a religion and they do not specify a place of worship. They are equal protections for equal groups within this state.

The scope of this bill is to outlaw free speech at the decision—currently, that we can see—of an attorney-general. These are the most extreme powers for prohibiting and criminalising free speech in the country. Let's put it this way: Queensland is now at the forefront of criminalising free speech in this country without us even being able to debate what those words are. That is where we are at. I think the word 'liberal' in the LNP is doing a lot of heavy lifting because there is not much liberal ideology in that.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr J Kelly): Order, member for Nanango.

Ms Scanlon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Gaven.

Ms McMAHON: What comes next? What words come next? I know that we as elected members in the House have been gagged from debating issues that the Premier finds uncomfortable, so whoever is going to be in the AG's ear—

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The members for Morayfield and Nanango will cease their quarrelling across the chamber.

Ms McMAHON:—and decides what words the Attorney-General is going to add to the 'go directly to jail list' next—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order, firstly, on relevance. Secondly, I take personal offence at the member's contribution and I ask her to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I will take some advice.

Ms MULLEN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe the member is being directly relevant. There are provisions within the existing bill that speak to jail time in relation to prohibited expressions and that is what the member was speaking about.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will just take some advice. Firstly, with regard to relevance, I was distracted because several members were quarrelling across the chamber and I was dealing with that. Member, I would ask that you demonstrate the relevance of your contribution to the debate. Secondly, the member has taken personal offence. I would ask you to withdraw.

Ms McMAHON: I withdraw. The words foreshadowed by the government to be the first on this list are those that cause fear or alarm to members of the Jewish community. However, in the words of the chair of the committee, these words mean different things to different people. This is what the chair said during committee deliberations: these words mean different things to different people. By the chair's very own admission, the words that are being considered are contested; they are not unanimous. They are certainly not unanimous within the Jewish community. We can look at contributions by groups or the submissions by the Jewish Council of Australia, which does not agree with this bill, Jewish Voices of Hope, which does not agree with this bill, or Jews for Justice, which does not agree with this bill. We are talking about contested words. I have no doubt there are people who feel intimidated by such words. There are many words that are spoken in our community that intimidate groups of all different kinds. The phrase 'go back to where you came from' is considered quite intimidating but is shouted freely on everyone's Facebook pages. What comes next? That is my point. What comes next, because this is a slippery slope when it comes to limiting free speech.

Clearly, as has been described by many submitters, this is specifically targeting what some people feel are anti-Semitic views. That is a legitimate position to hold, but then there are others who consider this legitimate political expression. Where does this parliament draw the line? I can tell you which side it has landed on. It has landed on the side of the government of the day deciding what words people can say and what words are going to land people in jail. Some call it a call for justice; others refer to it as a call to arms. The context becomes very important and, again, this is going to be something that will land on the desk of police officers to have to determine in the context of who is bearing signs or saying phrases that are deeply contested, even amongst academics. Our first responders are going

to have to wade through that. I am not going to get started on the constitutional aspects of free speech that this particular bill is going to raise. No doubt we will find ourselves at the High Court again at some point.

Let's not presume that this bill has universal support. Yes, I joined the committee in its travels and we did hear from some amazing locals and members of the Jewish community in Townsville about the fear they hold. There was also an interesting contributor from the community who came along and was given an opportunity to speak. I would like to go over the community statement that was made by Mr Cohen during the committee proceedings in Townsville. He said—

... this bill should be scrapped. It seems like it was written a while ago and they were just looking for the right time to introduce it. It is counter to its intention.

Mr Cohen went on to say—

I served in the IDF during the second intifada particularly in the Gaza Strip.

This was a contribution by a man who is an Australian, has been in Australia for 20 years but was over there and was making his contribution through the IDF. If anyone was to have thoughts about phrases and what incites fear, what incites hatred or what incites intimidation, this is a man who was there, who had skin in the game. His view on it was—

We had it for thousands of years.

He is referring to anti-Semitism. He went on—

We can survive it. We are not victims. I do not like this idea that Australia needs to feel sorry for us, like it is not an acceptable feeling for Australia. We have invited it here, we let it happen and now we have people chanting 'globalise the intifada'. I have been there; I know what it is. I fought against it. I lost friends.

This is not the way to do it.

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (4.18 pm): I rise to speak in strong support of the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026. I begin with a heartfelt acknowledgement of the horror that made this bill necessary. On 14 December 2025, two gunmen opened fire at a peaceful Hanukkah celebration at Bondi Beach, killing 15 innocent people. It was Australia's deadliest terrorist attack and our second deadliest mass shooting. Families were shattered, a community was terrorised and the entire nation was left grieving. Every Queenslanders felt the shock and the sorrow. This bill is the LNP Crisafulli government's direct, decisive response to that evil. It honours the victims by refusing to let hatred and violence go unanswered. This bill is about keeping all Queenslanders safe.

As the member for Thuringowa and a member of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee, we have observed our communities having the opportunity to express their own contribution with over 410 submissions and two public hearings, and the committee took detailed evidence from the Queensland Police Service and Department of Justice. Our committee report is clear with one recommendation—the committee recommends that the bill be passed.

The bill does two vital things at once. First, it stamps out anti-Semitism with new strength. It expands the prohibited symbols offence to capture graphic representations and written descriptions. It creates a new offence for publicly reciting, distributing or displaying prohibited expressions that incite hatred or violence against groups defined by race, religion, sexuality or gender identity. It strengthens protections for every faith community such as higher penalties for obstructing ministers of religion, new offences for intimidating people entering or leaving places of worship, and a new aggravated offence for wilful damage to synagogues, mosques and churches carrying up to seven years imprisonment. These are not abstract changes. At our Townsville hearing, Rabbi Ari Rubin spoke powerfully about the rising tide of anti-Semitism in regional schools, workplaces and universities. He reminded us that anti-Semitism is the canary in the coalmine: when it is allowed to fester, no-one is safe.

Second, the bill keeps guns out of the hands of terrorists and criminals, it increases penalties for stealing firearms and ammunition and it criminalises acts done in preparation for causing death or grievous bodily harm, closing the gap before an attack occurs. It makes reckless discharge of a weapon toward a house, car or premises a serious offence. It broadens the considerations for licensing decisions, aligns our firearm prohibition orders with other states and strengthens storage rules, especially for high-risk categories.

These measures matter deeply in regional Queensland. In my electorate of Thuringowa and right across North and Far North Queensland firearms are tools of the land for primary producers protecting crops and livestock, for farmers managing pests, for responsible sporting shooters. Law-abiding regional families rely on them, but we have also seen how quickly those same tools can be turned into terror. The Bondi attackers did not get their guns through legitimate regional channels, yet every loophole closed here makes our whole state safer. This bill is targeted. It is not blanket. It protects everyday users while denying weapons to those who would harm us.

Travelling to Townsville was an important part of our inquiry. At the request of regional Queenslanders, we left the south-east to hear directly from the people most affected by firearms laws in daily life. The hearing was packed. Local families, sporting clubs, faith leaders and community advocates all had their say. We heard that anti-Semitism is not a city problem; it is happening in our regional schools and streets too. We heard that stronger gun laws done right give regional communities greater confidence that their neighbourhoods remain safe. That is a powerful outcome for Thuringowa, for Townsville, for Cairns, for Mount Isa and for every regional centre.

The committee carefully tested the bill against fundamental legislative principles and the Human Rights Act. We found it compatible. Any limitations on rights such as freedom of expression are reasonable, proportionate and necessary to protect the rights of others to live free from fear and violence. Reasonable excuse defences remain.

I want to touch on Labor's statement of reservation. It chooses to nitpick and politicise, hiding behind reservations that undermine the very protections our communities are desperately needing. Its suggestion that existing laws under the Anti-Discrimination Act and Criminal Code are sufficient rings hollow. Stakeholders and the community called for stronger measures. If Labor truly believed in these laws, why did it not strengthen them during its tenure? It accused us of playing politics by combining anti-Semitism and gun control measures. Nonsense! This bill addresses interconnected threats head-on as evidenced by the Bondi tragedy itself where hatred fuelled gun violence.

Far from a gag on freedom of speech, as we just heard, our prohibitions on particular expressions are targeted to those that promote hatred, with safeguards for legitimate discourse as confirmed in departmental briefings and human rights assessments. Labor's hand-wringing over free speech ignores the real harm—the fear in our communities and the rise in anti-Semitic incidents across metropolitan and regional areas, as we heard firsthand in Townsville. Today's question time exposed a shocking and intolerable truth: the scourge of anti-Semitism is not an external threat; it festers within the Labor Party itself.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr J Kelly): Resume your seat please, member for Thuringowa. Pause the clock. What is your point of order, acting manager of opposition business?

Ms MULLEN: Relevance to the long title of the bill. Can we please bring the member back to the—

An honourable member interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will have silence while I take points of order.

Ms MULLEN: It is not relevant to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I am listening carefully to your contribution. I will pull you up on relevance if you are not being relevant to the objectives of the bill, as per the Speaker's ruling this morning. You may continue.

Ms MARR: This is not mere political pointscore; it is a damning indictment of a party that claims to stand against hatred yet harbours and enables it within. A member of the opposition front bench has been espousing and circulating anti-Semitic views on his social media profiles. The disgust is palpable.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think I can anticipate your point of order. Member, I will bring you back to relevance to the bill, as per the Speaker's ruling this morning. You are straying into matters that do not relate to the objectives of this bill, so I will ask you to continue.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In relation to your decision—and I note the Speaker's decision earlier in the day—however, how is the conversation around anti-Semitism not relevant to this bill, if I may?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I am not here to have a debate with you. If you want to question my decisions, there are mechanisms for you to do that. My ruling stands. I call the member for Thuringowa.

Ms MARR: How can any decent Australian trust a government whose own ranks are tainted by this poison in opposition? We must demand better—zero tolerance for anti-Semitism that starts at home, and right now Labor is failing spectacularly to understand that. Labor's reservations are nothing more than a cynical attempt to appear measured while being soft on hate and crime. This government, under Premier Crisafulli, acts with resolve to protect all Queenslanders from hatred and violence. This bill acts with purpose and compassion. It responds to the worst of humanity with the best of Queensland values, fairness, community and zero tolerance for hate.

I thank Minister Purdie and Attorney-General Frecklington for their leadership. I thank the chair, Marty Hunt, and every member of our committee. I thank the brave witnesses who shared painful, personal stories and I thank the regional Queenslanders who trusted us enough to come forward in Townsville, which was a very emotional time for most. I am proud to stand here today as the member for Thuringowa and say that this bill will make our state safer and our faith communities more secure and our regional way of life stronger. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (4.29 pm): What a cluster! The LNP have spent the last three weeks saying that these laws that gave the Attorney-General the most extreme powers in the country to criminalise speech on whatever she thought was offensive were great, and now we have last-minute amendments being made that we have not even seen. The Premier was out there gloating about the fact that these were going to be nation-leading laws, so he knew—

Mrs Frecklington: They still are.

Ms SCANLON:—that they were the most extreme—and I take the interjection. They still are the most extreme laws, apparently, in the country, according to the Attorney-General.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr J Kelly): Pause the clock. I am sorry to interrupt, member for Gaven. I was taking some advice. You have used some unparliamentary language. I would ask you to withdraw.

Ms SCANLON: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can continue.

Ms SCANLON: Hasn't the division been on show? We had the Attorney-General out there saying that they were going to prescribe words by regulation and then we had the police minister out there saying—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Nanango!

Ms SCANLON:—that, in fact, those words were going to be banned in this House by legislation. Either he was in charge of the revolt inside the cabinet or he had no idea what the laws that he introduced actually said. Given his track record of not reading the commission of inquiry, I suspect it is the latter. It is pretty alarming that we have a minister who did not even understand what was in the bill. All week we have been hearing LNP backbenchers saying that they were going to cross the floor and vote against the Premier's gag on freedom of speech.

Government members interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I hear the laughter from those opposite. If it is not true, why are you coming in here making last-minute changes? The member for Mackay did it last week. He crossed the floor because he did not agree on the Premier's gag on abortion.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I will bring you back to relevance to the bill.

Ms SCANLON: Now we have, at the eleventh hour, complete changes to the bill that we have not even seen. Shadow ministers are having to debate without actually seeing the reform we are being asked to vote on.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Nanango is warned.

Ms SCANLON: Then we had the most bizarre speech from the first law officer of this state, who said that they are amending their own laws to stop a future attorney-general from making or adding phrases. That is literally the point we have been making. Clearly, this was just an admission that you stuffed up, because—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member, you have used unparliamentary language. I would ask you to withdraw.

Ms SCANLON: I withdraw. As I said, we have had members of this side debating laws that are about to be completely changed at the last minute. What is so disrespectful is that we actually wrote to those opposite offering to work on these laws in a bipartisan way, and those opposite completely disregarded and trashed that offer of working in good faith. Now they want to make these last-minute changes. That just demonstrates how chaotic they are when it comes to law reform in this state.

I want to be really clear about what this bill says versus what they are now saying in the media. We have not been able to go through a calm and methodical approach of examining these reforms in the committee process. In fact, members of the committee asked the deputy director-general specific questions about the phrases and they were told that we could not ask those questions because they were not in the bill. That is despite the fact that David Crisafulli said that they were in the bill 'in black and white'. We have learned that his words mean absolutely nothing, so that is hardly surprising.

The problem is that words actually do mean something when it comes to these reforms—literally two years imprisonment if you say them or recite them. Submission after submission raised concern about the fact that there were a whole range of issues around the constitutional validity of these laws, about the attack on free speech. Organisations that I do not always agree with—the Institute of Public Affairs, the Anglican Church archdiocese, unions, civil liberty advocates, peak law bodies—and even the Premier's mentor, Campbell Newman, who, again, I do not usually agree with, were all saying that there were serious issues with this bill, yet we just heard the member for Thuringowa say that our statement of reservation was some sort of cynical exercise. I would encourage her to go and say that to the 90-plus submitters who raised serious concerns around these laws. She was sitting on the committee, but evidently she was not listening to any of them because they all fronted up—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair.

Ms SCANLON: They all fronted up to that committee and said that they had huge concerns with a number of the elements that were incorporated in this bill. The member for Thuringowa also said that we are nitpicking and asked why we did not do something when we were in government. We actually did. In fact, we brought in changes that strengthened serious vilification laws. Of course, it was the Labor government that brought in the Racial Discrimination Act that those opposite were against at the time, from memory. We brought in the respect-at-work and discrimination law reform that those opposite have now put on pause. That went through a nearly four-year consultation period, but those opposite have paused it because they said, 'No, we need to do some further work on it.' Now we are here debating laws that went through a 17-day process and that are about to change again, and apparently that is not too quick. Well, save me the fake outrage. We had the Queensland Law Society and the Bar Association—incredibly important organisations—raising very significant concerns, and neither of them will now be consulted about the nature of the changes in this bill.

I turn to some of the gun law reform measures. We have always said that we support action on gun law reform. We do not think this bill goes far enough. We are particularly frustrated that this bill does not address the recommendations from the coronial inquest that looked at the Wieambilla shooting. The families of Matthew Arnold and Rachel McCrow asked for those inquest recommendations to be considered by government and the LNP have ignored them. They have clearly bowed to the gun lobby, who they got donations from, and bowed to the hard right of their party to basically look like they are doing something when they are not doing anything. We are disappointed that these laws do not include the recommendation around mental health checks, but it is hardly surprising when you look at where the money to those opposite is coming from.

This entire process has been completely trashed through the committee hearings. The government said that they were going to be calm and methodical and that they wanted to be respectful to multicultural communities. This whole process has been a slap in the face. There are so many multicultural organisations that submitted that they want to see strong law reform but they cannot understand why some of the words that they might find offensive were not included while others were. These are questions that we were not able to ask because, of course, they were not prescribed by

legislation but apparently now they are. Again, we cannot ask those questions. There are a range of other reforms that they would like to see come into effect in the respect-at-work laws that have been put on hold, yet those opposite have not articulated why they are not progressing. I suspect I know why.

This was an opportunity for us to unite Queenslanders. Instead, this bill has caused division. It has caused division in groups that I never thought would see eye to eye. When you have respected individuals and organisations saying that this bill takes us back to the dark old days under the Bjelke-Petersen government when people were being locked up for genuine protest, I think the government needs to listen to those concerns.

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I can hear the muttering from the member for Southport. There are many multicultural organisations in his community who are concerned about the fact that they were not consulted on these laws, who are concerned about the attack on free speech and who are concerned about the fact that some of the things they would like to see are not being progressed by this government. I see lots of Gold Coast MPs rock up to multicultural events. They say one thing and then come into this House and do the complete opposite.

I look forward to seeing people like the member for Scenic Rim vote on these laws, because he has a track record of saying that he did not believe in section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act, yet these laws would go much further than the Racial Discrimination Act goes because they would criminalise speech. The Racial Discrimination Act is a civil protection which he at the time thought went too far. Now, suddenly, he has changed his mind. I say to all of those Nationals and all of those conservatives over there who once were outraged at attacks on freedom of speech: I look forward to you crossing the floor on this bill. Otherwise, that was all fake outrage. I look forward to you justifying all of that to the IPA and all of your conservative groups in the future.

I want to end by making it very clear that the Labor opposition obviously thinks that the acts in Bondi were atrocious. We will always condemn acts of hatred and violence. We do not believe that people should make remarks that are offensive to individuals, but we need to have sensible law reform. Unfortunately, we have had a chaotic process by this government that said they were going to be calm and methodical. We have seen the complete opposite.

 **Mr FIELD** (Capalaba—LNP) (4.39 pm): I rise to address the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill. It is part of a methodical, deliberate and measured response by the Crisafulli government to the devastating terrorist attack we saw on Jewish Australians in Bondi late last year. That act of evil tragically took the lives of 15 innocent people attending a Hanukkah celebration with their community and it sent shockwaves throughout the rest of Australia. This horrific event should never have occurred on Australian shores and it is the duty of both federal and state governments to ensure it does not happen again.

We are taking strong action to tackle the scourge of anti-Semitism across Queensland communities and ensure that firearms do not fall into the hands of terrorists and criminals. The Minister for Police has taken a considered approach in drafting this legislation, without rushing to seek a convenient announcement, in favour of targeted measures that will stamp out anti-Semitism and illicit firearms at their root. Addressing such serious issues cannot be done in a rushed manner and a large proportion of the feedback I have received on this bill from my community reflected that view.

As part of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee, I had the opportunity to scrutinise the bill in detail and hear from a range of stakeholders across the state. The committee held hearings in Townsville and in Brisbane and asked questions of several witnesses with differing views on the proposed legislation. Of particular interest to many of the stakeholders was the new and strengthened offences relating to symbols and expressions. Regarding symbols, we are strengthening the framework in chapter 7A of the Criminal Code Act by allowing the minister to prescribe particular organisations, classes of organisations or state sponsors of terrorism or terrorist organisations that are already listed by the Australian government so that they are recognised as prescribed organisations in Queensland. There have been reported incidents of flags being flown at pro-Palestine marches across the country which appear to be associated with terrorist organisations. With the new laws, the minister will have greater scope to act on these incidents and prevent the display of terrorist symbols on Australian soil, along with increased maximum penalties for offenders.

I have seen the impact that anti-Semitic slogans and expressions can have on Jewish Australians living in our communities. Just last month I was contacted by a distressed local who was shocked to see an offensive phrase graffitied on a bus stop along one of the busiest roads in the Capalaba

electorate. This constituent acted immediately and removed this disgusting graffiti themselves to prevent other locals from having to see it. The intent of this type of vandalism is clear: to menace, harass and offend Jewish people in their local community as they go about their daily lives. Phrases that call for the violent removal of Jews from their homeland in Israel which have been used at hundreds of protests across the country are completely unacceptable in our society. Australia is the most tolerant nation in the world. We were founded on the notion of a fair go for everyone, with the ability to live our lives without persecution. Every Queenslanders has the right to feel safe, without being harassed or intimidated because of their identity. I know that restoring safety in our local communities has been a No. 1 priority for this government.

