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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, 4 March 2026

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WEDNESDAY, 4 MARCH 2026

The Legislative Assembly met at 2.00 pm.

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

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

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Photographs in Chamber

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

Release of Committee Documents

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Today, in accordance with standing order 20, the Legislative Assembly will release to the public previously unpublished minutes of its committees from 1995 that have been in the custody of the Clerk of the Parliament for over 30 years. This is the eighth proactive annual release of committee documents. The 64 sets of minutes from 1995 being released today detail the work of: the Committee of Subordinate Legislation; the Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee; the Parliamentary Committee for Electoral and Administrative Review; the Public Accounts Committee; the Public Works Committee; and the Travelsafe Committee. The minutes cover both the 47th and 48th parliaments given the 1995 state election, which I am sure members will recall as it was one of the narrowest election results in our history.

Also in 1995, the House passed the Parliamentary Committees Bill which established six permanent statutory committees including: the Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee; the Members' Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee; the Public Accounts Committee; the Public Works Committee; the Scrutiny of Legislation Committee; and the Standing Orders Committee. The Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee took carriage of oversight of the Criminal Justice Commission; however, the standing Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee was re-established a short time later. Minutes relating to this oversight function are not subject to release until 100 years has passed and they are therefore not included in the current release.

A few items of interest referenced in these minutes and from the work of committees during 1995 include: the appointment of now Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, as research director to the Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee—the Clerk assures me that he had a full head of hair at that stage; a report on the use of fuel cards in the public sector and a report on the standard of preparation and timeliness of departmental financial statements; requests to the minister to resolve inconsistencies in transport operations regulations to ensure taxi and limousine drivers were required to have a zero alcohol concentration, amongst other matters; and the commencement of an inquiry into unsecured loads, to improve the safety of all road users, and discussions on a proposed inquiry into the increasing road death toll in Queensland. The committee minutes released today and information about the publication scheme are available on the parliament's website.

Papua New Guinea, Parliamentary Partnership Agreement

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, the Pacific Partnerships Program, often referred to as 'the twinning program', operates through the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to support parliamentary strengthening in our region. Queensland is fortunate to have been partnered with Papua

New Guinea since the first partnership agreement was signed in Port Moresby in September 2013. Last week I was honoured to host the Hon. Job Pomat, Speaker of the Papua New Guinea Parliament, to renew our Parliamentary Partnership Agreement for a further 10 years. This agreement strengthens a shared commitment to cooperation and collaboration between the Parliament of Papua New Guinea and the Parliament of Queensland for the mutual benefit of both parliaments. I am pleased to table a copy of the agreement for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Parliamentary Partnership Agreement Between the National Parliament of Papua New Guinea and the Parliament of Queensland'.

Virtual Visit Program

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to inform the House of an exciting new initiative by the parliamentary education team—the Virtual Visit Program for primary and secondary schools which will be launched this week. Schools located 250 kilometres or more from Brisbane will be able to connect with parliament via Microsoft Teams at no cost. Each virtual visit will include a live guided tour of the chamber, work sheets to enhance learning and time for students to ask questions. Members will be invited to participate. This program will make our tours accessible to more Queensland students, and I encourage members to support and promote this program within their electorates. Schools can book a virtual tour by visiting our website.

Visitors to Public Gallery

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this afternoon by students and teachers from Woodridge North State School in the electorate of Woodridge and Surfers Paradise State School in the electorate of Surfers Paradise.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Hollis, Mr RK

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.07 pm): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this State by the late Raymond Keith Hollis, a former member and Speaker of the Parliament of Queensland.
2. That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the Members of the Parliament of Queensland, in the loss they have sustained.

Raymond Keith Hollis was born in London on 30 January 1940. He was raised in London and had a tough upbringing during and after World War II. He was raised by his mum as a single parent and spent time in an orphanage. Mr Hollis left school at 15 and worked as a farmhand before he went to sea, working as a galley boy, a cook and a steward. It was his work as a merchant seaman that led him to move to Australia in 1962. Upon arrival Mr Hollis moved to South Australia, where he worked on the railways, as a cook, as a paper mill operator and as an insurance salesman. He also spent time with the corrective services department in Victoria before moving to Queensland in the 1970s. Mr Hollis settled in Redcliffe, where he went on to own and operate a transport and distribution business.

Being interested in politics and current affairs, Mr Hollis made several unsuccessful attempts to enter parliament. He first ran for state politics in 1979, contesting the Redcliffe by-election as an Independent. Two attempts at federal politics for the Australian Democrats followed: for the federal seat of Petrie in 1983 and for the Senate in 1984. In 1986 Mr Hollis joined the Australian Labor Party. At the 1989 state election he contested the seat of Redcliffe for the ALP which he was able to win from the Liberal Party member, Terry White. During his time in this place Mr Hollis served in many roles. Most notably, he served as Speaker of this House for almost seven years from July 1998. He held the position until his resignation as a member in July 2005.

Raymond Keith Hollis passed away on 18 December 2025. He was aged 85 years. On behalf of the government I place on record our thanks to Mr Hollis for his service over many years. I extend my sympathy and that of this House to his family and friends, many of whom join us today. Vale, Ray Hollis.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.09 pm): I rise on behalf of the Queensland Labor opposition to express our sorrow on the passing of Raymond Keith Hollis, a former member of this parliament and a former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. Ray was the member for Redcliffe for 16 years through some of Queensland's darkest days. He came to this parliament to be a strong voice for Moreton Bay, an area that had been neglected by the Bjelke-Petersen government.

Ray was a proud advocate for workers, having been a prison guard, a railway worker, a cook and a paper mill operator before he was elected.

In his time in this House, Ray was a proud Speaker of the House and used this role to modernise this place into the parliament we know today. Ray is remembered locally for the positive impact he had on our Moreton Bay community and his dedication to public service. Sixteen years is no short stint and, as many of us know, that takes a toll on time spent with family. So to Ray's family—wife, Ju Fen; children, Michael, Peter, Jennifer, Stephen and his wife, Maribel; and grandsons, Rogan and Chris—I say thank you for sharing your husband, father and grandfather with us and with Queenslanders. On behalf of the Labor Party I say thank you for your service to our movement and to Queensland. Vale, Ray Hollis.

 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (2.11 pm): I rise to also contribute to the condolence motion for the late Raymond Keith Hollis, a former Speaker of this House and a long-serving member for Redcliffe. Ray Hollis represented the people of Redcliffe from 2 December 1989 until 21 July 2005—16 years of dedicated parliamentary service. As the Premier said, Ray Hollis was born in London on 30 January 1940 and passed away on 18 December 2025. Ray's life journey was one marked by resilience, hard work and an unwavering belief in fairness. In his first speech to this parliament, on 6 March 1990, he said—

As a member of this Parliament, my first and foremost responsibility is to serve the people of the Redcliffe electorate. I shall endeavour to do that to the best of my ability.

Those were not hollow words; they defined his career.

Ray's early life was marked by hardship. As has already been shared in this House, he and his brothers were taken from their single mother and placed in an orphanage, an experience that left a profound and lifelong imprint. He spoke candidly about his time in the Dr Barnardo home and about the abuse he witnessed and endured as a young person. That courage to speak openly about painful chapters of his life reflected not only personal strength but also a deep commitment to justice and to the protection of vulnerable children.

Before entering parliament, Ray lived a life that embodied the Australian ideal of opportunity through hard work. He was a farmhand, a galley boy, a cook and a steward. He worked as a railway worker, a paper mill operator and a prison officer and he ran a transport business for 13 years. These were not abstract experiences; they grounded him and shaped the practical, no-nonsense approach that he brought to this chamber. Ray was elected in 1998 and served until 2005. In supporting his nomination, then premier Peter Beattie described him as a person of integrity, fairness and having an innate sense of justice. He was praised as not only a role model for new members but also a passionate advocate for opening the parliament to the people of Queensland.

As Speaker, Ray worked to make this institution more accessible. Under his stewardship, Parliament House was opened to the public seven days a week. Hundreds of thousands of visitors, including 155,000 schoolchildren, came through the doors. He supported innovation such as internet broadcasts of proceedings and online petitions. He also sought to restore dignity in the chamber. In his final appearance in March 2005 he reminded members of the importance of upholding standing orders and avoiding personal reflections.

Beyond this place, Ray was deeply involved in his community of Redcliffe. He chaired the local Redcliffe and Deception Bay Red Shield Appeal for the Salvation Army. I was chatting to his son Stephen a little earlier and he said they hosted many in his own home, welcoming more than 1,600 constituents over the years. Stephen remembers entertaining them. That simple but powerful gesture reflected a man who believed that representation begins with listening.

To his family who join us in the gallery today—his wife, Ju Fen; son Stephen and grandson Rogan and your partners—we extend our deepest sympathies. You shared Ray with this parliament and with the community he loved. His story is one of perseverance, service and belief in democracy. May he be remembered as a Speaker who valued fairness, a member who served Redcliffe with dedication and a person who never forgot where he came from. May he rest in peace. Vale, Ray Hollis.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.15 pm): I rise to contribute to this condolence motion for Ray Hollis, the former member for Redcliffe and former Speaker of the Queensland parliament. I associate myself with those condolence remarks that have been made so far. I also acknowledge Ju Fen, his children and grandchildren, friends and other family with us today.

I first met Ray when he was the member for Redcliffe about 25 years ago when I was a brash young councillor for the Deception Bay area. When he asked me to work on local projects with him in

the area, including the Red Shield Appeal, the answer could only be a yes due to the way he asked. I always found him to be courteous and a gentleman and he was always respectful. I always sensed his decorum and dignity and I always saw his genuine dedication to the people of Redcliffe as well as his genuine love for them.

I did not know him as well as the Hon. Dean Wells, my Labor predecessor as the member for Murrumba. Dean is a Labor legend—a former federal member for Petrie, a former state member for Murrumba and attorney-general in the Goss government who guided us through those legal reforms at the time. Dean is with us today—or he will be with us—in the gallery. I spoke to Dean about Ray as they served in neighbouring seats and worked closely together. I asked him what he remembers most about Ray. Dean said that few Speakers of this House have made as significant an impact on parliamentary life as Ray did, and he did it with just one decision that he made shortly after taking the Speaker's chair. Until Ray's time, members of this House had the letters MLA after their name and often their constituents did not know what those letters meant. Ray changed that with a stroke of the pen. Since his time as Speaker, members of this House have been called MPs.

Dean also said that Ray would be seen at everything on the peninsula that opens and shuts. People often speak of Ray's friendly smile and his cooperative approach to every problem. Ray worked on the assumption that every project undertaken for the benefit of the people of the peninsula was going to succeed and was going to be a shared endeavour.

Ray was born in East London; he was a cockney and was actually born within hearing of Bow Bells. Growing up during his early years in the immediate postwar era, even though they lived in London he and his young mates had plenty of open spaces to play cricket and other games. The German bombers had seen to that, and it was not until many years later that they learned there were many unexploded bombs buried beneath their playgrounds. Many people did not even notice that Ray was English by birth. Ray used to say that the East End accent is more like the Australian accent than any other because so many of the convicts came from there.

Dean further said that Ray was his friend and colleague. They worked together on many projects for the people of the Redcliffe peninsula. Dean told me of one night shortly after Ray was elected Speaker when a division had just been called. He took the opportunity while the bells were ringing to approach the Speaker's chair to talk to Ray about one of their joint projects. Dean began by saying, 'Well, Ray, it's a long way from hearing the great bell of Bow to ordering division bells to ring in the Queensland parliament.' Ray smiled and replied, 'Yes, but it has been a very worthwhile journey.' The life of Ray Hollis was indeed a very worthwhile journey. Vale, Ray Hollis.

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (2.18 pm): I also rise to speak on the motion of condolence for Raymond Hollis. Raymond Hollis was born in London on 30 January 1940 and came to Australia as a merchant seaman in 1962. Before entering politics, Ray worked as a railway worker, a farmhand, a gallery boy, a cook, a paper mill operator, a steward and in corrective services in Victoria. He also built his own transport and distribution business. Ray lived and worked in the real world, and that helped him be a better politician and ensured that his political career was one where he would meet Queenslanders and know the value of what they were going through.

In 1989 he was elected to this House as the member for Redcliffe—a seat he held for 16 years. He was known as a local member who was caring, accessible and, most importantly, genuine. Through reading some of Ray's speeches I discovered that he would hold regular mobile offices not out in his community but at his home so people would feel welcome. That tells you a lot about the type of politician Ray was.

In 1998 Ray was elected as the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly—a position he held with distinction on two separate occasions. Those who knew him during that time as Speaker said he was a man who brought fairness and dignity to the chair and who took seriously the responsibility of upholding the standards of this place. Amongst his achievements as Speaker, Ray ensured that parliamentarians remained connected to the people they served. He was the first Speaker to present all members with a laptop computer and he facilitated the use of laptops in this chamber, which I know we appreciate today. As he put it, the parliament needed to keep up with technology so that members were well equipped to do their jobs. He also presided over the very first regional parliament, ensuring parliament would be brought to Queenslanders.

He was perhaps most proud of the Wall of Reconciliation. A parliamentary inquiry resulted in an act of immediate recognition and reconciliation with and of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the parliamentary precinct, leading to the launch of the Wall of Reconciliation in the Parliamentary Annexe on level 5. The first artwork to appear on the wall was *Celestial Gathering* by Ms Cynthia Vogler.

Ray Hollis was instrumental in bringing that vision to fruition. Ray believed that parliament belonged to the people of Queensland and as Speaker he acted on that belief. During his first term he opened Parliament House to visitors on Sundays and then extended that in his second term to Saturdays, and today this building welcomes people from all walks of life from across Queensland on open days and students come here to visit this place. It is a lasting legacy of his time in the chair.

Those who knew Ray speak warmly of a man of principle and genuine commitment to his community and his family. I would like to acknowledge many family members whom I was able to meet today and who join us in the gallery: Ray's wife, Ju Fen; son Stephen; daughter-in-law Maribel; grandchildren Rogan and Chris; and niece Alice. I know that the House will join me in thanking Ray Hollis for his years of service to the people of Redcliffe and Queensland's democratic institution and in passing on our deepest condolences to his loving family. Vale, Ray Hollis.

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

Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will begin at 3.08 pm.

PETITIONS

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

Clermont Hospital, Health Services

1,246 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures to address primary healthcare in Clermont and the recruitment practices of Mackay Hospital and Health Services for the Clermont Hospital.

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

Housing, Land Developers

190 petitioners, requesting the House to stop giving the authority to land developers to build more homes.

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPER

The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism (Hon. Simpson)—

Office of the Commissioner (Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa)—Annual Report 2024-2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Weather Events, Recovery

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.24 pm): Severe weather in the north and far north of the state has continued to develop overnight. Heavy rain is forecast over the next few days, while major flood warnings also continue in south-western Queensland, where large volumes of water will continue to see river rises in the weeks ahead. We are actively monitoring the situation right across the state and urging Queenslanders to do the same. Our concern is that, because of the wet start to the year, there are many catchments that are very swollen, but I want Queenslanders to know that we have pre-positioned our assets, emergency authorities are ready to go and I have every faith in Queenslanders being well prepared, and I want to thank them for it.

Tourism Industry, Events

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.25 pm): Nothing beats being a Queenslanders. We live in the best place in the world and there is a buzz about the Sunshine State. There has never been a better time for people to come to Queensland—from investors, to families who want to relocate, to major events. Our Destination 2045 plan sets a clear goal to double visitor expenditure to \$84 billion by 2045. As part of that plan, our vision is for Queensland to be the

events capital of the country. Events do not just provide entertainment; they are economic drivers. They are job creators. They are confidence builders. They showcase the very best of who we are.

We are already the sports capital of Australia, and that is not just because we won the State of Origin, the AFL and both NRLs, and we have started 2026 in a good place too, with the Townsville Fire taking home the WNBL premiership on Sunday. That is a fifth championship in a little over a decade. To celebrate Queensland Day this year, we have already locked in blockbuster clashes right across the board—Queensland talent and passion on show in Queensland venues on Queensland Day. It has not happened by accident, and it does not get any better than that.

We have our sights set on the international market too—NFL, European football, the Kabaddi cup. Who knows what awaits the great state of Queensland? World-class matches that will fill hotel rooms, support local businesses and put Queensland on screens across the globe: that is the boost that major events can bring our state. Just last month Queensland hosted the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo for the first time right here in Brisbane, and it did not happen by accident. It was coordinated, it was planned, it was rolled out and it delivered benefits. Over 120,000 tickets were sold, with plenty of interstate visitors making the trip to Queensland to watch the show. Hotel occupancy was at 90 per cent, injecting more than \$30 million into the economy.

From April Sting will bring *The Last Ship* to our new Glasshouse Theatre. He is bringing the show to four major centres—Paris, Amsterdam, New York, Brisbane. Not bad! This week the AFC Women's Asian Cup kicked off, with the Gold Coast hosting six matches. Our pipeline of events is stronger than ever, but we are not done yet. As we prepare for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, we are building the foundations for decades of opportunity. We are working with industry, local councils and tourism operators to ensure that when the spotlight shines it shines brightly on every corner of this state. While stadium availability and certainty has created some challenges and made it difficult for acts to plan during a decade of decline, we have a plan to fix that with upgrades to Suncorp Stadium and a world-class oval stadium at Victoria Park. This will enable us to attract the big-name acts that have passed us by. To those fans of pop music, I have not given up on getting Harry Styles to Queensland one day, either. We have not given up on that just yet.

Mr Bleijie: Who's Harry Styles?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will tell you later.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Speaker, for the reputation of our team, I will not take that interjection. The investments we make now will enable us to do the things that Queenslanders need—the investments in venues, in transport, in accommodation, in skills. They will serve Queenslanders long after the closing ceremony. It is about the cafe owner who will see an increase in customers, the apprentice tradie working on venue upgrades and the soundie who gets her big break on a Queensland stage. We are on the cusp of something very special and we are on a mission to bring more opportunities to Queensland. It is Queensland's time to shine now. It is Queensland's time of opportunity, and we are just getting started.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Infrastructure

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.29 pm): The honourable Premier talks about Queensland being open for business and that people are looking at Queensland. We are open for business and people are moving to the Sunshine State in droves. They are moving their businesses here. They are moving their place of residence here. They are moving their people here because we are providing homes and roofs over their heads. We are providing health services and access to health services. We are limiting the numbers of victims of crime in the state. There are fewer victims of crime under our tough-on-crime policies. We have, of course, put in permanent 50-cent fares to deal with the cost-of-living crisis. So is it any wonder people are coming to Queensland in droves! The honourable Premier talks about Queensland being the events capital. He wants Harry; I want Dolly Parton. Dolly Parton will come to a big stadium in Victoria Park—the new 63,000-seat stadium; where some of you may go and watch the cricket and some will go and watch the AFL. I will go and watch a Dolly Parton concert any day of the week.

As we are delivering right across the state so, too, we are delivering Olympic and Paralympic infrastructure. We had a decade of decline and going nowhere in terms of Olympic and Paralympic

infrastructure. I have travelled the state. I have been to the Scenic Rim recently. I have been to our great Central Queensland. I was at the Gold Coast last week. When I was in Central Queensland we talked, of course—

A government member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I am going to get to that in a minute, member for Rockhampton. I went to Logan where we are developing the Logan Indoor Sports Centre, funded under the Crisafulli government as part of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. I saw my good friend, the mayor of Logan, Jon Raven. There are rumours going around about the mayor of Logan because we are from different political sides of the fence. Some call it a bromance; I say, 'He has never had a better government to deal with and deliver for his Logan community.' I think Jon Raven knows a good government when he sees one.

I am reliably informed that I have spent more time in Logan delivering for Logan than the former deputy premier, the member for Woodridge, did, and it is his own electorate. We have been delivering houses. We have been unlocking land. We were knocking down the old PCYC last week and we are building the Logan Indoor Sports Centre. I was told by the people of Logan that they have seen more of the Deputy Premier of the Crisafulli government—

A government member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE:—I take the interjection; the Logan Hospital—than the former Labor deputy premier who incidentally had a bit to do with that area. I guess he might have just been looking at Logan when he was cleaning his gutters. Remember he said he used to look at his electorate when he clean his gutters. I have been on the ground in Logan. I stood with the federal Treasurer—I am not a real fan of the federal Treasurer, but I am a fan of the mayor of Logan because he is delivering with us.

Then I went to Central Queensland where we are going to deliver the best rowing facility—rowing on the mighty Fitzroy River. We have been absolutely clear about this: we in the LNP are all rowing in the same direction. Under those opposite there was a decade of decline—no idea. We are on this side House are rowing in the right direction—the same direction—supporting and backing Central Queensland. Those opposite are all over the shop. I saw comments from Robert Schwarten recently, the Labor luminary. Incidentally, the opposition leader was just photographed at a Labor function in Rockhampton cuddling up to Robert Schwarten. Did he talk about rowing in Rocky and investing in Central Queensland—I wonder? Now I see the shadow minister saying, 'Oh no, the Labor Party do support rowing'. The Labor Party support rowing in Rocky, apparently, despite the shadow minister being on the record saying she supported it being at Wyaralong.

Ms Grace: No, no, no, we supported both.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the shadow minister where she said, 'Nah, nah, nah'. I table from *Hansard* where I quote the shadow minister, 'I am happy for rowing to be at Wyaralong,' so nah, nah, nah; yeah, yeah, yeah. Here it is—your words shadow minister and I was prepared for it.

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 31 July 2025, from the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee transcript of estimates hearing, page 67.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, I remind you that this is ministerial statements.

Mr BLEIJIE: Indeed, thank you Mr Speaker. That is why we are delivering rowing in Rocky. The Labor Party opposition is rowing in different directions. Let me finish on this: Brisbane Stadium at Victoria Park—a 63,000-seat stadium that will be delivered for the people of Queensland. We are getting on with the job. We are delivering for the 2032 games rather than the decade of decline we saw under the Labor government.

GST Distribution

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.35 pm): I rise to update the House on the ongoing efforts of the Crisafulli government to secure a fairer share of GST revenue for Queenslanders. The issue of GST distribution is fundamentally about fairness and the capacity of state governments to deliver services that Queenslanders rely on—from hospitals and schools to roads and regional services. Frankly, under the current GST distribution model, Queensland is being short-changed. Despite strong population growth, increasing service demands and robust economic contributions, our share of the GST has failed to keep pace. While the national GST pool has grown 75 per cent over the last decade, Queensland's share has only grown by 28 per cent. This is well behind other states: New South Wales, 58 per cent; Victoria, 118 per cent; and Western Australia, 317 per cent up. It is time Queensland got its fair share. We have consistently called on federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers to ensure GST distribution recognises

Queensland's growth, decentralisation and contribution to the national economy. Our numerous call-outs to federal Treasurer Chalmers and those opposite urging them to do the right thing by Queensland and in the national interest have been ignored.

In the year since the decision was made to strip Queensland of \$2.3 billion in GST revenue, those opposite have had nothing to say. Nothing at all about Queensland being ripped off. Has the Leader of the Opposition bothered to pick up the phone and speak to Jim Chalmers? I heard the Deputy Premier speak favourably of another member in Logan—has the deputy opposition leader bothered to pick up the phone and speak with his next door neighbour in his electorate office Jim Chalmers about Queensland being ripped off? The answer is no, because they will always bow down to their Labor mates in Canberra rather than standing up for Queenslanders here at home. Our submission to the federal Productivity Commission's review of GST distribution reforms will raise the prospect of a Canada-style discount to mining related revenue when GST distributions are calculated. States should not be penalised for their contribution to industries that drive national wealth, but, under the existing methodology, that is exactly what happens. States that support the growth of our resources industries are penalised, with royalty revenues redistributed to states which ban or restrict exploration.

Western Australia, of course, has its sweetheart deal. There are other ways to provide support to Western Australia but in a fair and consistent manner nationally and at lower cost to the Commonwealth. In Canada's equivalent system, a 50 per cent discount to mining related revenue is applied. The 2018 Western Australian GST deal is equivalent to a discount of 40 to 50 per cent, but despite also having a significant mining sector Queensland receives no benefit. I want to echo the comments made by the Premier to the National Press Club last month. He said this was not about west versus east, this is about a GST distribution system that encourages states to grow industries that serve the national interest instead of being penalised for that decision. As the Premier pointed out, the methodology used to calculate GST distribution has left us short when it comes to our decentralised state.

We will continue to engage constructively with the federal Productivity Commission review while, in the meantime, the Queensland Productivity Commission reviews the economic impacts of the current GST redistribution system. This side of the House will continue to champion sensible reform in favour of fairness, sustainability and equity for Queensland taxpayers. While the Labor Party bows down to their mates in Canberra, the Crisafulli government is standing up for Queenslanders on this fundamental question of fairness.

Trade Mission, South Korea and Japan

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (2.39 pm): Big things are happening for Queensland. Queensland is a state full of opportunities and the Crisafulli government is pulling out all stops to deliver a better lifestyle through a stronger economy. After a decade of decline under the former Labor government, whose anti-mining policies sent investment off a cliff, we are sending a clear message that Queensland is open for business. We are travelling far and wide to find the right people to invest, because if companies want to invest in Queensland we will make it happen. That is why last week I led a targeted trade mission to strengthen Queensland's economic ties with two of our most important trading partners: South Korea and Japan.

My first port of call was to meet with Hyundai Rotem's CEO and president, Mr Lee Yong-bae, and visit HRC's factory in Changwon, where test trains are being manufactured for the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program. Make no mistake, the Crisafulli government has got the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program back on track. During my visit I walked through the test train carriages, I sat in the seats and, more importantly, I received an ironclad guarantee from HRC that both test trains will be in Australia by the end of the year. I know that the member for Maryborough is very excited about that.

Unlike those opposite, who oversaw cost and time blowouts, the Crisafulli government is delivering on time and on budget, with 200 blue-collar jobs up for grabs at Torbanlea to build our trains right here in Queensland. As we know, under those opposite Queensland plunged to a dismal 39th place on the Fraser Institute's Annual Survey of Mining Companies Investment Attractiveness Index. In just over a year we have recovered to 13th place globally. We are working hard with companies that share our vision for Queensland to deliver a better lifestyle through a stronger economy, and the broader mining sector is responding, ranking Queensland higher than the average score for the United States, Argentina and Canada.

There is interest in our resources sector right across South-East Asia—from our high-quality metallurgical coal to our booming gas sector and emerging critical minerals industry. During my trade mission in South Korea I met with senior representatives from Posco International, Rio Tinto, Choil Aluminium and Korea Zinc. In Japan I spoke at the JOGMEC summit and had constructive conversations with Marubeni, Mitsui, Idemitsu and Itochu—longstanding partners who have made great contributions to Queensland’s resources sector. Itochu recently invested in our high-quality coal assets through the Argo consortium, taking over the former Fitzroy Australia Resources assets and Bowen Coking Coal. Make no mistake, interest in our coal sector remains strong. These discussions reinforced the depth of our trade relationships and the vital role our resources and manufacturing sectors play in Queensland’s economy.

It was an opportunity to reinforce the value the Crisafulli government places on partnerships with the South Korean and Japanese investors and provide reassurance that under our government they can expect reliability, stability and trust—something that was severely lacking from those opposite. On this side of the House we know that certainty matters, and we are fighting tooth and nail to get our reputation back. That is exactly the message I took to Japan and South Korea on this mission. Queensland is open for business and we will not wait for opportunity to knock; we will go out and seize it.

Police Resources

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (2.43 pm): I rise today to update the House on the decisive leadership and real progress we are delivering to make Queensland safer. Last month, Brett Pointing was appointed as Queensland’s new Police Commissioner following the retirement of Steve Gollschewski. Acting Commissioner Pointing brings more than 40 years of policing experience to the role, including senior leadership positions within the Queensland Police Service and the Australian Federal Police. He has led major operational reforms, supported stronger protections for victims of domestic and family violence, worked in disaster management and played a key role in tackling serious and organised crime. His first major initiative as commissioner was the launch of Operation Forge on Friday, a high-visibility statewide crackdown targeting break-ins, robberies and stolen vehicles with a strong focus on serious repeat offenders. Already in 2025, we have seen a 17 per cent reduction in the number of serious repeat offenders compared with 2024—clear evidence that strong leadership, stronger laws and proper resourcing are making a difference.

Leadership matters, but so too does rebuilding the strength of the front line after Labor’s decade of decline. Just last week I proudly oversaw 123 new constables sworn in to the Queensland Police Service in one of the largest graduations in recent history. Since the election there has been a net increase of 617 police officers across this state—that is significantly more than Labor added in their last two terms combined—while unplanned attrition has fallen to just 2.6 per cent, the lowest level in five years. Why? It is because this government backs our police. We are turning around the record attrition and stretched resources left behind after a decade of decline.

The strengthened front line is being backed by targeted specialist capability. Today the State Flying Squad marks 125 deployments across Queensland. This 58-officer rapid response unit of crack detectives, the largest in Queensland’s history, has now arrested 2,265 offenders on 6,931 charges, including 1,279 juveniles charged with 3,858 offences. The squad provides critical surge capacity into crime hotspots, restoring safety where Queenslanders live and helping turn the tide on Labor’s youth crime crisis.

We are delivering stronger leadership, more police on the beat and specialist resources to target those worst offenders causing the most harm. Victim numbers are down 7.2 per cent in 2025 compared with 2024, but we know there is still more work to do after a decade of decline that saw overall victims of crime increase by 193 per cent. We will not relent. We will continue driving down crime and reducing the number of victims across this great state.

Schools, Occupational Violence Strategy

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (2.47 pm): Safety where you live, safety where you work and safety where you learn: this is what the Crisafulli government is committed to delivering. This is what Queenslanders deserve and need. After a decade of decline under the former Labor government, schools had been neglected and teachers forgotten. Their legacy is one of occupational violence and unsupported teachers. Under those opposite there was a 211 per cent increase in occupational violence incidents from 2022 to 2024. Between 2022 and

2023 there was a 107 per cent increase. Despite this, the former Labor education minister allowed the Occupational Violence Strategy to lapse in 2023. Queenslanders would like to know—and deserve to know—why the Labor Party let something so obviously a serious issue remain unaddressed. In fact, under their watch it escalated exponentially. Those opposite need to explain to Queenslanders why there was no Occupational Violence Strategy from 2023, as well as the well-documented behaviour issues, bullying issues, poor teacher morale, increasing WorkCover claims, declining NAPLAN results and an over \$400 million maintenance backlog.

These are all issues we have inherited and are committed to fixing. The Crisafulli government is committed to ensuring our schools are safe places. We have a plan for Queensland's future. We are taking action to address Labor's decade of decline in our schools. The Crisafulli government is investing \$57 million to employ 140 new work health and safety officers to tackle occupational violence in the classroom across 340 state schools. A couple of weeks ago I had the pleasure of visiting Aspley Special School to announce the 30 work health and safety coordinators across Queensland's 46 special schools. Combined with the \$45 million on the Behaviour Boost initiative and the \$33 million in our nation-leading anti-bullying initiative, it shows that we have a plan. These initiatives are just the beginning. We will continue to address occupational violence in schools, but we have a long way to go.

Sport

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (2.49 pm): I start by supporting the Premier's earlier statements in congratulating the Townsville Fire. On Sunday they played one of the greatest grand finals in WNBL history. They won in overtime after the lead changed 41 times. Coach Shannon Seebohm, finals MVP player Courtney Woods and the entire team once again showed that North Queensland is a powerhouse of international standard.

There is no doubt that Queensland is the home of Australian sport and last week I shared that message in the United States as part of our commitment to deliver the games Queensland deserves in 2032. Los Angeles is currently preparing for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games as well as being the host city for this year's FIFA World Cup. In Los Angeles we did not just meet with executives; we went into the engine room of the 2028 games. From the LA28 headquarters to the offices of Los Angeles city deputy mayors, our focus was razor sharp: logistics and legacy. We are not interested in the vanity projects of the former Labor government. We are learning how LA is utilising 50 venues to deliver a games that is fiscally disciplined and community focused. I also sat down with Aecom's Executive Vice President, Bill Hanway, to discuss the technical blueprint for venue delivery.

At the G'day USA round table my message was clear: the world will be watching Queensland so come over and partner with us. Unlike those opposite, the Crisafulli government has a plan to ensure that the world knows that Queensland is the home of Australian sport. Queenslanders love all sport and the popularity of American football is continuing on an upward spiral, particularly with younger sports fans. At a meeting with the NFL commissioner we had the first of what promises to be many discussions about growing the sport's presence in Queensland. Who knows? Maybe one day we will host an NFL fixture. When you build infrastructure such as a stadium that can seat 63,000 people, those are the types of events that you can attract.

Australian-based mixed martial arts champions have seen the UFC's popularity continue to explode in this country. With the Crisafulli government delivering new arenas in Brisbane, the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast, a positive meeting with the UFC has opened the door to bringing world-class cards to Queensland. I can also reveal to the House that, following meetings with NRL officials, discussions are underway to showcase the might of Queensland to the world with a potential State of Origin clash to be held between the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2032.

I am particularly proud to tell the House that, after decades of absence, Australia House is coming back as a centre for Australian athletes, supporters and local Americans. We found the perfect stage by securing a footprint at Venice Beach. We have created a permanent billboard for Queensland on the global stage. Venice Beach will be our launching pad to showcase our lifestyle, our trade and our 2032 vision to the world's most influential market. After 1,200 days of games chaos and confusion under the former Labor government, this government is restoring Queensland's global reputation.

Destination 2045

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (2.52 pm): I rise to update the House on the delivery of Destination 2045.

Destination 2045 is our plan and the tourism industry's plan to grow Queensland's visitor economy and to grow it properly. It is long-term and it is statewide because Queensland's tourism industry does not begin and end in South-East Queensland. It lives in the north and far north of Queensland. It thrives in the gulf. It drives opportunity through Central Queensland, the Darling Downs and right across Outback Queensland. I acknowledge Mayor Ben Hall and his delegation from Quilpie who are in the chamber today.

If we want Queensland to remain the home of the holiday, we must back the places we want visitors to experience—and that is exactly what we are doing. Round 1 of the Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund is all about teaming up with operators to bring great projects to life, with \$7.6 million going to 30 incredible projects for visitor upgrades, stronger precincts, new attractions and targeted infrastructure that will help towns welcome more guests and keep them longer. This gives confidence to operators who are prepared to invest alongside the Crisafulli government.

This is not a strategy sitting on a shelf. It is support flowing into Charleville. It is partnerships in Longreach. It is new experiences in Richmond. It is growth in Mareeba and Kuranda and it is opportunities in Agnes Waters and 1770. We are backing small operators in places such as Betoota and Yeppoon. There are stargazing experiences, glamping in the outback, dinosaur tourism and immersive flight experiences. This is investment driven locally and supported by the Crisafulli government.

Alongside that, our outback tourism recovery program is backing communities that have done it tough. As the Premier said, while Outback Queensland is resilient—and we acknowledge that again as the rains are falling out west—resilience deserves support. We are sending a clear message: Outback Queensland is open for business. Our new campaign, 'Outback Queensland—It's something else', brings the region to life. As part of the campaign, Australian country music legend Lee Kernaghan will join Queensland Music Trails for two major shows and deliver three pop-up gigs.

A government member: No Dolly Parton?

Mr POWELL: No Dolly Parton. We will go one better because we have Lee Kernaghan. Get out your pen and paper because these are the dates: 27 March in Jundah, 28 March in Quilpie, 29 March in Thargomindah, 24 April in Charleville and 29 April in Longreach. The Crisafulli government understands that when regional Queensland grows the whole state grows.

As a further part of our vision for tourism, today I can announce that we have just opened our next round of Homegrown—Queensland's Destination Events Fund grants. The last round invested nearly \$2 million to support 40 events and this new founding round will back even more. We are adding fresh momentum to our Homegrown program, which is part of our long-term Destination 2045 tourism plan. This is in stark contrast to Labor's secret plan to slash tourism funding during their decade of decline. Delivering Destination 2045 drives everything we do. We are getting on with the job. The Queensland buzz is real and it is just going to grow.

Small and Family Business First Action Statement

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (2.56 pm): There are now more than half a million small and family businesses in Queensland—508,000 to be specific—which is a wonderful achievement for a sector that employs over one million Queenslanders and contributes more than \$132 billion to the state's economy. The number of small and family businesses that call Queensland home is growing because they are supported by the Crisafulli government, which has a plan to back them and support them with an operating environment that enables them to grow and thrive. Our Small and Family Business First Action Statement is continuing to drive this growth through targeted initiatives for small and family businesses. We are at half a million now, but we have a plan to push the number of small and family businesses beyond 600,000 by 2032. We know that Queensland small and family businesses will be vital when it comes to delivering the greatest Olympic and Paralympic Games in history.

We also support safety and security for small and family businesses and their staff. We know Labor are hopelessly divided when it comes to backing our tough-on-crime laws and reducing victim numbers. They are also behind the times when it comes to supporting our Secure Communities Partnership Program. We will never let those opposite forget why this program was so vital in the first place. Skyrocketing crime rates and the softening of crime laws will forever be the legacy of the opposition leader.

Obviously, they still do not get it. In late February, the member for Lytton and the member for Bundaberg put out media releases saying that 'earlier this month' the Crisafulli government opened the program to include direct applications from small and family businesses. A few phone calls, a quick check of *Hansard* or a quick search of their colleagues' own social media pages would have shown that I announced our plans and opened applications for small businesses to apply directly back in November of last year—almost four months ago. In that time, more than 300 small businesses have started to submit applications for funding under this round of the program. Yet again: sloppy, lazy and not getting with the program.

These small businesses obviously knew about the program, unlike the member for Lytton and the member for Bundaberg. This program delivers physical infrastructure upgrades such as lighting, perimeter and security improvements, upgraded CCTV and fencing, to name but a few. It follows round 1, which actually funded 42 projects which are being delivered and will benefit hundreds of small and family businesses across Queensland. Businesses like Pedlar Project, Gecko Interiors on Flinders Street in Townsville, Caffin8 Cafe in Gordonvale and Beechwoods Cafe in Mossman are just a few of the small businesses where owners, staff and customers will have improved security measures.

In Central Queensland, the member for Rockhampton and I listened to the stories of local small business owners from PNE Art and Framing, City Printing Works and Artizan Gluten Free Bakery. Just across the river from this House, Shays Shoes and Swiss Gourmet Deli are among the small businesses that will benefit from our partnership with the Brisbane City Council to support traders on Boundary Street, West End. Round 2 is still open and we encourage all eligible small businesses to directly apply for funding of between \$5,000 and \$20,000 to implement crime prevention measures.

We know that those who sit opposite are hopelessly divided when it comes to small business safety. I do not know what it is about them and their attitude to small business. Why do they not like them? I do not know. While the member for Bundaberg is out there attacking this vital program, his colleagues—the rest of them—are backing the program. He is attacking a program that is delivering safety and support for hundreds of small and family businesses. What is it with the member for Bundaberg? Whether it is across the beautiful Cape York Peninsula or the Gold Coast, we are supporting them.

In conclusion, let's be crystal clear: whether it is a small business applying directly or chambers of commerce working with local governments to apply, we are providing \$40 million worth of crime prevention measures to improve the safety of small and family businesses, their staff and their customers. On this side of the House, we will always put small and family business first, in every corner of Australia. Why then do those opposite not back our champion small and family businesses?

ABSENCE OF MINISTER

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (3.01 pm): I advise the House that the Minister for Primary Industries will be absent for today's sitting. I advise that the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development will answer questions for the minister in question time.

STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND WORKS COMMITTEE

Report

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (3.02 pm): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 21, 58th Parliament, of the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee titled *Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland*.

Tabled paper: State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 21, 58th Parliament—Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland.

I am proud to serve as chair of the committee. I am pleased to present a set of nation-leading recommendations. The interdepartmental coordination built into this report sets a new national standard for how we manage e-mobility use and protect our communities.

New technologies bring new challenges, and the arrival of e-scooters and e-bikes was no exception. The recommendations in this report reflect the considerable effort the committee has invested in making sure the proposed solutions are robust, comprehensive and practical. We looked closely at safety, regulation, infrastructure and public behaviour. We sought a balanced approach that preserves the benefits of e-mobility use while reducing the risks.

Last year in Queensland, 12 people lost their lives in e-mobility related incidents, several of them children. More than 6,300 people presented to emergency departments with injuries. Preventing further tragedies must remain our priority. Hearing the stories from community members and stakeholders was both confronting and enlightening. Their experiences helped shape the committee's recommendations and reinforced the need for meaningful reform to make this sector safer for all. Thank you to all of the 1,200-plus individuals and organisations who made submissions to the inquiry and all those who gave evidence.

I am immensely proud of the work the committee has undertaken. Thank you to our secretariat, especially Stephanie, Rhyll and Amy, for their assistance. The committee approached this inquiry methodically and collaboratively. We considered every angle. We listened to key stakeholders and community voices, and we acknowledge the heartbreaking experiences of those who lost loved ones in e-mobility incidents. It is clear that a stronger regulatory framework is needed.

Riders' interactions with pedestrians informed several specific recommendations. Changing rider culture is an important step towards reducing dangerous and antisocial conduct, protecting riders and pedestrians alike. Our recommendations include stricter expectations for rider behaviour, backing and empowering our police to enforce those expectations.

The recommendations in this report draw on existing regulations. They align current systems and frameworks to create a more harmonised approach. They bring together the work of multiple departments, each with its own role in legislating and regulating the e-mobility industry. These departments, along with local, state and federal governments, have already invested significant effort in this sector. By aligning these regulations and integrating them with our recommendations, we can ensure clarity and consistency moving forward. This report sets out a path towards safer and more responsible e-mobility use. By implementing these reforms, we can preserve the benefits of this emerging technology while keeping our community safe.

These recommendations are nation-leading. They are robust and comprehensive and they are practical. They include: new definitions for motor vehicles and motorcycles; age restrictions and a licensing requirement; coordinated battery safety and standards; new powers to seize, impound and destroy illegal e-mobility devices; new offences targeting high-risk offending; changes to the State Penalties Enforcement Registry to pursue 16- and 17-year-old riders; laws to pursue parents or guardians for penalties; penalties for tampering and clear requirements for all retailers; a new 'ride without due care and attention around pedestrians' offence, and speed limits on footpaths; increased penalties for life-endangering offences; and also guidelines to assist schools to promote safety.

To be clear, reform will mean making tough decisions, but we must make tough decisions to keep Queenslanders safe. I commend the report to the House.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Victims of Crime, Data Reporting

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (3.07 pm): I give notice that I will move—

That this House condemns the Crisafulli LNP government for omitting thousands of victims of crime, including domestic and family violence victims, from victim numbers.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Visitors to Public Gallery

 **Mr SPEAKER:** I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery during question time by a delegation from the Quilpie Shire Council: Mayor Ben Hall, Deputy Mayor Roger Volz, Councillor Lyn Barnes, Councillor Tony Lander, Councillor Milan Milosevic and CEO Mr Justin Hancock.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 4.08 pm.

Health System, Workforce

 **Mr MILES** (3.08 pm): My question is to the Minister for Health. Queensland Health workers join us in the gallery today. On their behalf, I table their invoices for services provided beyond their base scope.

Tabled paper: Bundle of documents titled 'United Workers Union, Invoices'.

Will the minister stick to his word and pay Queensland cancer care workers what they are worth?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the honourable member for his question. I welcome the Queensland Health workers to the gallery here today. This is as much a place for them as it is for those opposite. I say to you, you are welcome. I say to you also thank you for the work that you do. I have had the great privilege to be able to travel the state and to see the work that is done.

I have met with some of them. I have met with their union representatives in this place. I met with representatives of the United Workers Union last year as part of the negotiations, as I have met with union members and their representatives as part of the negotiating process for the eight enterprise bargaining agreements that fall within my portfolio—five of which have now been resolved, covering 116,000 workers, including four in Queensland Health and one with the Queensland Ambulance Service. I say to you: welcome. I understand your fight and I understand what you are claiming.

The claim relates to a provision in the enterprise bargaining arrangement made in 2022 under the former government which contained a clause that paid radiation therapists an interim allowance of 25 per cent, pending the completion of a work level evaluation, to ensure there was a standard and a set price so our therapists, including our radiation therapists, could be paid what they were worth for the work that they were doing. That was agreed to in 2022. It was never undertaken. I say to you: that work has not been completed.

When I came to office and was advised about it, I said, 'Why hasn't this been undertaken?' We want to pay therapists what they are due. We want to embed it in our enterprise bargaining arrangements, for which we have had more than 30 meetings with the unions to resolve. We went back to the UWU and asked, 'Why hasn't this been done?' I had sought advice on it. Every time Queensland Health had sought to do that, the union had put forward reasons it should not be done, including nominating a UWU member who is a radiation therapist to do the work level evaluation. I think anyone would agree that there is a conflict of interest there.

We said, 'We want to do that. We want to go through that process.' We want to go through that process to do a work level evaluation, as was agreed. The union said, 'No, we don't want to do it.' We have now had a series of meetings, including conciliation. The most recent conciliation meeting occurred at the end of February—less than five days ago—and there is another evaluation coming up. We will pay you what you are worth.

(Time expired)

Coomera Hospital

Mr MILES: My question is to the Minister for Health. Structures already built at the new Coomera Hospital have now been demolished. How much has this cost taxpayers?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. Before I turn to that question, I just want to finish off my previous answer and simply say—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I am detecting a deliberate disruption of the House, so I will start to name people.

Mr NICHOLLS: I was simply going to say as a conclusion to my previous answer to the people who are here that we want to settle this matter. We want to settle it quickly. We have been in negotiations since May last year to resolve this matter, and we will continue—

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Lytton, you are warned.

Mr NICHOLLS: We will continue to bargain in good faith. We are very happy to work on the work level evaluation and reach a resolution by 30 June in order to make that happen because we know the specialists in those areas who provide those services do great work.

I turn now to the question in relation to Coomera. It gives me yet another opportunity to refer to my book 'Labor's hospital failures'. It enables me to go to tab 4 of that book in relation to Labor's failure to deliver the Coomera Hospital—their failure to have the funding available for their failed capacity

expansion program; their failure to make provision for the number of beds that will be required on the northern Gold Coast; the almost \$1 billion cost blowout; and their total failure to resolve matters to ensure the 200 beds at Robina that they promised were delivered. They failed to sign a contract for it. They delayed it for six months.

Ms Mullen interjected.

Ms Farmer interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Bulimba and member for Jordan!

Mr NICHOLLS: They proposed to build a hospital that had no pharmacy, no pathology and no outpatients department. Imagine that: a hospital with no pathology, no pharmacy and no outpatients! Imagine how that might look to the therapists who are looking to work in their hospital. Imagine how that might look to the ambulance officers. They did not have a pharmacy. They could not do pathology testing. They could not deal with outpatients. They had no plan for Robina. They were supposed to have it finished by the second half of 2024, but they had not even signed a lease. They had not even signed a lease.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was about the cost of demolition.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, the question referred to the demolition and works at the Coomera Hospital.

Mr NICHOLLS: Absolutely. The work we are doing continues to be done. I am not sure if the Leader of the Opposition actually understands the difference between earthworks to prepare a site and general building works, but that is because he has never built anything. He does not even know how to get it out of the ground.

Mr de BRENNI: Before the minister's time expires, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was about the cost of demolition.

Mr SPEAKER: That was part of the question, Minister. You have 10 seconds left.

Mr NICHOLLS: As we all know, we are investing more money in Coomera to deliver more hospital beds sooner than was ever going to be delivered under Labor. Just watch this space.

(Time expired)

Crisafulli LNP Government, Achievements

Mr DILLON: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering the reforms necessary to protect vulnerable Queenslanders, and is the Premier aware of any approaches that abandoned these vulnerable communities during a decade of decline?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the member for Gregory for the question. I can tell the House that good governments are compassionate, diligent and look after the vulnerable. I thank the member very much for his question.

We are doing that. Free health care is rolling out, including at those facilities that those opposite said would not be there. There are fewer victims. There is also the opportunity for young offenders to turn their lives around. We are giving them an opportunity to have some hope through early intervention, rehabilitation and a place to call home. This side of the House will deliver four times as much public housing per year than those opposite did, on average, every single year for 10 years.

Ms Mullen interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Jordan.

Mr CRISAFULLI: We have permanent cost-of-living assistance. We are making sure kids can go to sport and school so they can form that connection.

Good governments also call out when behaviour does not meet the mark. Yesterday the member for Cairns was called out. We exposed some of the most disgraceful anti-Semitic comments that this place has heard, and for them to come from a member of parliament was a disgrace. The member stood on his feet and refused to apologise. He refused to condemn it. He doubled down. I wanted to tell the House—

Mr HEALY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I never made those comments. I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I withdraw. Today I want to tell the House why it matters. It matters to the small business that has had their contracts cancelled and their businesses blocked as a result of online guerrilla campaigns because of their faith. It matters to the worshippers who go out to practise their faith and someone reverses a car into where they worship. It matters. That is why it matters. It matters to the young child who cannot say their faith at school because they are afraid. That is why it matters. Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition said it was a distraction. He said it was theatrics.

Ms Mullen interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Jordan, I have cautioned you two or three times.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Can you believe the lack of leadership!

Mr SPEAKER: Stop the clock. Member for Jordan, you are warned. I have called you two or three times.

Mr CRISAFULLI: This is what the Jewish Board of Deputies said about Mr Healy's comments. They said it employs 'age-old antisemitic tropes and Holocaust inversion'. They said it is 'dangerous rhetoric that has fuelled the flames of hatred against Jews since 7 October 2023' and 'turning the trauma of the Jewish people against them'. They said—

... Mr Healy has transitioned from political critique to the promotion of the 'dual loyalty' trope. This classic antisemitic slur treats Jewish Australians as a suspicious group working against society.

They said—

Mr Healy's narrative demonstrates a reckless disregard for the influence of an elected official during a time of extreme antisemitism and heightened national tensions.

This week historic legislation will be stood up in this parliament. If the Leader of the Opposition does not stand down the member for Cairns, he has no ticker.

(Time expired)

Hospitals, Ramping

Mr SMITH: My question is to the Minister for Health. Do staff at Queensland hospitals use predicted discharge numbers against standard practice in order to reduce the hospital's tier 3 and tier 2 status?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for his question. In the last parliamentary sitting we remember the member for Bundaberg making claims about the tier 3 operation of the Bundaberg Hospital and making all sorts of spurious and wild claims in relation to that, when we found out that it had been on tier 3 under the Crisafulli LNP government 15 per cent less than it was under the former Labor government. We have also been able to show in terms of hospital ramping that at Bundaberg Hospital the ramping rate has gone down as part of achieving the lowest hospital ramping rate in half a decade and the biggest single decline in a decade. They have been mysteriously silent about any of those sorts of things.

It has been brought to my attention by the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union, who wrote to me about 10 days ago, that they are raising issues on behalf of their members regarding the treatment of patients at a number of hospitals. One of the claims they have made is in respect of something called predictive ramping figures being used to discharge patients and to count patients. I have in fact written to the QNMU. I sent them a letter on Monday saying there has been no use of those things—none whatsoever. There has been no change to the counting of numbers in hospitals. The system is being run as it always was run. There are no dodgy numbers like those opposite tried to do when the member for Waterford changed the method of counting back in April 2024 because the numbers were going bad. Remember she promised to go back to 28 per cent—

Mr Crisafulli: It went to 45!

Mr NICHOLLS:—on the ramp within 12 months—failed. It went up. What did it go to? It went to the highest quarterly figure ever recorded. She promised to reduce the elective surgery waiting list—failed. It went up again and they left it at about 65,000.

We are delivering. We are using exactly the same method of counting. We have not changed anything in respect of that method. What we are doing is delivering more transit lounges and more CT and MRI machines. We are expanding the emergency room at Rockhampton Hospital. We are putting 51 beds on at Gladstone. We have put additional nurses' quarters out at Biloela. We are restoring maternity birthing services. We are reducing time on the ramp by our ambulance officers—as I said

yesterday, getting an extra 20 paramedics back on to the street—and we driving down the ramping rate as well as delivering 2,600 beds—200 more than they promised.

Workplace, Codes of Conduct

Ms JAMES: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. How is the Crisafulli LNP government ensuring that codes of conduct in the workplace are adhered to, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any occurrences where codes of conduct have been breached during a decade of decline?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the honourable member for Barron River for the question. It is such an important question about codes of conduct, as we have codes of conduct in this place and there are codes of conduct in the construction industry which are continually breached by the CFMEU and were endorsed and inflamed by the Labor Party in their decade of decline.

Yesterday I raised serious allegations in this House against the member for Cairns, if we are talking about behaviour and codes of conduct and breaches of codes of conduct. It is an important issue. I raised issues of Facebook posts being shared by the member for Cairns including that we have secret Jewish 'cells' in Australia, in Queensland, waiting to be activated by the Israeli government. The member for Cairns described death squads as 'murder squads'. Remember the Nazi death squads. He referred to the murder squads. He was echoing Nazi Germany propaganda in posts and Facebook posts that he liked.

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

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

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. There were Facebook comments about cutting diplomatic ties with Israel as we did with Germany because of Nazi Germany. That is what he was quoting. That is what he was putting on his Facebook page. I can reveal a further post today from the member for Cairns.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: No. It is a different Facebook post. Unfortunately, there are plenty of them from the member for Cairns. I can now reveal a further post from the member for Cairns whereby he shares an image—and I table the image for the benefit of members.

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 6 May, from the Facebook page of Mr Michael Healy.

Mr SPEAKER: It is not a prop.

Mr BLEIJIE: He shares an image of media outlets filming a crying Jewish baby with the Star of David on it—not the Israeli flag but the Star of David—surrounded by dismembered bodies seemingly ignored by the media. He commented—

The massive imbalance in the media reporting contributes to the crimes taking place in this shocking conflict.