Under the new legislation, the minister will proscribe two expressions, which are regularly used to incite discrimination, hostility or violence towards the Jewish community, as prohibited expressions. This comes in alongside a new criminal offence for the public recitation, distribution, publication or public display of a prohibited expression. This encompasses both written and spoken use of expressions, including chants or placards at a protest. The bill recognises the serious harm that this conduct can cause and sets the maximum penalty at two years imprisonment in line with the increased penalty for prohibited symbols. Importantly, the offences for both symbols and expressions are subject to a non-exhaustive list of reasonable excuses set out in the Criminal Code. These reasonable excuses act as protection for legitimate activities, which include artistic, religious, educational, law enforcement or public interest purposes, as well as the use of a prohibited expression or symbol to oppose the ideology which it represents.

Regarding the second part of this legislation, the police minister has been clear from the outset: these laws will not target law-abiding firearm owners. We will not allow gun owners to become a punching bag and bear the brunt of a kneejerk reaction. We will not be taking the heavy-handed approach of a gun buyback scheme. I have had conversations with countless local residents in Capalaba who have been concerned that their rights as firearm owners who follow all of the necessary requirements would be taken away by a government that wants a convenient policy announcement. That is not what these laws will do. The changes included within this bill are common sense and have the support of advocacy groups, like the new requirement for a Queensland weapons licence holder to be an Australian citizen. What these laws will do, and what we will be unapologetic in doing, is curb the access that terrorists and criminals have to firearms, which can be used to carry out acts of violence that harm Queenslanders.

A key part of this crackdown is the introduction of a new offence relating to the use of firearms in drive-by shootings, which will carry a maximum sentence of 16 years. This penalty can be elevated to 20 years if the target of the attack is a place of worship, if the attack is motivated by hate for an individual or group, or if the offender is a participant in a criminal organisation. A firm stance is necessary to ensure that incredibly dangerous offences like this can no longer menace or harm Queenslanders.

We are also introducing new offences that prohibit the possession and distribution of blueprint material for the manufacture of 3D printed firearms. 3D printed firearms are a serious and growing concern within this space, as they are able to be created at home without the approval or knowledge of authorities. Furthermore, the serious offence of stealing firearms is one that poses an enormous threat to public safety, especially when the stolen guns are used to commit additional offences. We are raising the maximum sentence for stealing firearms or ammunition from 10 years to 14 years and will omit the current aggravation circumstance which required the firearm to be intended for use in further offences. Tackling the issue of firearm theft is something which received very strong support from advocacy organisations and individual owners during the committee process, including indications that they would back the changes with awareness campaigns through their membership networks.

These changes are a direct response to the worst terrorist attack that has happened on Australian shores. Queenslanders rightly called for action on the rising tide of anti-Semitism that had Jewish people feeling unsafe in their homes, workplaces, university campuses and places of worship. Measures to crack down on hate symbols and expressions will improve social cohesion and lower the temperature of debate around foreign conflicts. We know that Queenslanders also wanted commonsense changes to gun laws that make our communities safer without unfairly targeting lawful firearm owners. We listened and the Crisafulli government is delivering. The methodical and intentional way in which this bill was drafted ensures that these changes will directly target the real problems Queenslanders are facing. These changes will make Queensland safer. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (4.48 pm): What happened at Bondi on 14 December 2025 was a national tragedy. Fifteen innocent lives were taken in an act of violent anti-Semitism. Families were shattered, communities were traumatised and Australians grieved together. We all stand united in condemning anti-Semitism, we all stand united in condemning hatred and we all stand united in saying that violence has no place in Queensland. Unity in purpose does not mean silence in the face of bad law. The question before this House is not whether anti-Semitism is evil, because it is; the question is whether this bill is the right response. On that question the government has failed.

This legislation bundles together hate speech reforms, expanded police powers, sweeping new criminal offences and weapons law amendments, all under the emotional shadow of Bondi. It is not careful, it is not measured and it is not supported by the very legal experts and stakeholders the government claims to respect. Let us start with the Queensland Human Rights Commission. In its submission the commission made it clear that, while it welcomes action to reduce targeted hatred, legislation must strike an appropriate balance and be fit for purpose, sufficiently precise and proportionate. The commission warns that hate speech laws that fail to strike the right balance can undermine trust in the legal system and unjustifiably limit human rights. That is not an opposition talking point; that is the Queensland independent human rights watchdog. The commission warns that this broader test may capture legitimate political debate and cultural commentary. That is the danger and is not the intent of the drafting.

The commission goes further, explaining that criminalising expressions that incite discrimination or hostility disrupts the existing hierarchy of Queensland law, which reserves criminal sanctions for the most serious harms involving threats of violence. The commission recommends a higher threshold that expressions only be proscribed if widely known as solely or substantially representative of an ideology of extreme prejudice. The government ignored that advice.

Let us turn to the Queensland Law Society, which is the peak body for the state's legal practitioners. The society supports confronting anti-Semitism, but it is crystal clear that legislative responses must respect necessity, legality and proportionality. It states bluntly that much of the criminal conduct targeted by this bill is already criminalised under the Criminal Code and introducing new provisions will not lead to meaningful change but instead add unnecessary complexity. Again, that is not an opposition exaggeration; it comes from the legal profession.

On the proposed offence of prohibited expressions, the society warns that the wording must be strictly objective and not capable of misuse. It specifically raises concerns about the phrase 'so nearly resembles', saying this threshold risks capturing expressions beyond the core mischief and creating uncertainty about what conduct is actually prohibited. What does 'so nearly resembles' mean to an ordinary Queenslander? The society warns that resemblance-based tests invite speculative assessments and inconsistent enforcement. That is how you create a chilling effect and that is how you criminalise ambiguity.

Legal Aid Queensland, the largest criminal law practice in the state, is equally clear. In its submission, Legal Aid expresses concern at attempting to achieve these objectives by expanding existing laws or creating novel criminal offences, stating that there is no evidence that the proposed offences will reduce anti-Semitism or improve public safety. I repeat: there is no evidence. Legal Aid also states that criminal law is a poor tool to improve social cohesion and warns of significant unintended consequences. It also raises grave concerns that any expression can incur criminal sanction, including imprisonment.

This parliament should be capable of walking and chewing gum at the same time: protecting Jewish Queenslanders, protecting all minority communities and strengthening religious worship protections while also ensuring we do not undermine freedom of expression, freedom of association and the rule of law. No-one in this House has a monopoly on wanting Queenslanders to feel safe. However, safety built on rushed drafting, broad ministerial discretion and contested definitions is not durable safety; it is fragile law.

In behavioural psychology there is a concept known as the Dunning-Kruger effect, which is the tendency for those with limited expertise in a complex area to overestimate their understanding of it. I say this carefully, but it is difficult to avoid the comparison here. When Queensland's peak legal bodies—the Human Rights Commission, the Queensland Law Society and Legal Aid Queensland—all raise serious technical, constitutional and operational concerns about drafting and unintended consequences and the government proceeds regardless, that is not good enough and it is not leadership; that is overconfidence untempered by expertise. Good governments listen to experts and wise governments adjust.

This government appears to believe it knows better than every independent legal authority in the state, and that should concern every Queenslander. We owe it to the victims of Bondi to get this right, not to legislate in haste and hope the courts fix it later. The opposition stands ready to work in a bipartisan way to strengthen protections against vilification and violence. We support robust religious worship protections. We support workable, constitutionally sound hate speech reforms. However, this bill as drafted is not the answer. It must reflect the considered advice of those who understand how the criminal law actually operates in practice. We honour the victims of hatred not by passing flawed legislation but by making well-crafted laws. This House should demand nothing less.

In the foreword I wrote to the committee report on our vilification bill, I stated—

Each of us has a moral responsibility to ensure our conduct is appropriate and to teach our children to behave properly towards others. The unfortunate reality is that there will always be those in our society who traverse the bounds of proper behaviour. For those persons, deterrents and sanctions are needed.

I end by quoting Dr Martin Luther King, who said—

It may be true that morality cannot be legislated, but behavior can be regulated. It may be true that the law cannot change the heart, but it can restrain the heartless.

 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (4.56 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026. The bill follows the tragic events that occurred at Bondi on 14 December 2025. The subject matter that this bill addresses is complex and deeply emotive. At the outset, I thank the Attorney-General and the Minister for Police and Emergency Services for the calm and considered approach that they took before introducing this bill. The bill deals with hatred, it deals with extremism and it deals with access to lethal weapons. These are not matters to be rushed or politicised. They require balance, they require consultation and they require strong but measured leadership, and that is exactly what the Crisafulli government has delivered.

I also thank the committee for their work in examining the bill and particularly for coming to Townsville to hear from regional voices. The committee holding a public hearing in Townsville demonstrates that regional voices matter. It acknowledges that regional Queensland matters. To have the committee come to Townsville to hear directly from our community about why this legislation is important and how it will impact those who live outside the south-east corner meant a great deal. It gave our community the opportunity to share their experiences and perspectives on issues that directly impact them.

At the hearing we heard submissions from regional Queenslanders that reinforced a sobering truth: anti-Semitism is not something that occurs only in capital cities such as Sydney or Brisbane; it occurs right across the country and, unfortunately, even in regional Queensland and as far north as Cairns, which we were reminded of earlier today. We heard directly from members of the North Queensland Jewish community who shared their lived experiences of anti-Semitism—being targeted at school, at work and in public places and being made to feel unsafe because of their faith. That is not Australia, that is not Queensland and we can do better.

This bill makes it clear that we will do better. It strengthens our response to anti-Semitic conduct, ensures that hate-fuelled intimidation and violence are met with serious consequences and sends a clear signal that Queensland stands firmly against anti-Semitism. This legislation goes further. It recognises that hateful ideology left unchecked can escalate into violence, and where violence meets access to weapons the consequences are catastrophic. That is why the firearms reforms in this bill are so important. This government is delivering a nation-leading response following the Bondi terrorist attack—ensuring guns are kept out of the hands of criminals and terrorists.

First, Queensland weapons licence holders will be required to be Australian citizens, except in the case that a non-Australian citizen requires a weapons licence for genuine reasons related to sports or competitive shooting, or an occupational requirement. This provision will align Queensland with a decision of National Cabinet that will enhance and simplify the background checks for weapons licence applicants.

Second, this bill introduces the strongest penalties in the country for firearms trafficking with a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. Trafficking illegal firearms is not a minor offence. It fuels organised crime. It arms gangs. It arms extremists. It puts police and innocent families at risk. If you traffic guns in Queensland, you will face the harshest consequences in Australia.

Third, this bill closes a loophole that has hindered police from going after individuals preparing a terrorist attack before the attack occurs. We should not have to wait until tragedy strikes before action can be taken. If someone is preparing, planning or gathering materials for a terrorist attack, police must be empowered to intervene early. Prevention is always better than response.

The bill also directly targets drive-by shootings. We had one recently in Townsville. Drive-by shootings will now carry penalties of up to 16 years imprisonment and up to 20 years if the offender is linked to a criminal organisation or if a place of worship is targeted. Firing at someone's home or at a synagogue, church or mosque is an attack on the whole community. It is designed to intimidate and terrorise, and it will not be tolerated. We are also creating a new offence prohibiting the possession and distribution of blueprints for 3D printed guns. Technology continues to evolve and criminals adapt. The law must keep pace. Untraceable 3D printed firearms cannot become the next tool of organised crime or extremism. This bill shuts that door before it becomes a wider problem.

Further, the bill expands police powers when determining weapons licence eligibility. Police will be able to consider any history of violence, links to terrorist groups or weapons related offending. If someone has demonstrated violent behaviour or has extremist associations, careful consideration should be given prior to providing access to firearms.

Finally, this legislation strengthens police powers to disrupt illegal firearm trafficking before weapons hit our streets. Once those guns are circulating in the black market, it is much harder to contain the damage.

As the member for Townsville, I want to be clear: this bill is not about targeting law-abiding firearm owners. In North Queensland, we have farmers, graziers, sporting shooters and legitimate licence holders who follow rules, store their firearms correctly and treat ownership as the serious responsibility it is. They are not the problem. The problem is criminals and terrorists. This bill targets them and only them. For too long, under the former Labor government, during a decade of decline, Queenslanders saw our laws watered down.

The Crisafulli government is taking real steps to restore safety to our community and make Queensland a safer place to live. We are backing police. We are closing loopholes. We are setting the strongest penalties in the country. We are sending a clear message: Queensland will not tolerate anti-Semitism, terrorism or the illegal use of firearms. Every parent who drops their kids off at school, every small business owner who opens their shop in the morning and every family who attends their place of worship deserve to feel safe. This bill strengthens that safety. It honours the voices we heard in Townsville. It reflects the lived experience of regional Queensland. It ensures Queensland leads the nation in fighting anti-Semitism and keeping guns out of the hands of criminals and terrorists. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (5.04 pm): I want to begin by stating something very clearly: anti-Semitism has no place in Queensland or anywhere. Jewish Queenslanders deserve to feel safe in their homes, their schools, their places of worship and their communities. Every Queenslanders of every faith and background has the right to live free from hatred, intimidation and violence.

The question before this House is not whether we oppose hate—we all do; the question is whether this bill responds in a way that is enforceable, proportionate, evidence-based and has been adequately considered through a proper committee process. This bill rushes to criminalise speech and protest without any consultation and does not go far enough on gun reform. We support the elements that make genuine progress on gun safety and protection for our community, but we cannot support provisions that create offences for political expression in a way that has not been properly scrutinised.

The committee process on the original bill already revealed deep and credible concern from the community, but the central issue is now that the government has decided to change this legislation overnight, as a result of the Premier, the Attorney-General and the police minister not having the support of their backbench. This amendment now specifically bans two phrases—'from the river to the sea' and 'globalise the intifada'. The bill that was scrutinised did not contain these phrases. They were not written in black and white, despite the Premier saying that last week. They were not examined by committee members. The community were not consulted on their inclusion.

During hearings when members asked about specific expressions, the Department of Justice made it clear that since there were no phrases prescribed in the bill, it would not be appropriate to comment on hypothetical expressions. Yet now, at the eleventh hour, the government seeks to insert two specific phrases directly into the bill, making them not so hypothetical but a real provision, but again there was no consultation.

At least 38 submissions raised concerns about the consultation timeframe of 17 days. The Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland recommended the government pause the bill for genuine consultation with multicultural and faith communities. That is the ECCQ, the peak body in Queensland representing communities that those opposite say they are trying to make the community safer for. They said, 'Please pause this because this consultation has not been genuine.' Multicultural Australia warned the scope of reform was not commensurate with the limited consideration timeframe. So much for calm and methodical. Every stakeholder said they did not have enough time. Professor Anne Twomey described the bill as raising complex constitutional and human rights issues and should not be passed quickly as a kneejerk reaction. The Anglican Church Southern Queensland questioned the lack of meaningful consultation with affected communities. So, hang on, let me get this right. The peak bodies representing the multicultural Queenslanders and the Anglican Church are all saying, 'Please pause and let's actually do this calmly and methodically and have genuine consultation.'

Legislation that creates new offences and impacts minority communities should not be amended after the scrutiny of that legislation was never provided. It is not calm and methodical lawmaking. If the government now wants to criminalise specific phrases, those phrases should go back to a committee for proper examination because clearly there is concern in the community. It is clear that the bill has not just caused concern in the community; it has clearly caused division within the government's own ranks. I cannot believe on the eve of debating his own legislation, the Premier faced such a backlash from his party room.

We expected that some of those backbenchers were prepared to cross the floor. In fact, we even said that we knew some of them would see this as a gag on free speech. It seems it all came to a head yesterday in the party room where the Premier was rolled, forced to make significant changes overnight. Despite arguing in the media for weeks that there was nothing wrong with the bill, this government is now scrambling to contain internal dissent. We saw the first glimpses of that a few weeks ago when a member crossed the floor—it was historic because that has not happened since the 1980s. Now we are seeing the LNP party room in disarray again. The Premier is struggling—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): I will take some advice to see what the prevailing leniency has been, as I have only just taken the chair. Member for Waterford, I have been listening carefully and you are straying to some degree. I encourage you to remain relevant to the long title of the bill.

Ms FENTIMAN: The foreshadowed amendments are being moved on the very day the debate is happening. There are clearly very different views within the government. Otherwise, why would such a significant amendment be put forward at the very last minute?

Queenslanders are the ones who will suffer because of this chaos. Every peak body representing multicultural Queenslanders—pretty much all of the stakeholders—says that there has not been enough time, and now we get this chaotic, last-minute amendment from the government on which there has been no consultation. In its submission, the Jewish Council of Australia warned that the bill's approach selectively targets Arabic language and Palestinian political expression, risks increasing division and racism and could associate Jewish communities with crackdowns on democratic freedoms. That is from the Jewish Council of Australia. When Jewish Queenslanders are telling us that anti-Semitism must be fought but that these provisions will not make them safer, this parliament should listen.

I now turn to the parts of the bill that deal with gun control. We have spoken in this House before about the tragedy at Wieambilla. The Coroner's report into that tragedy made very clear recommendations about firearms reforms—recommendations that demanded serious, systemic change. We brought those recommendations to the attention of this parliament at the end of last year because Labor will always back progress that keeps firearms out of the wrong hands. I noted in that debate that Judy, Constable McCrow's mother, had stated she believed that it was vitally important the Coroner's recommendations were immediately implemented. At the time, the government said that they would consider those recommendations. Unfortunately, those recommendations have not made their way into this bill. That is a real concern for Queenslanders.

I asked the Crime and Corruption Commission at a recent public hearing about the fact that we will not have a national approach to gun control because of the actions of this government. They said that we live in a borderless environment and that a coherent, nationally interoperable policy makes law enforcement cooperation stronger. This is a real missed opportunity for the government because it has

not acted to ensure we have strong national gun reform. Queensland will not be part of that. It is also very disappointing that the government has not decided to implement the Coroner's recommendations from the Wieambilla coronial inquest.

This bill expressly stops short of implementing mental health checks and falls short of national alignment on gun control. If the government and the Premier wanted to truly improve community safety, they would be fully implementing all of those recommendations from the Coroner, they would be taking to heart the comments from the CCC and they would be taking the many submissions to this bill very seriously.

In closing, the Queensland Labor opposition condemns hatred and vilification in any form. It is abhorrent and has no place in a state built by the vast multicultural communities that call Queensland home. Queenslanders deserve laws that keep them safe; however, they do not deserve a half-hearted attempt. The LNP have put their own interests ahead of Queenslanders' interests in this bill, and it is not good enough.

 **Hon. FS SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism) (5.15 pm): I rise today to speak to the bill before the House: Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026. We have just heard a lot of doublespeak from the Labor Party—from the member for Waterford and some of her colleagues. On the one hand they say they are against anti-Semitism, yet on the other they are defending some of the phrases that we have said are absolutely abhorrent. Those phrases are quite clearly anti-Semitic because they are calling for the wiping out of Israel and the Jewish people, calling for genocide in that country.

Somehow there is a disconnect with the Labor Party because they do not think this will have an impact on our Jewish community here in Australia. They have heard these slogans that call for Jewish people to be wiped out, but they do not understand that people can have different opinions about the democratic decisions within Israel. They do not get it. There are Jewish people who do not have the same views on the democratic decisions—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The minister is making reference to specific slogans—they were her words—or phrases that she says somebody is defending. The entire debate that has ensued is because of the absence of particular slogans or phrases. Therefore, I submit to you that the minister's contribution is not relevant when she talks about specific phrases, given that there is nothing in this bill that goes to specific phrases.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): I will take some advice. The government's amendments have not been circulated yet. There have been discussions about terms in the bill. I note that the title of the bill includes 'fighting antisemitism'. What the member for Maroochydore is saying appears to be relevant to that. I will continue to listen and ensure all members are relevant.

Ms SIMPSON: I have listened to Labor members reference the fact that slogans that have been foreshadowed by the police minister and the Attorney-General will be outlawed in this bill to put them beyond doubt, yet we have had doublespeak from the Labor Party. On the one hand they say they are against anti-Semitism, but somehow they are okay with speech that calls for basically wiping out the Jewish people. That is where the doublespeak is. That is why a lot of our Jewish community here in Australia have not only felt unsafe but they have been unsafe. Who else has armed guards outside of their synagogues, outside of their schools or looking after their businesses? As a small group of people in our community, they have disproportionately borne the impact of the rise of anti-Semitism. What was really exposed by the horrors of Bondi is that there continues to be those who deny anti-Semitism and the need to call it out. For those who call for genocide against the Jewish people and for those who do not want to take responsibility for the way they are behaving, it has to be called out.