The member for Cairns continues to propagate another foul anti-Semitic conspiracy theory about covert—

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

Mr SPEAKER: You are taking personal offence?

Mr HEALY: I take personal offence and ask the member to withdraw.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

CHAIR: Member for Currumbin, I do not need your assistance.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. The Facebook post I just tabled was from the member for Cairns' personal Facebook account. He continues to propagate another foul anti-Semitic conspiracy theory about covert Jewish influence, the same trope he endorsed in the comment he liked referring to global Jewish 'cells'.

Mr Crisafulli: Still a distraction, mate?

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the Premier. The opposition leader was on the news last night saying, 'This is nothing but theatrics. It is nothing but dramatisation.' I say it is not. The government says it is not. The Leader of the Opposition should call it out and condemn it. The member for Cairns should apologise. The Jewish Board of Deputies also said, 'Comparing the Israel Defense Forces to "murder squads" and suggesting Australia [cut] ... ties with Israel by drawing parallels to Nazi Germany

is dangerous rhetoric that has fuelled the flames of hatred against Jews since 7 October 2023.' He has to go!

(Time expired)

Spiteri, Mr W

Mr BUTCHER: My question is to the Minister for Health. Why isn't Queensland Health investigating the care provided to William Spiteri before his death?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for Gladstone for his recent interest in this matter.

Mr BUTCHER: Mr Speaker, I take personal offence at that comment and I ask him to withdraw.

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

Mr NICHOLLS: I withdraw. I thank the member for his interest in this matter.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier!

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Woodridge! We were here yesterday. Both deputy leaders were warned yesterday. You are both warned again. By disrespecting the House you disrespect me. You are both warned.

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for Gladstone for his interest in this matter. As always, as I have done on a number of occasions since this matter was brought to my attention, which was some time ago—I have shown an interest in this for some considerable time—I want to extend my condolences to Mr Spiteri's family and friends because the sudden passing of anyone, as I have often expressed in this place, is a distressing time for all involved. At just 27, Mr Spiteri's is an extraordinarily sad case.

Mr Spiteri presented at the Gladstone Hospital with some complex problems. Obviously I cannot go into the details of his personal medical health records. Suffice to say, after treatment at Gladstone Hospital Mr Spiteri was transferred to the Wesley Hospital. Sadly, Mr Spiteri passed away at the Wesley Hospital some eight or 10 days—I cannot quite recall—after he was transferred from the Gladstone Hospital. While he was at the Gladstone Hospital Mr Spiteri was offered the opportunity to relocate to Rockhampton and he chose not to do so. He indicated that he would like to go to Hervey Bay, but, because of Mr Spiteri's presentation, Hervey Bay was unable to accommodate him. It was a complex matter.

The family of Mr Spiteri contacted the Gladstone Hospital, and I am advised that the general manager of the Gladstone Hospital has met with Mr Spiteri's family and two close friends. Several actions were agreed to at that meeting, including the provision of documentation for the family and to have a follow-up meeting within the next four weeks to answer any questions family and friends may have.

The hospital has reached out, the service was provided to Mr Spiteri and the matter is also now being investigated by the coroner. I understand that the matter was referred by the Wesley Hospital to the coroner for investigation. The Gladstone Hospital, as it is obliged to do, and as it would do, is also assisting the coroner with responses to all information. Again, it is a tragic circumstance, again Queensland Health has done its best, and again we will assist the coroner.

(Time expired)

Victims of Crime

Mr KRAUSE: My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. How is the Crisafulli LNP government acting to ensure victims of crime are not retraumatised, and is the minister aware of any behaviours that may have retraumatised victims of crime during a decade of decline?

Mrs GERBER: I thank the member for Scenic Rim for standing with the Crisafulli government in supporting victims of crime and our commitment to deliver stronger laws, fewer victims of crime and early intervention and rehabilitation programs to turn young lives around. We know that supporting

victims of crime from being retraumatised is not just about the justice system; it is also about the culture that victims see in leaders in this state. The culture we are seeing from the Leader of the Opposition in continuing to support a member of his front bench, a member in his party room, who is propagating vile anti-Semitic commentary is absolutely disgraceful. We heard today that the member for Cairns shared material on his personal page that pushes the conspiracy that Jews control the media. This conspiracy theory is one of the most enduring and insidious conspiracy theories against Jews. It is vile—

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

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

Mrs GERBER: I withdraw. He should withdraw his Facebook post; that is what he should do. The Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies also expressed their deep concern over this behaviour. They have said that these comments demonstrate a profound historical distortion by turning the trauma of the Jewish people against it. The Jewish Board of Deputies has expressed concern and Queenslanders have expressed concern, but do you know who is not expressing concern? The Leader of the Opposition! The Leader of the Opposition thinks this is a distraction. He needs to show some—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The quarrelling across the chamber will cease.

Mrs GERBER: The Leader of the Opposition needs to show some leadership and he needs to sack the member for Cairns.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Pine Rivers is warned.

Mrs GERBER: Labor ministers in other jurisdictions have been sacked for this exact conduct, yet the Leader of the Opposition continues to support a member of his front bench and his party room when he has made disgraceful comments inciting and inflaming violence against our Jewish community. The question today is: does the Leader of the Opposition condemn it or does he condone it? With his silence he condones it. He condones this conduct. He needs to act. He needs to sack the member for Cairns and he needs to stand up for victims and our Jewish community in this state—

Mr McCallum interjected.

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

Mrs GERBER:—because we stand with our Jewish community. We support our Jewish community, and we have strong laws in this House to do that. The Leader of the Opposition is silent. He has laughed at this matter and he is—

(Time expired)

Toowoomba Hospital, Maternity Services Review

Ms BUSH: My question is to the Minister for Health. Is it correct that not a single midwife is on the panel undertaking the review of the Toowoomba Hospital maternity unit?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for Cooper for the question. Firstly, let me say that the health and safety of mothers and babies is always the priority of all of our hardworking clinicians, midwives and staff at all of our hospitals, and to suggest otherwise is completely and utterly false. The first thing those hardworking staff do is ensure they are committed to delivering safe and effective practices, and in Toowoomba they deliver more than—

Ms Farmer interjected.

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

Mr NICHOLLS:—2,800 babies a year, and they do so in a very caring way. They have done so and continue to do so, but there is no doubt there have been issues raised in relation to the workplace culture in the maternity unit there. That resulted in two of the obstetricians and gynaecologists leaving last August during the course of that review. It has also resulted in a number of other staff actions that have been undertaken by the executive there, and I will not go into the detail of that at this stage. The workplace review that was undertaken into the maternity unit at Toowoomba Hospital was shared with the staff of that unit on 12 February. An external review was undertaken, and the results of that review were shared with staff, with their agreement, on 12 February because we want to ensure that Toowoomba Hospital continues to deliver.

Concurrently, I asked the director-general to establish a panel to review the operation and all of the reports that have been done. There was a report done into the Toowoomba Hospital in 2018. For reasons that are yet unclear, that report never surfaced. A review arising as a result of concerns raised in 2018 was undertaken but it was never presented, so we do not know what the story was in 2018 under those opposite. A further review was commenced at the end of 2024 because of the problems that were there. We have asked a panel to come forward—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question was very specific so the point of order is on relevance. Is there a midwife on this panel?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, the question did ask about midwives on the panel, so if you can come to that in the 28 seconds remaining.

Mr NICHOLLS: The review panel has been established. As I understand it, it comprises people independent of the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr NICHOLLS: It comprises people independent of Queensland Health. The details will be released tomorrow.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Order!

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Miller, you are warned. I called for order twice.

Integrity

Mr LEE: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. How is the Crisafulli LNP government ensuring that office holders hold themselves to the highest standards of integrity and accountability, and is the Attorney aware of any examples where this leadership has not been shown during a decade of decline?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I would like to thank the member for Hervey Bay for this very important question. When it comes to integrity, members of parliament who have the opportunity to stand in this House and represent our communities rightfully expect to be held to the highest standard of integrity—no matter what part of the state we represent. Last year in this House the member for Cairns was reprimanded for his disgusting social media posts containing misogynistic, homophobic and violent content. Shamefully, he has obviously learned nothing. He appears to think that hiding behind a fake account will keep his awful views hidden from scrutiny. Make no mistake, the posts that were highlighted in this House yesterday compared the democratic Jewish state to Nazi Germany. After millions of Jews were slaughtered—that is on the public record—he still thinks it is acceptable to spread Nazi propaganda. He has not apologised.

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

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. The Leader of the Opposition yesterday dismissed this as theatrics. Mr Speaker, I will tell you what is not theatrics: 15 people dead in Bondi. I will tell you what is not theatrics: our Jewish community fearing for their lives as they go about their daily business. I will tell you what is not theatrics: the fact that we saw a car ramming the gates of a synagogue here in Brisbane. That is not theatrics, Mr Speaker.

Today it has been revealed that the member for Cairns has posted on his page what I would suggest is an even worse cartoon that is now calling out the media as well as still defaming the Jewish community. It is shocking. Mike Burgess of ASIO issued a warning well before the Bondi terrorist attack that 'words matter', because inflamed language from public figures has a direct correlation to increased community tensions. A statement from the Jewish Board of Deputies said that the member's 'narrative demonstrates a reckless disregard for the influence of an elected official during a time of extreme antisemitism and heightened national tensions'. This member needs to be sacked.

(Time expired)

Family and Domestic Violence

Mr BENNETT: 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 delivering improved services for victims of domestic and family violence, and is the minister aware of any examples where victims of domestic and family violence were not taken seriously during a decade of decline?

Ms CAMM: I thank the member for Burnett for the question. I recently had the opportunity to spend time with him in his electorate and visit Edon Place, where they are doing an incredible job of combating the scourge of domestic and family violence right across the Burnett. The member is a strong advocate for victims and supports the government's reforms.

We talk in this place about domestic and family violence and protecting children and vulnerable women. We talk about holding perpetrators to account. Our government is taking all the steps and measures to be able to do that. We have introduced electronic monitoring. We are holding perpetrators to account. There are new police powers around immediate protections. We take this seriously, but the Leader of the Opposition is not taking this seriously. He is not taking the threats to families, children and Jewish communities in our state seriously. The Attorney-General and Minister for Integrity spoke about the responsibility we have to our local electorates. The Leader of the Opposition, the shadow minister for multicultural affairs and the other members of the opposition frontbench have a responsibility to all Queenslanders, including those from minority groups and Jewish communities.

We have called out the behaviour and the conduct of the member for Cairns in his social media posts. The Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies Inc. have called out the conduct of the member for Cairns. They have called for a formal apology to the Jewish community, and I hope the Leader of the Opposition right now is asking the member to apologise. They have called for the member for Cairns to remove all of the disgraceful and disgusting posts on his private Facebook page and for him to read and commit to the IHRA working definition of anti-Semitism. What he has demonstrated to the people of Queensland and the Jewish community is that he is full of anti-Semitism.

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

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, the member has taken personal offence and has asked for you to withdraw.

Ms CAMM: I withdraw. The Leader of the Opposition has to sack the member for Cairns for his disgraceful conduct. He is not a leader who is worthy to sit in the shadow cabinet. He is not a leader who is worthy to engage with our community. The Jewish community of Queensland deserve more. Sack him today.

(Time expired)

Cooktown Hospital, Birthing Services

Ms ENOCH: My question is to the Minister for Health. Does the minister accept responsibility for the 493-day delay to birthing services at Cooktown Hospital?

Mr NICHOLLS: In response to that question, I simply say this: over 1,000 days for Cooktown and Biloela to be closed down, and let us not forget Gladstone. Remember that the member for Gladstone was going to quit if Gladstone was not reopened? He is still here; he has the hide to show up. I think there was a bit of a swing against you last time, old boy.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, it would make my job a lot easier if you directed your comments through the chair and used correct titles.

Mr NICHOLLS: Indeed, Mr Speaker. I apologise for that. What we know is that the hide of those opposite knows no bounds. Having presided over a decline in birthing services and having failed to honour commitments to not turn up in this place if they did not get them open again, they have the hide to come in here when we are actively restoring those services.

What I can say is that I have been to Cooktown now twice, including only about a month ago, where I observed the introduction of endoscopy services. They are now being carried out every fortnight at Cooktown for that community up there—something those opposite failed to deliver. We have delivered endoscopy services into Cooktown with a regular treatment bypass flying in there every two weeks. We continue to deliver that as opposed to the permanent bypass since 2022 under those opposite.

What is our commitment? Our commitment, of course, is to restore birthing services to Cooktown by 2028, and we remain on track to do that. We have engaged a director of midwifery and for the first time all positions for midwifery have been filled with permanent staff, not agency staff who fly in and fly out. We have engaged a Royal Australian College of General Practitioners GP obstetrician, who is now permanently based in Cooktown to deliver those services and we continue—

Ms Enoch interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Algeester, I caution you again.

Mrs Gerber: Thank you, member for Cook.

Mr NICHOLLS: I want to call out the member for Cook—good point; I take that interjection—who has been relentless in pursuing me to return those services. We are now actively recruiting a rural generalist anaesthetist because you cannot have surgery there if you do not have an anaesthetist. We are now recruiting for an anaesthetist. In fact, we will be interviewing for that position in the next month.

(Time expired)

Skills and Training

Mr McDONALD: My question is to the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training. How is the Crisafulli LNP government working with employers and employees to ensure adequate training practices for workplaces, and is the minister aware of any instances where adequate training may not have occurred?

Ms BATES: I thank the member for his question and for his passion when it comes to delivering for locals in the Lockyer Valley. The Crisafulli LNP government is investing heavily in skills and training to overcome the dire shortages left by Labor's decade of decline. In fact, on Monday I had the pleasure of attending the graduation of dozens of TAFE students who received their certificates of leadership. There was more leadership potential in that room than those opposite have in their entire caucus of chaos. What we have seen time and time again from the Leader of the Opposition is an abject failure to lead and today there are Queenslanders who are suffering because of it.

On election night the member for Murrumba could have shown leadership and conceded the election. I have never heard a concession. Queenslanders did not see leadership. They saw a desperate man who refused to listen to the people. Those same Queenslanders cried out for years for leadership on the youth crime crisis, on health, on housing and on cost of living and the member for Murrumba failed them all.

Those opposite needed leadership on the member for Stafford, and the member for Murrumba failed them. When the member for Cairns was joking on social media about sex workers being filled with petrol and killed, the Leader of the Opposition did not just fail to lead; he outsourced his leadership to a law firm. When that same member was caught spreading vile anti-Semitic hatred online, the Leader of the Opposition called it theatrics.

I have seen a great deal in my time in this place, but I have never witnessed such a failure of a leader than the member for Murrumba. A real leader knows words become violence and violence becomes attacks. At a time when our nation and our state are working to stop the horrors of Bondi from happening here, it is unbelievable that the Leader of the Opposition will not lead and stamp out the seeds of hatred being shown by members of his own party. We know he will not take action against the member for Cairns and we know the members for Waterford, Woodridge and Gaven are all waiting at his door getting ready to make their move.

This failed Leader of the Opposition is a man so desperate to cling to his political life that he is putting the safety of Queenslanders at risk to keep the member for Cairns inside. Why did it fall to the members for Woodridge and Waterford to confront the member for Cairns in a meeting they had yesterday? We know what the Leader of the Opposition thinks of this serious situation; he calls it theatrics. Does the member for Gaven agree? Does the member for Waterford agree? Does the member for Woodridge agree? I think this House needs to know the answer to that question today.

A real leader would stand up and take action and anyone else in the chair would take action and yet this failure of a leader will not.

(Time expired)

Middle East

Mr BERKMAN: My question today is to the Premier. The UN Human Rights Council has concluded that a genocide is occurring in Gaza and the International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and former defence minister Yoav Gallant. Does the Premier accept that it is possible to criticise the State of Israel and its actions without being anti-Semitic?

Mr SPEAKER: Hold on, I am going to get advice on this one.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order relates to whether elements of the question are seeking an opinion and also the jurisdictional responsibility. I wanted to bring those matters to your attention with respect to how the question was worded.

Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Maiwar, there are a number of aspects of that question that are questionable, including in relation to the legislation we are debating today. So I am going to rule that question out of order and I—

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

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Maiwar, I have made my ruling. I have just ruled the question out of order.

Mr BERKMAN: May I respond to the Leader of the House's point of order, Mr Speaker?

Mr SPEAKER: I have made my ruling. Will you resume your seat, please.

Hospitals, Ramping

Mr BAILEY: My question is to the health minister. Can the minister confirm that under the Crisafulli LNP government the ramping clock commences when a patient is triaged rather than when the ambulance arrives at the hospital emergency department?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for Miller for his question. I was beginning to feel a bit neglected by the member for Miller. I read an interesting self-reflection piece in the *Brisbane Times* only in the last week or so where 'Mr Third, Fourth or Fifth Chance'—I am not sure which chance it is—is making a comeback again. He said his aim was to provide maximum pressure.

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

Mr NICHOLLS: I thought, 'There we go. There's old "Max Pressure" over there. He is like Max Headroom; he is walking around all over the place.'

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you would have known that I was trying to stop you because I had a point of order if you were putting your comments through the chair.

Mr BAILEY: My point of order is on relevance. I also take personal offence and I ask that the minister withdraw.

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

Mr NICHOLLS: I withdraw. I found it interesting to reflect on the maximum pressure that was being applied by the member for Miller, who was failing to ask a question in the first 30 or 35 minutes of question time. He was getting all his surrounding members to ask the question. I noticed his obvious absence from asking any questions in relation to Toowoomba maternity services as well. He was well and truly absent from asking any questions about that. We all know that was on account of the fact that he got his numbers wrong when he went up to Toowoomba and made the false claim, so any claims he makes about Toowoomba would immediately not be believed.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance to the actual question.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, the question was around ramping times.

Mr NICHOLLS: The issue in relation to the ramping times is abundantly clear and I have made it clear, as I made it clear in the answer earlier today regarding tier 3 and tier 2. That is, there has been no change—absolutely no change. We are recording exactly the same figures on exactly the same basis that those on that side did. The problem they have is that the only change is that our numbers are going down and theirs went up. We had the member for Waterford, under whom it was going to be 28½ per cent within 12 months but up it went to 45½ per cent. Elective surgery was going to get down to 58,000, I think. It went up. It was at 65,000.

We are counting it in exactly the same way it was counted previously. It goes to the same question they asked in relation to how you count tier 2 and tier 3 hospital escalation processes, and that is exactly the same way it was done by those opposite. The only thing they cannot countenance is the fact that the numbers got better. When the numbers went up last year—and they did, and we reported them on a monthly basis—where were the questions then? Exactly! They grabbed them with both hands and said, ‘Oh, no, no, no, no.’

A government member: But it’s working.

Mr NICHOLLS: It is working. The investment is taking place. The money is working. The question is a goose of a question.

(Time expired)

E-Mobility Safety

Mr VORSTER: My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. How is the Crisafulli LNP government cracking down on illegal e-mobility devices, and is the minister aware of any approaches that saw illegal devices encouraged and subsidised during a decade of decline?

Mr PURDIE: I thank the member for Burleigh for the question—by far the best question I have had this week. I know how important this issue is for him and his constituents in the seat of Burleigh. The great Palm Beach Currumbin State High School wrote to the committee and the committee attended the school to listen in relation to the adverse impacts that the unsafe and illegal use of e-mobility devices were having in the electorate. I also understand that Palm Beach State School was leaning forward, as was the biggest high school in my electorate, Coolum State High School. They worked with our police to do everything they possibly could to keep people safe.

In that regard, our police have been doing everything they possibly can to crack down on the unsafe and unlawful use of these devices. Just before Christmas we launched Operation Surety. In the last three months police have dedicated over 5,000 policing hours to that operation alone. It has seen almost 3,000 fines being issued—in fact, 2,894 fines have been issued—and almost 150 illegal bikes have been seized. I thank the committee for the work it did in listening to not only schools in some of these electorates that are impacted by this but also our police who gave evidence—even frontline, relatively junior police—talking about what they needed to crack down on this exploding technology.

Unfortunately, those opposite failed to put in place laws and regulations. We know that Labor was not only soft on youth crime, soft on drugs and soft on criminals with guns but also did nothing when it came to the explosion of this technology. In 2017, when I left the police, we rarely saw an e-bike or an e-scooter—we did not really know what they were—but they exploded in about 2024. The former government—those opposite—did nothing to stop that. However, we acted decisively and showed leadership. Shortly after coming to government we asked the parliamentary committee to hold an inquiry, and the member for Lockyer has tabled that report.

Not only did those opposite show no leadership and take no action as this was an exploding technology on our streets and our footpaths where police were, essentially, in a lot of cases powerless to act, like they were powerless to take action with young people stealing cars under the former government; we now know that the former government offered financial incentives worth \$2 million—I think it was \$500 each device—and about 850 illegal bikes that ended up on the street were contributed to by those opposite. Not only did they do nothing in that they showed no leadership; they provided a financial incentive for people to go out and potentially buy these unlawful and unsafe bikes.

I want to again thank the committee and thank the Premier for his leadership. This is what you can do with a government when you show leadership: you listen to schools, you listen to communities, you listen to members of parliament and you listen to our police and give them the laws and the resources they need to do their jobs. That is exactly what we are going to do when it comes to cracking down on the illegal and unsafe use of e-bikes.

Influenza, Vaccination

Dr O’SHEA: My question is to the Minister for Health. Will the minister advocate for the Premier, Deputy Premier and all ministers to publicly get their flu shot this year?

Mr NICHOLLS: As members know, the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering the most extensive and expansive free flu vaccine program Queensland has ever seen, and unlike those opposite we are funding it—not like last year, when they left \$25 million of a black hole for us to fund. For the first time we are introducing free FluMist for children aged two to five so that children can receive

this vaccination by way of a nasal injection, and I thank members opposite for their no-doubt warm congratulations on the introduction of this new system in an Australian first! I look forward to it coming. We will be promoting it, as we always do. We continue to promote it through pharmacists, who can now prescribe it anywhere, not just in a pharmacy; through GPs, who can do it anywhere; and also through other health workers like our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers, who can do it in remote and rural Queensland. We will be continuing to do it, as we did last year, and we look forward to the results flowing through the system.

Infrastructure

Ms MORTON: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the Deputy Premier advise the House how the Crisafulli LNP government is prioritising the construction of new transport infrastructure to get Queenslanders home sooner and safer, and is he aware of any alternative approaches during a decade of decline where these priorities were wrong?

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, you have two minutes.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. That is all I need to answer the honourable member's question. It is a great question because we are delivering infrastructure right across the state such as the 80-20 funding split we finally got with the Albanese government that Labor said could never be done. It said 50-50, yet our Crisafulli government minister got the deal done. The honourable member for Lockyer tabled an important report today on e-bikes, and we look forward to reading that review and looking at what government response we can make to keep everyone across the state safe on e-mobility devices.

I was interested, though, when I heard the police minister talk about this rebate scheme that was unfolded by the former government—a \$2 million scheme of \$500 rebates that turned out to be funding the importation of illegal e-bikes. More importantly, I read comments from the shadow treasurer that she was so outraged by finding out about these rebates for illegal bikes that she said, 'This matter should go to the Crime and Corruption Commission.' That is what the shadow treasurer said. Well, I ask the honourable shadow treasurer: has she referred the Labor member for Aspley to the Crime and Corruption Commission, because he was the minister responsible for giving out the rebates for the illegal e-bikes and e-mobility scooters? Has the member for Aspley had a quiet chat to the Labor shadow treasurer and asked, 'Hey, did you refer me to the Crime and Corruption Commission, or would you like me to self-refer?' If the shadow treasurer was so concerned about—in fact, I think she sat on the CBRC at the time in the Labor government, so she probably had a bit to do with it as well if it was a CBRC decision. Maybe the shadow treasurer should self-refer herself. The reality is that under the Labor Party we had a decade of decline. It did nothing for e-mobility safety. We are taking action right across Queensland. I ask the member for Aspley: has he referred himself to the CCC?

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

PRIVILEGE

Notice of Motion, Authentication

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (4.08 pm): Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. The motion that was tabled and foreshadowed by the Labor opposition is factually incorrect. With respect to the motion as foreshadowed by the member for Gladstone, there are specific elements that require authentication and must be factually substantiated. As such, I would ask you to consider this matter with respect to the motion as foreshadowed by the member for Gladstone and it be ruled out of order if authentication cannot be provided.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In relation to the submissions from the Leader of the House, this matter has been extensively traversed by the print and television media over—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I am hearing the point of order and then I will make my ruling.

Mr de BRENNI:—the course of at least the last year. In fact, I was just reviewing a cartoon that appeared in the *Courier-Mail* that depicts the Premier holding an ice cream at the Ekka in 2025 talking about cherrypicking—

Mr SPEAKER: This is not an opportunity for a speech.

Mr de BRENNI: They are cherrypicking victim data. This is not a new issue and so I submit to you that the Leader of the House's contention that this matter is not in the public domain is absurd.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gladstone, could you provide my office with authentication? You made comments in here about thousands of victims; can you provide that to my office, please?

Mr BUTCHER: Absolutely. No problem.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

E-Mobility Safety, Committee Report

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (4:10 pm): Earlier today, the member for Lockyer tabled the report of the parliamentary inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland. I will be reviewing the report in full but, based on the member for Lockyer's remarks in this House and my preliminary reading, the findings recommend significant change and confirms what we already knew.

Throughout their decade of decline, the former Labor government left police woefully ill equipped to enforce regulations. The former Labor government introduced a botched subsidy scheme for e-mobility devices. It was the former Labor government that turned a blind eye to the rise of illegal high-powered devices. It was the former Labor government that left Queenslanders to pay the price because of their inaction. Not only did the former Labor government turn a blind eye but also poured fuel on the fire. They used \$2 million of taxpayers' money on an e-mobility rebate scheme that unleashed hundreds of illegal, dangerous, high-powered e-bikes and e-scooters on Queensland roads and footpaths. They put lives at risk funding illegal e-bikes and e-scooters that should never have been on our roads and footpaths and it was all because they wanted a pre-election cash splash.

Decisions have consequences. Because of the decisions taken and not taken by those opposite, more than 6,000 injuries related to e-scooters were reported at emergency departments across 36 Queensland hospitals between 2022 and 2025. Unlike the former Labor government, we will not bury our heads in the sand and we did not bury our heads in the sand when we came to government. We heard the concerns of the community about injuries and fatalities linked to unsafe and illegal e-bike and e-scooter use. The Crisafulli government took a calm, methodical and evidence-based approach by setting up a parliamentary inquiry and listening to police, the community and experts to deliver practical, enforceable reforms to keep Queenslanders safe.

One of the recommendations in the report is that police should have the power to conduct random breath tests for riders. However, this recommendation should not need to be in the report. The former minister, the member for Aspley, confirmed in 2023—three years ago—that he was thinking about amending the law so that police officers could breath test riders but, as we saw so often under the former Labor government, he did nothing. This is just another example of the former Labor government—

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

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

Mr RYAN: I withdraw. It is just another example of the former Labor government refusing to give police the powers they needed to do their jobs, putting Queensland Queenslanders' lives at risk because of their incompetence and their inaction. The committee report makes robust, comprehensive and practical recommendations. Our government will now review each of those recommendations and will make the necessary changes to keep Queenslanders safe, while backing those Queenslanders who do the right thing. We will ensure there are consequences for action, we will fix the mess left behind by the former Labor government and we will keep our promise to deliver nation-leading laws.

CRIMINAL CODE (DEFENCE OF DWELLINGS AND OTHER PREMISES— CASTLE LAW) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (4.14 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Criminal Code 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: Criminal Code (Defence of Dwellings and Other Premises—Castle Law) Amendment Bill 2026.

Tabled paper: Criminal Code (Defence of Dwellings and Other Premises—Castle Law) Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Criminal Code (Defence of Dwellings and Other Premises—Castle Law) Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility.

Queenslanders do not feel safe in their own homes. This did not happen overnight; this is a situation that has developed over the last five or 10 years. I sit beside the member for Hill. We are two members of this House who have stood steadfast and have, along with the former member for Hinchinbrook, tried our darnedest to point out the extent of what is happening. At the forefront of our minds was always North Queensland—Cairns, Townsville and Mount Isa. We kept repeating the worst stats. We kept getting told by government and government agencies that it was not as bad as we thought and that it was a media beat-up. There were no changes. Things continued to get worse. In order to not offend anyone, there was a continual tinkering of policy around the edges. The civil libertarians continued to counter any sort of effective change and were a block politically. We did not get the changes we needed to nip this situation in the bud at the start. The situations got worse and we had to observe that. It was very frustrating.

There was a lot of animosity seen at our electorate offices with people saying, ‘We have been hit by this. We need more action.’ It got to the point where we saw extraordinary circumstances, figures and results—things that we never thought we would see in our lifetime. When I was first elected one person a year might come in and complain about crime. It is now one person a week. They are agitated and angry. Some of the stories were horrible to hear and horrible to listen to. We became very frustrated and were begging for action in this House. Quite frankly, there has still not been action. We are still looking for some signals that there are measures to turn the situation around. It has become a big problem—it has ballooned out of control.

The first big policy response from government was when the member for Capalaba’s son was tragically killed in an incident in Brisbane. There was a statement made by the government that we must change the legislation. Then there was another incident in Brisbane which triggered another government response. That was the death of Emma Lovell in Brisbane in 2022. These events were tragic and it was good to see the government acknowledge the problem and respond. The response that came fell was far below our expectations. We saw policies from both sides that were not commensurate with the extent of the problem in the communities that we represent, and perhaps the communities in the rest of regional Queensland.

The KAP has taken it upon itself to offer some solutions—not all the solutions. There are plenty of valid and legitimate responses aired by the government. We have tried to offer some of the more edgy responses that are less palatable, particularly for some people in Brisbane who perhaps do not understand the nature and cause of some of these problems or have not had to deal with them and would take a more academic or ideological approach at the expense of being practical in dealing with them.

I would argue that in regional areas we have to face this with a more practical response—something that is realistic and will move the dial on this. That led us to policies like relocation sentencing, which was adopted by the now government in its campaign before the last election, and castle law. I am here today to make amendments to the Criminal Code to enshrine castle law in legislation. Many people ask what is the response from the community and what are the statistics on this—what is the supporting evidence. That is important. You cannot ignore the evidence. A critical element of our representation, which is a value we embrace in the KAP, is listening to people on the ground and seeing if they feel safe. With the new government there are changes to some laws and we have asked them if they feel safe. The other week I was in Cairns and Townsville and a lot of the discussions are still the same. In Mount Isa kids are still willy-nilly going into service stations and houses and doing what they like. They are still not seeing the consequences that are required.

Many people put forward solutions and say they need to be road-tested. We did that with castle law. We talked about it for a while. We canvassed it in the electorate to see what the feedback was. We even did a petition. Interestingly, that petition initially took over 120,000 signatures, but the number was whittled down, once they reviewed and legitimised those signatures, to 113,380. That is the biggest e-petition, by a long way, in Queensland’s history. There are a lot of Queenslanders out there saying

that they think they understand what this is about and they really want it because anything has to be better than what we have now.

The heart of the principle of this amendment is quite discrete in how it operates. It is saying 'you have the right to protect yourself in your home'. That is a pretty simple principle to work off. In August last year, Roy Morgan Research reported that Queenslanders have the highest level of concern about crime: 77 per cent of Queenslanders reported they were concerned about crime. On average over the last 10 years, each year 41,236 homes and premises were unlawfully entered. This peaked in 2023, with 49,851. That would not include my nephew, who was broken into the other week. It did not get recorded. I know that in Mount Isa a lot of people stopped reporting lower level break and enters because it seems so commonplace.

We need to think about solutions. We need to think about what we can do that is cost-effective and a genuine deterrent to stem this flow of crime. We talk about sentencing on the back end of this behaviour—the punitive measures and recidivism—but how about trying to stop it happening before it gets to that point? What is a cost-effective and efficient way to deal with this problem? That brings us to castle law.

A lot of people say that we already have the laws in place to protect people. We will hear that in this House 100 times from now until the vote. I beg to differ. I have a friend in Mount Isa—I will not name him—who over a period of 18 months was repeatedly robbed. It was almost weekly. He had kids coming up to his house, chastising him, jeering, cheering and flogging his gear. They made a sport of it. One night someone came out of the dark and he retaliated with a garden spade. There were no serious injuries to the child. He spent \$90,000 to keep himself out of prison. He was facing seven to 14 years in prison. People are saying that we do not need this, that we have the protections we need. I can keep rolling these stories out. I have plenty where that came from. There is no shortage of lawyers and agencies that are willing to take on these cases of people who feel they have been aggrieved. The ones who have entered the house I would call the villains and perpetrators. There is no shortage of representation to help them. There is a shortage of money and resources for victims to defend themselves.

The wording in the existing legislation is that you must have a proportionate response. If you boil that down, you need an intercom system at the front gate to ask the intruder what he is carrying so you can make sure you have a proportionate response if he comes in and you try to defend yourself and your family. It is absolutely ridiculous. You should not have to consider that.

The next criticism we will encounter during the course of this debate and the committee hearings is that this will create vigilantism, that we are all bursting to blast our shotguns down the street like Elmer Fudd and start shooting people—that is what Queenslanders are like. Last time I checked, most Queenslanders are not violent; they do not want to hurt fellow Queenslanders. They do not have a propensity for violence, but if they are pushed they will protect their home and their family. That is the extent of it. The people who fall outside that category will probably not obey or acknowledge any laws anyway. It is ridiculous to say that this is going to incentivise people to violence. I ask members to honestly consider who they know who has this propensity for violence and would love the opportunity to rip in on these occasions. The best this amendment can do is provide people with surety. They do not have to second-guess; they do not have to think they might fall outside the law if they feel they have to protect themselves, their family and their property. It is a deterrent.

I will read out some comments we have received in our office. Donna contacted our office and said—

Yes, the laws are ridiculous. Everyone should be able to defend their loved ones and their home.

That is a pretty simplistic principle that I think we all agree with. Kevin wrote—

Every homeowner deserves the right to defend themselves and protect their family in their own home with whatever force necessary.

Robert wrote saying—

Castle law is the way to go—make people think twice about breaking into people's homes. You have a right to protect yourself, your family and property.

Section 267 of the Criminal Code needs strengthening to give homeowners the protection of the law, not the criminals. Several times in the election campaign I heard the now government saying that we need to put the balance back in favour of the victims of these crimes rather than the perpetrators. I do not know a better way to demonstrate it than with this law. Let us give them some protection. Let us remove that word 'proportionate' and say that you can defend yourself at all costs. That word can be

attacked by lawyers, and civil libertarians will want to defend these perpetrators. That is the part of the law they can attack and they do. I am sure members have knowledge of stories where that has happened. The law may protect you, but not until you spend, like my friend, \$90,000 and one or two years waiting to see if you are going to get 14 years in prison. You should not have to do that. That should not be a consequence of someone entering your home to steal your property and do harm to you. That should not be a consequence you have to face. That is what this law seeks to address.

The castle doctrine is enshrined in the system that we have inherited. It dates back as far as 1604, to *Seymayne's case*. The Court of King's Bench determined—

The house of everyone is to him as his castle and fortress, as well for his defence against injury and violence, as for his repose.

We should have the ability to feel safe and secure in our homes. In this bill we define the home as premises and expand that to tents, caravans and the like because, as we know, there is a housing crisis in Queensland. It does not matter where you live. If you are living in a caravan, people should not enter uninvited. If you are living in a tent, people should not enter uninvited. There should be an adequate deterrent.

Here is another fact that I think is central to the principle being applied here: Mount Isa police are not sitting outside my house 24/7 guarding it from intruders. They do not do that for the member for Hill or for anyone. They do not sit outside your place to protect you from criminals. What they can do is come and clean up the mess or apprehend them afterwards. You are the only one who is there when they come into your house. It is not like the police will catch them when they are still in your house so what are you supposed to do in those circumstances? What if they are aggressive and your hand is forced in that situation? Again, people will say, 'It doesn't matter because you are protected by the law.' You are not. If I pulled a baseball bat out from under the bed and started flogging them and they did not have any weapon, I could be face seven to 14 years in prison. Imagine having to go to your bank manager to ask for a loan or a redraw on your mortgage offset because you are going to need 50 grand or, in the case of my friend, 90 grand to try to keep yourself out of prison. Is that fair in the context of where we are with crime and the number of break and enters in Queensland?

Unfortunately, last week Townsville, Cairns and Rockhampton were ranked No. 1, 2 and 3 in the country in terms of property crimes. The problem is still there, it is still enormous and it is so far beyond the expectations of people in the community. The LNP have been voted into government and people are expecting a change. I appreciate that the government have tried tinkering around the edges on this but we need something big to turn the tide. The government need to send a message to the criminals that it will not necessarily work out well for them if they enter someone's home to do harm or steal property. It may not work out well for them and that could actually be a gift because it could be the thing that helps to turn their lives around. Certainly it would give someone peace of mind if they had the backing of government and legislation and could say, 'You know what? This is my house and this is my family. That person was not invited here, they should not be here and they need to know that it is not on.' That should be the right of everyone in this state and we should be backing people on that issue. That runs straight to the heart of what this legislation is about.

Most of what has been happening in this space is about legislating behaviour and trying to pull people around the long way and get them back on the right track. You may have some success in that space, but the KAP certainly argues that that horse has bolted. When we look at the volumes of youth recidivism, the numbers are getting old but they would not be too far off. The recidivism rate out of Cleveland Youth Detention Centre was up to 90 per cent. It is a turnstile. Especially in North Queensland, the QPS quite openly say that youth see it as a respite centre or a holiday camp. They do not see going there as a penalty. It is not doing the job. We are not solving the problem that way or by calling it Adult Crime, Adult Time. That is not going to turn the dial on this, but we can put in deterrents. Again, this is a cost-free solution for the taxpayer and it gives people rights that will help them to do a job that cannot be done by legislators or the QPS as we try to turn this around and protect our homes.

Essentially, the bill seeks to establish the rights of law-abiding Queenslanders to defend their dwellings and other premises from unlawful intrusion. It seeks to broaden the circumstances in which an individual can lawfully respond to a home invasion. It takes away the need for the home owner to consider whether such force may result in grievous bodily harm or even death to the intruder in certain circumstances.

The amendments codify castle law principles within the Criminal Code. As I mentioned before, they extend protections beyond dwellings to other premises such as tents and caravans. It clarifies when force may be lawfully used against an intruder. It recognises that certain aggravated intrusions justify stronger defensive action and provides legal certainty for both home owners and the courts. The

bill affirms that the law should stand with victims of unlawful entry, not those who unlawfully invade homes and premises. Currently, section 267 does not include 'premise', which is what I was talking about before. 'Premise' has been added to include invasions of motor vehicles, caravans, tents et cetera. Reflecting on the challenging times we face with homelessness and the housing crisis, we need to include something like this. As I said before, it comes back to the principle that whether it is a house, a caravan or even a tent it is your home and they have no right to enter. They should respect that. People need to know that. As a society, we need to know that and if you do not then you need to be taught a lesson.

It is pretty fair to say that at the moment there are no lessons being learned by anyone. It is open slather. People can do whatever they want and the consequences are not commensurate with the level of injury that they cause to the person involved or the community as a whole. The sum total of this is that Queenslanders do not feel safe in their own homes and that should be a high priority for this parliament in every respect. It is going to take something a bit bigger and a bit meaner than what is being done at the moment. I do use the word 'mean'. While everyone talks about being tough on crime, we are not aiming to be tough on crime. We are aiming to turn those people's lives around. That is what we should be aiming for at the end of the day. If that involves a bit of toughness then so be it. I think the majority of Queenslanders do not want to hurt or cause harm to anyone. They do not want to see people sent to prison for life. They just want to see consequences that could trigger something that might turn a life around and at the moment that does not exist. This could go some way towards assisting with that.

As I said, Queenslanders do not feel safe. Regardless of what some say—you can throw around statistics and slogans and you can hype it up—the reality is that the people who are committing these crimes are not afraid of the law. Juveniles are not afraid of going to a youth detention centre. We have to think of other ways to address this. We respectfully put this on the table. If we were trying to make a big political statement then we would have done this during a different week in parliament, but we genuinely want to see some principles applied to help whoever is in government do their job. We want to help Queenslanders through this legislation. We ask the House to seriously consider this and have an open mind about it. You might be okay in the town that you live in and your community might be all right, but a lot of Queenslanders are suffering and they have been suffering for many years now—I would say five to 10 years. Certainly for the past eight to nine years I have spoken in this House about the need to activate on this issue because it really has become acute and it still is. It has progressively worsened over the years.

With a new government, people might say that things are improving and we all want to think that that is true as some of the laws have changed, but things are still bad. I cannot see it turning around dramatically or getting anywhere near a point that meets community expectations given the current trajectory that we are on, even with the new government. I say that with the greatest of respect. It is a fact that the needle is not turning as we would expect. There will be a reckoning on this at some point. There was for the former government and there will be for this government unless it is addressed effectively. We are trying to provide solutions in this House and offer some effective ways to address this. We understand it is unpalatable to some. We understand all the hypotheticals that are thrown up such as, 'What if my mate breaks into the house one night and we accidentally shoot him?' With any legislation, there are 100 hypotheticals that you can throw up that would produce negative connotations.

I would ask you to consider the magnitude of the problem we are trying to fix and the culture that is embedded now in Queenslanders where they are scared to stay in their own home. One of my sisters is thinking of moving house because she is too scared to live in her house where she is there too often by herself. 'Let's go and live in a unit'—is that the Queensland we grew up in? That sounds like somewhere overseas—a war-torn country or some crime riddled country in Africa that you have heard of where you are afraid to live in your own house. That is becoming Queensland now. That is sad.

The good news is that we can turn this around. Turning things around can get a bit ugly sometimes, and it takes bold steps. We put these amendments sincerely to the House and ask the House to seriously consider this.

First Reading

Mr KATTER (Traeger—KAP) (4.40 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): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee.

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

Second Reading

Resumed from 3 March (see p. 420), on motion of Mr Purdie—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (4.40 pm), continuing: They will use any dead-cat strategy and smokescreen to distract from failings and hide their incompetence and division. I want to thank the police officers who briefed me on the Brisbane Synagogue attack and the actions they have taken to ensure the safety of the congregation. They were very professional and they provided a very comprehensive briefing which obviously I cannot go into, but I thank them.

There are some welcomed clauses in this bill regarding protecting and ensuring freedom of religious worship and wilful damage, but this is all overshadowed by the process, or lack thereof, due to the amendments foreshadowed which have now been tabled—finally. ABC Radio reported that civil rights lawyer Terry O’Gorman said that this was the worst bill since 1970 under the Joh era and was appalled to hear that no constitutional lawyers were consulted on the needlessly rushed bill, and I wonder what he thinks now.

Let’s be clear, the two expressions that have now been tabled to be included in the legislation were not included in the bill, and I believe that this is a deliberate, tricky tactic to deny appropriate scrutiny by the committee. So much for an open and transparent government that the people of Queensland were promised. Thirty-eight submissions from many Queenslanders, including residents in my electorate, raised concerns over the timeframe, the unfettered powers placed in the hands of one MP and the fact that the bill did not contain the two expressions to allow for questioning and clarification. It is deeply distressing that 47 submissions raised concerns with the expressions now contained in the amendments and 39 submissions raised constitutional issues. These submissions should not have been ignored and should have been allowed to be discussed in an open and honest manner.

I notice the amendments state that, instead of now having the regulation-making power, any change to the offence would need to occur via an amending act and subject to the ordinary parliamentary process. This is the point: there was no ordinary parliamentary process. There was no ability to properly consult on these expressions—to understand them, to test their validity—before their inclusion as a criminal offence. This process was a sham. We should have had the ordinary parliamentary process allowed to scrutinise those expressions. The Jewish community and all stakeholders deserve to be properly consulted and listened to, not denied the ability to ask questions because the expressions were not in the bill before the committee. We will not be distracted by shameless accusations against many on this side of the House. It does nothing to promote this institution.

Stakeholders like the ECCQ recommend that the Queensland government pause the bill and undertake genuine, meaningful, culturally informed consultation with multicultural and faith communities. Multicultural Australia expressed concern that this significant reform is being afforded very little time. Legal Aid Queensland warned that the criminal law will have significant unintended consequences. The Services Union warned that rushed laws are an affront to the democratic process, and I agree.

It is crucial that these laws address the motive and the means, and you cannot be tough on crime if you are weak on guns. They are the means. I do not think the perpetrators of the Bondi and Wieambilla massacres were too concerned about increased gun penalties. The bill contains weak gun laws—the weakest in the country—putting Queenslanders at risk. This is a lost opportunity. I know that many in my community are concerned that a person with a mental health problem can buy a gun at will, as are

the families affected by the Wieambilla tragedy. The government should have investigated the Western Australian model.

The Crisafulli government is displaying a concerning trait of being drunk on power, resembling an arrogant, tricky government. A true leader would have used this opportunity to unite, like the New South Wales Premier did, and bring the community together, just as we offered but were rejected. A true leader would not have caused division and engaged in cheap, politically motivated diversions which do nothing to foster social and parliamentary cohesion. The victims and families of these terrible massacres deserve better. This was an opportunity to be united, to come as a parliament in a cohesive manner, and that opportunity was lost by a Premier who showed no true leadership.

 **Mrs YOUNG** (Redlands—LNP) (4.45 pm): I rise in support of the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026. This bill does exactly what it says: it takes specific, targeted action to fight anti-Semitism and to keep guns out of the hands of terrorists and criminals.

The shocking terrorist attack on the shores of Bondi Beach last year was a turning point. Fifteen innocent people lost their lives in an act of hatred that should never have occurred on Australian soil. That attack did not emerge from nowhere. Anti-Semitism had been allowed to grow unchecked. What begins as rhetoric can escalate. Vile ideas turn into hateful words. Hateful words turn into vandalism and intimidation. If left unchallenged that trajectory can end, and has ended, in violence.

The Crisafulli government did not respond with a kneejerk reaction. We took the time to carefully assess the situation. We developed legislation calmly and methodically, and this bill is the result. It strengthens bans on terrorist symbols. It outlaws phrases that call for the destruction of people based on their faith when used to menace or intimidate. It increases penalties for targeting places of worship. It modernises offences so that people can enter and leave religious services without fear of harassment. These reforms draw a clear line.

In the Redlands, we may not have large synagogues or mosques but we have Jewish families, we have Muslim families and we have residents who travel to worship and who contribute quietly and meaningfully to our community every single day. They are valued members of the Redlands. It is where they raise their children, they volunteer, they run businesses and they coach junior sport. They deserve to feel safe, both where they live and where they worship.

Recently, a constituent sent me photos of racially and anti-Semitic vandalism scrawled across one of our local sporting clubs. It was confronting, not just because of the words themselves but because of what they represent. As the Attorney-General said in question time earlier, words matter. That kind of hatred has no place in a sporting club or in our suburbs, and it sends a message of exclusion to families who have every right to feel like they belong.

I have a close friend who came to Australia as a young child from a Muslim family. He has often said that the first place he truly felt like he belonged was not in a classroom and not even in his home; it was in his local football club. That oval became his community; his teammates became his extended family. That is the Australia we are proud of—that I am proud of—where sport brings people together and does not divide them. When hate is normalised, it chips away at social cohesion. It makes people question whether they are truly safe in their own community. I am proud that this bill strengthens protections for our places of worship and draws a clear line against anti-Semitic intimidation and vandalism.

This legislation also recognises that extremist hatred becomes even more dangerous when paired with access to weapons. At its core, this bill is about keeping guns out of the hands of terrorists and criminals. In the Redlands, safety matters. It matters to parents dropping their kids off to Victoria Point State School. It matters to families locking up on the islands at night. It matters to our small business owners who open early and expect to return home safely at the end of the day. When firearms are involved, the community rightly expects strong action.

The moment a firearm is stolen, the risk to the public increases. That weapon can circulate in the illicit market for years, even decades. Recovery rates are low and, once it enters the criminal networks, it can resurface in the most tragic of circumstances. That is why increasing the maximum penalty for stealing a firearm or ammunition from 10 to 14 years imprisonment is so important. It targets a key source feeding the illegal gun market and reflects the seriousness of the offence.

The bill also creates a standalone offence for the reckless discharge of a weapon towards a building or vehicle. Firing at a home or community building is designed to intimidate and terrorise. It

carries a real risk of death. Under these reforms, that behaviour will attract some of the toughest penalties in the country, including mandatory consequences where organised crime is involved.

We are also confronting the growing threat of 3D printed firearms. Digital blueprints that allow the manufacture of untraceable weapons are increasingly accessible. This bill makes possession and distribution of those blueprints a serious criminal offence. Prevention must begin before a weapon is ever produced.

The legislation tightens storage requirements to reduce theft. It strengthens trafficking penalties. It ensures only Australian citizens will be eligible to hold a firearms licence, with appropriate exceptions for genuine sporting or occupational purposes. Lawful firearms ownership carries with it responsibility. That is why licensing must be treated seriously and assessed carefully. Responsible firearms owners in the Redlands understand this. These reforms are not directed at them; they are directed squarely at terrorists, organised crime groups and individuals who seek to use weapons to cause fear and harm.

We are also fixing weaknesses in the firearm prohibition order framework so that police can act swiftly when someone poses a genuine risk to community safety. We trust our police. We are giving them the tools they need to intervene earlier.

This bill is deliberate and targeted. It targets terrorists. It targets criminals. It targets those who seek to spread anti-Semitic hatred. In the Redlands, people want safer streets. They want strong laws that reflect community expectations. They want a government that steps in early before hatred escalates and before weapons are misused. That is what this legislation delivers. It draws a line on anti-Semitism. It strengthens protections for faith communities. It introduces some of the toughest firearms penalties in the country. Community safety comes first, and that is exactly what this bill reinforces.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (4.53 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026. Let me say from the outset that I 100 per cent support stamping out anti-Semitism in Queensland and across Australia. What occurred at Bondi Beach during the Hanukkah celebration was an act of pure evil. It was targeted hatred. It was terrorism. It should be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

The Jewish communities in this country deserve to feel safe—safe in their homes, safe in their schools, safe in their synagogues and safe celebrating their faith. There is no place in Australia for anti-Semitism. There is no place in Australia for hatred towards any race, religion or nationality. There is no place in Australia for hatred towards an Aussie proudly displaying their own Australian flag. This is not the Australian way.

While I support the government's desire to send a strong message, we must also be extremely careful that in our response we do not trample on fundamental freedoms, particularly the freedom of speech. We already have control order laws and counterterrorism provisions at both the state and federal levels that deal with hate preachers promoting violence and terrorism.

The issue in recent years has not been the lack of legislation; it has been the lack of leadership and a failure to enforce the laws already in place. Creating new offences that duplicate existing powers may look strong, but strong leadership is about enforcing what we already have. That would have been more efficient and more immediate. That said, I acknowledge the government's intent.

After years of rising anti-Semitism across the nation, including vile chants, intimidation and open displays of hatred, doing something is better than doing nothing because doing nothing has been the problem. We have seen disgraceful marches where terrorist flags and banners depicting terrorist leaders have been displayed in our capital cities and where chants clearly intended to incite hatred and violence were allowed to echo through our streets. That should never have been tolerated. Slogans used to incite hostility or violence against Jewish Australians crosses the line.

Protesting is one thing; inciting hatred is another. If we are serious about tackling anti-Semitism, we must also address the root cause, which can be done without duplicating laws that already exist. We must look honestly at our immigration settings and our intelligence processes. When people migrate to Australia, they must come here to embrace our multicultural ethos, not to import their hatred and foreign conflicts onto our streets.

We welcome migrants who want to build a life here—enjoy a pie at the footy, grab a sausage sizzle at the market, work hard and contribute to our nation. This is the Aussie spirit. We will not tolerate people coming here and attempting to undermine our freedoms, burn our flags or bring sectarian hatred from overseas. That must be confronted head-on.

I turn now to the firearms component of this bill. The Katter's Australian Party has always stood up for legitimate gun owners, particularly law-abiding primary producers and sports and recreational shooters in Queensland. We do not support the unnecessary erosion of the rights of responsible firearms owners. I and hundreds, if not millions, of Queenslanders were gutted over Albanese's failure to address anti-Semitism and his attempt to pass the buck onto law-abiding firearms owners through a national buyback scheme, which, thank goodness, Queenslanders rejected.

We have always supported keeping guns out of the hands of terrorists and hardened criminals. We have constantly called on back-to-back governments to focus on this and not punish law-abiding firearms owners. Increasing penalties for firearms theft, unlawful trafficking and 3D printed weapons sends a clear message: if you misuse firearms for criminal or terrorist purposes you will face serious consequences. Terrorists and criminal gangs should never have access to weapons, but we will continue to scrutinise any changes that impact lawful gun owners who pose no threat to the community.

This bill also increases penalties for prohibited symbols and introduces new offences around prohibited expressions. Again, I say: we must come down heavy on hate speech directed at any race or religion. Jewish Australians should not have to fear intimidation, nor should Muslims, Christians, Hindus, Sikhs or anyone else. As legislators, we must always ensure the penalties are proportionate and legitimate political expression is not accidentally captured. In protecting one freedom we must not undermine another.