This bill before the House is very targeted because the Jewish people have been targeted through anti-Semitism. It also addresses the issue of tightening gun laws and illegal behaviour, whereas what is the Labor Party's option? They want to go after the law-abiding people, not the ones who are actually trading in illegal guns, not the ones who have been 3D printing guns and using other means to get around the rules and not the criminals who disproportionately are getting their hands on guns.

I commend the police minister for the work he has done calmly and methodically, looking at how we can pragmatically and effectively address this. Law-abiding citizens love this country and want peace, but Labor wants to go after those law-abiding citizens while letting the criminals slip by.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I point to the Speaker's statement this morning on relevance of debate where he indicated—

It is acceptable to discuss alternative policy positions ... but the speech must return to the bill and cannot turn into a lengthy recital of another policy ...

What we are hearing from the minister currently is a lengthy recital of another policy. I ask you to ask her to return to the bill.

Ms SIMPSON: What! It is in the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I understood the minister was speaking about matters which are specifically relevant to this bill, so there is no point of order.

Ms SIMPSON: My word! They say they believe in free speech but they want to gag the parliament by shutting down those who call them out with regard to what they are doing to make excuses for those who want the eradication of Israel and the genocide of the Jewish people.

I go back to the objective of this legislation that is before the House which is to keep guns out of the hands of criminals. Apparently the Manager of Opposition Business does not think that is relevant. He has not read the legislation and does not understand that that is what we are seeking to do. It is in black and white in the legislation. We will work with law-abiding citizens. We will work to shut down criminals who seek to do damage and remove the peace and security of Queenslanders.

I want to talk about some of the Jewish community members I have met.

Mrs Nightingale interjected.

Ms Morton interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Caloundra and the member for Inala will cease their cross-chamber quarrelling.

Ms SIMPSON: I have met with Jewish Queenslanders. What is apparent is that most of us experience peace in our homes and on our streets and when it is disturbed we quite rightly seek to ensure that there are stronger laws and police resources to address it. We all feel passionately, I believe, in keeping people safe. Certainly the Crisafulli government has made a commitment to making Queensland safer.

However, there is a cohort of Queenslanders who in particular as a very small group within our population feel that they have been targeted. When people are targeted and have to engage security guards in many aspects of their lives including at their places of worship because they have been attacked, you have to understand that this ancient scourge of anti-Semitism is something that, when it arises again, we need to talk about honestly.

That is why it was so disappointing to hear the denial with regard to what the member for Cairns is continuing to peddle on his Facebook page. Still we have silence from the Labor Party and doublespeak with regard to anti-Semitism and doing something about it. They are silent with regard to the anti-Semitic and absolutely appalling behaviour of the member for Cairns and what he has not only tolerated but promoted on his Facebook page.

Talking to our Jewish community, I can understand why they feel quite distressed that this country that they love, that they have a commitment to and that they want to ensure their children have a future in has allowed the behaviour, the excuses and the denial of the impact of anti-Semitism to go unchallenged. That is what the Labor Party in a decade of decline and division has not only allowed but failed to address. The behaviour of members opposite and what we have heard in their contributions to this debate basically expose that they have not changed and they have not learnt, and it is terribly disappointing.

This legislation is about targeting criminals. It is about targeting those who seek to attack the most vulnerable. I reiterate that the provisions in respect of the amendments to crack down on 3D printed guns and giving police the powers to address those who are planning attacks are about ensuring greater security for all of Queensland.

Anti-Semitic behaviour has been allowed to increase under Labor, and they are still in denial about it and, sadly, more should have been done at the federal level. Their interest in division, not in delivery, saw them turning a blind eye to the root cause of the Bondi attack and to the ongoing harassment of our Jewish community here in Queensland.

When you talk to a parent whose child did not want their mother to speak up on their behalf and identify them as a Jewish family because this child had been sledged and made to feel unsafe, you realise there are everyday scenarios that we may not face but they are facing. We need to walk in their shoes. We need to understand what they are facing. We need to speak up against it rather than make excuses for it. It is time for no more denial. It is time to take a stand. That is what this targeted legislation clearly seeks to do. I support the legislation before the House.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (5.26 pm): I rise to contribute to the bill this afternoon. What happened at Bondi on 14 December 2025 was—and I think everybody in this House agrees—a national tragedy. It was an act of hate, an act of violence and an act born from bigotry, racism and anti-Semitism in the extreme. A day that should have marked the beginning of celebrations for Australia's Jewish community instead became a day of unspeakable grief—15 innocent lives were lost and many more injured at the hands of individuals who were able to legally access multiple firearms. It was the deadliest mass shooting to occur in Australia since the Port Arthur tragedy in 1996. The events of that day saw families shattered, a community traumatised and a nation shaken.

A month later another declared act of terrorism occurred in Perth when what the Australian police described as a homemade fragment bomb filled with ball bearings and screws was thrown into an invasion day rally crowd—an annual rally that was being replicated in capital cities and regional towns all over the nation to reflect on the resilience of First Nations Australians whose ancestors were on the front line of violent frontier wars, whose families have been subject to the full impacts of colonisation and extreme racism in this country, and whose children are still living with the repercussions of all of that. If the bomb had detonated, as was the presumed intent, it would have resulted in a mass casualty event. Fortunately it did not, but it was yet another example of how fragile social cohesion can be when hatred, violence, bigotry and racism takes hold.

In moments like these we are called upon to reflect on the truth of where we are as a society. We are called upon to ask who we are as a people and we are called upon to act in a way that does not further marginalise groups based on race, religion, gender or sexual identity and does not create an environment where extreme division, chaos or confusion can thrive. What we are seeing from this Crisafulli LNP government is nothing more than chaos, confusion and crisis.

This government told this House and the people of Queensland that it had taken a calm and methodical approach to the matters at hand, only to buckle and backflip at the eleventh hour when the pressure became too much. The Premier claimed strength and certainty, yet he now stands exposed as having lost control of his own party room. The truth is that the LNP and the Premier have performed an Olympic-level backflip on this legislation—or, to use a common rowing term for turning a boat, they have performed a backing manoeuvre of elite standing.

For three weeks they insisted their laws were sound. They dismissed concerns, they waved away constitutional questions and they ignored warnings about freedom of speech and the concentration of power in the hands of a single minister. They thought they could use their numbers to ram this through, but they were caught out. We even heard reports that the bill, announced with such bravado, did not even go through a proper cabinet process beforehand. If that is true, it speaks volumes about the disorder at the heart of this government.

This was legislation that handed massive unfettered power to the attorney-general of the day—power over speech, over thought, over what phrases could be criminalised by regulation—and the LNP assumed their majority would shield them from scrutiny. Instead, their own backbenchers were reportedly preparing to cross the floor. The member for Mackay, who took the extraordinary decision last sitting week to cross the floor and vote against his own party on issues related to a woman's right to choose, was reportedly seen wandering the halls while the LNP party room held extended crisis meetings to salvage what was left of this legislative mess. The chaos in the Crisafulli party room threatens to spill onto the floor of parliament once again. First it was abortion; now it is freedom of speech.

Mr BOOTHMAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Whilst we love listening to a wonderful story, it is not relevant.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): I take your point. It is not inappropriate to canvass issues associated with this bill, but the peculiarities of our respective party rooms or caucuses do not feature in this bill, so I would ask you to return to relevance, member for Algeester.

Ms ENOCH: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. The bill that went before the committee did not contain the two specific phrases that are now at the centre of this debate. To be clear, the parliamentary committee was asked to scrutinise a bill that did not include the phrases that the government now seeks to insert. Queenslanders were denied the opportunity to properly consider them.

At least 38 submissions raised concerns about the truncated consultation timeframe and the absence of these key phrases. Many more Queenslanders expressed frustration that they were being asked to comment on a framework without knowing how it would actually be used—a framework that allowed the Attorney-General by regulation to prohibit particular expressions. Once prescribed, criminal liability would arise if the expression might reasonably be expected to cause a member of the public to feel menaced, harassed or offended. That was the threshold. It begs the question: what other phrases? What of phrases, for instance, deeply meaningful to First Nations people such as ‘Always was, always will be’? Could the Attorney-General, responding to political pressure, determine that such a phrase incites hostility or is likely to offend? During the committee process, when questions were asked about the expressions, the Department of Justice deputy director-general stated clearly—

There are no expressions that are prescribed through the bill. I do not think it is appropriate for me to comment on any potential or hypothetical expressions given that that would be a matter for government in terms of what they prescribe.

A director in the department confirmed—

... the bill does not prescribe any particular phrases but sets up a framework for the Attorney-General to prescribe a phrase.

The departmental response to the submissions said plainly—

No expressions are prescribed by the Bill ... Any further decision to recommend the making of a regulation with respect to a particular expression is a matter for the Attorney-General and is outside the scope of the Bill.

In other words, the committee was told ‘nothing to see here’. At least 47 submissions raised concerns about particular expressions; 30 submissions raised concerns about the framework for prescribing prohibited symbols; and 39 raised constitutional issues. Frankly, it was a sham consultation process dressed up as legitimacy. Now, having been rolled internally, the government wants to rush amendments through and pretend that because the words will appear on the face of the legislation all is well. Rushing amendments under the guise of openness is not transparency; it is manipulation. It subverts parliamentary oversight and it subverts democracy.

Stakeholders across Queensland raised the alarm. The Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland recommended that the government pause the bill and undertake genuine, culturally informed consultation with multicultural and faith communities, youth and education stakeholders and human rights experts. Multicultural Australia stated plainly that such significant legislative reform is being afforded very limited consultation time and that the scope of change is not commensurate with the time permitted. Legal Aid Queensland emphasised that the criminal law is a poor tool to improve social cohesion and warned of significant unintended consequences for rushing such reforms. Anglican Church Southern Queensland questioned the lack of meaningful consultation with religious and multicultural communities who will be directly impacted.

Professor Anne Twomey, one of this nation’s foremost constitutional experts, warned that the bill gives rise to difficult legal issues in areas of jurisprudence not yet fully developed, affects fundamental human rights and has the potential in the long term to restrict communications on a range of contentious topics. She made it clear that this should not be passed quickly as a kneejerk reaction and that it needs proper scrutiny and assessment in terms of its long-term consequences. These are not fringe voices. The LNP has put its own political interests ahead of Queensland’s interests, which of course is not good enough.

What of guns? Of course tougher sentencing is welcome, but sentencing alone does not prevent access, it does not implement coronial recommendations in full and it does not ensure national consistency. If we are serious about preventing another Bondi or Wieambilla then we must focus on supply, licensing, trafficking and cross-border loopholes. You cannot be tough on crime if you are weak on guns.

Labor is united in condemning anti-Semitism and any form of racism and hatred, united in cracking down on criminals and terrorists, united in defending multicultural communities and united in standing up for freedom of speech. All we are seeing from this LNP government is chaos and division and Queenslanders deserve much better.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (5.36 pm): It is an honour for me to speak on the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026. I very much welcomed the contribution of the police minister and his foreshadowed amendments and the contribution of the Attorney-General earlier today. I thank the committee, especially the chair, the member for Nicklin, Marty Hunt; the member for Capalaba; and the member for Thuringowa. Thank you for your consideration of the bill and for your efforts throughout the inquiry. I also note the contributions of the many submitters and witnesses, particularly those who attended the regional hearings in Townsville, where there were some very moving tributes.

This is a bill in direct response to the horrors that occurred at Bondi on 14 December 2025, a day that changed Australia forever. We are a multicultural country, but we are also a country that has no place for hate. Hope will overcome hate and fear every time, but these laws will assist in that journey and send the clear message to our community that we are a society not of division but of unity, one where peaceful ceremonies at places of worship can occur right across the state.

I thank the Attorney-General and the Minister for Police for their considered, calm and methodical approach to these changes. There is certainly a great deal of concern from many in my community in terms of what may be a kneejerk reaction to those events, and I really appreciate their leadership. I know that my community has felt at ease that they are not being targeted in any way and that they are being included. As I mentioned, I appreciate the amendments foreshadowed by the police minister and I look forward to supporting those changes and this bill.

The terrorist attack that happened in Bondi has changed Australia forever, and it is something that really struck deep at my heart from my time in the Police Service. We watched the horrors unfold on television and we saw the responses from members of the community. We saw those heroes. We saw the paramedics and ambulance people as well as the police running towards the danger at that time when the lives of 15 innocent people were lost. It is something that will have changed any sensible Australian forever.

Going to the specifics of the bill, I must say there are some very sensible changes that will strengthen bans on hate symbols as well as introduce some prohibited expressions. The Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies noted—

Antisemitism is not only a Jewish problem but a threat to democratic values and pluralistic societies, because the conspiracy thinking and hatred it fosters undermine trust and social cohesion.

We are a society built on family, as is the Jewish community and many other communities that we welcome to our shores. We have the family at the heart of our society. There is no place for hatred of any of our families, and that love for communities should be our symbol for the rest of the world. We were held up as a shining light in terms of being a multicultural community; however, in terms of the global context, the events in Bondi on 14 December changed that perception.

I am very pleased to be part of a government that is making some sensible changes to ensure that our faith communities are protected. It was only a couple of weeks ago that the synagogue here in Brisbane was attacked. I am very pleased to see additional penalties and the strengthening in this bill to ensure we modernise offences to protect those faith communities.

I also want to place on record my support for the new offence of recklessly discharging a weapon towards a building or vehicle, which I know colloquially as a drive-by offence. A couple of years ago the LNP tried to make that a standalone offence but, unfortunately, the then Labor government did not accept that proposal so it is great to see work being done now to include that offence. These are the worst of the worst offences when organised criminals do drive-by shootings and recklessly discharge weapons towards buildings and vehicles. I recognise the circumstances of aggravation associated with that to see some much higher penalties.

I go back to the issue of hate symbols and expressions. It is important to note for the House and the community that the bill provides for reasonable excuses. We do not intend to stifle legitimate debate in the public interest or prohibit their use for genuine artistic, religious or educational purposes. When somebody is charged, the courts are responsible for determining whether a proscribed expression was used to menace, harass or offend. There is a standard that the court must look at, and this certainly does not stop a teacher using these sayings for educational purposes, as some people have said may occur.

I welcome the new offence of recklessly discharging a firearm. I also recognise that we are broadening the scope in terms of those Adult Crime, Adult Time offences to ensure that, if the people who commit these offences are a juvenile or a youth, they will face the consequences of their actions.

I turn to some more specifics of the bill relating to controlled operations and changes regarding obtaining evidence. Covert intelligence operations are usually about obtaining evidence about an offence, but this is also about using those controlled operations for the purpose of frustrating crime. That is very important because we want to actually stop a crime before it happens. If we get intelligence that says something is going on of a terrorist nature or there could be an attack on our community, we want to be able to use every tool in the kit—

Mrs Poole: Every means available.

Mr McDONALD: Yes, or every means available. I take that interjection from the member for Mundingburra, who is a former police officer and understands these things. I thank her for being Assistant Minister for Community Safety; this is very much at her heart. It is important that we are able to use those controlled operations to frustrate crime, because if we can stop those offences from happening that is a very good day at the office and it will keep people safe.

There are also changes to the firearm prohibition orders, which have been around for a while. When Labor introduced these, they were unworkable. I thank the police minister for the efforts he has made in that respect so the commissioner is able to issue those firearm prohibition orders where necessary.

I will finish where I started and say that these changes are sensible changes. I welcome the proposed amendments by the police minister and the calm and methodical way that this government is approaching these challenging subjects. Hate has no place in our community. I thank the police minister and the Attorney-General for their efforts to ensure we do not have a repeat of what happened at Bondi. I thank them for giving us these tools to make sure those amongst us who have hate or ideas of terrorism or taking the lives of innocent people do not prosper. I thank the police minister and the Attorney-General for keeping our community safe.

This bill is a sensible solution to the terrible attacks at Bondi. It brings some sensible changes to ensure that firearm owners are not ostracised and do not lose their firearms and that we focus on criminals and terrorism.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (5.46 pm): I rise to speak on the so-called Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill. Because of the way the government has presented this bill and in the context of the horrific anti-Semitic Bondi shootings last year, I want to put on record my sympathies for the families and communities of those killed, for everyone who witnessed or was touched by this act of terrorism and for anyone who still carries fear within them as a result of those men's actions.

I genuinely wish I was standing here to debate a bill that actually addressed discrimination and prejudice and that actually updated our firearms laws to limit the potential for gun violence as far as possible, but that is simply not the case. This bill is a crude facade and the title of it is misleading in the extreme. It does not fight anti-Semitism; it does not keep guns out of the hands of terrorists and criminals. It is an Orwellian attempt by a dangerously authoritarian government to silence free speech and intimidate Queenslanders into muting their opposition to the state of Israel and its genocide in Gaza. It is an extreme dog whistle.

The government has done its best to dodge scrutiny of this bill at every point, as it tries to rush through what is an incredibly blunt political instrument. We had a single week for submissions but still received over 500 submissions, the majority of which have serious concerns about the so-called hate speech provisions where they were addressed. We had just over two weeks for the committee inquiry, and the Palestinian community—the community that is most directly impacted by the proposed bans on the phrases 'from the river to the sea' and 'globalise the intifada'—were excluded from the hearings. The Jewish submitters and groups who disagree with this legislation and who do not accept that those phrases are anti-Semitic—who participate in the Palestinian liberation movement—were not offered an opportunity to participate in the committee hearings.

Mr HUNT: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is commenting on the committee's deliberations in the formulation of the program for the hearings. I think he is straying into disclosing to the parliament the committee's deliberations.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Member for Maiwar, I was distracted at the time and I did not hear what you said. If it is the case that you are referring to confidential deliberations of the committee, I caution you about reflecting on those in public.

Mr BERKMAN: The program and the witness lists are a matter of public record, so I will leave it at that. Despite the short title of this bill, the actual amendments do not specifically target or even mention anti-Semitism. The word does not appear in the bill beyond the short title. The only proposal that has been explicitly linked to 'fighting anti-Semitism' is the government's pro-Palestinian expressions. These are expressions used in response to the actions of the State of Israel but not Jewish or Israeli people as a protected group. They are certainly not a call, as some members have brazenly claimed, to abolish the State of Israel. Jews for Justice in their submission made a really important point. They stated—

By conflating Judaism and Zionism, the Bill dangerously positions Israel as a representative of Jews. This risks linking the political and military actions of Israel with those of Jewish faith. Israel is accused of war crimes and genocide, of which the Australian public are outraged, as evidenced by consistent and large public protests. By conflating Judaism and Zionism, the Queensland government risks feeding a false narrative that Jewish people in Australia are responsible for Israel's actions.

That was from Jews for Justice's submission. We did not hear from them at the public hearing.

Turning to the banned phrases, these are incredibly harsh penalties. Two years imprisonment for using a word in a way that might offend is extraordinary. There is no requirement to actually cause offence. The mere expectation of offence is enough. Bear in mind that just last sitting week we removed voting rights for people who have been in prison for longer than a year, so we are also potentially stripping voting rights away from people.

I will go to the phrases themselves, firstly 'from the river to the sea'. If we had heard from Justice for Palestine, they could have gone into more detail. They said in their submission the term is used—

... to advocate for the equality of all people living in the geographical area of the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. It is a call for freedom from apartheid, freedom from occupation and freedom from oppression.

I want to make the point as well that the original platform for the Likud party, the current ruling party in the State of Israel, has in its first paragraph these words 'between the sea and the Jordan there will only be Israeli sovereignty'. One reference to the land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea is hate speech and another one is not. Why is that? The answer is simple. It is because of what follows in the regularly used chant that the government takes issue with: 'Palestine will be free'. We can hear it out the front now. That is the sentiment that this bill targets, a refusal to engage with the fight for Palestinian liberation.