In closing, while this bill may have its shortcomings and may duplicate some existing powers, it does send a strong and important message to support the Jewish community. Queenslanders will not tolerate anti-Semitism. We will not tolerate marches that incite violence. We will not tolerate the intimidation of people at their places of worship. As a nation, we must reaffirm who we are: we are a country built on respect, freedom and mateship and we acknowledge those who fought and died to defend our country. I commend the intent of the bill to the House while urging continued vigilance to protect both community safety and the fundamental freedoms that define Australia.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (5.00 pm): I rise to address the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026. This is a very serious issue. We must begin with Bondi, where the shocking event of 14 December 2025 took place. Last year on the shores of one of Australia's most iconic locations, an anti-Semitic terrorist attack occurred where 15 innocent people lost their lives. Families were shattered and communities were traumatised. The Australian Jewish community, already feeling increasingly vulnerable, was left grieving and fearful—in fact, all decent Australians were traumatised. This was a brutal reminder that hatred, when left unchecked and, in fact, cultivated by Labor and the Greens, can result in catastrophic violence.

To the families who lost loved ones: I extend my deepest sympathies. To the Jewish community of Queensland and across Australia: we stand united with you. In my own electorate of Moggill, the impact was immediate and deeply personal. Residents contacted my office in disbelief. Small business owners spoke of fear and sorrow. Faith leaders described a renewed sense of vulnerability. Many in my community felt something else as well. They felt frustration. For years they had warned about the rising tide of anti-Semitism. They had heard slogans growing ever louder. They had seen rhetoric becoming more extreme. They had seen hostility creeping into spaces where it should never have been tolerated. They had even seen elected Greens and Labor representatives fostering hatred.

Anti-Semitism does not begin with violence. It begins with words. It begins with phrases and slogans. It begins with extremist ideology. It begins with the dehumanisation of a people. What starts as vile ideas becomes hateful speech. Hateful speech becomes intimidation. Intimidation becomes vandalism. Vandalism becomes violence. We have seen this pattern before in history. I have personally visited Auschwitz, which is located in Poland, and also seen the remnants of Dachau, near Munich in Germany. I have stood in places where anti-Semitism, once expressed through phrases and propaganda, culminated in industrialised racial elimination. I have seen the remnants of Nazi Germany. I have seen the belongings of victims and I have seen what happens when extremist ideology is allowed to fester.

I also remember in the 1970s having family friends whom we used to see quite regularly. The father of this particular family had been in Dachau. I remember as a small child, seven years of age, seeing on his arm a number which had been tattooed onto his arm and asking my mother, who has now died, at the time why he actually had that there. She obviously explained it to me and, whilst I could not really appreciate all of the matters and what had transpired during the Second World War, it really stuck with me for years and years—certainly that, combined with seeing what I have seen in overseas countries, in both Germany and Poland. History really teaches us that the descent into atrocity does

not happen overnight. It is incremental and it can be normalised. It is excused and it is rationalised. That is why the Queensland parliament must act with clarity, purpose and resolve.

This bill is not rushed. It is not reactive. It is a comprehensive, measured and considered response to a national tragedy that demanded leadership. The Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government has calmly and methodically developed legislation that targets both the spread of anti-Semitic hatred and the mechanisms that enable acts of violence. It strengthens bans on hate symbols by expanding the prohibited symbols framework, ensuring that terrorist organisations and state sponsors of terrorism listed under Commonwealth law can be prescribed in Queensland.

It increases penalties for displaying prohibited symbols to 150 penalty units, or two years imprisonment. It provides greater flexibility so that those who seek to evade the law through minor alterations cannot escape accountability. Importantly, it introduces a new offence for the public recitation, publication or display of two specific prohibited expressions—'globalise the intifada' and 'from the river to the sea'.

Let us speak plainly and truthfully about these phrases. They are not neutral. They are not benign. In their historical and contemporary context, they have been used as calls to eliminate Jews and deny Jewish self-determination. They have been chanted in environments where Jewish Australians have felt threatened. They have been involved in settings where violence has been glorified, and this is where I must address a troubling narrative. There are those who have falsely claimed in this House that this is freedom of political expression. Let me be absolutely clear: a call for the elimination of an entire race is not political free speech. It is inhumane, it is an abhorrent and it is inexcusable.

No amount of cheap verbal gymnastics can erase the history associated with these slogans. No claim that it is merely activism dressed up as free speech can deny the intent that so often accompanies them. When words are used in a way that could reasonably be expected to menace, harass or intimidate and when they cause a reasonable member of the public to feel threatened or targeted, they cross a line.

This legislation is carefully framed. It does not criminalise genuine academic, artistic, religious or historical discussion. It does not shut down legitimate debate. It requires that conduct meets a clear threshold. It provides reasonable excuses. It leaves ultimate determination to the courts. This is not about suppressing dissent; it is about preventing intimidation and the incitement of hatred.

The bill also strengthens protections for faith communities and increases penalties for assaulting or threatening a person officiating a religious ceremony from two to five years imprisonment. It introduces an offence for intimidating or obstructing individuals entering or leaving places of worship. It increases penalties for wilful damage to places of religious worship. These protections apply to all religions. Every Queenslanders has the right to worship freely and without fear. Only weeks ago we saw a vehicle ram into the gates of the Brisbane Synagogue. That incident reinforces why strong and modernised protections are necessary. Queenslanders will not tolerate attacks on faith communities.

While this bill addresses anti-Semitism directly, it also recognises that preventing violence requires strong firearms reform. The bill introduces a new offence capturing acts done in preparation to cause death or grievous bodily harm. This closes a legislative gap and empowers police to intervene before tragedy strikes. Prevention must be our priority.

It increases the maximum penalty for stealing a firearm or ammunition from 10 to 14 years imprisonment. Hundreds of firearms are stolen every year. Seventy-five per cent are never recovered. Every stolen firearm strengthens the illicit market and weakens community safety. It creates a new offence of reckless discharge of a weapon towards a building or vehicle, with penalties of up to 16 years imprisonment and higher penalties in aggravated circumstances.

It establishes an offence prohibiting possession and distribution of blueprint material or 3D printed firearms, recognising the growing threat of untraceable weapons manufactured from digital files. It limits weapons licences to Australian citizens residing in Queensland, consistent with National Cabinet decisions, while providing practical exemptions for genuine occupational and sporting purposes.

It strengthens storage requirements by mandating solid steel containers for certain categories of firearms, with a 12-month transition period. Secure storage is a fundamental preventive measure. It broadens the matters that can be considered when determining whether a person is fit and proper to hold a licence, ensuring relevant violent conduct or weapons related history can be taken into account.

It reforms firearm prohibition orders so that police can act swiftly where individuals pose a serious risk. It aligns controlled operations thresholds with other jurisdictions, ensuring Queensland police have

the same tools available elsewhere in Australia to disrupt serious criminal activity. These reforms are targeted. They are proportionate. They are about prevention, not reaction.

This legislation is ultimately a test for the Labor state opposition. It is a test of whether Labor are prepared to confront their own anti-Semitism and history of Jewish hate openly and honestly. It is a test of whether Labor are willing to acknowledge that anti-Semitic rhetoric is not harmless. It is a test of whether they are prepared to give police the tools they need to prevent violence before lives are lost.

In the electorate of Moggill and communities across Queensland, people expect leadership. They expect their parliament to draw firm boundaries against hatred. They expect their children to attend school without fear. They expect their places of worship to be safe. They expect firearms to be tightly regulated and kept out of the hands of criminals and terrorists.

This bill answers those expectations. It sends a clear message that anti-Semitism has no place in Queensland. It sends a clear message that those who seek to terrorise faith communities will face serious consequences. It sends a clear message that if you traffic, steal, modify or recklessly discharge a weapon the penalties will be severe.

History demands vigilance. Experience demands action. Responsibility demands resolve. This is not political; it is moral. It is about safeguarding democratic values and social cohesion. It is about ensuring that 'never again' is not merely a phrase but a commitment reflected in our laws. This is what all Australians and all Queenslanders expect, and as such I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (5.09 pm): I rise to speak on the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026. A good place to start is why we are debating this bill. It resulted from the terrible Bondi massacre many of us heard about when we were on holidays. Part of my response was an immense sense of frustration and anger. You could see from a mile off that they were going to make this all about firearms, which had nothing to do with what drove that issue, but it made me reflect on the years building up to that point.

I listen to the ABC in Mount Isa a lot. We have a local ABC that does a lot of community events before switching over to the national ABC, so then you get journalists from Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne coming on. For years I heard them talking about attacks on synagogues and other Jewish places. I remember Dad coming back from Sydney years ago and saying, 'They took me to a Jewish school. They've got armed guards outside the school.' He said, 'This is Australia, Rob.' I'm thinking, 'Armed guards at a school?' I didn't understand it to the point where you almost think, 'Is this real?' It was hard to imagine, but this was building up for years. Politicians were coming on from Canberra saying, 'Yes, it's the rise of the Neo-Nazis; that's the problem.' I thought, 'This is ridiculous. Clearly it's these extremist Islamic people, the religious zealots that are all wound up and angry coming onto our shores. They are clearly the ones. Everybody knows that.' I just kept hearing time and time again that the rise of the Neo-Nazis was the big problem. I thought it was a big stitch-up and that they were trying to cover this up instead of dealing with the problem.

I must say that it was pretty silent here too. The KAP went down to one of these protests one morning as a counterprotest. I was walking along the street and they cut me off. I found out they were all saying 'condemn Israel', so we went out with a sign that said 'condemn Hamas' and we got walked off by security, mostly because we were on parliamentary land, but all the same we were the ones trying to say, 'This is not right. They shouldn't be allowed to be supporting Hamas out there.' There was a lot of pro-Palestine and anti-Australia sentiment out there. It is not a big issue up north. We are not in Western Sydney or some of those areas where it manifests more strongly, but all the same we are still saying, 'What are we not seeing that others are?' This is why we are not acting. We were quite bemused when we marched in the first March for Australia. We thought, 'Hang on. Let's send a signal to the Australian public to say that if you want to come here, you've got to assimilate. Don't bring your dirty washing from overseas and start wars over here. You've got to be Australian.'

I remember a story that is important for me to share here that outlines my position. Only a few months back I was at a roadhouse in one of the small towns in my electorate. Late one night I was driving home after one of those big rallies. There was a fellow there who was of ethnic origin. He had dark skin. I sort of half knew him. He had been out west for a while. He said, 'Robbie, I want to see you.' He was fairly curt in his manner and I thought, 'Here we go. He's going to give me a mouthful about immigration.' He said, 'I just want to commend you and your dad for what you're saying, because I've come to this country and I want to work. I see these so-and-so's coming in who want to cause trouble and they shouldn't be here. I've come here to work and provide for my family. If you want to come here, don't bring your troubles from overseas.' He was speaking my mind back to me. Most people would say, 'Gee, Rob, you don't want people like that.' Of course we want people like him. He

is as Australian as I am. He wants to assimilate. He appreciates being here. These people have this attitude that they do not like us and they hate the things we stand for. Don't bring it over here. If I go overseas I will respect your culture and whatever you are doing over there. I am not going to cause a stir, nor do I seek to. But if you are coming over here, respect our civility, our social cohesion and our values.

There was tacit approval of all of these rallies and everything that kept bubbling away here in Brisbane. They were allowed to rally and march. We kept watching and saying, 'They shouldn't be allowing this.' Then when it boiled over to Bondi you could see that happening. They were not cracking down on this. What is the response from the government? 'Let's blame licensed firearm owners. They're responsible for all of this. That's the problem. That's where we will drive this from.' Anyone can go and check the evidence. I am evidence driven on this and I have to commend the government for their firearm response. They came out early with a very solid response. I thought, 'I don't know if I believe this. It's a good, solid response.' But you have held strong and I commend you for that. It was the weak thing to do to say, 'Let's just give a response to the Australian public that sounds like we're going to do something.'

As the number of guns has increased in Australia the number of gun deaths has gone down. Your licensing does not work. The main work that is needed has always been in relation to unlicensed firearms and the people who operate outside of the legal framework. If a guy who has been going for his weapons licence for two years, who's sharing a house and sending up all these red flags with ASIO then gets a gun in New South Wales, that is a problem with their process. Have a look at where you are operating it and the operators in the system. Do not blame everyone else who is complying. The bloke in Normanton who has 10 guns and you want to take him down to four—that is not making anyone safer. Those blokes in Bondi only used two or three firearms and they had seven bombs in their car that we are never going to make illegal. They were going to find a way to do damage in Bondi whether you license things or not.

Unfortunately, you can find a pub in any major city where you can find illegal guns. I cannot tell you where they are, but I have it on good authority that you can find illegal guns out there. It is not hard. We have to crack down on that, and I can see that this legislation seeks to do that. I am all for spending that effort there, but do not spend it on the farmers, graziers and recreational fishers like Shane and me. We are doing you a favour by shooting pigs and taking care of your biosecurity issues most of the time. Whether we have 10 or two dozen firearms does not make a difference. If the Prime Minister believes that reducing the number of guns from 10 to five saves lives, why not take it down to zero? If you believe that reducing the number correlates with fewer deaths, why don't you advocate taking it down to zero? It was an arbitrary number that made no sense. It just said, 'We're doing something.' You had your time to do something on immigration. You had your time to do something with cracking down and jerking ASIO into gear. You had your time to crack down on those people and not letting them protest. You had your chance with all of that. Now—and I am speaking to the federal government here—you try and bully everyone in every state into saying, 'It's all about licensed firearm owners. That's where you need to spend the effort. That will make the difference.'

Be careful where you go with that mental health issue, because there are farmers out there with depression who might think, 'I'm not going to go and get checked out now because if I do I could lose my firearms licence.' There is good intent, but inadvertent effects can create much worse situations. I would say that most of these people, over 90 per cent, are law-abiding people who are trying to do the right thing. The last thing you want to do is incentivise them not to get check-ups, not to see doctors and not to get treatment for their mental health, so be careful where you go with that. I again commend the government for what they have done on weapons licensing. They have stood strong against the other states. Cracking down on illegal firearm owners is a good thing.

I foreshadow that I will be moving an amendment to remove sections 57 and 58, which relate to people who have convictions that are quashed or not recorded. I am sure if some of the other regional MPs have the same issue. The KAP has a massive line-up of people with spurious, vexatious decisions from weapons licensing officers who deliberately find excuses not to give them a firearms licence when they have genuine reasons. They do not understand the process. This will give them more ammunition to fuel that fire, which is unfair.

I want to touch on the freedom of speech issue. The government is walking on very dangerous ground here. It is not something we like, but we are facing extraordinary circumstances in this state that need extraordinary responses.



Mr HUTTON (Keppel—LNP) (5.20 pm): In the Jewish Holocaust Museum, a poem adorns the wall. It says—

First they came for the communists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a communist;

Then they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist;

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist;

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew;

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak out for me.

These words from Lutheran pastor Martin Niemoller are not simply a lament from history; they are a warning about indifference, about the danger of believing that hatred directed at someone else is not our concern. These words are lived out in the devastating and tragic acts of violence throughout our shared past. In this parliament—and indeed in this nation—we have had for a very long time words of our own. As a former deputy mayor I had the honour on many occasions of hosting citizenship ceremonies in my community. Just as every new citizen is asked to stand up and make a pledge, all citizens in attendance are often called upon to reaffirm their Australian citizenship with these words—

From this time forward, under God, I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its people, whose democratic beliefs I share, whose rights and liberties I respect, and whose laws I will uphold and obey.

These words are not ceremonial; they are constitutional in spirit, they are moral in substance and they stand in direct opposition to the slow, creeping silence that Niemoller describes. When we pledge 'loyalty to Australia and its people', we do not pledge loyalty to only those who look like us, worship like us or even vote like us; we pledge loyalty to all Australians. When we talk of our shared 'democratic beliefs', we affirm Australia's belief in pluralism. We affirm peaceful disagreement. We affirm that difference is not a threat. When we commit to respect 'rights and liberties', we acknowledge that those rights belong equally to minorities as to majorities. When we pledge to 'uphold and obey' the laws of this nation, we affirm that law is the instrument by which we protect one another from fear and violence.

Niemoller's poem tells us what happens when that pledge is abandoned in spirit, when silence replaces solidarity, when indifference replaces loyalty. This bill is about ensuring that our laws reflect the promise embedded in our citizenship pledge, that our values and beliefs are shared, that never will we accept the permeation of hate in our towns and our homes. The Jewish Board of Deputies said in their submission—

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.

That statement could sit very comfortably beside our citizenship pledge because democratic belief and social cohesion cannot survive where hatred becomes normalised.

This bill strengthens bans on hate symbols by enabling the Attorney-General to prescribe terrorist organisations and state sponsors of terrorism listed under the Commonwealth Criminal Code. It ensures that where a person knowingly displays such symbols in a way that menaces or intimidates there are real consequences. That reflects seriousness, that reflects principle, because respecting 'rights and liberties' does not mean tolerating intimidation.

Freedom of speech has always coexisted with the rule of law. This bill targets conduct that could reasonably be expected to make a reasonable member of the public feel menaced, harassed or seriously offended. The proposed offence regarding specific prohibited expressions is framed carefully. It contains safeguards for genuine educational, religious, artistic or historical purposes. It entrusts our courts to determine whether the threshold of menace has been crossed. It ensures slogans are not weaponised to terrorise Queensland communities.

No Australian should walk in fear to their place of worship because of words that have turned into threats. This bill further modernises offences protecting faith communities. Assaulting or threatening a person officiating a religious ceremony will now carry a higher penalty. Intimidating or obstructing people entering or leaving a place of religious worship becomes an offence in its own right. Wilful damage to a place of worship attracts increased penalties. Let us be clear: this applies to all religions. The pledge of loyalty is to Australia and its people, not to one creed or one culture. Just last week we saw an individual charged after a vehicle rammed into the gates of a Brisbane synagogue. When such acts occur, silence should not be an option. When they come for Queenslanders, we need to speak out. Hatred does not end with symbols or words; it escalates.

This bill creates a new offence capturing acts done in preparation to cause death or grievous bodily harm, closing a legislative gap and enabling police to intervene before violence occurs. It

establishes an offence prohibiting possession and distribution of blueprint material for the manufacture of 3D printed firearms. When hatred intersects with weapons, the consequences can be catastrophic to our communities. Respecting the 'rights and liberties' of Australians necessarily includes protecting their right to safety.

The new offence of reckless discharge of a weapon towards a building or vehicle carries severe penalties. Where such conduct is motivated by hatred towards a defined group, the law recognises that added gravity. Firing into a place of worship or a family home is never random; it is intended to terrorise not only the individual but also their community.

The pledge says that we will 'uphold and obey' the laws of Australia. That obligation is personal but it is also institutional. As legislators, we must ensure we have laws that are fit for purpose. Our reforms are preventive measures rooted in one simple truth: hatred is a danger to democracy, and democracy is precisely what all Australian citizens pledge to share.

The contrast between Niemoller's poem and our citizenship pledge is stark. The poem speaks of silence, shrinking circles of concern and, ultimately, isolation. The pledge speaks of loyalty, shared belief, respect and obedience to the law. One is the story of a society that failed to stand together; the other is a promise to stand together. Our task in this House is to ensure that promise prevails.

In communities across Queensland—from our capital city to regional towns—people of different backgrounds, cultures and faiths work side by side. They run small businesses, they coach sport, they volunteer, they study, they worship and they raise families. Hatred threatens that fragile fabric. When hatred targets one group—be it Jews, Muslims, Christians, migrants or any other group—the democratic beliefs we share are weakened for all.

Niemoller reminds us what happens when each group believes it is not their turn. Our citizenship pledge reminds us that it is always our turn to defend our democratic values. This bill is about preventing escalation. It is about drawing lines that protect cohesion. It is about saying clearly that Queensland will not tolerate intimidation, violence or the glorification of terrorism—because when they come for one of us, we will speak out; because we have pledged loyalty not only to ourselves but to all of Queensland's people; because we share democratic beliefs; because we respect rights and liberties; because we will uphold and obey the law; and because we have learned from history that silence is not neutrality but abandonment. Let this parliament choose loyalty over science, let us choose cohesion over contempt and let us choose safety over indifference so that no Queenslanders ever has to say, 'There was no-one left to speak for me.' I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Hutton, adjourned.

MOTION

Victims of Crime, Data Reporting

Mr SPEAKER: Before we go to the private member's motion, there was an inquiry by the Manager of Government Business about the motion. We have had advice and the motion stands as is. Since this is a long session, I will notify those who are on the warning list: the members for Lytton, Jordan, Woodridge, Kawana, Pine Rivers, Bundamba, Bulimba and Miller.

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (5.30 pm): I move—

That this House condemns the Crisafulli LNP government for omitting thousands of victims of crime, including domestic and family violence victims, from victim numbers.

This is a motion that the LNP did not even want to debate tonight. They had to come in and have a conversation to see whether they could get away with it because they know that the LNP and their leader are under severe pressure, knowing he has been fudging the figures here in Queensland.

Labor wants to see the numbers of victims of crime genuinely come down here in Queensland. Under Labor and under a fantastic Labor police minister we started to turn that corner because of our laws and our investment. In 2024 we saw the number of victims drop before we even adjusted for per capita population growth in Queensland, something which the clever politician the Premier knows all about, and we have heard it before multiple times. In Queensland under Labor the number of robberies dropped almost seven per cent, the number of break-ins dropped by over eight per cent and the number of car thefts dropped by 3.2 per cent. Guess what? Last year alone under this LNP four-word slogan government that number was just 1.3 per cent. In fact, in the last three months of 2025 the LNP oversaw

a shocking surge in stolen vehicles that reversed the trend entirely in that short period. It reversed the trend that started under Labor and was then on the improve.

Sadly, the Crisafulli government has worked out that in government slogans do not actually reduce crime. Then the LNP government clearly decided earlier this year to cook the books. In October last year the opposition revealed—and I want to thank our staff for this—that this government removed thousands of victims of crime from their data overnight—gone—and guess who they blamed? They blamed the police. That is right, the LNP who carry on in this place claiming to back police blamed them. It is shameful. They will do whatever it takes to save this Premier and this clever politician's job and yesterday we saw strike 2. The *Courier-Mail* revealed that over 900 child victims were not recorded in the QPS data and we saw the police minister's desperate and farcical performance in question time trying to cover it up.

The house of cards opposite is certainly crumbling and the police minister was trying to hold it all together. I say to the police minister: well done for trying to hold it all together. We hear the government media team certainly went into overdrive backgrounding to help him cover his tracks. It is not good enough. It is not good enough for the people of Queensland. Queenslanders expect transparency and they expect accountability from their government. They are not getting that. That is what they got in 2021 when former commissioner Katarina Carroll changed how domestic violence offences were recorded. She did that because it is how police wanted it. This decision was in the interests of victim-survivors of domestic violence. That change meant that police officers must record all identified substantive criminal offences associated with domestic and family violence investigations here in Queensland within QPRIME. We knew that this change would result in the reported victims of crime increasing overnight. We knew that and we told the people of Queensland. We were open and transparent. Despite the known challenges that this would create politically, Labor knew it was the right thing to do. We declared it. We told the people of Queensland. In the 2021 QGSO crime report it was clearly stated—

From 1 July 2021, a change in recording practices was implemented by the Queensland Police Service, requiring police officers to record within QPRIME all criminal offences associated with domestic and family violence ... incidents that come to their attention. Consequently, 2021-22 presents as a break in the time series for DFV-related variables that are based on recorded offences data.

Despite this clear publicly declared change, the LNP to this day ignore this inconvenient truth when citing and cherry-picking statistics to suit their political agenda and narrative for the Premier of Queensland. It is not the legislative amendment that has resulted in this data not being recorded. It is because this arrogant police minister thinks he can get away with fudging the figures alongside the Premier of Queensland, which is an absolute shame for our wonderful state.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (5.35 pm): I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'that this House' be omitted and the following paragraph inserted—

'Condemns the Palaszczuk and Miles government for overseeing a 193 per cent increase in victim of crime numbers.'

I am not sure where to start regarding the member for Gladstone's contribution. He began by trying to sing their praises about the work they did on crime when they were in government but he probably forgot about the fact that in July 2024 the *Courier-Mail* announced that Queensland is now officially the crime capital of Australia with 289,000 victims of crime across Queensland. Across every stat, whether it is domestic and family violence, stolen cars or assault, they exploded under those opposite. However, they did not scrutinise the data then. They tried to write it off as a media beat-up. Let's have a look at the member for Gladstone's record in his own electorate. During the time they were in government not only assaults but stolen cars went up; they tripled in the Gladstone police division. We did not hear him talk about that. I do not know where he got some of those figures—

Ms Fentiman interjected.

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

Mr PURDIE:—he was trotting out about crime being on the improve. Let's talk about the former premier, the member for Murrumba. I will not waste too much time on him because we know he is only warming the chair for a short time. Assaults in the Mango Hill and North Lakes division under those opposite increased by nearly 500 per cent—489 per cent. I see the member for Woodridge is coming up next and I am mindful that he is not going anywhere fast either, so I will gloss over this. I say to the member for Woodridge, a senior member of the Miles-Palaszczuk government, that assaults in the

Crestmead division, which falls within that member's electorate, rose from 144 in 2015 to over a thousand—1,016—by 2024, a 600 per cent increase.

Let's go to the two members opposite who are vying for the next top job. First is the member for Gaven. Assaults in Nerang, which is in the member's electorate, rose by 273 per cent.

Ms Fentiman: What about DV?

Mr PURDIE: The member for Waterford is yelling out, 'What about DV?' Let's have a look at DV in the member's electorate—

Ms Fentiman: Yes, under them.

Mr PURDIE:—because breaches of domestic and family violence in the member for Waterford's electorate rose by 400 per cent while they were in government.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr PURDIE: There she is interjecting. I am happy to take all those interjections about domestic and family violence.

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

Mr PURDIE: I was taking those interjections from the member for Waterford, who was not really scrutinising the data when she was a senior member of the government—attorney-general, minister for victims and minister for health—when breaches of domestic and family violence orders rose in her electorate by 400 per cent and assaults in the Loganholme police division, which again falls in the member for Waterford's electorate, rose by almost 500 per cent. I cannot remember whether that member was the attorney-general or in another position like the minister for women and was demanding scrutiny of the figures then because they called it a media beat-up. It was the member for Waterford—and she took offence when I mentioned this yesterday, so I want to make sure I am accurate about this—who joined the Labor Party to water down the Youth Justice Act.

Ms FENTIMAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence, once again, and I ask him to withdraw.

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

Mr PURDIE: I withdraw. Just to be perfectly accurate, I will quote from *Hansard*. In debate on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-Year-Old Persons) Amendment Bill in November 2016, the member for Waterford talks about the bill, which 'will finally transition 17-year-olds from adult correctional facilities—a place they should never have been', and stated—

At my first Queensland Labor conference removing 17-year-olds from adult prisons was the first motion that I spoke on. It was one of the issues that convinced me to join the Labor Party.

The wannabe leader of the Labor Party in this state—no doubt wants to be a future leader—joined the Labor Party to water down the Youth Justice Act, and there are more quotes. I wish I had more time.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

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

Mr SPEAKER: We have a point of order.

Ms FENTIMAN: I take personal offence at his—

Mr SPEAKER: Wait, wait—

Ms FENTIMAN:—mischaracterisation—

Mr SPEAKER:—I will call you.

Ms FENTIMAN: I thought you did, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Waterford.

Ms FENTIMAN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I take offence at his mischaracterisation of my words and I ask him to withdraw.

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

Mr PURDIE: I do withdraw, if I have misrepresented what was said, and I am sorry—

Opposition members interjected.

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

Mr SPEAKER: I think I am on to this one. A withdrawal is unqualified. There are not conditions around it.

Mr PURDIE: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr PURDIE: To quote *Hansard*—and I apologise if Hansard got it wrong—just to make sure it is accurate—

At my first Queensland Labor conference removing 17-year-olds from adult prisons was the first motion that I spoke on.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The apology continues to be qualified and I would ask that the withdrawal be properly unqualified.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I will just take advice here.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The police minister has withdrawn, but he is also directly quoting from the document—from *Hansard*.

Mr SPEAKER: Yes, just give me one moment. Minister, the member took personal offence earlier. You withdrew and it then followed along similar lines. She is perfectly entitled to take personal offence. I ask that you withdraw please, and you have 10 seconds left.

Mr PURDIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker; I take your guidance. With 10 seconds to go, the member for Waterford—

Mr SPEAKER: Withdraw.

Mr PURDIE: I withdraw. The member for Waterford wants to be the leader, and I know those opposite do not have an independent thought and cannot vote unless Blocker sends Mick Gatto around—

(Time expired)

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.42 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the member for Gladstone and oppose the amendment moved by the police minister. This motion strikes at the heart of the Premier's untrustworthiness, because time and again Premier Crisafulli has betrayed the trust of Queenslanders. He was a shonky minister, a shonky businessman and a shonky opposition leader and now he is a shonky Premier. The Premier built his mansion in Bulimba exceeding height limits, and that is shonky!

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In relation to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I would submit to you that that is unparliamentary language and ask you to consider that matter.

Mr SPEAKER: I am going to rule that that is. We can do without that terminology, thank you very much, member for Woodridge. I would ask that you withdraw those comments.

Mr DICK: I withdraw. This is a man who expects Queenslanders to obey the law, but when he built his mansion in Bulimba he exceeded the height limit and blew the roof off. Untrustworthiness knows no limits for this Premier. Not happy being caught out fudging victim numbers once, the Premier has gone again—caught out fudging the figures a second time. Last year the opposition caught the Premier removing victims of stolen cars and victims of break-ins from crime statistics. The Premier apologised and blamed it on a 'coding error'—a 'coding error' that neither he nor the police minister have properly explained. What was wrong with the coding and why did it affect the two crimes that the LNP cared about?

This week the opposition revealed that the Premier has been fudging the crime figures once again. In April the Crisafulli LNP government stopped including victims of domestic violence involving children in the Premier's victim data. From May to December 2025 this resulted in about 1,000 child victims of assault vanishing—whoosh, a thousand victims of crime just disappeared. In January, February and March 2025, these Queenslanders were victims that mattered to the Premier, but by April and May they were gone. The crimes were still happening. These terrible crimes of domestic and family violence were still happening. They were being investigated and perpetrators were being brought to justice, but the Crisafulli LNP government stopped counting these victims. But they count to us. They count to Labor, because these victims of crime matter to us and they should matter to the government.

In 2021 Labor supported then police commissioner Katarina Carroll's directive that every victim of domestic violence be included in crime statistics. We supported that approach, because those victims must count. If this state is to be a safe place for everyone—if it is to be a safe place for women and

children—then we must confront domestic and family violence and we must quantify it and count those victims. Just like his mentor Campbell Newman, this Premier has stopped counting these victims. The Premier even promised that he would continue to count victims of domestic and family violence. During the 2024 9News election debate, the Premier said that he would not change how domestic violence victims were counted. Remember, he looked down the camera and got out the invisible box when he is really under pressure. He promised it would not change, but, of course, do not listen to what he says; look at what he does, because when the Premier says something it means something else or it means nothing at all.

The Premier is a smart politician—we know that—but he is also a slick politician. That is why the Queensland Labor opposition thinks it is time for the Queensland Audit Office to review the victim data. Let us send it to someone genuinely independent, genuinely honest—someone who will get to the truth. This victim data must go to the Queensland Audit Office because Queenslanders deserve to know what has been tampered with by this government. The Queensland opposition has uncovered the Premier fudging the figures not once but twice. The Premier is a serious repeat offender when it comes to fudging victims of crime figures. Who knows what other victims of crime are not being included in the Premier's data? We know that Queenslanders do not feel any safer under this government. They do not feel any safer under this Premier. Domestic violence is still a horrible scourge on society. It has not stopped. It has not reduced. It is inconceivable that the Premier should hide these figures. It is inconceivable, in fact, that the Premier and his police minister would look at those figures and not know that something had changed. They simply cannot be trusted with this data.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Direct your comments through the chair, thank you.

Mr DICK: The LNP simply cannot be trusted with this data. It must go to an independent verifier, and that should be the Audit Office. Until then, Queenslanders simply will not be able to trust anything the Premier says about crime victims. There is too much that is shonky—I withdraw that. There is too much that is untrustworthy about this Premier and his data.

(Time expired)

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (5.48 pm): I rise to support the amendment moved by the police minister to the motion and want to remark on the comments made by the member for Gladstone. He stated in his speech that he genuinely wanted to see victim numbers drop. Well, lucky for him he has an LNP Crisafulli government, because he is seeing it here in Queensland! I rise to speak on these matters that are deeply important to the people that I represent in Mundingburra and right across the community of Townsville. Community safety is at the heart of everything we do, and for too long Queenslanders were told that what they were seeing and what they were experiencing in their communities was not real. They were told it was exaggerated. They were told it was a media beat-up, but the people of Townsville knew the truth. They knew it because they were living it every single day, and the stats—the facts—speak for themselves.

The members opposite like to talk about the stats, well I have some stats for them. Under Labor's decade of decline, victim numbers soared. In 2023 alone, there were 289,657 victims of crime in Queensland—the highest in the nation. During that same period, the total number of victims increased by 193 per cent—there is a stat. Across Queensland total crime increased 27 per cent under Labor's watch. There was a 101 per cent increase in the unlawful use of a motor vehicle; break and enters, 44 per cent; and assaults, 198 per cent. All the while this was happening to families. They were too scared to go outside. They were installing security cameras, boarding up their windows—

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I want to be sure you can hear me, member for Gladstone. You are warned.

Mrs POOLE:—and, all the while, those opposite dismissed the crisis as nothing more than a media beat-up. In Townsville the impact was severe. We were labelled 'crims-ville', 'thugs-ville'. We were the epicentre of Labor's youth crime crisis. We lived it every day. Under Labor's reign, in Townsville stolen cars increased by a staggering 199 per cent. Some 1,945 vehicles were stolen in 2023 alone—that is nearly 2,000 families that did not have their car when they woke up in the morning. They did not have a car to get to work or take their kids to school. It was not just car theft that increased. Unlawful entries surged across Townsville under Labor's time in government—2023 being the worst year on record. Homes were broken into and families were violated. There was a 150 per cent increase. Children were too scared to sleep in their own bed in case the bad man came back.

An opposition member interjected.

Mrs POOLE: Hang your head in shame, too. Weaker laws, fewer police—

Mrs Nightingale interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Inala, stop your quarrelling.

Mrs POOLE:—all created under the Labor government's youth crime crisis. I know this personally. I personally saw it. During 28 years of serving with the Queensland Police Service in Townsville, I saw it firsthand.

Instead of consequences, repeat offenders were cycled back into the community again and again. People in Townsville were fed up. In October 2024, Queenslanders voted for a fresh start and that is what they got. We introduced strong reforms like Adult Crime, Adult Time, ensuring serious youth offenders faced real consequences for their actions and our police officers finally had a government that had their back. We gave them the laws, we gave them the resources, we gave them the tools that they needed to do their job to keep our community safe and we pride ourselves on that. The Crisafulli LNP government have the back of our police so that they are able to do their job to keep our community safe.

 **Ms McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (5.53 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the shadow minister. The Premier said in the lead-up to the election that there would be fewer victims of crime. In fact, he staked his job on it. He said his would be a government of transparency and integrity. Obviously there were many attempts by Queenslanders to clarify what that actually meant but the Premier was very short on details. There were questions by media about exactly how that data would be collected, collated and reported—'Oh, that is not important.' This was a person who was all about the slogans. That is what we have. We have a government that is delivering on slogans but is very short on the detail. I am hearing so many statistics coming from the other side but I think we and the rest of Queensland know that we cannot trust any statistics coming out from this government. Time and time again they have announced figures are lower—there are fewer victims of crime; crime is going down—but what comes through when the data is actually analysed is, 'Oh, there was a misrepresentation of data.' 'Oh, it is the police's fault, they got it wrong.'

Ms Pugh: Hansard mucked up.

Ms McMAHON: Hansard must have mucked up. Everyone has an excuse for why the data is wrong and why the election commitment that the Premier staked his job on is lacking. It is not coming through when the data is actually scrutinised. Last year it was the QPS and the alleged coding error and in this case we are not actually comparing apples with apples. To say that crime is going down you need a similar dataset. When the data is not even being measured the same, you cannot compare apples with apples, you cannot say that there is a trend and you cannot say that it is going down.

Members on this side of the House want to see a reduction in crime, we want to see fewer victims of crime, but we cannot trust a single statistic coming out of this government. That is why I support the Leader of the Opposition's suggestion that we need independence in verifying all this crime data because if someone has staked their job on it, I am not trusting them to deliver and the rest of Queensland is not trusting them either. That has gone—that ship has sailed.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members on my left, I cannot hear your own speaker.

Ms McMAHON: Queenslanders might be fooled once, but they are not going to be fooled twice by data that is misrepresented. Over the last couple of days I have heard the police minister going on about how our questioning of the data seems to be some indictment on the police. That is far from the truth because the police are doing exactly what they are meant to be doing. They are complying and they are doing their job. I make absolutely no insinuation that our police are not doing the job properly, that they are not investigating and that they are not recording offences as they occur. They are recording them as they are supposed to, but what is happening is the data is being fudged. We are not saying it is the fault of the police.

I was around the last time the LNP were in government. The last time the LNP was in government they closed the whole police statistics office. You could not get data out of the police at all—maybe that is what is next if the data is not supporting what they want or if the data is not supporting their claims or the Premier's ironclad commitment that the number of victims of crime would go down and he has put his job on the line for that. The QPS statistics guys must be wondering if their jobs are next because we know what happened the last time the LNP were in government. They did not like the statistics coming out of the police so they shut the office down. I was there in 2015 and 2016 when we had to re-establish the statistics that were publicly reported by the QPS. For years there had been none because those opposite did not want data coming out that did not back their slogans. This is not about

suggesting the police are not doing their job; this is about the dodging of statistics and data being released through media releases that has no independent scrutiny whatsoever. All we are asking for and all Queenslanders are asking for is independence and not fudged figures by this government. The police are releasing data. It is being cherry-picked. We do not want fudged statistics anymore.

Mr Purdie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I go to the member for Barron River, the member for Ninderry is warned.

 **Ms JAMES** (Barron River—LNP) (5.58 pm): The cheese has well and truly fallen off the cracker over here. They are now accusing our police of fudging figures. I rise to support the amendment to the motion. Across Far North Queensland there is a simple expectation that families share; that is, that people want to feel safe in their homes. They want to know that their children can sleep at night without the fear of someone breaking into the house. They want to know that their car will still be in the driveway in the morning. They want to know that their small business will not be smashed and looted again. During Labor's decade in power that basic sense of safety was taken away from far too many Queenslanders. In 2023 alone, 289,657 Queenslanders became victims of crime. That is nearly 300,000 victims.

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Bundaberg, you are warned.

Ms JAMES: Nearly 50,000 break-ins occurred across the state and more than 34,000 of those were people's homes. This is the one place people should feel safe. These are not just statistics; these numbers represent frightened families, exhausted police officers and communities that felt ignored by a government that refused to listen—a government that weakened the laws so youth criminals faced detention as a last resort and there were fewer consequences for their actions. In Far North Queensland we felt it firsthand. We have been feeling it for years and we are tired. I have spoken to residents who have had their cars stolen more than once, business owners who have arrived at work to find broken glass on the floor yet again and parents who told their children to sleep with their bedroom doors locked or not to ride their scooter to school in case it got stolen—all of this while Labor MPs say this is a media beat-up. Tell that to the victims.

This was created by 10 years of poor policy decisions. In 2016 the Labor government weakened the Youth Justice Act. They made detention a last resort, they removed breach of bail as an offence and in 2019 they weakened the bail laws even further, allowing more repeat offenders back into the community. The result was predictable: repeat offenders committing crime after crime. In Cairns robberies more than tripled, with a 319 per cent increase during Labor's decade in power. That is not a small policy failure; that is a decade-long collapse in community safety.

I want to address the member for Cairns. For years he sat on the government benches while these laws were weakened. He voted for them. For years he defended the policies that allowed youth crime to spiral in our region and for years he failed to stand up for the people of Far North Queensland when they needed leadership. When your community is hurting you do not dismiss their concerns. When crime is rising you do not—

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

Ms JAMES: I will withdraw. When your community is hurting you do not dismiss their concerns and when communities and families are frightened in their own homes you do not stay silent while your government weakens the law.

Mr Healy interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Cairns.

Ms JAMES: Interestingly, he is speaking up about it now he is not in government. He is even advocating for liquor licensing changes that he could have advocated for when he was in government but he sat silent and now our city is filled with antisocial behaviour. The Crisafulli government is taking a very different approach.

Mr Healy interjected.

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

Ms JAMES: We are restoring consequences through Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. Those laws are now being expanded to over 45 serious offences including rioting, domestic violence, strangulation and conspiring to murder. More than 4,000 youth offenders have already been charged under these

laws, sending a clear message that serious crime will have serious consequences because in Queensland the rights of victims must always come before the rights of criminals.

We are also strengthening police powers to protect our business precincts. New designated business and community precinct laws will give police stronger powers to move on and ban repeat offenders from key commercial areas. These reforms will also extend Jack's Law wandering powers into those precincts to keep weapons off our streets. This is all about protecting small businesses, workers and families who deserve to feel safe in the places where they live and work. There are now also more police in Far North Queensland than at any point in the past 12 years. The member for Cairns celebrated the delivery of 47 police in four years. In just 15 months we have delivered more than 199 police for Far North Queensland. This is the difference between excuses and action. Far North Queensland is a strong and resilient city, but resilience should never be mistaken for acceptance. Keeping Queenslanders safe is not optional; it is the first duty of any government. It is a duty this government will never walk away from.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (6.03 pm): I rise to support the motion of the shadow minister for police, a motion that speaks to the heart of transparency, accountability and the safety of our most vulnerable. This House must formally condemn the Crisafulli LNP government. For months this government has stood before the cameras claiming a victory over crime. They have trumpeted green shoots—a drop in victim numbers—as proof that their slogans were working, but we know the truth. This drop was not achieved by making our streets safer; it was achieved by making victims invisible. It is a statistical sleight of hand that prioritises political survival over the lived reality of Queenslanders.

That is the difference between the Labor government and this current LNP government. We did the right thing by supporting police and legislating the increase to police efficiencies that they asked for, not fudging the figures. The amendment changed the way police investigate domestic violence in households where a child is involved. It should never have changed the way data was recorded. This was not the intent nor the reason for the amendment made. The most shameful aspect of this creative accounting is the deliberate omission of child victims of domestic and family violence. According to reports from the *Courier-Mail*, recent legislative changes mean police are no longer required to lodge certain domestic violence incidents involving children under 18. This means that at least 900 child assault victims have effectively vanished from the police data in the last eight months alone. Criminologists, including Professor Terry Goldsworthy, a good friend of those opposite, have rightly called this a failure of the most vulnerable. These children have not stopped being victims; they have simply stopped being counted. By changing the rules of what constitutes a victim, the Premier is not fixing the problem; he is just fixing the books. Importantly, this change can be rectified at any point, and I encourage the Crisafulli government to work with police on restoring that reporting process to give Queenslanders trust in that data.

However, this is not an isolated incident; it is part of a pattern of dodgy data by 'dodgy Dave' that defines the Crisafulli administration. When the Premier first announced his crime figures in 2025, he faced immediate criticism for excluding the massive category of 'other theft'. This includes shoplifting, theft from cars and theft from a person—crimes that affect thousands of businesses and everyday Queenslanders. The Premier's justification was that these are victimless crimes, like stealing a road marker. Tell that to the small business owners whose margins are being gutted by retail theft. Tell that to the family who finds their car broken into. By excluding over 150,000 annual victims of 'other theft', this government is telling many Queenslanders that their trauma does not count.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mansfield, it has come to my attention that you used an unparliamentary phrase. I ask you to withdraw.

Ms McMILLAN: I withdraw. Furthermore, the government previously overstated crime reductions by thousands, only to be forced into a public apology later. Ultimately, they blamed the police. When you build a story on a foundation of cherrypicked data, it is only a matter of time before it starts to crumble. Mr Crisafulli tied his leadership to a promise that he would resign if victims of crime did not fall. Instead of doing the hard work to achieve that goal, he has instead redefined what a victim is. By omitting child DV victims and 'other theft', the LNP is not making Queensland safer; it is simply making it quieter for its own political convenience. You cannot solve a crisis you refuse to accurately measure.

Mr SPEAKER: I remind you about using correct titles.

Ms McMILLAN: The Premier must realise that it is not about being a clever politician; it is about demonstrating integrity and keeping a promise. He and his LNP government have been caught out twice now. How many more times must this happen before this Crisafulli administration gets its act together and builds from a foundation of honesty and transparency? Those qualities are expected of

every leader. This House must condemn this government for its lack of transparency. The Labor opposition demands an urgent audit of these figures. Queenslanders deserve a government that puts the safety of children and the integrity of data above a headline. All Queenslanders deserve to be counted. I commend the motion moved by the shadow minister for police.

Hon. AJ CANN (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (6.08 pm): I support the amendment moved by the Minister for Police and the incredible work that the minister is doing in increasing the number of our frontline police force. I am very proud to be one of the ministers, along with my colleagues, charged with lowering victim numbers. When we make a commitment to the people of Queensland we intend to deliver upon it. We will continue to deliver for Queenslanders.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for McConnel, this is the last time.

Ms CANN: Let us remind those opposite and all Queenslanders of their record when it comes to victim numbers. During the decade of decline under those opposite, total crime increased 27 per cent, car theft increased 101 per cent, break-ins increased 44 per cent and assaults increased 198 per cent. While all that was going on, senior ministers at the time were calling it a media beat-up. They come into this House and say Queenslanders cannot trust our government when our government is deploying resources to the front line. For a decade police were screaming out for extra resourcing and our communities were screaming out for extra police on the beat. We saw youth offending in Far North Queensland, North Queensland, Central Queensland—

Mr Field: Everywhere.

Ms CANN:—and, in fact, throughout our entire state. I take the interjection from our good member who would not be sitting here if his family were not a victim of crime under the most horrific of circumstances. Those opposite are scaremongering. They come into this House and say that they want to see lower victim numbers, but I question whether they really do want to see victim numbers reduced. Do they? At every opportunity during sitting weeks they are on social media and in the media scaremongering to the people of Queensland—

Mrs Gerber: Not supporting our tough laws.

Ms CANN:—and not supporting our tough laws. I take the interjection from the Minister for Victim Support who has introduced our third tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. She made the commitment to Queenslanders, as did our Premier, that we will continue to reform if it means lower victim numbers.

A government member: Are they going to support it?

Ms CANN: I take that interjection; are they going to support it? It is an interesting question, isn't it, members? I wonder how the factional wars are going over there.

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

Ms CANN: It makes sense that they are all defending the member for Cairns this week. It is because they need him for their own numbers. The leadership sure do!

Ms McMillan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, member for Mansfield.

Ms CANN: Under the Crisafulli government we are already seeing green shoots. Those opposite talk about it because it is true and they know it to be true. Victim numbers are down 7.2 per cent compared to the previous year. Robberies are down 16 per cent. They should be celebrating in their communities particularly—

Ms McMillan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Mansfield is warned.

Ms CANN:—when we look at some of the swings against them in their communities, some of which exceed eight per cent. You would think they would be touting the tough-on-crime stance of our government.

A government member: Macalister.

Ms CANN: I take the interjection. It is the member for Macalister whose swing is around eight per cent. Break-ins are down 13.2 per cent and stolen cars are down 3.2 per cent. These are positive signs but we are realistic about the challenge and the decade of decline that we inherited from those opposite.

We know it will take time and the Queensland people know it will take time, but they know we are doing everything in our power to drive down victim numbers and to provide support to the frontline officers who need it.

That is why we have continued to strengthen the laws unlike those opposite who, in 2016, watered down the youth justice laws. We know that was a pivotal moment because we saw an increase in crime through the youth justice system. We know it all too well. I know it all too well from the funnelling of children from Child Safety into the youth justice system. It was very real. That is where we have the majority of serious repeat offenders. I commend the minister for the work she is doing with detention and the programs she is rolling out such as Regional Reset. Last week I was in the electorate of the member for Mirani where they are so excited about the program that they will deliver for young people. Our government has made a commitment and we will deliver on lowering victim numbers. Those opposite can continue to scaremonger and sprout falsehoods—

(Time expired)

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (6.13 pm): I rise to support the motion and oppose the amendment. What is at stake here is whether the Premier's word means anything at all. Premier Crisafulli promised Queenslanders transparency. He promised integrity. He promised fewer victims of crime without changing the reporting for domestic and family violence victims. He built public support on those claims. What we have seen since is slithery backsliding, fudging the figures and dodgy data.

In October last year, the opposition uncovered that thousands of victims of crime numbers had been removed from police data overnight. There was no announcement and no explanation, just a secret adjustment that made the government's claim look better than reality. It was a fudging of the figures. Premier Crisafulli is more interested in how things look than how things actually are. The LNP had been overstating the claimed reduction of victim numbers by more than four per cent. Those victim numbers were erased from the count so that Premier Crisafulli could boast. Before the NRL grand final the Premier went on television, claiming credit for a result he could not justify. When the facts caught up with him, he did not front up; he blamed the police. This is a Premier who backs our police only when it suits him but blames the police when he is caught out fudging the figures. However, it got worse.

On 28 April last year, six months after Premier Crisafulli was elected, police began treating parent-child callouts as child safety or youth justice matters rather than domestic violence when recording. Under the 2021 commissioner's directive, every victim associated with a domestic violence callout had to be recorded, regardless of whether police investigated. That reflected what was actually happening in people's homes. After 28 April last year, those parent-child victims stopped being captured in the way they were before, no corrective directive was issued, no explanation was provided to Queenslanders, figures were fudged and the change was kept secret. As DV offences fell from the month after, our clever and slippery Premier Crisafulli took credit and boasted without being transparent.

This week, Queenslanders learned that almost 1,000 child victims of assault were excluded from Premier Crisafulli's victim data. I repeat that: almost 1,000 children were not counted. Shame, Premier Crisafulli, shame, for fudging the figures. The indications are that it does not stop there. Wilful damage, sexual assault, stalking and other offences were affected by the reporting changes. When the Premier claims victim numbers are down, Queenslanders are entitled to ask: are they down because Queensland is safer or are they down because Premier Crisafulli stopped counting all the victims and started fudging the figures?

This is not about whether police investigate domestic or family violence. That has not changed in the sense that our hardworking police officers are not to blame. What has changed is how the victims are counted. That matters. That is slippery and that is dodgy. The recording of victims is important for future use in evidence, to help identify patterns and escalation. It supports the prosecution of criminals and protection orders. This could have been fixed immediately. An internal directive could have ensured those victims were still counted consistently, but it was not fixed. The Premier fudged the figures and used them publicly to pat himself on the back.

This is why the Miles Labor opposition will be writing to the independent Queensland Audit Office seeking an urgent investigation and review into the changed reporting processes and the police minister's role in producing these changed statistics, especially given the Premier's pre-election victim pledge. If the Premier believes in transparency, he should support that referral today. If the police minister has nothing to hide, he should also welcome it. If they have nothing to hide then why don't they support it being looked at independently? There is a post-election pattern here. It is different to the LNP pre-election pattern committing to openness and transparency. It is the opposite post-election under Premier Crisafulli.

The same pattern is showing up in health. The Premier promised no health cuts and we got cuts. Beds were promised then dumped. Clinic hours were cut. Hospital expansions were blocked indefinitely. When the pressures build and the numbers look ugly, their response is not to fix the problem but to fudge the figures. If Premier Crisafulli is prepared to let almost 1,000 child victims not be counted in the crime data, why would anyone accept his government's version of the truth on ramping, waitlists or what is happening in emergency departments? Who is telling the truth? Is it our slippery Premier Crisafulli or the people on the ground who are living that experience?

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I will pull you up on that. We do not need name-calling. That is unparliamentary.

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw. I say to the police minister: when push comes to shove and things get hot, you can be sure that the Premier will back himself and not you.

Ms MARR (Thuringowa—LNP) (6.18 pm): I am very keen to speak on the amendment moved by the Minister for Police. For 10 long years, families in my electorate and across North Queensland have lived in fear.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms MARR: They will continue to talk across there, Mr Speaker, because they do not want to hear the truth.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms MARR: It is difficult for them to hear. I will start again. For 10 long years, families in my electorate and across North Queensland have lived in fear. Communities had endured a decade of suffering under Labor's abject failure on crime. Homes were broken into, cars stolen and loved ones assaulted. I listened to their stories firsthand over the four years under Labor and I have seen the arrogance of those former Townsville Labor members who dismissed their pain as nothing more than a media beat-up. The numbers do not lie and neither do the victims, and I would suggest that is one of the reasons why I sit in this seat today.

Under Labor's decade of decline, victim numbers soared to unprecedented heights. In 2023 alone, almost 300,000 Queenslanders fell victim to crime, the highest in the nation—a staggering 193 per cent increase over their time in power, a figure they should hang their heads in shame on, not to mention their attitude to the victims during this time. Another figure they should be ashamed of is that total crime rose 27 per cent. Car thefts doubled, with a 101 per cent surge; break-ins climbed 44 per cent; and assaults skyrocketed by 198 per cent.

Townsville became known as the crime capital of Queensland, and Queensland became the crime capital of Australia. We were seeing nearly 300,000 victims, with the highest numbers in robberies, break-ins and vehicle thefts—over 50,000 break-ins, more than 34,000 of homes, and a 20 per cent jump in other thefts to levels not seen since 1995. Some members were not even born then. That is how long ago it was. This was not a beat-up; it was a betrayal to my community. How did Labor respond?

An opposition member interjected.

Ms MARR: Sorry? I would like to take that interjection.

Mr SPEAKER: There was no interjection to you. You have the call, member for Thuringowa.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms MARR: The lack of respect from the opposite side has been unimaginable today.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I remind members that there are a lot of people in this chamber who are on warnings.