'Globalise the intifada' is not a chant that I have even heard at any of the pro-Palestine rallies I have been to. Again, the Jewish Council of Australia offered a more nuanced perspective on this expression in its submission. It states—

Much like English translation 'uprising' or 'revolution', the term 'intifada' has been associated with violent and non-violent actions depending on the context, meaning that the violent association is merely one interpretation and not the word's inherent or exclusive meaning.

Again, the point made by our esteemed chair in the committee was that phrases mean different things to different people.

In terms of the laws in practice, the explanatory notes make clear that they will be used to ban certain phrases and it is intended that they be applied to the use of chants or placards at a protest. This bill is about cracking down on protests. Yes, there is a defence that the conduct is for the purpose of a genuine political or other genuine public dispute or issue carried on in the public interest, but the onus is on the defendant. You can still be arrested for simply showing up, irrespective of your meaning or your intent. How will they work in practice? They are clearly targeted towards pro-Palestine demonstrations, attempting to silence literally tens of thousands of Queenslanders who have taken to the streets to call for an end to the Israeli state's genocide in Gaza. This is a genocide that has been acknowledged; it has been recognised by the UN Human Rights Council.

Police suggested at the briefing that they will not be conducting mass arrests. Instead, they would choose their mark and choose their moment. That is a concerning discretion that is left in the hands of police to target protesters. Will they simply identify the organisers who represent most of the threat and those are the marks they will identify? Again, it seems the main objective here is to put fear into the hearts of protesters and to drag us back to the bad old days of police crackdowns on protests. I say to the tens of thousands of Queenslanders who have taken to the streets: you have a right to peacefully protest and express your political views. Your conduct at the protests calling for a free Palestine cannot reasonably be expected to make someone feel menaced or harassed or offended—and some people are offended by the very existence of the practice of protest. Our right to public assembly and protest is fundamental in a democracy here and anywhere in the world.

I think a lot of people might have missed this detail, but I turn to the banned symbols changes in the bill. An explicit list of banned symbols exists at the moment, but this bill now proposes to fundamentally change that so that symbols that are used by a proscribed organisation or a member of a proscribed organisation to identify that organisation will now be punishable by two years imprisonment. We do not even know what the symbols are. There is no list of banned symbols; we are just supposed to know. We are presumed to know. There is nothing stopping a terrorist group from coopting symbols, as we heard from Mr Trad from the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils. Others have spoken about the way ISIS has hijacked the Shahada, which is one of the five pillars of Islam. It appears on the ISIS flag. Are people simply supposed to know that that is the case if a similar symbol is coopted? I am going to table a document prepared by the Combat Antisemitism Movement following a summit held on the Gold Coast last year which purports to list a variety of anti-Semitic symbols and phrases.

Tabled paper: Report of the Antisemitism Research Center by Combat Antisemitism Movement, titled 'Antisemitic Symbols Since October 7', dated February 2025 [257].

It includes the timeout hand symbol, keffiyeh scarves, the words 'free Palestine'—to simply say 'free Palestine' is somehow anti-Semitic—and the watermelon. Images of a watermelon are claimed to be anti-Semitic. Maybe honourable members have never said the words 'from the river to the sea', but just pause and think: where does it go next? What is next?

There is not enough time for me to go through the provisions relating to the guns changes, though I might like to. To sum up, this is a bill from politicians who want to look like they are doing something. However, banning words does not make anyone safer. It is just straight-up authoritarianism. You cannot legislate away hatred or discrimination. You certainly do not fight anti-Semitism by conflating the genocidal Israeli state with Jewish people. Please, I beg of Labor members: do not support this. We will not support a bill that purports to tell us what these words mean. They are a call for peace, equality and freedom from oppression and violence.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): The member for Maiwar's time—

Mr BERKMAN: From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maiwar, your time has expired. Take your seat.

 **Mr VORSTER** (Burleigh—LNP) (5.57 pm): I must say, the debate so far has been quite extraordinary to view from this side. I have been absolutely confronted by the mealy-mouthed contribution of those on the opposition benches and quite aghast at the contribution of the member for Maiwar. That is because the events of 14 December that forever changed Australia did not happen in a vacuum and did not happen in a moment but have been the culmination of centuries and centuries of persecution and cultural rot. Up until very recently we have been able to push back against it, defend against it in this nation, but unfortunately we have seen it come to our shores. At a moment when Australia should demonstrate absolute moral clarity, we have had, as I said, a mealy-mouthed, tepid response from the opposition and outright ambivalence from the Greens political party.

Mr Berkman: It is not ambivalence; it is opposition to bad law, to pathetic law. You claim to stand up for free speech and this is what you have come up with.

Mr VORSTER: I am not taking these interjections from the Greens political party.

Mr Berkman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Member for Maiwar, I have already had a crack at you. If you interrupt proceedings again, you will be warned under the standing orders.

Mr VORSTER: The reason I am so concerned by the response from the opposition and the Greens political party is because they are not demonstrating leadership at a time when leadership is required, because here in Queensland we have a very rare opportunity, and that is to send a very powerful legislative and cultural signal that we will not tolerate anti-Semitism—

Mr Berkman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Maiwar will cease his interjections. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr VORSTER: In order to stamp out anti-Semitism and demonstrate that leadership, we need leaders who are prepared to speak truth into the moment. The truth of the matter is that for far too long the Jewish population in Australia has had to put up with not only a subversive backgrounding of its right to exist but now outright, brazen, open political protest that challenges its place not in society but

even in the human race. I implore those opposite to drop their language—to drop their tone—to reflect on the moment and decide to recommit themselves to a pluralistic Queensland where every culture, where every community group, where every Queenslander has the right to exist, and they can do so by backing in these laws because what these laws will do is protect those who wish to express their faith. It will protect those who wish to worship in churches, in mosques and at temples. By supporting these laws, not only will they be extending an olive branch to a Jewish community that has felt absolutely abandoned; they will be protecting other minorities in Queensland and ensuring that they, too, will be able to express themselves through their worship and their gathering.

I want to make the point that, although the Jewish community has been confronted by scenes in New South Wales at Bondi, the truth of the matter is that it has been confronted by aggression right across the state of Queensland as well and in particular in my community, and that is why I am so motivated to make a contribution today. One incident I want to reflect on very briefly concerns an anti-Semitic attack in the northern part of my electorate. What happened is that I was driving my kids to school one day crossing over the Pacific Motorway. Crossing the motorway I looked to the left, as I always do, to appreciate the exquisite mural to our Anzacs who defended freedoms in the First World War, a mural which had been there for maybe 15 or 20 years, something that I always stopped to look at and appreciate—an act of remembrance, as it were, on my daily commute—and scrawled atop the mural was an anti-Semitic attack with large letters defacing a mural to our diggers. I reflected on that and thought to myself, 'When those who would deny the right for a Jewish Australian to exist would be as brazen as to cover up a mural of our diggers, what that tells me is that anti-Semitism is wholly un-Australian. When we tolerate a group of people calling for the extinction of another, we are giving tacit permission to those people to erase Australia itself.'

Mr Berkman interjected.

Mr VORSTER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I am not taking interjections.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maiwar, you have had a really good go. You have been warned under the standing orders. You will leave the chamber now for one hour under standing order 253A.

Whereupon the honourable member for Maiwar withdrew from the chamber at 6.04 pm.

Mr VORSTER: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for protecting not only myself but also the memory of our Anzacs. The attack on our Jewish community is an attack on Australian values, and I have seen those who would attack the Jewish community attack the freedoms that our Anzacs had fought for. Another incident occurred just in the last 24 hours where under the very beautiful Tallebudgera and Currumbin bridges we had another vicious graffiti attack with a Nazi swastika graffitied along a very popular path and in large green writing the words, 'I hate Jews'. I share these examples not to glorify them or to elevate these vicious attacks but merely to make the point that, although the high-profile events that unfolded at Bondi have driven this response and demanded our action at this time, by supporting this legislation we have an opportunity to stamp out the microaggressions against our beloved Jewish communities across every community in Queensland, which is why these laws have earned my utmost support.

I want to close by acknowledging the leadership that the Jewish community has demonstrated during this very difficult season. I want to thank Jason Steinberg for his work, his advocacy and his counsel, but on the Gold Coast I would like to acknowledge the support provided by Rabbi Nir Gurevitch, Rabbi Adi Cohen and Rabbi Mosheh Serebryanski. These three gentlemen provided an incredible amount of pastoral care to their community over the last little while since 7 October and since Bondi. They have been calm and they have been circumspect; they have stitched together a community under significant pressure. I have absolutely lent on their advice—their counsel—informing my view to support this legislation and I want to thank them.

I also want to briefly speak into the record the story of John Leff, a dear friend of mine and a friend to the member for Mermaid Beach as well. John was a survivor of the Holocaust. He came to Australia thinking that his entire family had been lost during the Holocaust—wiped from existence—and a few years ago his daughter gave him the gift of a genetic test and, would you believe, he found a living relative in Canada. When they finally connected, this group of relatives said, 'John, can you please tell us who this lost family member is? We have this photograph of him sitting on the piano.' This young boy was John. John was not alone this whole time, but he had been separated from family who could have supported him. I just think of all of those Jewish families who were torn apart and we must do what we can to support them.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (6.08 pm): What happened at Bondi in New South Wales on 14 December 2025 was a complete national tragedy. It was an act of hate, an act of violence and an act of vile anti-Semitism. It is difficult to truly comprehend the lifelong trauma and pain that this hideous act has caused the families, friends and communities of those victims of this vile attack and every day since all Australians have grieved with the Australian and Queensland Jewish community. I want to talk about the process that has led to this bill being before the House since that tragedy. After the tragedy, the Labor opposition wrote to the government prior to Christmas offering our support in a bipartisan manner to develop a strong bill. Unfortunately, the Crisafulli government ignored this offer, and that has been contemplated and ventilated by other speakers prior to me.

The Crisafulli government at the same time has indefinitely delayed the strong anti-discrimination laws that were properly consulted on and went through a full committee process, a full public consultation process, and were debated fulsomely in this House. The laws that I am referring to are the respect-at-work laws. In comparison, the bill that is before the House now was very hastily drafted and had only 17 days of public examination. What has come before us is a bill that is very flawed. I am going to speak about some of the ways it is flawed, starting with the clauses that deal with hate speech.

Let me say that hate speech of any kind is not tolerated in Queensland or, indeed, in any modern society and it is right that there are protections for those who would be targeted by these kinds of threatening and violent acts. On this side of the House, our history shows that we support sensible, well-considered and strong laws that actually protect Queenslanders against hate. It was Labor who introduced the Anti-Discrimination Act and tough consequences for serious vilification. I note that the Queensland Law Society stated in their submission to this bill—

As stated at the outset, there are existing offences that we say are broad enough to capture the conduct contemplated by this Bill.

Further—

The Society calls for the implementation of changes to Queensland's anti-discrimination laws contemplated by the Respect at Work and Other Matters Amendment Act 2024 ...

The Queensland Council of Unions stated in their submission—

These are proactive protections Queenslanders would benefit from today had the Respect at Work reforms not been indefinitely paused by the Crisafulli Government. They complement the reforms in the Bill and should commence without delay.

The Bar Association of Queensland made this point in their submission—

- the proposed offence is arguably unnecessary given existing offences and legislative prohibitions at both State and Commonwealth levels.

This goes to show that there are a range of stakeholders that are of the very strong view that existing laws in Queensland provide the protections that people who would be the targets of hate speech can rely on. What is concerning, and where I think the line needs to be drawn, is extreme laws that were originally drafted to give one politician the power to criminalise phrases without debate, parliamentary oversight or, indeed, explanation. In that sense, the bill that has been introduced into this House might more properly be called 'the criminalising free speech bill'. The original bill goes too far. It is a disturbing pattern of behaviour. We have already seen an act of gagging free speech in this parliament from the Premier and now we seem to have his government going further with this bill. A number of submitters have raised very serious concerns with respect to this exact point. The Archdiocese of Brisbane stated in their submission—

Given that speech is a core civil liberty, the criminalisation of expression represents one of the most serious forms of state intervention.

The Anglican Church of Southern Queensland stated—

It is highly problematic and concerning that Premier David Crisafulli and Attorney General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity Deb Frecklington have announced in a joint statement that phrases associated with the Free Palestine movement, such as "From the river to the sea [Palestine will be free]", will be prohibited, with a two-year maximum penalty imposed for "Distributing, publishing, displaying or reciting" such phrases.

The Islamic Council of Queensland in their testimony to the committee stated—

The legislation before this House attempts to solve complex social tensions. Criminalising language will not achieve this outcome. Rather, it will risk turning the political expression of law-abiding, nonviolent citizens into a crime.

The Institute of Public Affairs stated—

The bill sets a dangerous new precedent of authorising a government by declaration to outlaw words, amounting to a significant threat to freedom of speech and public debate.

The Queensland Council of Unions stated—

Queenslanders have the right to live free from hate and violence. They also have the right to speak, protest, and advocate without fear of arbitrary criminalisation. This Bill undermines that balance.

For a party that calls itself 'liberal', giving a politician the most sweeping restriction-on-speech powers in the country is a very odd take on freedom. When you have the Institute of Public Affairs, the Anglican Church, the Archdiocese of Brisbane, unions, the Council for Civil Liberties and peak law bodies—hardly natural bedfellows—all raising serious concerns, you know that there are serious problems.

In the time remaining to me I want to talk about the foreshadowed amendments which still have not been circulated and cannot be examined by this House. To me, it is a very deliberate, very sneaky and very clever approach from a government that is led by a sneaky and clever politician. Those amendments have only come about because the Premier has lost control of his party room. We know that there were backbenchers in the government who were set to cross the floor this week to vote against the Premier's gag on freedom.

Government members interjected.

Mr McCALLUM: They can have a little laugh about it but it happened last sitting, didn't it? There was somebody over in the government caucus who felt so passionately about an issue of value that they crossed over, and we know that there are others who are sitting over there right now who, if they were put to the test, would have walked over. That is why we have these eleventh-hour amendments, which are not being circulated—subverting any proper process and debate. It is less calm and methodical and more chaotic and crazed. It is clear that the LNP have botched these laws. First it was abortion; now it is freedom of speech. We will always back action that protects Queensland's multicultural communities and keeps guns out of the wrong hands. What we will not do is give any attorney-general the most extreme unchecked power in the country to criminalise phrases that they decide are offensive.

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (6.18 pm): I rise to speak to the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026. The tragic and chilling event at Bondi Beach on Sunday, 14 December 2025 is irredeemably etched into our minds. Two gunmen opened fire on hundreds of community members at a Hanukkah celebration at Bondi Beach. This horrific attack resulted in the deaths of 15 innocent people including a 10-year-old child. This horrific act of terrorism is Australia's second lethal act of a mass shooting and it was a cruel and calculated act of hatred directed at our Jewish community. The Crisafulli government is resolutely committed to confronting the evils of anti-Semitism and keeping guns out of the hands of terrorists in the aftermath of the Bondi Beach terrorist attack.

One has to wonder what Queensland Labor's position is, given the member for Cairns' alleged egregious anti-Semitic conduct on his Facebook posts. Queensland Labor is yet again demonstrating their double standards in tolerating anti-Semitic conduct in the shadow cabinet yet sanctimoniously lecturing this side of the House about freedom of expression. Premier Crisafulli has publicly said, in the aftershock of the appalling attacks at Bondi Beach, that the Queensland government has been working carefully, thoughtfully and methodically to finalise its response. The Crisafulli government is taking a well-considered, proportionate and thoughtful response in making several amendments to the Criminal Code. We are taking an appropriate response in strengthening the bans on symbols of hatred, prohibiting particular expressions, protecting faith communities and creating a new offence of acts in preparation to cause death or grievous bodily harm.

The bill expands the prohibited symbols framework in chapter 7A of the Criminal Code by enabling the minister to prescribe particular classes or state sponsors of terrorism or terrorism organisations listed by an Australian government as a prescribed organisation in Queensland. The existing section 52D will continue to apply to the distribution, publication or display of a symbol of a prescribed organisation. A further element of constructive knowledge will be included where the person knew or ought reasonably to have known that the symbol was used by a prescribed organisation. A reasonable excuse defence is available in circumstances where there is a legitimate purpose or a public interest purpose pursuant to section 52D(2). The maximum penalty for the offence is 150 penalty units or two years imprisonment. The bill furthermore introduces a new section 52DA offence for a person who publicly recites, publicly distributes, publishes or publicly displays a prohibited expression. Today we are legislating as prohibited expressions 'globalise the intifada' and 'from the river to the sea'.

In Australia, the High Court has held that there is an implied constitutional right of political communication. However, this bill is appropriate, proportionate and adapted to the legitimate purpose of protecting and promoting the public safety of our Jewish and other faith communities here in Queensland. This bill will now make 'from the river to the sea' and 'globalise the intifada' prohibited expressions because they are expressions used regularly to incite discrimination, hostility or violence towards our Jewish community. A defence of reasonable excuse is available under section 52DA(2) of the Criminal Code and the maximum penalty for the offence is 150 penalty units or two years imprisonment.

The bill furthermore introduces several amendments directed at protecting our faith communities. Firstly, the bill amends section 206 of the Criminal Code to remove outdated concepts and provide for an offence that criminalises assaults on ministers of religion which hinder or prevent the minister from lawfully officiating at religious worship assemblies, religious ceremonies or performing other religious functions of their office. This bill will increase the maximum penalty from two years to five years imprisonment. Secondly, the bill amends section 207 of the Criminal Code and establishes an offence of wilfully disturbing a religious assembly or assaulting an officiant or attendee at such a gathering and includes an element of aggravation. Thirdly, the bill introduces a new offence to criminalise conduct by a person at or near a place of worship that intimidates, harasses, obstructs, hinders or prevents access to a place of worship without a reasonable excuse, and for that there is a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment. Fourthly, the bill introduces a new special case of punishment for wilful damage to premises that are a place of religious worship and that penalty will increase to seven years imprisonment. Finally, the bill introduces a new offence, modelled on section 101.6 of the Commonwealth Criminal Code, of acts in preparation to cause death or grievous bodily harm.

I now turn to some amendments to the Weapons Act. The Premier, David Crisafulli, is demonstrating strong, calm, courageous and decisive leadership in taking a practical and commonsense approach to amending the Weapons Act 1990. This is a glaring contrast to a flaccid, equivocating Queensland Labor opposition known for its prevarication. This bill is about keeping guns out of the hands of terrorists and not unduly restricting gun ownership amongst lawful Queensland gun owners. My late grandfather was a prestigious Queen's Prize shooter and coach of the Australian rifle team during the 1974 Bisley tour. My late father was a gun collector of small and long arm weapons. Our law-abiding Fraser Coast Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia, primary producers, hunters and other local pistol, rifle and shotgun shooters should not be unfairly restricted because of the cowardly acts of terrorists.

The Crisafulli government continues to take a measured approach. We are mandating Australian citizenship for firearms ownership subject to certain exceptions by amending section 10 of the Weapons Act. An Australian citizenship limitation to obtain a weapons licence will bring Queensland into alignment with the recent agreement of National Cabinet. Secondly, the bill broadens the scope of considerations by an authorised officer in ascertaining an applicant's suitability when determining if an applicant is a fit and proper person. It addresses the issue highlighted in the Queensland Court of Appeal decision in *Commissioner of Police v XPR (2025)* where the court held that authorised officers cannot consider non-recorded convictions. These amendments will rectify that anomaly. The focus is on those offences that due to their inherent nature or direct connection with other offences constitute a significant risk to community safety. These offences include prohibiting the reckless discharge of weapons towards premises, a dwelling or a vehicle and unlawful possession and distribution of blueprint material for manufacture of 3D printed firearms. The bill also amends chapter 11 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act to provide for the authorisation, conduct and monitoring of controlled operations in frustrating criminal enterprises.

In closing, I honour and pay tribute to those 15 innocent lives tragically taken on 14 December 2025 at Bondi Beach. May they rest in peace. I commend the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill to the House.

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (6.27 pm): There are likely few things that every member of this House universally agrees on, but the fact that hate, violence and discrimination has no place in our community is surely one. The events that unfolded on 14 December 2025 at Bondi Beach were a national tragedy, forever a stain on our country's history and the way that we treat one another. Fifteen innocent lives lost, families bereft and a community traumatised. Anti-Semitism has no place in Queensland, in this country or, indeed, anywhere in the world.