Ms MARR: Unimaginable! How did Labor respond? By weakening the laws that protected us. In 2016 they gutted the Youth Justice Act, making detention a last resort and scrapping breach of bail as an offence. This unleashed a youth crime crisis that victimised hundreds of thousands.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms MARR: It just amazes me that they can laugh about this topic. They are sitting over there laughing at almost 300,000 victims of crime. In 2019 they watered down bail laws even further, letting repeat offenders back onto our streets to terrorise our communities. Their failed philosophy of no consequences for actions and their soft-on-crime approach bred a generation of serious repeat offenders, leaving my community to pay the price.

However, under the Crisafulli government, we are turning the tide. In 2025, victim numbers dropped 7.2 per cent per capita compared to the previous year. Robberies are down 16 per cent, break-ins by 13.2 per cent and stolen cars by 3.2 per cent. Those are positive signs of progress, but we will not take our foot off the pedal. We are strong and determined in our approach. We unashamedly support real consequences, with adult crime meaning adult time.

We are equally committed to effective early intervention and rehabilitation. We invest in programs that identify at-risk youth early through schools, community services, mentoring and family support, to steer them away from crime before it takes hold. For those who do offend, we back evidence-based compulsory rehabilitation and pathways back to meaningful lives in our communities, because true safety comes from not only punishment but also breaking the cycle of offending so fewer victims are created tomorrow.

We back our police—unlike those opposite, who this week have displayed a disappointing and poor attitude in this very chamber, questioning police and downplaying their vital work. Our government backs police with better resources and stronger powers for real action against crime. We are grateful and proud of the men and women who put their lives on the line every day to keep our communities safe.

This is what strong leadership looks like: listening to the communities, enforcing the law and keeping Queenslanders safe. The people of Thuringowa, and indeed Queensland, deserve better than Labor's decade of decline. They deserve a government that fights for them every single day. That is exactly what we will continue to do, because we are a government who deliver on putting victims first.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (6.23 pm): Trust is something you earn. Let me say one thing in this House: you do not earn trust when you cook the books. Maybe the Premier thought he was still running his training company, because when you rort once you rort again. The Premier promised that he would govern with transparency and integrity, but what we have seen in recent days is that these are just meaningless words. The Premier's claimed reduction in victim numbers is in tatters. I know the people of Queensland well enough to know that they do not like being misled. They do not want to be treated as fools. They do not want to be given data that does not compare apples and apples. Guess what? They want the truth. Guess what they have been given? They have been dished up nothing but data that has been—

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Southport, you are warned. You are not in your allocated seat and you are interjecting.

Ms GRACE: They have been dished up data from a tricky, arrogant government, and the Premier and the police minister will do anything to save his job—anything—even having numbers and figures changed without any explanation. This was not the first time he did it. The first time he did it, we caught him out. Now they are still getting up and quoting the same figures and we know they are untrue. For the second time now they have been caught out fudging the figures. Shockingly, this time it is the number of child victims of crime that has been fudged.

Clearly, the police minister and the Premier are getting pretty desperate. When you start to fudge figures, you know that there is a problem happening over there. 'Oh, police minister,' says the Premier, 'how are those figures going?' 'Don't worry, Prem, I've got the police onside. We are about to change the way we are going to record it and it's a beauty. It's a beauty! Let me tell you why. Because we can blame the Labor government! Yay! We can go in, change the way they are recorded. We will blame it on the legislation, which has nothing to do with how you record the actual victims, but then we can say because we assented to it in April of last year and now there are about 1,000 fewer victims, Premier, have I got a deal for you. We can go in and blame the Labor government because, guess what, we are going to fudge the books! And we can claim that it is all the Labor government's fault.'

Honestly, this is a serious issue. They have been caught out. When we changed the laws to record these victims, we did it for all the right reasons. They deserve to be counted. It is just like the amendments and changes we have made to domestic violence in this state: women now feel comfortable to come forward. In my community, in the Italian community, it was swept under the carpet. They would often not come forward. I believe that what we put in place has made women very comfortable to come forward because they know they will be treated with respect and they know they will be listened to and not treated as being hysterical. I condemn the police minister for getting rid of the DV unit in the police force. They did good work.

Simply put, as Dr Goldsworthy has said, it was the legislation and the police recording changes which saw the clear drop in victim numbers. Interestingly, I have heard nothing from the police minister to say that they are going to reverse it. Is the minister going to bring reporting back as it should be? He has not confirmed it—nothing. Guess what? They can blame Labor! Isn't that a big revelation?

This issue is about trust. Slogans do not solve crime. The people of Queensland want to believe the data. I can honestly say that all of us on this side of the House want an independent inquiry. I support the opposition leader 100 per cent in that because the data has been fudged. The data is dodgy. This Premier is using this data to save his job, and that is a disgrace.

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (6.28 pm): The Crisafulli government is doing exactly what we promised Queenslanders. We promised we would restore safety where you live, we promised we would continue to drive down the number of victims of crime in this state, and we promised we would not stop until Queenslanders feel safe again in their homes, in their businesses and in their communities.

Over 10 years the previous Labor government weakened our laws. They made detention a last resort. They created a generation of repeat serious offenders who cycled through the child protection system into youth justice. They removed breach of bail as an offence. The House does not have to take my word for it because it is in *Hansard*. It is in black and white in *Hansard*. The member for Waterford, in a speech on the youth justice and other legislation amendment bill, said—

At my first Queensland Labor conference removing 17-year-olds from adult prisons was the first motion that I spoke on. It was one of the issues that convinced me to join the Labor Party.

Their decision to put 17-year-olds back into the youth justice system created the watch house crisis. It created a youth justice system that saw serious repeat offenders cycle through our system and youths languishing in watch houses for more than three weeks. They loudly and proudly watered down those laws. Car thefts increased 101 per cent. Break-ins increased 44 per cent. Assaults increased 198 per cent. Victim numbers soared under Labor 193 per cent.

Today they have come into this House and moved a motion about victims. They say that all victims deserve to be counted—yes, they do. Their motion claims they are standing up for victims when one of their own this week has mocked victims. One of their own—the member for Cairns—has mocked victims and he is still sitting in this chamber. You do not consider anti-Semitic crime victims, member for Cairns. He has mocked victims and is still sitting in this chamber.

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

Mrs GERBER: I withdraw. One of their own who has mocked victims is still sitting in this chamber. Or will he be? We found out tonight there was a secret shadow cabinet meeting. All of the shadow cabinet ministers had to get together for a secret meeting to determine the fate of the member for Cairns, a member who has mocked victims of crime and still sits here. Or will he be?

Mr SPEAKER: We are not far from the end. I believe you are straying a little bit from the motion. If you could speak to the amendment that the member for Ninderry moved, that would be helpful.

Mrs GERBER: We are a government that will always support victims of crime. We are investing more than ever before in victims of crime. What we see on that side is a culture that does not support victims of crime, which includes our Jewish community, who are victims of anti-Semitic crimes. What we have seen from those opposite is a culture that propagates that behaviour. The secret shadow cabinet meeting they had today needed to determine whether the member for Cairns should still be in this chamber. If he is still a shadow minister—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. You have already warned the minister.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Currumbin, come back to the amendment to the motion.

Mrs GERBER: As a government, we are investing more than ever before to support victims of crime—\$560 million, a record investment in early intervention and rehabilitation to prevent further victims of crime. Whilst they have a shadow minister sitting in their shadow cabinet who does not support victims of crime, there will always be a shadow looming over the Leader of the Opposition. There will always be a shadow. It is a leadership test of the Leader of the Opposition to do something about a disgraceful member sitting in his shadow cabinet who does not support victims of crime, who is spewing anti-Semitic hate and who is propagating that conduct. The Crisafulli government is supporting victims of crime not just with our record investment in early intervention and rehabilitation; we are also supporting victims of crime with our Victims Advocate Service.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mrs GERBER: I can hear the chief fudger over there chirping away. She fudged her own Harvard degree. She has no credibility in this space. You cannot fudge a Harvard degree and then try to say you have credibility.

Ms Grace: How many COSs have you been through?

Mr SPEAKER: I did not hear what you said, but you are warned, member for McConnel!

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

Mr SPEAKER: You have 18 seconds remaining, member for Currumbin, to finish being relevant.

Mrs GERBER: We are a government that supports victims of crime with strong laws, early intervention, rehabilitation and the Victims Advocate Service. We are developing a professional Victims Advocate Service to support victims of crime. We are a government that will always stand up for victims of crime. We will give them the laws they need, the police they need and the early intervention and rehabilitation programs our community needs. The Labor opposition have zero credibility in this space because they created the youth crime crisis.

(Time expired)

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

AYES, 51:

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

NOES, 34:

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

Ind, 1—Sullivan.

Pair: Perrett, Furner.

Resolved in the affirmative.

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

AYES, 51:

LNP, 51—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, 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, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

NOES, 34:

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

Ind, 1—Sullivan.

Pair: Perrett, Furner.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House condemns the Palaszczuk and Miles government for overseeing a 193 per cent increase in victim of crime numbers

Sitting suspended from 6.42 pm to 7.40 pm.

JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction



Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (7.40 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Casino Control Act 1982, the Casino Control Regulation 1999, the Charitable and Non-Profit Gaming Act 1999, the Child Protection

Act 1999, the Civil Proceedings Act 2011, the Coroners Act 2003, the Criminal Code, the District Court of Queensland Act 1967, the Evidence Act 1977, the Housing Act 2003, the Information Privacy Act 2009, the Integrity Act 2009, the Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations Act 1991, the Land Act 1994, the Land Court Act 2000, the Magistrates Courts Act 1921, the Ombudsman Act 2001, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, the Personal Injuries Proceedings Act 2002, the Police Service Administration Act 1990, the Property Law Act 2023, the Public Records Act 2023, the Right to Information Act 2009, the Second-hand Dealers and Pawnbrokers Act 2003, the Security Providers Act 1993, the Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991 and the Uniform Civil Procedure Rules 1999 for particular purposes, and to repeal the Brisbane Casino Agreement Act 1992. 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: Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026.

Tabled paper: Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights.

I am pleased to introduce the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. The bill includes amendments to many acts within the justice portfolio principally to enhance community safety, to update legislation to ensure it is fit for purpose and responsive to modern society, and to promote access to and the efficient administration of justice. Today I will highlight some of the significant amendments included in the JOLA Bill.

The Crisafulli government is committed to making our community safer. We are making Queensland safer with stronger laws, including these new offences and tougher penalties for metal theft set out in the bill. We know Labor's record when it comes to crime during their decade of decline. Under Labor, offending reached unprecedented levels, with the number of overall victims of crime increasing by 193 per cent during their decade of decline. However, measures set out in this bill show the Crisafulli government is taking a stand. We are implementing laws to protect Queenslanders, to protect Queensland businesses and to make our communities safer.

Metal theft causes substantial financial costs and disruption for affected utility and communication networks; small, medium and large businesses; community and sporting associations; and, in fact, all levels of government. Alarming, metal theft also creates serious safety risks, including for members of the general public, particularly where the theft disables essential services and critical infrastructure. I note at this juncture the honourable Treasurer and Minister for Energy and the honourable Minister for Transport and Main Roads. This issue is very close to both of their hearts. The fact is that when Labor were in government they did nothing to combat metal theft.

Like all crime that was allowed to run rampant across our state, Labor sat idly by, where community safety was compromised and businesses and sporting clubs suffered the influx of metal related crimes throughout Queensland. To address this, the bill contains amendments to disrupt the sale and disposal of stolen scrap metal and to ensure Queensland laws adequately penalise criminal activities related to metal theft.

I turn firstly to the Criminal Code. The bill includes a suite of targeted amendments designed to ensure significant penalties apply to metal theft. The objective is achieved in two ways: increasing penalties for certain core offences typically charged in relation to metal theft—namely stealing, wilful damage and receiving tainted property; and introducing two new offences for attempted metal theft and possession of metals suspected of being stolen.

The amendments introduce a definition for 'valuable metal item'. This term is designed to ensure that new special cases for stealing and wilful damage and the new offence of attempted metal theft capture the items and places regularly targeted by offenders. For example, the definition captures metal items essential to key infrastructure and services such as telecommunications equipment, water and sewerage pipes, railway tracks and road signs for transport, electrical equipment such as wires and cabling, and fuel pipelines for energy supply—items crucial and critical to keeping Queensland running safely and efficiently.

Further, the penalty amounts adopted in the bill are designed to reflect the seriousness of the behaviour, particularly the significant and disruptive impacts of metal theft where it occurs in settings such as sporting and community facilities, and agricultural, construction and public infrastructure sites. The highest maximum penalties proposed for the new special cases of stealing and wilful damage where the life or health of a person is endangered or the conduct occurs during or in the lead-up to a natural disaster are 25 years imprisonment. As the Premier noted earlier this year, when people steal metal and put other people's lives at risk, particularly in times of natural disaster, it is the lowest of acts.

For example, where a person is caught stealing copper wiring from an Energex electrical pit during a cyclone, the person will be subject to the highest maximum penalty.

To ensure offenders are held to account, the bill also increases penalties for receiving tainted property that is a valuable metal item where the person receiving is acting as a pawnbroker or dealer in second-hand goods and where offenders target telecommunication cables, regardless of whether or not these contain metal. Lastly, the bill introduces a new offence which captures situations where a person is in possession of certain prescribed metal that is reasonably suspected of being stolen.

In addition to the amendments to the Criminal Code, the bill amends the Second-hand Dealers and Pawnbrokers Act 2003 to disrupt and disincentivise the sale and disposal of stolen scrap metal as scrap. The bill will clarify and confirm that the second-hand dealers act applies to persons carrying on a business of dealing in second-hand scrap metal. The bill also increases the maximum penalty for unlicensed second-hand dealing in scrap metal from 200 penalty units to 400 penalty units, or two years imprisonment; and introduces an escalating penalty regime where a second-hand dealer fails to report suspected stolen scrap metal to police.

A first offence will attract a maximum penalty of 200 penalty units; the maximum penalty for a second offence is 250 penalty units; and the maximum penalty for a third offence is 300 penalty units. The escalating penalty is intended to encourage second-hand dealers to inform police of suspected stolen scrap metal and to disrupt and deter the disposal of stolen scrap metal through second-hand dealers. Other measures to deter, disrupt and disincentivise the theft of metal in our communities include strengthening requirements relating to the recording of scrap metal transactions and improving verification and identification requirements.

The amendments to the Criminal Code and second-hand dealers act deliver a suite of criminal and regulatory reforms designed to significantly strengthen existing laws to deter, disrupt and disincentivise the theft of metal in our communities.

In addition to strengthening our laws to eliminate metal theft, the bill also amends the Criminal Code to increase penalties for stock related offences. The Crisafulli government is committed to supporting our primary producers, particularly our graziers and our farmers, who are the lifeblood of this great state. We will hold offenders to account, as evidenced by the amendments in this bill that more than double the minimum financial penalties for offences such as unlawfully using stock, using unregistered brands with criminal intent and defacing brands.

For those of you who do not know, what that means is someone cutting a brand off a beast to try to deface the brand; therefore, the beast is therefore unbranded and can be stolen by someone else. I clarify that because I am quite sure there are a fair few people in this House who will not know what cattleduffing is.

The media have an important role in contributing to an open and transparent justice system. The bill amends the Police Service Administration Act 1990 to give effect to current practice and ensure media are able to obtain details about the upcoming court appearances of an offender where the details of the alleged offending have been the subject of a media release from the Queensland Police Service. Amendments are also being made to the Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991, the District Court Act and the Magistrates Court Act to provide a legislative basis for the longstanding practice of disclosing a detailed law list to media.

The bill makes a number of amendments to the Coroners Act 2003. Amendments to the act are designed to create immediate efficiencies and ease the pressure on our coronial system. The Crisafulli government is committed to supporting victims and measures to improve the operation and efficiency of the Coroners Court. These amendments will improve the responsiveness of the court, which will better support families during the coronial process.

As the Minister for Integrity in the Crisafulli government, I am pleased to introduce some early amendments to the Integrity Act 2009. The Queensland government is committed to strengthening the independence of the Integrity Commissioner and supporting their critical role in providing ethics and integrity across the public sector. To support the Integrity Commissioner to deliver on their core functions, the bill amends the Integrity Act to clarify the delegation powers of the Integrity Commissioner and also allowing the Office of the Integrity Commissioner to better assist the commissioner to meet their statutory obligations under other acts.

The bill will also provide the commissioner with a discretion to receive oral requests for advice and respond orally to such oral requests. The bill includes appropriate safeguards, including: that any written request for advice will continue to be required to be responded to in writing; that a written record

of any oral request or oral advice must be made by the commissioner; and that the Integrity Commissioner may defer consideration of an oral request for advice until further information is provided in writing so that it can be appropriately addressed.

A long overdue court reform in the bill is to increase the monetary limit for the District Court's civil jurisdiction from \$750,000 to \$1.5 million commencing 1 January 2027. The monetary limit has remained unchanged for 15 years, and increasing the limit will better align Queensland's District Court civil jurisdiction with other states and territories. This change will help our courts respond to the monetary inflation experienced over the past years. These amendments enhance access to justice, particularly in regional Queensland. The increased limit will also deliver an improvement in geographical access to justice, as the District Court has more regional locations—31—compared to the Supreme Court, which has only 10 across the state.

In addition to the significant amendments I have outlined, the bill makes a range of other amendments to update, strengthen and clarify a suite of legislation across the justice portfolios, including in relation to the regulation of gaming, the conduct of civil and criminal proceedings, information privacy and the right to information laws.

This is an important bill that will benefit communities right across Queensland by strengthening our ability to disrupt the sale and disposal of stolen scrap metal and ensuring that those who seek to engage in offending that puts lives at risk and interferes with Queensland's crucial infrastructure are appropriately held to account. Amendments to update, clarify and strengthen justice portfolio legislation also aim to ensure the proper and efficient functioning of the administration of justice in Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (7.56 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): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee.

SUNSHINE COAST WATERWAYS AUTHORITY BILL

Message from Governor

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (7.56 pm): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): The message from Her Excellency the Governor recommends the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

SUNSHINE COAST WATERWAYS AUTHORITY 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 establish the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority, and to amend this Act, the Public Sector Act 2022, the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994, the Transport Operations (Marine Pollution) Act 1995 and the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994 for particular purposes

GOVERNOR

Date: 04 March 2026

Tabled paper: Message, dated 4 March 2026, from Her Excellency the Governor, recommending the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026.

Introduction

Hon. BA MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (7.56 pm): I present a bill for an act to establish the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority, and to amend this act, the Public Sector Act 2022, the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994, the Transport Operations (Marine Pollution) Act 1995 and the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026.

Tabled paper: Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026, explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights.

I am pleased to introduce the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026. The Sunshine Coast is a place of unrivalled lifestyle with Australia's best beaches—despite what the Premier and some of the Gold Coast members might say—and a stunning natural environment. It is also a place that has been neglected under Labor's decade of decline, which is best demonstrated by the failure to look after our Sunshine Coast waterways.

The bill that I introduce tonight delivers the Crisafulli government's election commitment to establish the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority. This represents our commitment to the sustainable management of local waterways, enabling greater local input into waterway management and taking another step to address Labor's neglect of the Sunshine Coast during their decade of decline.

The Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority is being created as there is no single community sector organisation or peak body that represents the range of community, industry or tourism interests associated with waterways. In the lead-up to the 2024 election the Sunshine Coast community was concerned about the piecemeal management of waterways by different councils and state government agencies. The community was frustrated about the management of the Bribie Island breakthrough, perceiving that multiple layers of bureaucracy were buck-passing the issue—all too common a refrain under the former Labor state government.

This bill is for a new act—the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Act 2026—which will establish the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority as a statutory body reporting to me as the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. This new act will: outline at a high level the purpose of the act and functions of the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority; set out the framework for a waterways management strategy and program; provide general corporate powers necessary to run a statutory body; provide board appointment criteria and meeting arrangements; establish the position of chief executive officer and provide for staff; provide for transfer notices and information-sharing agreements so that assets and information can be easily transferred between the authority, my department and other agencies; and state the relationship of the new act with other laws.

Once operational, the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will contribute to the government's objectives for the community of 'A plan for Queensland's future' and 'A better lifestyle through a stronger economy'. The Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will do this: by providing holistic waterway management for marine industries and commercial and recreational fisheries, enabling world-class tourism to grow; and by improving and promoting the sustainable use of the Sunshine Coast's iconic waterways.

The Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will be responsible for defined waterways from Pumicestone Passage in the south to the Noosa lakes in the north. It includes the Noosa, Maroochy and Mooloolah rivers. The Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will be required to develop a waterways management strategy through engagement with the public and in consultation with Maritime Safety Queensland and the Moreton Bay, Noosa and Sunshine Coast local governments. This allows for consideration of views from all stakeholders including individuals, businesses, community groups and other government agencies.

The Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will be responsible for public marine facilities such as boat ramps and the Mooloolaba state managed boat harbour, aids to navigation, and the maintenance of designated channels for navigational access to public marine facilities, including state managed boat harbours. The authority's responsibilities for navigational access, as well as the monitoring and managing of sand and sediment movement, will complement, rather than replace, similar activities currently carried out by local governments. The Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will also designate buoy mooring areas, approve buoy moorings and aquatic events, and be a referral agency

for tidal works. It will design marine zones and work with Maritime Safety Queensland who will legislate and enforce them.

Many of the responsibilities I have just mentioned are framed in existing acts and regulations and currently held by Maritime Safety Queensland. The bill amends the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994, the Transport Operations (Marine Pollution) Act 1995 and the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994 to confer certain powers on the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority. Under the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994, the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will be the default manager of new public marine facilities in Sunshine Coast waters. The existing public marine facilities will continue to be managed by local councils and may also be appointed as manager of new facilities.

A key amendment to the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994 in relation to the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority provides the authority with the power to set up an aid to navigation with approval from Maritime Safety Queensland. Also, under the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994 the Maritime Safety Queensland harbourmaster will be required to consult, to the extent reasonably practicable, with the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority when exercising a harbourmaster power that may affect the authority's functions.

Under the Transport Operations (Marine Pollution) Act 1995, the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will be able to provide, or direct someone else to provide, waste reception facilities for ship-sourced pollution. This could include, for example, sewage pump-out facilities and receptacles to collect oily waste and garbage.

The bill includes amendments to acts only. An amendment regulation is being prepared to implement components of the policy in relevant subordinate legislation. This includes: public marine facilities, including the Mooloolaba state managed boat harbour; buoy mooring and aquatic event approvals; and tidal works development assessment.

I will now outline how the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will be structured and governed. These arrangements were developed in accordance with the Public Interest Map policy for Queensland government bodies. The Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will be a statutory body led by a board of seven, one of whom will be the chair. The bill sets out selection and disqualification criteria for appointed members, and the government is working to identify suitable candidates who will represent the community and different waterways interests. These are significant appointments and will therefore be exercised in accordance with the Cabinet Handbook. The chief executive officer is a significant appointment and will be employed under the act establishing the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority. The bill provides that Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority staff, other than the chief executive officer, will be Public Service officers employed under the Public Sector Act 2022.

The Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will be accountable to me, as the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, and to the people of Queensland through comprehensive governance arrangements. The authority will operate within the Financial Accountability Act 2009 and the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982.

Consistent with the Public Interest Map policy for newly established government bodies, the bill requires that the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority be reviewed three years after its establishment and every three years thereafter. The review will cover the way and extent to which the authority has performed its functions and whether those functions remain appropriate.

As a public sector entity, the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will be subject to the Auditor-General Act 2009 providing for annual financial statement audits and performance audits at the Auditor-General's discretion. The Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will be required to report quarterly to me as minister on its activities and to publish an annual report that complies with the Financial and Performance Management Standard 2019.

I reiterate that establishment of the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority is a Crisafulli government election commitment, and this government has committed \$35.6 million over three years to deliver it. The Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority is intended to better listen to the needs of the Sunshine Coast community and ensure there is cooperation and coordination, not duplication, between the state and local governments around waterways management.

Maritime Safety Queensland will continue to be the statewide 'maritime regulator' responsible for ship safety in Queensland waters, marine speed limits, life jackets, licensing, registration, seaworthiness, state marine pollution control and ship-sourced marine pollution compliance, marine safety directions through MSQ's harbourmasters and general manager powers, and emergency management. While the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will decide where and under what

conditions various waterways activities are permitted, Maritime Safety Queensland and its enforcement partners will be the on-water presence, monitoring compliance and taking enforcement action. This is consistent with Maritime Safety Queensland's compliance and enforcement role throughout the state, minimising confusion for the boating public.

The Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will work closely with Maritime Safety Queensland and local government to develop and implement their waterways management strategies and programs. The Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will also maintain working relationships with other government agencies, including the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, to facilitate consistent delivery of strategic outcomes. In this way, the policy objective will ensure cooperation and coordination between the state and local governments around the sustainable use of Sunshine Coast waterways. The Department of Transport and Main Roads will always be the lead agency, and any proposed policy change must be initiated by the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Ports and pilotage will continue to be operationally regulated by Maritime Safety Queensland, and international shipping will continue to be regulated under Commonwealth legislation and by Maritime Safety Queensland's regional harbourmasters in declared ports and coastal waters. Domestic commercial vessel safety will continue to be regulated at a national level by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority. Queensland recreational vessel licensing, safety standards and registration will continue to be regulated by Maritime Safety Queensland. National parks and marine parks will remain within the environment portfolio, and fisheries within the primary industries portfolio.

A core part of the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority's mission will be consultation on its waterways management strategy and engagement with the Sunshine Coast community and stakeholders. Any strategies involving new regulatory requirements will adhere to the Queensland government Better Regulation Policy.

In conclusion, Sunshine Coast waterways are vital to the state's lifestyle, economy and environmental health. These natural assets play a critical role in supporting the environment and the lifestyle that Sunshine Coast locals expect, while contributing to the Sunshine Coast economy through tourism, marine industries and waterfront businesses. The new Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will deliver a fresh start for the Sunshine Coast and work seamlessly with other local and state government bodies to protect and manage our waterways for the benefit of locals and visitors alike. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. BA MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (8.08 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee

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

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

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 465, on motion of Mr Purdie—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (8.09 pm): I rise to contribute to the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026. Before I move to the substance of the bill, I would like to acknowledge the victims of the attack at Bondi in December 2025. The event was a national tragedy, a deliberate act of violence and hate, actions of bigotry and extreme

racism. That Sunday was a significant moment in the Jewish calendar, the beginning of Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the second century BCE rededication of the second temple in Jerusalem after the Maccabees liberated it from foreign occupation, but instead this was a day of incredible grief. Fifteen innocent lives were lost and many more were injured at the hands of individuals who legally obtained the firearms.

This event was the deadliest mass shooting since Port Arthur in 1996. Jewish families were anguished, North Bondi and Jewish communities were left fearful and our nation was shaken. I acknowledge the many Jewish people in my own community, the families living in the village at Burbank as well as the children, Principal Christine Harman and the staff at Sinai College, the only Jewish school in Queensland. I have visited often since this tragic event. They remain on alert and vigilant in their day-to-day being. It should not have to be like this.