On 30 June 2023, as the then multicultural affairs minister, I recall officially opening the Queensland Holocaust Museum, an education centre, alongside chair of the centre and president of the Jewish Board of Deputies, Jason Steinberg. It was a solemn day, but a special day also, to honour the locally recorded stories of Holocaust survivors and their families alongside non-Jewish people who risked their lives to save Jewish people, including those awarded the prestigious Righteous Among the Nations honour. By establishing that museum and education centre, and sharing the stories of victim-survivors and their families, we have the opportunity to deeply understand a significant and tragic part of our history. I said in my comments on the day of opening that it is critical that we continue our efforts to be clear that racism and hatred have no place in Queensland so we can build a better and safer community for generations to come. But that work is far from complete. I take this opportunity to send my sincere regards to Jason and the Queensland Jewish community. I have always admired the way that Jason calmly and respectfully leads and advocates for his community and the deep and abiding resilience of the Queensland Jewish community.

The bill before us deals with several distinct and important matters: prohibiting particular expressions, weapons offences, faith-based protections—matters that deserved a consultative and measured response. This bill failed that test at the first hurdle. As the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland put so aptly—

Government has a unique responsibility to act as a stabilising force in times of social strain. The way legislation is framed, consulted on and communicated can either build calm and reinforce equal protection, or deepen uncertainty and division. In this instance, the speed and limited consultation associated with the Bill have contributed to community unease and risk undermining the very cohesion the reforms seek to strengthen.

From Multicultural Australia—

As the Queensland government works to provide an adequate response to ensure tragic events such as 14 December are not repeated, we call for a measured, consultative approach that seeks to address all forms of hatred and harm in collaboration with communities.

Multicultural Australia remains concerned that this significant legislative reform is being afforded very limited consultation time.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

 **Ms LINARD:** There are two peak multicultural bodies in Queensland and neither was shown the due respect of appropriate consultation. Countless other submissions raised the same key issues and the same concerns. This bill was hastily drafted and afforded only 17 days for examination. Submitters raised being given only six days to make a written submission, which is a totally unreasonable and unnecessary ask. When the former attorney-general, the member for Waterford, and I introduced serious vilification laws in this state to increase penalties for offences that are motivated by hatred or serious contempt, we did so after nine months of consultation and we did so with 28 multicultural leaders standing by our side. Where are those leaders today? Many of them are the very people who are now wondering why they were not consulted and raising concerns that this bill does not get right the tone and the response on such an important issue.

The LNP bill that went to the committee did not even contain the two phrases that have been the subject of so much commentary from those opposite, meaning the committee was unable to properly consider those phrases. At least 38 submissions and many more Queenslanders raised that exact issue. It is past time that the Crisafulli LNP government practise what they preach and allow proper and due process to occur. Rushing the bill and amendments in this way subverts process and subverts democracy. The proposed expressions should go back to a committee for proper scrutiny and oversight.

We support the stated intention of this bill to further curb hate speech and introduce tougher sentencing for gun violence but not at the expense of taking Queensland backwards and putting Queensland out of step with the rest of the country in respect of gun reform or by placing a potentially unconstitutional gag on freedom of speech. If this bill is truly about keeping our community safe, firstly we need to openly name the problem and call out extremism, radicalisation and those who seek to weaponise division. They do so at the expense of our community cohesion as a state and as a nation.

Secondly, before rushing to create new laws, we must enforce and implement the existing laws we have. As the Human Rights Commissioner acknowledged, stronger laws will not themselves prevent the spread of hate, division and radicalisation. Our immediate focus needs to be on making sure not only that we have the right laws in place but also that those laws are actively enforced. In this regard, there are already existing criminal and civil protections for serious vilification in Queensland under the Anti-Discrimination Act, in particular section 124A, and the Criminal Code, in particular section 52A.

These laws already enable individuals and the Queensland Police Service to take action against a person who knowingly or recklessly incites hatred towards, serious contempt for or severe ridicule of a person or group of persons on the ground of the race, religion or general identity of a person or members of a group.

In their submissions, both the Queensland Law Society and the Bar Association of Queensland stated that there are existing offences that are broad enough to capture the conduct contemplated by this bill, labelling the proposed offence unnecessary given existing offences and legislative prohibitions at both state and Commonwealth levels. If there are barriers to prosecuting conduct that falls within the realms of those existing provisions then that is what we should be discussing. That is what we should be addressing rather than rushing to legislate provisions that stakeholders have variously labelled unworkable and as not respecting the principles of necessity, legality and proportionality.

In their submission, the Queensland Law Society also rightly called for the implementation of changes to Queensland's anti-discrimination laws contemplated by the Respect at Work and Other Matters Amendment Act—reforms that are highly relevant to the core intent of this bill and were the product of a four-year community-driven process that this LNP government has paused indefinitely. It is time these provisions were allowed to operate as intended to strengthen anti-vilification and anti-discrimination protections for all Queenslanders.

The opposition supports other elements of the bill that protect religious worship. The increased penalties and new offences bring them into line with modern community standards. Queenslanders should be able to go about their lives and attend their religious services and faith-based activities without fear.

With respect to weapons reforms, we do not believe that the reforms in this bill go far enough. This is a missed opportunity to keep Queenslanders safe and, concerningly, puts Queensland out of step with the rest of the country. The Crisafulli LNP government have not implemented the agreement of National Cabinet to sign up to a national gun buyback scheme and they continue to drag their heels on implementing recommendations from the Wieambilla coroner's report. Three years on from that terrible tragedy, Queenslanders rightfully expect that the lessons learned would drive change. It is time Queensland signs up to the national gun reforms because any reduction in the number of firearms in Queensland makes our community safer.

It is time to also implement mandatory mental health checks for weapons licence holders in Queensland, as recommended by the Coroner, which will protect Queenslanders and protect our hardworking police officers on the front line. This is not about taking firearms away from law-abiding citizens; it is about keeping Queenslanders safe, which is something that this LNP government like to talk about a lot but they have failed when it comes to standing up to the gun lobby in Queensland, giving Queensland the unenviable reputation of being the weakest jurisdiction in Australia when it comes to these national gun reforms. In their submission, the Alannah & Madeline Foundation said of the changes—

We are deeply dismayed that this Bill ignores the options agreed by National Cabinet. It ignores the prioritisation of public and individual safety and the prevention of the misuse of weapons ...

The opposition stands with all Queenslanders in advocacy for stronger gun reforms and we stand united, as a Labor opposition, in condemning hatred and vilification in any form, as we always did steadfastly when in government.

 **Hon. AJ STOKER** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (7.37 pm): I reflect on the contribution of the member for Bundamba because it tells me two important things. First, his was so far from an accurate account of the government's policymaking process that it was both laughable and proof that our party room does not leak, that this team works together and that we listen to Queenslanders to get the policy right without all of the drama and intrigue those opposite seem to think is ordinary after so many years of chaos and crisis. It was such an exercise in creativity and imagination that perhaps the member for Bundamba should seek a book deal. I reckon his flair for fiction and enthusiastic storytelling, unmoored from reality, would see him create a best seller.

There have been many sensible and matter-of-fact contributions made by members on this side of the chamber and I do not intend to repeat them, other than to echo the wise contributions that have been made about the way this bill protects from violence faith leaders, whatever their religion, and allows worshipers of all kinds protection from violence and intimidation. I am grateful that, in dealing with the issue of firearms, the bill takes practical measures to keep them out of the hands of terrorists and criminals without demonising or punishing law-abiding and legitimate firearms users.

Instead, I will use part of my time to address some of the arguments Labor members have made in this debate. Labor members say that this bill outlaws phrases that should have a place in Queensland's civil discourse and that it represents an unreasonable incursion on free speech. Of course, I am quite surprised to see Labor's sudden interest in free speech as it is not something I have ever heard them express an interest in before. At both federal and state levels, I have only ever seen Labor encroach on the scope for individuals to engage in contrary thought. But hey, guys, welcome to the team! Perhaps I will send them all membership forms to join the Institute of Public Affairs, which has defended free speech so well for many years. It is a fine body and I think it would be good for them.

Free speech is very close to my heart. It is with that in mind that I note that, insofar as speech is affected by this bill, it is a very narrow change, targeting just two phrases in the legislation that are clear in their scope, abhorrent in their substance and, by now putting that into legislation, not open to expansion without scrutiny by this or any other future government. As an aside, it is pretty interesting to see the talking points of those opposite clearly instruct them to complain about the way this bill has been refined by amendments foreshadowed following the committee process. Last I checked, that is exactly what a good government does: they listen to the feedback of Queenslanders in a committee process. But I digress.

I think that, if more people knew what these phrases meant, we either would not be having this debate or we would pour scorn on those who are determined to use them. So, what does 'globalise the intifada' mean? It is the reference to both the First Intifada of 1987 to 1993 and the Second Intifada from 2000 to 2005 in which those who do not believe the Jewish people deserve to live in their ancestral home, where they coexist with others of different ethnicities and faiths, engaged in violent attacks against the Jewish. I am not talking about a little protest here, especially in the Second Intifada. It was horrifically violent, characterised by suicide bombings and armed attacks of a military quality. It took a military response to bring it to an end, resulting in many deaths.

That phrase is a call to engage in that behaviour—suicide bombings, armed attacks—against Jewish people in Israel and all around the world, denying them sanctuary from the genocide of the 20th century in their ancestral home but also denying them that safety no matter where they live. To the Jewish people and, indeed, to many thinking people, this is just a trendy way to call for a global Jewish genocide. It is repugnant and it has no place in Australia.

I wish those opposite would not equivocate when it comes to the basic right of safety for Jewish people, indeed all people, to live in safety and freedom in this community. Jewish leaders have articulated clearly and calmly the way in which this phrase harms them. First, it is an incitement to violence. By portraying the intifada as a form of legitimate resistance, it encourages a culture of violence against Jews being acceptable. The framing normalises hostility and physical attacks on Jewish individuals and communities. It demonises Israel, fostering anti-Semitic sentiments by portraying Jews as oppressors and creating a dangerous environment for them globally. It normalises anti-Semitic rhetoric in mainstream discourse, leading to a wider acceptance of anti-Jewish attitudes. When we think of the broad arc of history, anti-Semitism has often been dressed up as a political movement, even starting out like the one we have heard protesting outside tonight. Those tactics are part of a longstanding pattern of scapegoating Jews in times of conflict or hardship. We have seen this story before, and it is a big source of anxiety for our Jewish community. They have seen how tolerating anti-Semitism ends, and we owe it to them and to our whole community not to repeat the errors of the past.

After the Holocaust the world said, 'Never again.' Never again really is now. Likewise, a call for the elimination of the Jewish people 'from the river to the sea' is at best a claim that Jewish people should not have the right to self-determination that is available to the rest of us and at worse a call for their removal by force from the region, including by genocide. This is not a mild or merely political phrase. It is repugnant normalising of the hate that runs so deep in violent parts of the world and that we must not normalise here.

Those opposite have tried to characterise the protection of our community from the hate and violence that these two phrases call for as some sort of a vague protection against subjective feelings, but in fact the drafting is quite different. It does not impose a subjective approach and it is not based on how one individual feels. It is anchored on an objective assessment of its effect on a reasonable person, measured at a high level of intensity. It has guardrails to ensure it does not stifle legitimate debate in the public interest or interfere with genuine religious, educational, historic or artistic purposes, although remind me not to book in for that art show.

Just about every member opposite has started their speech with an expression of regret and sadness about the terrorist attack in Bondi, but, in effect, every single one of them has followed it with a big 'but'. They say 'but'. Here is the real 'but': you cannot have your cake and eat it too. You cannot claim to stand against anti-Semitism while pandering to those who call for the elimination of the Jewish people whatever political narrative they try to dress it up in. You cannot claim to respect our Jewish Queenslanders who live in fear, reinforced even around a week ago as the Brisbane Synagogue was ram raided, while simultaneously indulging the ugliest elements of their local oppressors.

I am appalled by the rise in anti-Semitism in this country. We see it large when the horrors of Bondi bring it into relief, even for those who do not normally think about this subject. But I also see it every day in small ways. I have a friend, a strong and accomplished businesswoman—I will not name her—older than I am, but still healthy, smart, independent. When she and I met she lived alone, but confidently lived an active social life. However, in the time since 7 October I have seen the way that fear has crept into her every day. When hateful anti-Jewish expressions were graffitied on the footpath in Wynnum, as attacks on the street became more likely, as they culminated in Bondi and were followed by the ram raid, I have seen her anxiety become a prison and her life become confined. She should be enjoying the fun years of her retirement, but she is increasingly frightened, and she is not heard like some of the lobby groups in parliamentary committees or over the obnoxious shouting of those who normalise violence against people like her. She deserves better. She deserves a parliament that will protect her and reprimand those who call for the destruction of her and people like her. But all Queenslanders deserve better. If the mob out there can target Jews and justify it with a little moral relativism, they could come for you next. This is our chance to deliver on an important promise. Never again. I commend the bill.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (7.46 pm): We debate this bill in the shadow of an atrocity. At a celebration in Bondi 15 innocent people were murdered, families were shattered and a community was traumatised. Jewish Australians, including Jewish Queenslanders, felt something in the aftermath of Bondi that no Australian should ever feel when they gather in prayer or celebration—fear. Every person in this state deserves to feel safe in their place of worship, safe celebrating their culture, safe walking down the street while wearing symbols of their faith, safe practising their religion, and that right is absolute. The question before this House is not whether we act against hate. The question is whether the provisions in this bill will actually achieve that aim, and many question whether that is the case.

I want to begin by commending the government for bringing a bill forward and for wanting to respond to an awful and confronting tragedy. Governments have a responsibility to confront anti-Semitism, just as it must confront Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian racism, anti-black racism, anti-Asian racism, ableism, sexism—every form of hatred that fractures our communities and undermines social cohesion.

How we confront hate matters, which brings me to the tone of this debate. The contributions today from some members, including ministers, have been hostile, inflammatory and divisive. Members opposite are no longer in opposition; they are now the government, and with that comes a responsibility not just for the content of legislation but for its tone. Leadership in moments like these does not include inflaming fear or drawing political battlelines through communities that are already hurting. It is about being calm and about care and restraint. The Jewish Council of Australia put it far better than I could when they said—

Jewish safety is not strengthened by rushed political deals or parliamentary chaos. It is strengthened by calm, consistent measures to combat anti-Semitism and by protecting all communities from racism and violence, including Muslims, Palestinians and migrant Australians who are also being unfairly targeted in the wake of this tragedy.

That is a plea for unity and we have to reflect on that in this chamber.

I want to talk about process. This bill was drafted with almost no consultation prior to its introduction. The committee process lasted just 17 days. Submissions were open for just one week, and key witnesses who disagreed with the government's views were coincidentally left off the public hearing's list. This is not the process Queenslanders expect for legislation that fundamentally alters criminal law, freedom of expression that all Queenslanders cherish and the balance of power between parliament and the executive.

I contrast this process with the one the parliament undertook in 2022 when the then Labor government commenced the hate crimes and serious vilification inquiry. I was personally involved in that committee. I found it to be one of the most rewarding inquiries I have been on, which is a testament

to the then chair, the member for Toohey. We took nine months. We partnered with Multicultural Affairs Queensland to engage with difficult-to-reach communities and received over 1,000 submissions from a range of stakeholders, including Jewish and Muslim communities across the state.

That work produced 17 recommendations, including leading the nation in establishing a criminal offence for displaying the Nazi symbol. We recommended taking serious vilification and hate crimes out of the Anti-Discrimination Act and putting them into the Criminal Code to reflect the serious nature of hate crimes, and we increased sentencing where offending was motivated by hatred. By comparison, this bill is rushed and, according to submitters, will not materially make Jewish people any safer.

The original bill makes no explicit reference to anti-Semitism at all. Instead, it creates a framework that enables the Attorney-General to criminalise speech—not just speech that incites violence, which is the traditional and well-understood threshold, but speech that simply offends. That is a huge shift. It gives the Attorney-General unilateral power to determine which words or phrases attract criminal penalties without parliamentary scrutiny or community consultation.

I can think of a lot of phrases and words which are deeply misogynistic that are routinely used to intimidate, threaten and offend women. 'Offence' is the operative word, because under this bill a word or phrase has to merely cause offence to attract a two-year prison sentence. When you couple the offensive nature of misogynistic terms, for example, with the unbearable reality that a woman is killed as a result of male violence every week in Australia, the case for the criminalisation of those hostile words is set out. I look forward to a future under this bill where a man who calls a woman a dog, for example—or worse—could face criminal consequences, potentially up to two years imprisonment. That is what this bill, as put to the committee, allows for.

Many submitters urged caution, including Jewish organisations themselves. The Jewish Council of Australia recommended that the provisions relating to the proscribed phrases be removed from the bill. Jewish Voices of Hope told the committee that, while they reject anti-Semitism, the new offence risks overreach and could chill lawful political expression. Faith leaders told us that criminalising language will not resolve complex social tensions; it will embed it. These are not fringe or radical voices; these are thoughtful members of our community asking us to pause, to reflect and to get this right for everybody's sake. Instead of taking that time or working in a comprehensive and bipartisan way, the Attorney-General has today moved a raft of amendments. The legislation was rushed and today requires fixing. That type of behaviour does not instil confidence.

There have been claims in this debate that Labor has done nothing to protect vulnerable communities. I reject those propositions. It was a Labor government that introduced the Racial Discrimination Act, the Sex Discrimination Act, the Disability Discrimination Act and the Age Discrimination Act. It was a Labor government that introduced Queensland's Anti-Discrimination Act and Queensland's Human Rights Act. In its last term, the former Labor government undertook the hate crimes and vilification reforms, strengthening the legislative framework, and moved hate crimes out of the ADA and into the Criminal Code. It also undertook four years of consultation on the respect-at-work reforms, which would have introduced a positive duty of care on employers to prevent discrimination and vilification and not just respond after harm occurs. One of the first actions of the LNP government after it was elected was to indefinitely pause that bill.

Finally, I remind the House that legislation alone is a blunt instrument. Despite the strengthened framework introduced by us in 2023, only a small number of prosecutions have been initiated. That tells us that law reform in its own right is not enough. We need additional education for police and prosecutors. We need resourcing for community organisations, including those supporting Jewish Queenslanders. We need funding and support for individuals to pursue complaints and prosecutions, including through Legal Aid Queensland. These were core recommendations of the 2023 inquiry into vilification and hate crimes, and these recommendations remain outstanding still under this government.

Last month I asked the Attorney-General by way of a question on notice whether the Crisafulli government remains committed to implementing those recommendations and what the timeframe would be for those. I have not received an answer, but I look forward to receiving one. It is those recommendations, formed after nine months of deep consultation with all multicultural communities, that will make a material difference to the safety of Jewish families in Queensland, in fact to all Queenslanders facing vilification. If we are serious about combating hate, we have to park the chaos, park the division and prioritise careful lawmaking over rushed politics.

Anti-Semitism is real and we have to confront it. Communities have told us that it is not defeated by prohibiting political speech, nor by treating disagreement with the policies of the modern Netanyahu government as synonymous with anti-Semitism. I join with the Jewish Council of Australia in cautioning against definitions or approaches that categorise Palestinian political expression as inherently anti-Semitic because doing so risks undermining both democratic debate and the fight against genuine hatred. When governments respond to fear with blunt legal force, they do not calm communities; they risk amplifying resentment and fracturing trust. I am deeply concerned that aspects of this bill could do exactly that.

 **Mr G KELLY** (Mirani—LNP) (7.55 pm): I rise to speak on the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026. Sunday, 14 December 2025 was a dark day for our nation. It was a day of grief and a day of trauma—a day that will stay with all Jewish and Australian communities forever. Two gunmen opened fire on a Jewish community celebration on Bondi Beach. This horrific attack claimed the lives of 15 innocent people. This was an act of hatred. Anti-Semitism was at its core. My heart goes out to every family who lost a loved one. No words can undo that pain, and no words can truly describe the fear and trauma that day caused the Jewish community right across Australia.

When something like this happens, governments have a responsibility not to chase headlines and not to react in panic but to look at what failed and fix it properly. That is what this bill does. The root cause of this attack was anti-Semitism, so we are acting on hate. We are banning the public display of hate symbols. We are strengthening laws against inciting violence and hate. We are protecting vulnerable communities.

Queenslanders come from many backgrounds. We have different stories, different beliefs and different upbringings, but we stand together. There is no place in Queensland—or Australia—for hatred based on who you are, where you come from or what you believe in. After this horrific attack, we saw other state governments and the federal government rush to blame guns alone. The truth is that there were system failures—serious failures that allowed someone to access firearms when they should never have been able to. That is what we are fixing, because in regional Queensland firearms are not political props.

I am proud to stand here today as a strong voice for my electorate of Mirani. Mirani is one of Queensland's largest regional electorates and it is built on agriculture, grazing and primary production. A significant proportion of our community are farmers and graziers and firearms are an essential tool of their trade. As a primary producer myself, I use firearms for feral pest management and understand firsthand why they matter.

I speak to farmers every day. They face many challenges, and many of those challenges are pest related. Across Queensland, pest animals cost agriculture tens of millions of dollars every year. In an electorate like Mirani, which is built on beef and sugar, those costs are felt directly by our producers. Feral pests eat the grass meant for livestock. Farmers lose stock to wild dogs. Feral pigs smash through fences and destroy crops. Without effective pest control food production suffers and my good friend and neighbour the member for Rockhampton would struggle to proudly call Rockhampton the beef capital of Australia. However, it is not just cattle producers. Our sugarcane growers across the Pioneer Valley and Plane Creek districts rely on pest control to protect their crops as well. When pests damage cane, yield drops. When yields drop, families and local mills feel it. Agriculture is the backbone of our region—from beef to sugar—and practical tools matter.

It is not just farmers I am standing up for. In Mirani we have seven gun clubs and ranges across the electorate. These are responsible, licensed shooters—people who follow the law, people who respect safety. As chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Shooters, I regularly engage with sporting shooters and firearm owners right across Queensland. I hear directly from them about safety, responsibility and the importance of getting the balance right.

For many, going to the range is a way to unwind. It is a social outlet. It is a sport that requires discipline, skill and respect for strict rules—and those rules are strict. To hold a gun licence in Queensland you must pass police background checks. You must store firearms safely. You can be subject to inspections. If you commit an offence, like drink-driving, you can lose your licence.

Gun owners understand their responsibilities and they take them very seriously. As a government we understand the conditions already placed on gun owners. We know Queensland has strict checks in place to ensure licence holders are fit and proper persons. We know how easily a licence can be lost. That is why this bill goes to the heart of the failures that could have prevented that tragic attack in Bondi.

We are not punishing law-abiding Queenslanders. We are not targeting farmers or sporting shooters. We are not taking tools away from people who did nothing wrong. We are fixing the real gaps. This bill increases penalties for unlawful possession of weapons. It increases penalties for unlawful supply and trafficking of weapons. It increases penalties for unlawful modification of firearms. It increases penalties for stealing firearms. It restricts firearm ownership by non citizens except in limited circumstances. It bans possession of blueprints for 3D printed guns. Importantly, it strengthens intelligence-sharing arrangements with our national security agencies, including the Australian Defence Force, to ensure police have the information they need to stop firearms falling into the wrong hands.

This is the key difference. This bill focuses on prevention. It focuses on intelligence. It focuses on stopping criminals and extremists before tragedy strikes. We are not going for headlines. We are going for outcomes. The Crisafulli government is committed to making Queenslanders safe. We are targeting criminals. We are targeting hate. We are fixing system failures, and we are doing it without punishing responsible Queenslanders who rely on firearms as tools for work or sport.

This bill shows that we can be strong on community safety while still respecting regional Queensland and the people who live there. It is deliberate. It is targeted. It addresses the real cause of what happened at Bondi. We are doing it the Queensland way. I am proud to stand here today and represent the voices of the farmers and sporting shooters in my electorate in support of this bill. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (8.03 pm): Givat Zion, the South Brisbane Hebrew Congregation, has been part of our community for over 110 years. It started in Buranda and moved to its current site in Bunya Street in Greenslopes 50 years ago. It is an orthodox community, so many members of the community choose to live within walking distance of the synagogue so they can observe the Sabbath in an appropriate manner. I have come to know a lot of people who attend this synagogue as they have walked past my house every week for the last 30 years. The people in this community attend our schools, work in local businesses and hospitals, volunteer in local organisations, play sport in community clubs and some have become friends. Of course, like all members of my community and all members of Labor, I was deeply shocked and saddened by the attack in Bondi and I offer my sincere condolences to the family and friends of the victims.

The Holland Park Mosque is nearly 120 years old and it is in our community. I will be heading there on Friday night to celebrate a community iftar. This time last year I was there with members of the community distributing meals to people who had lost power due to ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred. Much like the people who attend the synagogue, the people who attend the mosque attend our schools, work in local businesses, volunteer in local organisations and play sport. Some of them have also become my friends. When the 7 October attacks occurred I contacted synagogue president Gary Goldman and the mosque's Imam Uzair to offer my support to them and their communities in what I knew would be extremely difficult times for both communities. I consider them both to be great leaders in our community and I have a great relationship with them built over many years.

I spent time with the imam and his community after the Christchurch massacre and when there were racist attacks directly on the Holland Park Mosque, and I am pleased to see the changes in this bill around better protections for places of religious worship because the mosque has been attacked on several occasions. I reached out to Gary and attended the Greenslopes Hanukkah after the terrible attacks in Bondi. While these sad occasions for me to have contacted them have been all too frequent over the years, fortunately both communities also invite me to share many happy celebrations with them, and I know they extend that invitation to other members in the community as well.

I particularly want to acknowledge the women of these communities with a special mention of my friends Janeth Deen and Heather Abramson, who have worked with many others to foster interfaith dialogue not just between these two communities but between all faith communities. We are a community of peace and tolerance. Baptists, Roman Catholics, Maronites, Anglicans, Uniting Church, Methodists, Buddhists, Seventh-day Adventists and even Antiochian Orthodox Christians call our community home. Of course, there are many who profess no faith.

Our community strives for cohesion. We see diversity as a strength and our differences enrich us. This bill is an attempt, albeit a poor one, to continue to promote social harmony. I am certainly not alone in working with my community to promote harmony. All Labor MPs do this, and I note the efforts of many—the members for Jordan, Inala, Sandgate, Woodridge, Algester, Stretton and Toohey, just to name a few. All of the members in the House here tonight I would add to that list.

I find it surprising that anybody would have the lack of dignity to stand in this chamber and suggest that any MP has a monopoly on concern around the terrible events of 14 December and, for any second, suggest that any MP in this House is not completely appalled and repulsed by all forms of anti-Semitism. I find it astonishing that the member for Burleigh stands in this House hurling insults at Labor members, applying all sorts of offensive labels and then has the audacity to appeal to everyone to tone it down and be more civil. I find a deep irony in being labelled anti-Semitic by speaker after speaker in this debate for apparently not doing enough to support Australians who are Jewish by a party that remained completely silent when the March for Australia rallies were occurring.

I want to return to this bill. This process has been rushed. Like many of the things that this government has done, it has been far from calm and methodical. Labor offered to work in a bipartisan way to get the best possible legislation on the table to deal with these issues. Instead the Premier chose to rush ahead, which is why we ended up with submitter after submitter raising concerns about concentrating the power in the hands of one individual to ban words and phrases.

The Labor opposition pointed out the issues with this approach in their excellent statement of reservation. Thanks to pressure from the community and Labor, the Attorney-General, it seems at the eleventh hour, has abandoned this, although I have to note that the so-called amendments that are apparently out there have not been tabled. We have not had the opportunity to see them, so really we do not actually know what we are debating. It could be a complete sham and it might not happen at all, but I am going to look on the bright side and hope that finally the Attorney-General has conceded that she got it wrong.

It is a shame the Attorney-General and the Premier cannot admit that they got it wrong when they paused aspects of the respect-at-work bill, a bill developed after many years of community consultation. Perhaps that is why the Queensland Law Society noted that the respect-at-work bill already contemplated many of the changes in this bill and was on track to strengthen and harmonise anti-discrimination and anti-vilification regimes—something they have been calling on for many years.

Labor introduced laws where you can ban swastikas and other offensive symbols that incite hate speech and hatred. You can also add more because, as we know, culture is not static. For example, the letter 'Z' used in certain contexts has the same impact on Ukrainian people as several of the slogans foreshadowed in this bill have on members of the Jewish community. Unfortunately, the use of that letter has become more prevalent since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia. It is imperative that we get the balance right between maintaining people's freedom of political expression and protecting people's safety in our community. I am not sure this bill has struck the right balance. It seems to be something that many of the submitters have raised as a deep concern. Many people in my community have contacted me directly and raised concerns about that very point.

If the Premier and Attorney-General had been serious about getting this right, had taken their time and consulted with the community and listened to their views, if they had looked at the good legislation Labor had already passed that has not been challenged in the High Court, perhaps we could have come up with a much better bill. If they had looked at the inquiry into the Wieambilla massacre and incorporated all of those elements into the reforms, the legislation would have been better.

Last week the health minister used his power to require all healthcare professionals to report patients who may be at risk of committing violence with a weapon. I think that is what it said. This is a very broad approach and would result in a lot of wasted police resources. In my experience, health professionals encounter a lot of people who make threatening statements. In the majority of situations this is related to their illness. They are deluded, they are delirious, they are in pain and they are speaking from a sense of irrationality and frustration. The reality is that if every single one of them was referred to the police, the resources required to investigate would be immense. Perhaps a better way to do this would be to do what the inquiry recommended and consider people's mental health at the point when they are seeking a gun licence and determine if their condition would have an impact on their ability to use a weapon safely. I do want to point out that when we are talking about people with mental illness we should be very careful not to suddenly assume that every single person with a mental illness is a danger to society and cannot be trusted to fulfil all of the responsibilities of any other citizen in our society.

If this bill had not been rushed, the gun laws might have been properly developed and actually been effective. People in my community want peace and tolerance. They certainly value diversity. They want laws that support these goals. They want to know we have laws that will support the vast majority

of people who want to live in peace and harmony with their fellow Queenslanders. They want to know that all Queenslanders will be free to pursue their beliefs, be they religious beliefs, political beliefs or any other beliefs, in a fair and free manner.

I am afraid this bill has problems. I am glad we have been able to pressure the government to fix them. We have not seen the amendments, but we think we have been able to put that pressure on. The reality is that, because of its rushed nature, this bill really misses the mark. It is going to be disappointing to many people who had hoped this bill would deliver so much more.

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (8.12 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026. This bill is firmly grounded in one principle: community safety. The bill does exactly what it says. The Crisafulli government is taking clear, practical steps to fight anti-Semitism and keep guns out of the hands of terrorists and criminals. These laws are deliberate and targeted by a steady, strong, calm and methodical government, and that is what Queenslanders expect from their government. We do not legislate in anger; we do not legislate for headlines. We legislate carefully, deliberately and with one clear focus: ensuring Queenslanders can live, work, worship and raise their families without fear. I will say that again. We legislate carefully, deliberately and with one clear focus: ensuring Queenslanders can live, work, worship and raise their families without fear.

From the outset I thank the police minister and Attorney-General for bringing this bill to the House and the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee for coming to Townsville and listening directly to the voices of regional Queensland. That matters and it is reflected in their voices in this bill.

I will address the bill in two parts. The first is fighting anti-Semitism. We are debating these laws because of the atrocities that occurred on the shores of Bondi Beach on 14 December 2025. It was a deliberate anti-Semitic terrorist attack, and we must take this moment to remember the 15 innocent people who lost their lives in that horrifying attack where Jewish Australians were specifically targeted. Anti-Semitism is not just an issue for one community; it is an attack on the very fabric of our democracy. When hatred towards one group is allowed to go unchecked it erodes trust, undermines social cohesion and weakens the shared values that bind us together as Queenslanders and Australians. The embers of anti-Semitism were allowed to burn uncontrollably for too long, and that is why we are here today. That is why the Crisafulli government has acted. A witness who so bravely and powerfully spoke at the Townsville committee hearing said—

As a serving officer in the Australian Army, I have dedicated my career to defending the values that underpin our nation—fairness, safety, democracy and respect for people.

...

Freedom of expression is a core Australian value, but it is not a blank cheque to intimidate, vilify or endorse organisations responsible for terrorism.

This bill also strengthens bans on hate symbols and ensures Queensland's prohibited symbols framework can apply to terrorist organisations and state sponsors of terrorism that are already listed under the Commonwealth Criminal Code. That matters because it ensures our laws stay current, consistent and capable of responding to evolving threats while remaining grounded in established national definitions and processes.

Importantly, there are safeguards. Prosecutors must prove that a person knew or ought reasonably to have known that a symbol identifies a prescribed terrorist organisation. This ensures we are targeting deliberate conduct, not innocent or unintentional behaviour. We are also increasing penalties for displaying prohibited symbols from six months to two years imprisonment because symbols are not harmless. They intimidate, they incite and they embolden extremist ideologies.

The bill also introduces a new offence for the public recitation or display of specific prohibited expressions that, in the context of recent events, have been used to menace and harass Jewish Australians. Let me be clear: this is not about stifling legitimate debate. It is not about silencing academic, artistic or religious discussion. The offence only applies where the conduct could reasonably be expected to make a reasonable member of the public feel menaced, harassed or seriously offended. Courts will determine that threshold. Reasonable excuses are preserved. Our government has listened to concerns during the parliamentary process, and that is why these expressions are included directly in legislation—not left to regulation—ensuring full parliamentary scrutiny. When hateful narratives are allowed to circulate unchecked, rhetoric can escalate into violence. We saw that in Bondi and we cannot ignore that lesson.

This bill modernises and strengthens protections for places of religious worship. We are increasing penalties for assaulting or threatening ministers of religion from two years to five years imprisonment. We are introducing a new offence for intimidating or obstructing people entering or leaving places of worship and we are increasing penalties for wilful damage to religious premises. Let me be clear: these protections apply to all religions. Queenslanders of every faith or of no faith have the right to practise their beliefs free from fear.

This bill also creates a new offence of capturing acts done in preparation to cause death or grievous bodily harm. There has been a legislative gap. Individuals preparing for serious acts of violence but who did not fit terrorism definitions have fallen through the cracks. This offence closes those gaps. As a police officer in Townsville for 28 years, I know the frustration that officers feel when they see danger building but lack clear legislative tools to intervene early. This reform empowers our Queensland police officers to act before that tragedy occurs, not after.

Hundreds of firearms are stolen in Queensland each year, and 75 per cent are never recovered. Those firearms feed the illicit market and remain in circulation for decades. We are increasing the maximum penalty for stealing a firearm or ammunition from 10 years to 14 years. This sends a clear message that stealing a firearm is not a property offence; it is a threat to public safety.

We are criminalising the possession and distribution of digital blueprints used to manufacture 3D printed firearms. Eight per cent of firearms examined by the QPS last year were 3D printed. These weapons are untraceable and they often lack safety mechanisms. This is a modern crime and this bill is a modern response to that.

We are limiting weapons licences to Australian citizens residing in Queensland, with sensible exemptions for sporting and occupational needs. We are strengthening storage requirements. Timber safes are easier to breach, while steel storage reduces theft risk. There will be a 12-month transition period which is practical, fair and reasonable.

During the course of this bill, I have been contacted by many members of the Mundingburra community in relation to this bill and I want to add some of their comments to my speech. One member said—

Firearms owners in Queensland should be well pleased with the raising of this bill. We were consulted through our various sporting organisations, we were listened to, we were treated respectfully and, of particular significance, Queensland law continues to follow commonsense principles where the detrimental outcomes are for those who break the law, not for those whose lives are devoted to holding it. Thank you.

Another person said—

Congratulations to you and your government. Some common sense in the firearm debate.

Another said—

From the outset I would like to acknowledge Premier Crisafulli and his team for the balanced and respectful approach when considering how to make Queensland a respectful and a safe place to live.

We are adding new offences to the Adult Crime, Adult Time framework, because if somebody is old enough to terrorise a community with a firearm they are also old enough to face adult consequences.

This bill reflects a government that governs with resolve and responsibility. We have listened, and we have listened to regional Queensland. We have consulted. We have aligned with National Cabinet. We have ensured safeguards. We have acted. Community safety is not a slogan; it is a duty and it is a duty that this government takes seriously. Queenslanders expect strong laws. For those on this side of the House, the rights of victims will always outweigh those of offenders. Queenslanders expect clarity and consequences for actions, and this bill delivers that. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (8.22 pm): Hate speech is always unacceptable. No hate speech should ever be tolerated in a thriving democracy like ours. National protection should continue to be defended, and governments at all levels should act to do all they can to promote and protect cohesive, kind, accepting and tolerant communities.

For well over a decade, the conservative Liberal Party members of parliament have been actively chipping away, discrediting and attacking our nation's racial vilification laws under the guise of a serious threat to free speech. The last attempt, which we saw only recently, provided yet another scalp from the opposition leader in Canberra. It is surprising that we now have the LNP here in Queensland who have overreached in this respect to free speech in the extreme. It is right for the community to expect all politicians, including conservatives, to do all they can to deliver protections—real protections that matter—and use their platforms to call out racism and division.

On multiple occasions, the Labor team has come into this place and called on the LNP to take a stand around violent racist rallies happening in our streets and to demonstrate leadership. Those calls were left unanswered and Queenslanders were left wanting. We on this side of the House have also called for the LNP to act and deliver stronger community safety protections and commit to the coroner's recommendations after the Wieambilla massacre. On this, we saw no action. It is devastating that it took a national massacre to see the LNP government take action in this respect. The only action the LNP have actually taken to date is the stalling of the implementation of major Anti-Discrimination Act reforms for almost a year. These provisions would prevent harassment and protect victims of domestic violence, homeless people and more. That is the record of this government: shameful actions that leave vulnerable communities even more vulnerable.

In what utopian society does the LNP think that proposing the most extreme laws in the country—to give one politician the power to criminalise phrases without debate, oversight or explanation—is okay? Not content with already having gagged free speech here in this parliament, the LNP proposed to gag free speech anywhere in the state—only to, under mounting pressure, magnificently backflip. The nature of that backflip still remains a mystery, as the House has had no amendments tabled from the Attorney. This level of unchecked power is entirely inappropriate.

In a desperate effort to hold themselves together, the LNP have proposed to strip away freedom of speech, while not actually addressing the issue of anti-Semitism, gun violence and terrorism. That is the consensus position of the LNP. That is what it looks like: overcooked on freedom of speech and undercooked when it comes to safety protections with national buybacks and safeguards to stop guns falling into the hands of unstable people.

David Crisafulli is a clever politician, but Queenslanders have seen through this poor attempt from the LNP to act normal. After Bondi, the Leader of the Opposition wrote to the Premier offering for parliament to reconvene early—to come back in December or January and get the ball rolling on legislation. The LNP ruled this out of hand publicly. They said they would act in a calm and methodical way. They sat on their hands and delayed legislation, only to come back into this place and rush legislation through a committee process.

Mr O'Connor: Is it rushed or is it delayed? Which one is it? You said we did both.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Ms BOYD: I will take the interjections from the Minister for Housing and the Minister for Youth Justice. Through the chair, you delayed the implementation of it, you delayed the introduction of a bill and then you rushed the committee process. I hope you are now up to speed.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Ms BOYD: Follow along. It is important. Even the curtailing of the committee process—one highlighted as integral by corruption fighter Tony Fitzgerald—cannot contain the overreach of this bill. Due process is important. Community conversations take time. History has shown that progress in this space, striking the right balance of laws that are robust, effective and inclusive, cannot be rushed. We heard that on high rotation from submitters and witnesses to the committee process.

The member for Mundingburra said that this legislation aligns with National Cabinet. I think it is important that the record is corrected. This does not align with the recommendations or the position of National Cabinet; it actually deviates from that. It was audacious of the Attorney to come in here and debate the committee's consideration of this bill in a procedural motion earlier today and state that the Leader of the Opposition had said, 'Urgent! We need to recall parliament. We have to recall parliament and we have to debate it without any community consultation.' Anyone here who has actually read that letter from the Leader of the Opposition—and that is obviously not the ministers on the government benches because they are still overwhelmingly confused—would know that that is not what it said. Introducing a bill earlier would have afforded a longer community conversation. Nowhere did that correspondence ever propose curtailing community conversations. The only people who proposed that and actually did that were this LNP government. The LNP have no qualms about running other pieces of legislation through committee processes over the course of December and January. This could have been law already if a genuine act of bipartisanship was accepted, but even throughout my contribution we have seen ministers on the government benches entirely incapable of doing that.

Our nation is a rich multicultural melting pot. Everyone, regardless of their origin, religious beliefs, ethnicity or colour of their skin, deserves to be safe and to feel safe. It is the responsibility of every person in this House and our community to uphold that community. We cannot afford to be weak on hate speech and we cannot afford to be weak on gun laws. I stand for strong, nationally consistent gun

reforms that will avoid turning Queensland into the weakest link. I have not spoken with one person in this state who wants to see another Wieambilla incident occur. If you talk to any community member proposing a mental health check to get a gun licence—

A government member: You've got no idea.

Ms BOYD: I take that interjection. If you talk to any community member proposing a mental health check to access a gun licence—I have never heard an argument for why that proposal cannot be agreed to. Whether people come off the land or live in suburbia, whether they are at the beach, the shops or the school drop-off, when I have this conversation with them they think that is entirely reasonable, yet this government is refusing to implement the coroner's recommendations that would make communities safer. Recommendation 2 of the coroner's inquest into the massacre was that the Queensland government undertake a review to consider the feasibility of the introduction of mandatory health assessments for weapons licence applicants. We know that Gareth, Stacey and Nathaniel Train each had an undiagnosed and untreated psychotic illness, a shared delusional disorder. Nothing that is being proposed by this government would have in any way averted that tragedy. The public health reports for the Trains would never have eventuated. Let's not kid ourselves.

(Time expired)

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (8.32 pm): The Bondi attack is a stain on our nation. I think we should all be able to agree on that. When I stood with the Jewish community here in Brisbane back in December on the national day of mourning and we heard the 15 names of those slain on the beach at Bondi read out, it filled my heart with shame and with sadness. The fact that 87-year-old Alex Kleytman survived the Holocaust yet met his end on a beach at Bondi is a shameful indictment on our nation. How could this happen here in Australia? How could it happen in the Australia that we knew? People came here from all over the world with their own religion and some of their own values but became Australian and adopted the values of Australia—of tolerance, of freedom of speech, of freedom of religion. The fact that the offenders were Australian—one had been here for 25 years and one was born here—makes it even worse, because the values and the motivations that led to the Bondi attack were developed and were allowed to fester in our own nation, by elements of our political leadership no less. That is a shameful indictment on them and a shameful indictment on all of us.

On 11 October 2023 I stood here—over there probably as it was before the election—and placed on the record my support for the people of Israel.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr KRAUSE: This is a serious issue. I was not in this seat, but I was just over there. I placed on the record my support for the people of Israel after the shameful and violent attacks by Hamas. Not all MPs across Australia did that. I raised alarm on that day about the fact that there were protesters in Sydney who hijacked an occasion by Sydney's Israeli and Jewish community with threats of violence, expressions of hate and incitements to violence. Not everyone in Australian political society did that. Not all MPs across Australia did that. That, bit by bit, is the political licence that gave rise to the events that we saw shamefully in December 2025.

With this bill we say 'no more' to anti-Semitism. The leadership of our nation should always rise above hate and never acquiesce to it. We should never acquiesce to that because that is not the Australia we know; it is not the Australia for which we should hope for the future. This bill does exactly what it says. These laws are specific and they are targeted. They are targeted to respond to atrocities such as occurred at Bondi late last year. It was an anti-Semitic terrorist attack and this bill takes the necessary steps to address those shocking events including by increasing penalties for attacks on ministers of religion and places of worship.

Our response was not kneejerk. It was calm; it was methodical. I want to thank the Premier, who was in contact with a lot of MPs from the government in the aftermath of Bondi, assuring us that our response to this would attack the causes of Bondi. It would not be a kneejerk reaction, but it was early recognition by the Premier that the causes of Bondi were anti-Semitism, hate and the festering of awful values in the Australian society, not a deficiency in firearms legislation in our country. We have some of the tightest firearms and weapons regulations in the world. That does not mean they do not need to be improved from time to time, but that was not the cause of Bondi. As a result we have this bill before the House today dealing with the issues of anti-Semitism but also making calm, methodical and sensible changes to firearms legislation—changes that are made to keep guns out of the hands of terrorists and criminals, not law-abiding firearm owners, not farmers and not sporting shooters who do the right thing and are amongst the most heavily regulated sporting athletes in our country.

Our laws introduce the toughest penalties in the country for people carrying and dealing in illegal weapons. It will target people who seek to plot terrorist attacks and ensure only Australian citizens are able to hold a firearms licence. I commend the approach taken by the government in that respect in dealing with the causes of Bondi but also taking a calm and methodical approach to firearms legislation, which recognises that it is terrorists and criminals who cause these events, not farmers and sporting shooters whom so many of us represent and who contribute so much to our communities. With that said, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (8.37 pm): I rise to speak on the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026. I want to start by acknowledging the 15 innocent lives lost at the Bondi Beach terror attack on 14 December. My thoughts are with those impacted, their families, their loved ones and our Australian Jewish community. This was a vile act of anti-Semitism and the kind of hatred and violence that has no place in Australia, in Queensland or anywhere in the world.

In the days that followed, what was visible was fear in our communities—fear from Jewish Australians who were afraid to leave home, afraid to show people who they were; fear from Muslim Australians who were bracing for the backlash they knew would come. There was fear across both communities—parents searching for words to explain to their children why people who look a certain way, pray a certain way and speak a certain way were the target of this horrific attack, and that is no easy task for any parent. What also happened in the days following the event was the Bald Hills mosque in my community—a place of worship, a place of community and peace—was vandalised. White supremacist symbols were spray-painted across the walls and death threats were made. We know that this was no random attack; it was a targeted attack full of hatred directed at Muslim Australians in the wake of a terrorist attack that killed Jewish Australians.

Queensland is a proud multicultural state. In our suburbs across the state you will find families from every corner of the globe—all of them Queenslanders, all of them contributing to the fabric of our state and who we are. In recent times multiculturalism feels like a bit of a political buzzword—a political talking point—but it actually represents humans and people in our community. It represents people who may have a different background, a different skin colour, who speak a different language or who practise faith differently to some of us. They could be doctors who are trained in my suburb of Bracken Ridge or they could be people who operate small businesses across our communities. It is children in our schools who speak different languages at home and it is our sportspeople in Australia who represent Australia across the world. It is our synagogues, our mosques, our temples, our churches—all of them part of our community.

Our diversity is our strength and it broadens our perspective, deepens the fabric of our state and strengthens our economy, but that fabric is under threat, and it is not under threat from the fringes; it is also being encouraged deliberately and cynically by political figures who have decided that division is good for their career. When extremist behaviour and hatred are left unchecked and left to fester, you see horrific terror attacks, racist rallies and calls for the deportation of Australian citizens because of their religion, their skin colour or their cultural identity. We need a government that calls out these behaviours, not a government that panders to them because they are chasing the far-right votes or because they are trying to out-Pauline Pauline Hanson. Pauline Hanson, who sits in our national parliament, said that there are no good Muslims, and let me be unambiguous about what that statement has said: it is hatred; it is vilification.

Honourable members interjected.

Ms ASIF: I take that interjection. The relevance to this is we are debating a bill about racism. We are debating a bill that has attacked Jewish community members in Australia, so it is very relevant to say—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms ASIF: Mr Deputy Speaker, I raise a point of order with regard to personal offence and I ask that that be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Member for Nanango, will you withdraw.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am happy to show the proof, but I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, it must be an unconditional withdrawal.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw.

Ms ASIF: That is how you get white supremacist symbols graffitied on our synagogues and our mosques and walls and that is how the hatred moves to reality. We know that attacks on our Jewish community have gone up exponentially. We also know that the Islamophobia Register Australia has recorded a 740 per cent increase in reports since the Bondi terror attack, most of those from Muslim women who have been spat on, abused, attacked and threatened in public places. Just a few weeks ago this was evident in Wynnum where a teenager was attacked by a member of the public. Every single Queenslanders deserves to feel safe in their homes, in their places of worship, on our streets and when they are celebrating their religious holidays like Hanukkah. That commitment cannot be selective; it must be for everyone.

Everyone deserves to pray, attend religious festivals and display their religious symbols without fear of violence. On 14 December that safety was ripped away for Jewish Australians in a senseless act of violence and meaningful action is needed, and the Labor opposition supports the measures in this bill that respond to that. With regard to the creation of specific offences for attacking a religious minister, for vandalising a place of worship, for disturbing religious worship and for intimidating or obstructing persons entering or leaving places of worship, these measures are something that we have been calling for and they are something that our communities have been calling for. They mean that when synagogues are defaced or when a car rams through their gates there will be a criminal action attached to that. It means that when there are death threats for people who are looking to worship who are attending a mosque, there will be a criminal action, and we absolutely support the right of every Queenslanders to practise their faith without fear. We also note that, while this bill is directed at anti-Semitism, its protections apply—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms ASIF: Mr Deputy Speaker, I raise a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask that that be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, will you withdraw.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw.

Ms ASIF: The bill also expands the prohibited symbols framework to include symbols of terrorist organisations and state sponsors of terrorism. The Labor opposition supports this provision, but we urge the government to take careful—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Sandgate, I regret to interrupt you, but there is quarrelling across the chamber that I can hear quite clearly, member for Waterford and Attorney-General. That is to cease. The member is not taking interjections. She will be heard in silence.

Ms ASIF: Thank you for your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker. A number of stakeholders have raised concerns with the potential misidentification of the Shahada. The Shahada is an Islamic declaration of faith. It is one of the Five Pillars of Islam recited in the daily prayers. It is a deeply sacred expression of belief for Muslims around the world. Regrettably, extremist organisations such as ISIS and Hamas have coopted this written Arabic script on their flags. The calligraphed Shahada is regularly and legitimately displayed by law-abiding organisations across the world and across Queensland and we must not allow law enforcement to misidentify sincere religious expression as a prohibited symbol. Further education, community awareness and clear police guidance must occur so that law-abiding Queenslanders are not caught up in this misidentification, so I urge that there be resources for education put in place to make sure that innocent Queenslanders who are practising their faith are not a target of this misidentification.

If the Premier truly does care about addressing religious and racial vilification, the government would not have paused the racial vilification reforms which were put in place by the former government. That was one of the first things the LNP government did when it came into power, so if it truly believed that this needs to happen—and I wish that it did, because every Queenslanders deserves those protections and those strengthened penalties—I urge that this not be the last step. I urge that when it sees things out in public it calls them out. When it sees racist marches happening in our streets, call them out and say that those are not acceptable. When we see people like Pauline Hanson saying that there are no good—

Honourable members interjected.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Sandgate, would you please resume your seat. I can imagine what your point of order might be, Manager of Opposition Business.

Mr de BRENNI: Yes, Mr Deputy Speaker. The standing orders make it very clear that members are to be heard in silence. You ruled on interjections by the Attorney-General. I recollect that you may have provided her a warning and I submit to you that further action is required in terms of this grossly disorderly conduct.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Springwood. As far as I can see, honestly I do not think that the member is targeting anyone specifically in the chamber. I do not think that that response was appropriate. The member will be heard in silence and I will be warning members under the standing orders if there are any further interruptions, and that goes for everyone.

Ms ASIF: I know those opposite have an issue with me standing with our multicultural communities and calling out hatred and racism, but I will not stop doing it. I will not stop because I stand with every single multicultural community in—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order. The member was responding to some interjections just then, but be mindful of the contents of the bill and I ask you to remain relevant to it.

Ms ASIF: In closing, I want to say to every member of our multicultural community—to our Jewish community, to our Muslim community and to every community that has faced racism, vilification and the threat of extremism: I stand with you and I will not stop calling out this dangerous behaviour which puts you at risk. Multiculturalism and inclusivity are amongst our greatest strengths. When every Queenslander—regardless of their background, their faith, their skin colour—feels valued, respected and safe, we are a stronger and a better state, and that is something that I hope this government will continue to take seriously.

 **Mr DILLON** (Gregory—LNP) (8.48 pm): Many reasons cause people from different walks of life to stand for politics—many driving factors, many life circumstances in the lead-up to that decision—but one reason for most members on this side and, I hope and trust, most members of parliament is the responsibility to keep people safe. That can be through a variety of things such as safer roads and better hospitals, but in this case the legislation we are discussing tonight is the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill.

The title does speak to why we are here. Many speakers from this side, including ministers, have outlined the very specific provisions within this bill, but I would like to talk about the holistic combination of this and the genesis of the matter behind it. The tragedy that unfolded at Bondi was a nation-changing, sorrowful event. The response of the Queensland government, led very clearly by the Minister for Police and the Attorney-General, was to consult—to look at the root cause of what will go down forever as one of our nation's darkest days. Just like tonight's lunar eclipse, the Labor Party go through their dark introspective soul-searching as to where they really sit on protecting individuals who were directly targeted and senselessly murdered on the basis of their ethnicity and religion. They were murdered—not talked about or talked at but murdered—in cold blood on an iconic Australian beach.

This bill does talk about guns, but it does not talk about them in any way other than to keep them out of the hands of terrorists and murderers—people who murder people purely on the basis of their religion or their ethnicity. That is why this bill looks at the very specific provisions that it does. Those members opposite talking about consultation not being followed and rushed, as the member for Bonney interjected earlier, are clearly off base. Other jurisdictions rushed legislation through; this jurisdiction carefully developed the legislation through consultation with experts in government, with members of the government themselves and then through consultation in the committee phase. We have heard clearly that this response needs to be targeted to stop what happened in Bondi from happening inside Queensland borders.

We have heard all manner of noise from those opposite about what did or did not happen, but there are also provisions in this bill—some members have highlighted this, as the member for Lockyer did earlier—regarding what is commonly known as a drive-by shooting, the charge of 'reckless

discharge of weapons towards a premise'. They had the opportunity to do that in a private member's bill in 2000 and I think in 2019. They have certainly had multiple opportunities but they disregarded it. They stood here calling for it in past sittings of this parliament, forgetting that they actually voted against doing the exact same thing themselves. There has not been a rush to do that by them and now we are rushing elements of their bill? The Labor Party have no integrity on this point.

Mr Kempton interjected.

Mr DILLON: They have no credibility; I take the interjection from the member for Cook. Their credibility has been shot, pardon the very bad pun in this case.

We looked at the terrorism elements of the bill and the rise in anti-Semitism that is occurring and has occurred across the country. Previous speakers have talked about things like 3D printing. We need to be—and we have been as a government—consultative and methodical in our approach, but we also need to be forward-looking. Whilst stolen firearms and stolen ammunition are certainly issues we need to address, we need to address future-looking crime and, instead of being reactive, be proactive in ensuring our laws can act as a deterrent against the possession of materials to support 3D printing.

I once again commend the Minister for Police and the Attorney-General for their work. I commend the member for Nicklin and his committee for the work they put into consulting with regard to this and taking due consideration of a large volume of matters. After discussing this tonight, hopefully we will see this bill passed. It would be wonderful to think we can, with the complete support of this House, send a clear message to those who wish to perpetrate anti-Semitic behaviour, to those who wish to misuse firearms and to those criminals and terrorists who wish to lower the quality of life of individuals by murdering, threatening and intimidating. This bill delivers on the certainty we need to display, standing in solidarity with people who, unfortunately, have been left behind. I commend them on the work they have done, just like I commend this bill to the House.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnell—ALP) (8.54 pm): What happened at Bondi on 14 December 2025 was an absolutely horrific tragedy carried out by two related gunmen blinded by hatred, untold violence and anti-Semitism. I, like many in the community—and I would say everyone in this House—struggle to understand how such hatred can drive such a terrorist act leading to the mass murder of 15 innocent people, including children, and the wounding of many others. For some members opposite to suggest that we were not moved or equally concerned about what happened is shameful and an insult to our intelligence and to the institution of this place. I call out anyone who gets up and says that.

I watched in horror some of the footage on social media and was deeply moved by what I saw. Equally, I was strangely proud of the actions of people like Ahmed Al Ahmed and the many others who shielded and protected friends and loved ones, placing their own safety at great risk. We stand solidly with the Jewish community in condemning anti-Semitism. I will never stop fighting to ensure that our community, including the Jewish community, feels safe and secure. No political party or politician has the monopoly on wanting to ensure our community is safe and there is peace in our world—peace everywhere.

The Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill is an extremely important piece of legislation. Now, more than ever, it should be open to public scrutiny in a transparent manner, consulted on widely and worked through calmly and methodically. What we are witnessing in this parliament does not meet this standard and is disrespectful to the people of Queensland—the very people we aim to protect. When the Premier is confused about what is contained in his own bill, how can we expect the average person to understand the implications of this bill? What we are seeing is that the Premier has now buckled and backflipped after chaos and division in his own government. The denials from those opposite are not convincing anyone. There is no doubt that there is chaos and crisis and that big cracks are appearing in this government. Unfortunately, the people of Queensland are paying the price.

The Premier has caved, after defending the bill for 17 days. The Premier has now confirmed with the foreshadowed amendments that they got it wrong after a revolt by the Premier's own caucus, so scared are they of the One Nation vote. How embarrassing! What they have now basically admitted is that this important bill gave massive unfettered powers on freedom of speech to the Attorney-General. They have been caught out. I join many on this side of the House to ask: what has changed? If these expressions were so important to be now made a crime, why were they not included in the bill that was scrutinised by the committee? Where are words such as 'carefully', 'deliberately' and 'we took our time to put it in the bill'? Where was all that when the expressions were left out of the bill? Why the change?

No-one from that side has explained that change. Not one of them who has risen to speak has explained that change. I do not buy for one minute the weak, baseless excuse given by the Attorney-General about what Labor may or may not do in the future. This is a unicameral parliament. The laws can be amended at any time by those with the numbers. Talk about boxing at shadows! It is a weak excuse.

To add to this insult, this side of the House in good faith offered to work in a bipartisan manner on these laws because the Jewish community deserve nothing less; however, the government put their own interests and cheap political pointscoring ahead of the interests of the communities we are all aiming to keep safe. This is absolutely shameful. All we heard is, 'How is Labor going to vote?' We did not hear about the quality of the bill, what was in the bill and whether it was going to achieve the objectives. We hear that some government backbenchers were set to cross the floor because they were so concerned about the gag on freedom of speech and the unfettered powers this bill gave to one MP. Make no mistake, this forced a backflip. It is clear that on such an important bill for all our communities the Premier has lost control.

Debate, on motion of Ms Grace, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.00 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Narangba Valley State High School; Narangba State School



Mr KING (Kurwongbah—ALP) (9.00 pm): At the risk of sounding like a broken record, I again rise seeking action on some issues affecting our local schools. I will start with the buses to get Narangba Valley State High School students home on Wednesdays. I have been asking the transport minister about this for almost 500 days now. Translink has had the proposal from Kangaroo Bus Lines and the school for even longer—a solution put forward at minimal cost to the budget to safely get students home when school finishes early once a week.

Let us talk about the ripple effect of not funding these buses, of not approving the timetable changes. We have the intimidation factor of hundreds of students descending en masse on the shopping centre across the road. It is right behind my office so, trust me, I know. We have the increased shoplifting that the cover of hundreds of kids in a shop at one time allows. We have the inevitable scuffles breaking out between bored, unsupervised students. It is lucky the LNP is not making loitering an adult crime or our jails would be full. These are good kids; they are not bad kids. The numbers make this happen.

To try to counter these problems we now have the local police beat out every other week. These are our awesome local police who could be doing something else if the buses were sorted. Local businesses are having to put on extra staff or security to ward off violence and theft. The businesses who cannot afford to do that just have to cop the losses. We have the high school administration under pressure to send teachers or executive staff across the road to keep an eye on the kids. That is outside the scope of their roles and potentially endangering their safety. I wonder what the education minister thinks about that one. Perhaps he could ask the transport minister to help sort it out so we can keep staff and students from Narangba Valley State High safe on Wednesdays.

I would also appreciate an update from the education minister on the Narangba State School fence. The first half was delivered under Labor and the rest of the money was committed to, but sadly it is a project that is now languishing under this government. Full fencing for this school, surrounded by busy roads and a rail corridor, will keep students safe and protect the school from the break-ins, vandalism and theft which has sadly become a common occurrence there. This is a good investment, in my book. Finishing the fence would be much cheaper than the constant repairs after vandalism and break-ins.

I want to conclude by pointing out that many of the schools across my electorate are under pressure from population growth. I know that a few are pushing capacity and I know that there is planning for new schools happening. In the meantime, new families having to travel quite some distance to their nearest state schools deserve the minister's attention, the best opportunities, the safest environments and definitely a bus to get home sooner rather than later.

Queensland Women's Week

 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (9.03 pm): Queensland Women's Week is coming up on 8 to 14 March. It is an opportunity to highlight, acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of women and girls in our communities. The theme for this year is 'Shaping tomorrow together'. To shine a spotlight on remarkable Redcliffe women, I invited locals to nominate an inspiring Redcliffe woman. This is the second year I have called for nominations. Last year we had 28 and this year that number more than doubled to 62. Nominations included a wide range of women: community champions, a para-athlete, an Indigenous matriarch, business leaders, entrepreneurs, charity founders, service club members and loyal volunteers. One nomination that really touched me was written by De-Shanti, who nominated her mum for paying it forward. She wrote—

Every time we go through the drive through my mum always pays for the person behind us and pays for coffee at Clontarf 7 Eleven. She'd give the shirt off her back for anyone. We were homeless for 2 years and as a mum of six, many not her bio kids, she is always helping my friends. She deserves to be recognised because she rarely asks for help.

Today I hosted 20 of those 62 women here at Parliament House for a high tea with the Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Fiona Simpson. To each of the ladies who won the draw for high tea today, I honour you for your contributions to Redcliffe and to Queensland. They are: Aunty June Scobie, matriarch of the Mandandanji mob; Tammy Eggleton, the selfless mum; Michelle Gilchrist, President of the Redcliffe Breakfast Club; Sharon Allback, founder of Allback Dance Studio; Tracey Jackson, a para-athlete; Tiarna Hampson, founder of Hampo's Youth Foundation; Sussanna Rosetto, co-founder of Love Army Redcliffe; Avril Kent of Quota Redcliffe; Marie Stewart of Zonta Redcliffe; Nicolette Lowe of Redcliffe Surf Life Saving Club; Ali Plunkett, co-founder of She Evolve Collective; Beryl Doocey, who, at age 94, still walks five kilometres every week with Redcliffe parkrun; Michelle Feuerriegel from Emm Power Shop of Opportunity; Jodie Starr of Suttons Beach Preservation Group; Anne Carmichael from Peninsular Animal Aid; Leanne Heseldon from Variety Bash QLD; Tamara Dyer, a triathlete and general manager; Louise Fulford, founder of Redcliffe Queenagers; and Melissa Mataic of Red Music and Dance. Redcliffe women, you are awesome!

Regina and Vicki Doig Morning Tea

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (9.06 pm): I rise to speak about an event that has been happening in my electorate for nine years, although I have not spoken about it before. Along with my Ipswich colleagues, I attended the Regina and Vicki Doig Morning Tea on 21 February, hosted by the West Moreton Health Foundation. The event raises money to support cancer care research in the West Moreton Health region. As I said, the Regina and Vicki Doig Morning Tea is in its ninth year. This year 150 people attended and they raised over \$17,000, which goes towards the Regina and Vicki Doig Scholarship. Since it started, five Regina and Vicki Doig scholarships worth \$50,000 have been awarded to recipients who are undertaking research to improve the outcomes and experiences of people with cancer in Ipswich and West Moreton.

The host of the morning tea, Vicki Doig, has been an early childhood educator in Ipswich for decades and she knows more people than I do. She established the event as a legacy to her older sister, Regina, who tragically passed away from lymphoma in 1987, aged just 39. Regina Doig was a ballet dancer and a qualified music and language high school teacher. Before she passed, she pledged her living body to doctors for research. Regina fervently believed that medical research like that could help others to be saved in the future. Research that leads to practical outcomes for cancer patients in the Ipswich and West Moreton region is a wonderful way to honour Regina's legacy. I want to acknowledge and thank Vicki Doig. She is truly a remarkable woman and a community legend. Her vision and drive has seen the morning tea expand into a much loved community event. What began as a tribute to her sister is now a major calendar event that has a positive impact on cancer patients in our region.

The scholarships awarded have led to meaningful research such as the research performed by last year's scholarship recipient, Guru Sule, who spoke at this year's morning tea about his investigations into the use of ginger and B6 in managing nausea in oncology settings. Many of the anti-nausea drugs that are given now counteract some of the medications patients may already be on. He has done some really exciting work in that space. Some of the previous projects done through this scholarship program include investigating chemotherapy and supportive care services for rural patients in Boonah, Esk, Laidley and Gatton hospitals and conducting surveys to improve participation rates for cervical cancer screenings in the West Moreton Health region. The morning tea could not have been

possible without the help and support of the West Moreton Health Foundation and its CEO Scott Young, who has been very supportive of this project all along. I want to acknowledge West Moreton Health as well who get involved. The morning tea was a great success.

O'Flaherty, Mr K; Mansford, Mr G

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.09 pm): I rise today to place on the record my deepest condolences to the family and friends of two great Queenslanders who tragically passed recently. The first is Buderim great Mr Ken O'Flaherty. UK-born, Ken and his wife, Lois, made the life-changing decision to bring their young family to Queensland 53 years ago, in 1973. On 26 January they arrived at South Brisbane station, where they were greeted by bands playing, crowds cheering and flags waving. Ken assumed it was a welcome just for them, and he only later discovered that it was Australia Day, but it became a story that Ken loved to tell and a moment that marked the beginning of his deep affection for this country and for the community that he would go on to serve so wholeheartedly.

Ken's love for Australia grew quickly and with it came a strong call to service. He became a stalwart of our community in Buderim, contributing to countless organisations across my electorate. He was the patron of the Buderim Historical Society, Buderim Rotary, Bloomhill, the Buderim Foundation and the local men's shed. Most notably, he served as the president of the Buderim War Memorial Community Association, first in 2007 and again in 2019 to 2021. His commitment to civic life also saw him stand as a candidate for local government in 2008.

Ken's service extended far beyond committee meetings, however. He was the founder, photographer, manager, occasional journalist and driving force behind the much respected community newspaper the *Buderim Chronicle*, which kept our community informed from 1997 to 2020. It celebrated the people, the stories and the things that make Buderim great. Ken's contribution to our community in Buderim extends far beyond what I can do justice to tonight here in this short tribute to him. He will be keenly missed. On behalf of our community I want to pay tribute to Ken, and I know that his legacy will live on as our community honours his life.

The second great Queenslander I want to pay tribute to tonight is my friend Brigadier George Mansford AM, who passed away in Cairns on 19 February. 'Warrie' George was a legend in the Australian Army. He served in Korea, Malaya and Vietnam, and he became the standard young soldiers and young officers aspired to in the Army. He came in and spoke to young officers at the Royal Military College. He founded what is called the Battle School in the jungle in Tully, and he was a man who lived the uniquely Australian value of mateship. Everything George did was about making the Australian Army better. I got to know George really well in my time in the 51st Battalion, Far North Queensland Regiment—a unit that George said was the best unit in the Army. I do not have time to swap some of the stories. I remember George telling stories about tanks crushing defensive pits that soldiers were inside, just to make sure they had done their revetting properly, and the odd occasional artillery battery that were off the books. George will be laid to rest next week in Cairns. On behalf of my family and the infantrymen I served with, vale George Mansford.

South-East Queensland, Koala Management

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (9.12 pm): I know that the environment minister has had a busy summer getting rid of the hardworking CEO of Containers for Change and replacing them with an LNP stooge, but I am pleased to say that he has found the time to launch consultation about the South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy. My community is bounded by Whites Hill Reserve and the Mount Gravatt or Kaggur-mabul Reserve. Mount Gravatt connects through to Toohey Forest. In each of these areas there are populations of koalas that are greatly cherished by our local community.

When I was elected in 2015, I asked the environment department for a brief on the koala population in Whites Hill. At that time there were fewer than 10 koalas. However, the department noted that groups like the RSPCA were releasing rehabilitated koalas into this area and the population was expected to grow. It has certainly grown. These areas were not considered or included in the last South East Queensland Koala Management Plan because of the small size of the population.

Together with the federal member for Griffith, Renee Coffey, I will be making a submission to the consultation process, calling for the inclusion of these areas in the South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy. Renee and I have been consulting with the local community about what could

be done in our local community. In addition to surveys, phone calls and all those sorts of things, last Thursday we organised a bushwalk at Whites Hill Reserve which was extremely well attended. Over 30 people showed up fairly early on a Thursday morning. In just under an hour of walking through Whites Hill Reserve we spotted 10 koalas, both adults and joeys. I want to thank Gary King from the Friends of Whites Hill Reserve, Sharyn Bartlem from Save the Koalas and Wallabies of Whites Hill and John King from Koala Rescue Brisbane South who led the walk and helped us to spot the koalas. Those three people and all of the volunteers in their various groups do so much work to protect the koalas in this area as well as the ones that start to move around our suburbs and inevitably come to grief with cars and dogs. They do tremendous work.

There is a lot that we could do: mapping the population accurately and tracking their movements; determining how sustainable the population is; ensuring there are corridor connections between bushland areas to assist with genetic diversity; identifying and protecting significant trees and corridors; educating the community about the impacts of cars and dogs on koalas; defining the role of the Brisbane City Council, including setting the speed on council controlled roads; and funding local groups involved in koala conservation. By including these areas in the South East Queensland Koala Management Plan, we can ensure the populations in these areas stay healthy and contribute to broader conservation efforts. I urge the minister to take our submission seriously and work with our community to protect koalas in our communities.

Everton Park, Roadworks

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.15 pm): I rise tonight to update the House on some significant roadworks that will be happening in my electorate. I am very appreciative of the transport and roads minister and his department that finally things are happening. Everton Park State School is on the crest of a hill and people are speeding through a set of lights there and, unfortunately, crashing. This happens on both sides of the road. On one side they crash into a corner property. The poor bloke there has probably had to fix his wall half a dozen times over the last few years. Just as concerning, on the other side, which is the school side, people coming the other way are losing control and going into the fence. That is obviously a concern for the parents of the students at Everton Park State School.

Most of these accidents, if not all, happen at night-time, not during the day when the kids are at school. The kids use the footpaths in both of those spots, though, so it is an area of great concern. Main Roads officials have been out there and have met with the school community to work out a solution. It is not straightforward. There are complexities with these things such as putting up barriers that are strong enough and long enough while at the same time still allowing the kids to use those corners to cross the road.

The department is going to resurface the road. There is an issue with the surface, particularly when it rains, that makes it harder to control vehicles. That will make a major difference. We had a similar issue down the road where people were losing control when it was wet and, again, crashing into one woman's house, which has probably happened a dozen times over a couple of years. It happened whenever it rained. That was very effective down there, so they will do the same thing up here. We are going to change some of the fencing, particularly on the school side. We will put up a barricade there, which will give some comfort to parents. We will also put a fence down the middle of the median strip to stop kids running across the road at the wrong place.

I am grateful for the engineers who came out and spoke in plain English to people like myself and others who do not understand all the technicalities of road engineering. I am delighted to say that that work will commence very shortly. That will make it a lot safer for our kids. It is really important for parents to know that their kids will be safe, and, of course, it is important that our kids are safe. I am looking forward to that. I thank the Minister for Transport and Main Roads for coming out and having a look himself and appreciating that it is a serious issue that we need to address.

Women in Sport

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (9.18 pm): I have spoken before in this House about the importance of keeping girls and women engaged in sport and fitness, including my own forays, and the FairPlay and Play On! vouchers are a critical part of that. Under a Labor government I was delighted to see dance included in those vouchers.

This is important because this is an activity that many girls and young women enjoy participating in. I am receiving reports from local families in my community that they find the rules around dance studio participation in the program to be a bit confusing and frustrating. I have studios in my electorate that are included but also those that would like to be but are not. Families do not want to have to switch from their beloved dance studio so they can access the vouchers, and I am sure we can all agree that they should not have to.

We know that getting girls and women involved in sport and physical activity has a myriad challenges, and I am proud of the work that our government did to get more girls and women involved in sport including helping local clubs build better change rooms and facilities, as is currently occurring at the mighty Jindalee Jags with a grant they received under our government.

Historically, dance has been one of the most popular activities for young women. I did a quick google search today to get some up-to-date information. Dance as a physical activity for young women, based on data from AusPlay and the ABS, is still one of the most popular organised physical activities for girls, with hundreds of thousands of participants Australia-wide.

It is wonderful that more and more young women are signing up for soccer and AFL et cetera, but it is important to recognise dance has long been a popular activity for our young women. It needs to be just as easy for them to access the FairPlay vouchers or Play On! vouchers for these sports. It is also fair to note that a lot of our traditional sports have mainly been played by blokes and that the transition to get more girls in is going to take time.

As I said, I consistently get complaints from parents like Lucy, who wrote to me last week, and dance studios in my community about how challenging the process is, so I will be writing to the Minister for Sport to ask that he makes it easier for dance studios that want to register to do so. I think it is imperative for the future of girls in sport and I am calling on the minister to act.

In the time I have left and while on the theme of women in sport, I want to give a shout-out to an amazing Mount Ommaney local Emily Noller, who has swum 61 kilometres—yes, over 61 kilometres—to raise money for the Starlight Children's Foundation. Emily is a Jindalee Girl Guides leader, and some of the young women she looks after in her work there access the Starlight Children's Foundation. That is why she decided to do the swim. Now, thanks to Emily and her fundraising efforts, around 60 young people will be able to access the Starlight Children's Foundation care. What a legend!

Thuringowa Electorate, Schools

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (9.21 pm): I rise today to share a few words about one of the true highlights of serving as the member for Thuringowa—spending time with our young people and school communities over recent weeks. Being part of these vibrant school communities really is the best part of my job. There is nothing quite like seeing the energy, the pride and the bright futures shining through in the eyes of our students.

Over the past weeks I have had the privilege of attending school assemblies to celebrate and support our school leaders, and each one has left me feeling truly grateful and warmed by the spirit of our local kids. It has been especially heartening to hear directly from principals and staff about how the Crisafulli government's Back to School Boost—that practical \$100 credit per primary school student—has made a real difference for families. Each school has managed it in ways that best suit their own demographics and families' needs, whether putting it towards uniforms, books, stationery, excursions or other essentials to ease the back-to-school costs.

I was particularly pleased to hear from Heatley primary school how this support contributed to an increase in early start-of-year attendance. The \$100 for each child helped ensure students could get the things they needed on the very first day, be it uniforms, books or other basics—removing barriers for families and helping more kids settle in quickly and confidently. Stories like that show how targeted relief can have a tangible impact on engagement and belonging.

I was delighted to join several school assemblies—Rasmussen State School, where the enthusiasm was infectious and the sense of community so strong; Kelso State School, where the warmth and welcome from students and staff alike made it a joy to be there; and Kirwan State School, which brought such heartfelt moments. The children's joy and the deep respect they showed for the occasion was truly inspiring. I was equally proud to be at Heatley State High School and Thuringowa State High School, witnessing the confidence and leadership our older students are already displaying.

A special thank you goes to the Premier for making time in a busy schedule to join me at Kirwan primary school for their school leaders assembly. It meant a great deal to share that experience together, and I was so proud to witness the genuine happiness on the faces of those young leaders and the respect the entire event deserved. Moments like that remind us why we do this work.

To the schools I was unable to attend due to clashing commitments during parliament week, thank you sincerely for your kind invitations. I hope the small gift I sent brought a smile and conveyed how much your welcome meant to me. I look forward to joining you soon.

These school visits fill my heart with gratitude for the dedicated teachers, supportive families and incredible students in Thuringowa. They are the future of our community, and it is an honour to stand alongside them, watching them lead by example and being kind to their peers. We are in good hands for 2026 in Thuringowa.

Stafford Electorate, Schools

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—Ind) (9.24 pm): I will begin by associating myself with the comments from the member for Mount Ommaney and the really important message she sent.

I rise tonight to speak about our wonderful schools. It is a tremendous time of year for our schools with kids and staff returning and leaders going through their programs. I have been very committed to my local schools over the years through both the leadership and teaching staff but also the P&Cs and P&Fs respectively. At this time of year I have attended as many leadership awards as I could, including the appointing of leadership teams for both primary and secondary schools. There are some in high school whom I met through their time in primary school. I have been here long enough that now they are captains or house captains at their high school, which is extraordinary.

I thank: Wavell for their hospitality and their wonderful centre; Mount Alvernia for their beautiful liturgy and ceremony in appointing their leaders; Kedron State School; Stafford State School, which feels like a second home to me; and Wilston State School, which was the first initiation of leaders appointed in the new hall, promised by me at my first election and delivered by a Labor government. There have been Labor upgrades to Our Lady of the Angels at Wavell Heights, again thanks to Labor government programs like SIPP, and last but not least, I was at Padua to join with parents to see the leaders appointed with badges. Again, I have known many of the boys for a long time. With your indulgence, Deputy Speaker, I was able to be there for my son's awarding of an academic distinction certificate, which is something I am very proud of.

Reedy Creek, Quarry

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (9.27 pm): I rise to update the House on the latest in my community's fight against a quarry at Reedy Creek. Written submissions to the Deputy Premier regarding the proposed call-in notice for the Reedy Creek quarry closed today, and I wish to place on the record my thanks to our community for their incredible response to this application.

From day one our community have been steadfast in their opposition to a Reedy Creek quarry. We have seen a remarkable grassroots campaign culminating in hundreds of locals from across the Gold Coast joining myself and the members for Currumbin and Burleigh at a community rally against a Reedy Creek quarry a month ago in Coplick Park. We saw generations of Gold Coasters standing shoulder to shoulder, unified in their opposition to a quarry in our backyard. It was incredible to see locals who fought against the quarry the first time around once again manning placards and organising protesters.

I remember reflecting in this House all those years ago that I had never seen an issue that stirred such a response within my electorate, and that remains true to this day. Whether it was concerns about health, local road access, housing values, environmental impacts or many other reasons, locals turned out in droves and were steadfast in their opposition to this quarry.

I would like to place on record my thanks to locals like Sam Stewart, Lorraine Cook, Rob Balanda and Tony Davis—the original 'Stop the Gold Coast quarry' group who never thought we would be back here but, nevertheless, answered the call from our community when they were once again needed. I would also like to acknowledge Kimberley Seymour, Mike Keith, Bronwyn Wright, Emma Brown and Susan-Ann Hagan for their significant efforts in organising our community rally.

By way of next steps, I confirm that the Deputy Premier in his role as Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning will consider all submissions received carefully and determine whether to call the application in over the coming weeks. I am also able to inform our community that the matter of the key resource area designation remains under consideration by the Deputy Premier following my correspondence on the matter and will be further considered after the issue of the call-in is finalised.

I know our community is eager to know the outcome of this application. I will continue to provide updates as soon as they are to hand. I thank my community and the community members at Old Burleigh Town, Tallebudgera Valley and Reedy Creek for standing shoulder to shoulder with me and my colleagues, the member for Burleigh and the member for Currumbin, to stop this quarry once and for all.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.30 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Asif, Bailey, Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Chiesa, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, de Brenni, Dick, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Grace, Head, Healy, Howard, Hunt, Hutton, James B, James T, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly G, Kelly J, Kempton, King, Kirkland, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Linard, Lister, Mander, Marr, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Mullen, Nicholls, Nightingale, O'Connor, O'Shea, Pease, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stoker, Sullivan, Vorster, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Young