Less than a month later, another act of terrorism occurred in Perth when an alleged homemade fragment bomb filled with ball bearings and screws was thrown into a crowd attending an Invasion Day rally. These rallies, as they do each year, were occurring all over the country in recognition of the resilience of First Peoples, whose ancestors fought on the front line of wars, whose families have been traumatised by the past policies of government, colonisation and extreme racism and, of course, in recognition of young First Nations children, who continue to suffer the impact of the trauma of this historical treatment as well as contemporary and continued acts to marginalise and denigrate them.

Fortunately, the bomb did not detonate but it was another act that threatened social cohesion, acceptance and inclusion. Around the world we are witnessing this social cohesion being challenged by right-wing governments. In Queensland we are not immune to this. The rise of Pauline Hanson and One Nation and the lack of determined, sustained, strong and ethical leadership by this government have challenged the past culture of Queensland. My community feels it every day and often mention—

Mr VORSTER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. This is straying well and truly from the long title of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Mansfield, I have been listening and I urge you to continue to remain relevant to the bill. There is some scope in this debate. However, I would ask you to remain relevant to the bill.

Ms McMILLAN: My community feels it every day and often they speak about the requirement of clear and explicit leadership articulating a vision for who we are as Queenslanders. This context does require a calm and methodical approach, not an unemotive robot and not just rhetoric. Instead, what we have seen is chaos and confusion, a backflip at the 11th hour as the pressure from the LNP party room could no longer be withstood. It is all starting to unravel.

The last weeks have seen the LNP dismiss concerns related to freedom of speech, refute the unconstitutionality of the laws and ignore the risk of the concentration of power to a single minister. Did the LNP not learn anything from the behaviours of Scott Morrison, not to mention a lack of proper cabinet process nor committee process—

Mr VORSTER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance again. Federal politics has nothing to do with the long title of the bill.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is your point of order on that point of order?

Mr SMITH: Yes, it is to the member's point of order. This bill is a direct result of the anti-Semitism and hate laws that were put into place by the federal parliament. Therefore, it is providing a context. It is providing a context around the larger legislative purposes to which this bill directly responds, especially around gun reform.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Mansfield, I have given you some latitude on this. I understand the context in which you are contributing. I think perhaps now if you could return to the nature of the bill before us that would be good. You have had fair opportunity to make the point you are making.

Ms McMILLAN:—or the focus on particular phrases hurtful to only one particular faith or cultural group. What about phrases deeply hurtful to First Nations peoples or other cultural groups? That is despite the LNP's own backbencher the chair of the committee, who reviewed this bill no less, admitting that different phrases mean different things to different people. The committee did not scrutinise this bill that is before the House. At that time the bill did not contain the two phrases that will be—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The bill before the House was before the committee. If the member is talking about an ACiD, an amendment that has been circulated, that is something different, but the committee did review this bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am going to seek some advice.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bundaberg, member for Nanango and other members who are quarrelling across the chamber, please cease. Member for Nanango, thank you for your point of order on relevance. I have sought some advice. Member for Mansfield, your contribution to remain relevant to the bill should relate to the bill that went to committee, the committee process and also foreshadowed amendments, which I believe have been circulated. You may continue.

Ms McMILLAN: The Labor opposition will always support measures to protect multicultural communities and keep guns out of the wrong hands. That includes introducing stronger penalties for attacking places of worship and reforms to gun legislation. Whilst you cannot be tough on crime if you are weak on guns, you can be tough on crime whilst not being reckless with freedoms.

Let us not forget the LNP has also ignored the stakeholders who made submissions on this bill. The Labor government introduced amendments to enable individuals and the Queensland Police Service to take action against a person knowingly inciting hatred on the base of race, religion, sexuality, sex characteristics or general identity of a person or members of a group. We made amendments to the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991, in particular section 124A, and the Criminal Code, in particular section 52A. With regard to section 52A, the Queensland Jewish Board Deputies Incorporated recommended—

... that sub-paragraph (a) and (b) be removed, such that the offence does not require proof that the conduct involved a threat, or incitement to a threat of physical harm. This would bring Queensland into alignment with the serious vilification offences in Victoria and New South Wales, and reflects the harm caused by the promotion of hatred against a person or group on the basis of a protected attribute.

The Queensland Law Society also noted these existing laws in their submission as well as making recommendations that were seemingly ignored. In their submission they wrote—

As stated at the outset, there are existing offences that we say are broad enough to capture the conduct contemplated by this Bill. We note that there are other barriers however to prosecuting that conduct that have nothing to do with whether new criminal offences are created or expanded. Those barriers include a lack of community education and proper education of police officers.

These recommendations are made by experienced lawyers and yet they were ignored by the LNP in favour of endangering Queenslanders' freedom of speech.

A debate of ideas based on values often results in offence; however, it must ensue. Debate is an essential building block of democracy. Queenslanders have a right to expression and therefore a right to freedom of speech, a sentiment echoed in the words of former LNP leader Lawrence Springborg, who said—

The most important protection of the liberties, in their many and varied forms, of the people of any modern-day society is the freedom of people, whether they be members of the press or the parliament or citizens in their day-to-day lives, to express their opinions in a forthright and honest fashion. Attempts to weaken this freedom, even for good reasons, must be viewed with a degree of caution.

We must ensure that protections for multicultural and faith demographics are right, whether it is ensuring our gun reforms are strong enough or ensuring we get hate speech amendments correctly balanced. It is time for the Premier to stop focusing on being a clever politician and start being smart about the consequences of his government's actions. The LNP government must deliver on freedom, whether it is freedom of speech or living free from hate. These things are not mutually exclusive.

The Labor opposition reached out to the government about this bill at the end of last year in an attempt to work on this issue in a bipartisan way. We were ignored at that time and it is clear that the LNP will continue to ignore the many stakeholders and experts, as it has done time and time again. It has already ignored the respect-at-work laws which, if those opposite had implemented them, would have delivered stronger, carefully considered discrimination laws.

Queenslanders deserve a government that leads with conviction, not one that governs by eleventh-hour backflips and internal chaos. The safety of our multicultural and faith communities is non-negotiable, as is the necessity of keeping firearms out of the hands of those who wish harm, but true leadership requires more than reactive, rushed legislation that sidesteps scrutiny and ignores expert legal advice. We cannot claim to protect our society by undermining the very democratic freedoms like the freedom of speech that define us.

The Labor opposition remains committed to robust, balanced reforms that address the root cause of hate and violence without the chaos and constitutional risk we see from this government today. It is time for the Premier to stop playing politics with Queenslanders' safety and start delivering the thoughtful, inclusive and principled leadership that our state deserves. It is time for this government to stop the robotic rhetoric and the showmanship and finally put the rights and safety of all Queenslanders above its own desperate political survival.

 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (8.22 pm): Today I rise in strong support of the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026. This bill contains amendments that will strengthen bans on hate symbols. This will be achieved by expanding the prohibited symbols framework to enable the Queensland Attorney-General as the responsible minister under the Criminal Code to prescribe particular classes of or all state sponsors of terrorism or terrorist organisations as a prescribed organisation in Queensland. Because of this, there are no additional criteria or consultation requirements; the Attorney-General only has to be satisfied that the entity is a terrorist organisation or a state sponsor of terrorism under the Commonwealth Criminal Code. To avoid capturing this kind of unintentional conduct, this bill provides an additional safeguard to that for other prohibited symbols. Where the prosecution alleges that a person displayed or published the symbol of a prescribed organisation, they will also be required to establish that the person knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that the symbol was used to identify the organisation.

In addition, this bill also makes a slight amendment to the prescription of current symbols. Where currently a regulation must prescribe the symbol as a graphic representation of the symbol or image, the bill provides for a regulation to instead use a description of the symbol or image or to use both a graphic representation and a description. The bill will also increase the penalty for displaying prohibited symbols from 70 penalty units, which is \$11,683 or six months imprisonment, to 150 penalty units, which is \$25,035 or two years imprisonment.

The committee report made one recommendation: that the bill be passed. Also, in its written submission, 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.

In relation to symbols it said—

That signal from the government is vital to help the Queensland community determine the types of behaviours that are acceptable in our state. It demonstrates ... that the government prioritises social cohesion, harmony and non-violence, and recognises the right of all Queenslanders to live, work and study without threats of violence and intimidation.

This bill also includes amendments to modernise two offences—namely, assaulting ministers of religion and disturbing religious worship. It will modernise its language, remove outdated concepts and increase the maximum penalties, increasing penalties for assaulting or threatening a person officiating a religious ceremony from two to five years imprisonment. This bill will introduce an offence for intimidating or obstructing people entering or leaving places of religious worship. This offence carries a maximum of three years imprisonment. Importantly, the protections offered by the religious worship offences are not limited to any one religion or type of religion. This bill will introduce a new special case of punishment for wilful damage to a place of religious worship that will carry a maximum penalty up to seven years imprisonment. This bill sends a powerful message: Queensland will not tolerate attacks on our faith communities. As a government, we will protect the right of every individual to worship freely and without fear, and this will cover all religions.

I now turn to the second part of this bill with regard to keeping guns out of the hands of criminals. Sporting shooters within my electorate had initially raised concerns that their rights as recreational shooters would potentially be removed. These were real concerns by law-abiding citizens who are responsible shooters. My office received hundreds of emails, visits and phone calls from concerned recreational shooters, and things changed—changed because the Crisafulli LNP government listened to them. The recent feedback we have received from Maryborough sporting shooters is overwhelming in support of the Crisafulli government's responsible approach. On behalf of the sporting shooter community within my electorate I want to thank the Premier and our government for not persecuting our sporting shooters.

The Queensland government is committed to delivering nation-leading penalties for firearms offences that pose a high risk to community safety due to either their inherent serious nature or their direct association with other offences. When an application to issue, renew, suspend or revoke a weapons licence is being considered, an authorising officer is required to make a determination about whether a person is a fit and proper person to hold a licence. As part of this determination, an

authorising officer may consider a number of factors including whether the person has been convicted of certain offences. It is important that the authorising officer considers all relevant matters when deciding if a person should be allowed to hold or continue to hold a weapons licence.

This amendment will allow an authorising officer to consider details of a person's history where a court has ordered that no conviction be recorded or the rehabilitation period for the conviction has expired as part of their assessment of whether a person is fit and proper. This will be limited to relevant offences which happen in Queensland or elsewhere that involve: the carriage, discharge, possession, storage or use of a weapon; the use or threatened use of violence; or the possession or distribution of blueprint material for the manufacture of a firearm on a 3D printer or an electronic milling machine.

This is just another step that our government is taking to minimise the risk of firearms being stolen, ensuring everyone plays their part to keep Queenslanders safe. The former Labor government failed to deliver on modernising this act, which left Queensland as the only Australian jurisdiction permitting the use of older and less safe timber and wood storage containers. I have no hesitation in supporting and recommending the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026 to the House.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (8.30 pm): What happened at Bondi on 14 December last year shocked the nation. The level of hate, the violence and the extreme anti-Semitism that played out in a way that Australia had never seen, nor could have imagined would happen in our country, was a national tragedy and has forever left a dent in our collective psyche. How could this happen in Australia? Who have we become? They were the questions we were all asking and we all—all—felt the deepest grief for the families of the 15 precious people whose lives were lost and for the broader Jewish community. The depth of their suffering, their fear, their anger, their outrage, their sadness, their sense of hopelessness—I cannot even imagine the strength of it—is why any measures we can put in place to make us all feel confident we will deter anti-Semitism we absolutely support.

It is why the Queensland Labor opposition wrote to the Crisafulli LNP government on 17 December offering bipartisan support on anti-Semitism and gun violence, which any government would surely want and which any Queenslander would want, but which this government did not want. We know this because they declined our offer. This signalled to all Queenslanders that, even in these extreme circumstances, even when it matters so much that everyone works together—that social cohesion must be the goal of us all—this government has only been interested in politics. Stronger penalties for attacks on churches, mosques and synagogues, we support. Gun reform we support—though they should have gone further. There was no attempt to address broader social cohesion in this bill when it matters so much. We have seen no consultation by government across faith communities, cultural and race communities, legal and social expertise and amongst academic or constitutional experts about how social cohesion can be achieved.

We have seen incredibly important laws subject to a crushing schedule that could not possibly allow for scrutiny and informed discussion. Stakeholders unambiguously endorsed the need to combat anti-Semitism—all of them begging the government to go back to the drawing board. They expressed extreme concern about freedom of speech, constitutionality, enforcement and legality, about why Queensland's existing hate laws and our paused respect-at-work laws—both of which went through significant consultation—could not be used as a foundation of future work. They expressed concern about the horror of having an Attorney-General with unfettered power to wake up on any one morning and decide to criminalise any phrase she did not like and send people to jail because of it. They express concern about the need for a broader approach to protect all Queenslanders and do everything possible to strengthen social cohesion. Stakeholders begged the government to commit to community education. The Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland in their submission summed it up perfectly when they stated—

Complementary investment in community cohesion and interfaith dialogue is therefore essential. In practice, this should include genuine consultations with diverse faith and multicultural communities prior to implementation; culturally safe communication explaining what the law does and does not cover (including explicit reassurance about lawful peaceful protest and legitimate religious or cultural symbols); and structured partnerships with faith leaders, schools, youth services and multicultural organisations to support prevention and early intervention.

In Townsville, the committee heard from Rabbi Ari Rubin who said—

... I 100 per cent believe that education is a far better solution to be able to pre-empt any of these things.

How is the government addressing the concerns of the Jewish community in relation to anti-Semitic incidents in our schools? These were concerns that formed a key part of the Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies' submission to the committee.

In the 2024-25 state budget, the then multicultural affairs minister and I secured funding to undertake critical work on addressing racism and social cohesion in our schools because it had been raised with us by the Jewish community and, in fact, a number of our multicultural communities. What has happened with that work? Almost 18 months in power and we have heard nothing from the education minister or the Premier about this and now is the opportunity to progress that. We call on the government to prioritise the funding of education programs and targeted wraparound services but this government—despite the significant misgivings from groups and individuals who are highly regarded across the country for their contribution to our society; despite the opposition, the concern, the begging to do this right because it is just so important—insisted that they had everything sorted. They were being calm and methodical. ‘We believe we have struck the right balance,’ said the Premier, who is just a clever politician.

The LNP took a bill that gave them massive unfettered powers on freedom of speech and thought they could just ram it through on the back of their majority. We hear they did not even take it through cabinet. They were not the slightest bit interested in listening to anyone—until Monday when the LNP caucus met and from what we heard there was mutiny, chaos and anger. Fresh from the member for Mackay crossing the floor over abortion in the last sitting week, members were threatening to cross the floor this week over the attacks on freedom of speech. We do not know who all of them were but let us just say we all found from the speech this week from the member for Oodgeroo very interesting.

It was the second sitting week in a row that LNP members wanted to cross the floor. How embarrassing for the Premier. How embarrassing for the Attorney-General. How embarrassing for the police minister. What is worse is: if they did not even realise until Monday that there was that level of rebellion in their ranks, then they are in more trouble than it seems because it means they are so arrogant that they thought they were just going to tell their caucus how to vote and it would be done. They were wrong. Try as they might to distract from that embarrassment, the plain cold hard facts are the Premier is already losing his grip, and they are not even halfway through their term. That is what happens when you are arrogant.

As we move towards the end of this debate, we have only just discovered what amendments the government will make to appease—

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The member is not in any way being relevant to the legislation that is before the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will just get some advice. Member, I encourage you to come back to the long title of the bill.

Ms FARMER: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. As we move towards the end of this debate, we have only just discovered the amendments the government will make to appease their caucus members. They do not commit to the education the Jewish Board of Deputies asked for. They have not had consultation. They will not have the benefit of being examined by experts. They will not have the benefit of a response from cultural or faith groups. We will not be clear on their consequences. We will not be sure it will achieve the social cohesion everyone wants and needs. In fact, the LNP went to specific lengths to ensure none of the advice and insight on these specific phrases could be gained from the committee process, when we all knew they were what the government actually wanted in the first place.

Everyone deserves to be safe and to feel safe in their community. Everyone deserves respect—no matter their faith, their race, their gender, their beliefs or their country of origin. The importance of those principles we all hold so dear but did not see before the Bondi attack were so imminently under challenge must apply for everyone. We are united in seeking to combat anti-Semitism, but we want to combat discrimination against every Queenslander. We want a connected community, a community that works together across all faiths and cultures because that is what Queensland deserves.

 **Mrs KIRKLAND** (Rockhampton—LNP) (8.39 pm): I rise to speak to the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026. On 14 December 2025, on a beautiful sunny day, hundreds of families gathered around the iconic Bondi Beach and, without provocation, terrorists opened fire. Fifty-six people were injured in this brutal attack and 15 precious and innocent lives never returned home. An entire nation, indeed the world, stood still in shock though not necessarily in surprise.

Winding back, on 7 October 2023 we watched from across the oceans as media streamed the horror of that day: the murderous, heinous attack on the people of Israel. Then it reared its head here on our own soil. What we witnessed as a recurring norm was the steady increase of anti-Semitism

across our nation, overshadowed by a lack of appropriate government intervention that has violated the trust of our communities. Most affected has been our Jewish community.

This bill before us today finally introduces strong new laws that address anti-Semitism by ensuring the perpetrators of hate speech and anti-Semitic behaviour are shut down. It strengthens bans and increases penalties regarding hate symbols. Additionally, the bill strengthens police powers to intervene earlier before harm can occur, allowing officers to search people and vehicles to seize evidence of an offence without a warrant, consistent with existing powers relating to prohibited symbols.

After the Bondi anti-Semitic terror attack our Premier spoke out very clearly, assuring Queenslanders across the state, including those across regional, rural and remote Queensland, that the cabinet would move calmly and methodically. I have noticed that these are words the opposition has just learned about. They have been saying them quite a bit. I am impressed they are learning a little. This is how we approached any reviews or changes to the gun laws. This bill introduces sensible reforms to keep guns out of the hands of terrorists and criminals. The carrying or the dealing of illegal weapons will now attract what are the toughest penalties in the country. My community in Rockhampton is pleased with these reforms, which also tighten outdated legislation regarding, in particular, the storage of firearms. We have seen firsthand the damage done when guns end up in the wrong hands.

The previous stance of a softly softly approach to rampant anti-Semitism has resulted in the unthinkable, though, as the Australian Jewish community has stated, it was not unexpected. Queenslanders, amongst all Australians, have called for action to halt the insidious spread of anti-Semitic sentiment that has infected our democracy and eroded the safety of law-abiding citizens and Australian families.

In written submissions to the parliamentary committee hearings—that is right, for those opposite, there were parliamentary committee hearings—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.

With regard to the importance of banning symbols they wrote—

That signal from the government is vital to help the Queensland community determine the types of behaviours that are acceptable in our state. It demonstrates unequivocally that the government prioritises social cohesion, harmony and non-violence, and recognises the right of all Queenslanders to live, work and study without threats of violence and intimidation.

The creation of a new offence for the public recitation, distribution, publication or display of prohibited expressions solidifies this government's resolve to restore safety to all of our communities. It responds directly to the attack on our Jewish families—Australians who live, work and contribute to our state—and it reflects feedback received through the proper parliamentary process. The foreshadowed amendments ensure any future prohibited phrases will be subject to parliamentary scrutiny.

It is important to restate, particularly for those opposite who may seek to twist this bill into something it is not, that the offence does not apply to merely reciting words. It applies only where the conduct could reasonably be expected to make a reasonable member of the public feel menaced, harassed or offended. This means the conduct must be capable of causing a significant emotional or psychological response such as feeling threatened, repeatedly targeted or experiencing significant anger, resentment, outrage, disgust or hatred. The bill provides for reasonable excuses. It is not intended to stifle legitimate debate in the public interest, nor genuine artistic, religious, educational or historical use. Teachers can still reference these phrases in the classroom for educational purposes. Courts will assess matters case by case, ensuring legitimate discourse is protected.

Those opposite have spoken representing that their particular faith communities are victims. I want to point out that all faith-based communities have been subjected to an increased level of vilification and attack, graffiti, wilful damage and more. Queenslanders should not have to engage the services of security guards for their place of worship. What have we allowed to continue?

As a further strengthening measure, and in response to assaults and threats against people officiating religious ceremonies, this bill increases penalties of imprisonment and introduces a new offence of intimidating or obstructing people entering or leaving a place of worship. The bill also introduces a special offence of wilful damage to a place of religious worship. We will protect the right of every individual to worship freely and without fear at churches, mosques, synagogues and temples alike.

The opposition have continued to argue against this bill, which in its very name describes its purpose. They are arguing against fighting anti-Semitism and keeping guns out of the hands of terrorists

and criminals. This bill is comprehensive and it is well considered. The committee recommended that it be passed. It answers the call from Queenslanders to do something, because the behaviours that lead to terrorism and criminal activity simply cannot be allowed to continue. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (8.47 pm): At the outset I put on the record in this parliament my profound sadness, and the sadness of my community, for the horrific deaths of the members of the Jewish community who were murdered in an act of anti-Semitic hate in Bondi in December last year. Hanukkah is such an important celebration to our Jewish community. To see it targeted by an act of hatred was a shocking tragedy. Hanukkah is about the triumph of the light, the coming of the light, and this tragedy occurred in an iconic Australian location. It is not lost on me that the terrorists not only selected a critically important Jewish celebration to target but also ensured the venue provided maximum visibility and impact not only to Australia but also to the entire world. The loss of those innocent lives, people who were simply enjoying the first day of Hanukkah celebrations, is a national tragedy and will be an ongoing stain on our national identity.

The Bondi attack shocked the nation and it shocked the world. With that shock and dismay comes a call to action. On that day many people acted heroically to protect others, including of course our first responders. Australians were also inspired by the actions of passers-by and those who were attending the event and put themselves at risk to protect family, friends and, remarkably, complete and utter strangers. In the days and weeks that followed, the community was united in grief but also clear that they expected their elected representatives to rise to the moment and act with unity and dignity because every single person in this state and this country deserves to feel safe and to be safe.

Therefore, I reflect on the words shared by the member for Jordan in her contribution: in moments of national trauma, governments are tested not by how loudly they act but by how carefully they think. Late this afternoon, we finely received a copy of the foreshadowed amendments from the government. Many opposition speakers did not have an opportunity to speak to those amendments because they did not have them at the time they made their contribution. I find that deeply concerning. The changes that we now have before us were not part of the bill at the time that the committee was considering it and, therefore, not all members of this place have had the opportunity to speak on these changes. With a bill as important as this one, I think most members of this place and many members of our communities would find that unacceptable. I think all members of the parliament would want to act with unity on important issues like these.

I reflect on the last term when we passed legislation on hate speech. In 2022, the Labor government commenced the hate crime and serious vilification review. The committee was chaired by Peter Russo who made an excellent contribution earlier. I know some members of this parliament were members of that committee. The review took nine months and the committee partnered with Multicultural Affairs Queensland to engage with difficult-to-reach communities. That review received more than 1,000 submissions from a range of stakeholders, including Jewish and Muslim communities from right across the state. The committee report produced 17 recommendations, including leading the nation—and I think this is something that we can all be proud of—in establishing a criminal offence for the display of the Nazi hate symbol. The committee recommended relocating serious vilification and hate crimes from the Anti-discrimination Act into the Criminal Code to reflect the serious nature of hate crimes and introduce a statutory aggravation to increase sentences where offending was motivated by hatred.

Those reforms were widely supported. Because of the length, duration and intensity of the committee process, they also performed an educational function. It really highlighted the deep damage that racism and anti-Semitism does not just to our multicultural communities but also to the broader social fabric and social cohesion of our state. At this time, I take a moment to thank the submitters to both this bill and the previous bill. All of the submitters gave generously of their time and their lived experience. I also thank the members of my community, particularly members of my Jewish community, who made the time to come and speak with me about this bill.

Miss Doolan: Mr Speaker—

Ms PUGH: I was just having a drink. I am glad so many speakers are keen to speak on the bill but I still have almost five minutes on the clock. I admire the enthusiasm of the member for Pumicestone.

This is a bill about language and the impact of language. I want to talk about language and how it can be used to dehumanise. In reflecting on what the bill says it is seeking to achieve, I was reminded of, and so reread, some of the excellent work of one of my favourite authors, Brene Brown, who writes on a large number of subjects. In one of her books, *Braving the Wilderness*, she writes about the

dehumanisation of others and the grave consequences that can arise from that. In an article taken from that book, she outlined that dehumanisation, which forebodes what we are talking about in the legislation before us today, is a response to conflicting motives. It is what we do when we want to harm a group of people, but it goes against our wiring as members of a social species to actually harm, kill, torture or degrade other humans. The article outlines how there are very deep and natural inhibitions that prevent us from treating other people in a dehumanising way, like animals, game or dangerous predators. Dehumanisation is a way of subverting inhibitions.

Brene's article provides a definition of dehumanisation as 'the psychological process of demonizing the enemy, making them seem less than human and hence not worthy of humane treatment.' Critically, this often starts with creating an enemy image, such as a cartoon or image and things like that. As we take sides, we lose trust and we get angrier and angrier. Not only do we solidify an idea of our enemy; we start to lose our ability to listen, communicate and practice even a modicum of empathy.

I think all members of this House know that language matters, especially in a debate like this. The tone of this debate matters. In the bill about hate speech introduced in the previous term, my recollection was that the debate was a moment of unity. The contributions were considered and heartfelt. The committee process was genuine, bipartisan, respectful and not rushed. The state needs us to lift the tone of this debate.

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (8.56 pm): Australia was changed forever on 14 December 2025. What should have been a moment of light, reflection and resilience for our Jewish community, a Hanukkah celebration at Bondi Beach became one of the darkest days in our nation's history. Two gunmen opened fire, 15 innocent Australians were murdered, among them a 10-year-old child, Matilda, whose life had barely begun. It was not random. It was a targeted anti-Semitic terrorist attack and we in this chamber must have the courage to call it exactly what it was. The attack did not emerge in isolation. It occurred against a deeply troubling backdrop of rising anti-Semitism, escalating hate speech and growing extremism that had been allowed to fester for way too long. What begins as vile ideas becomes hateful words. Hateful words become vandalised synagogues. Places of worship are violated and communities are intimidated. When left unchecked, words become bullets.

For years the Jewish community has been sounding the alarm. They have asked for stronger protections. They have asked for leadership. They have asked for action. Too often they were met with hesitation. The embers of anti-Semitism were allowed to burn. When hatred is tolerated, even indirectly, it grows. Leadership means acting before tragedy becomes inevitable. That is why we are here today. This bill does exactly what it says. It fights anti-Semitism and it keeps guns out of the hands of terrorists and criminals. Our response is not symbolic. It is deliberate and proportionate to the threat we now face. We are strengthening prohibitions on hate symbols because symbols are not harmless; they are used to intimidate, threaten and recruit.

We are outlawing two phrases that explicitly call for the destruction of people based on their faith. Let me be clear: freedom of speech is fundamental in our democracy, but freedom of speech does not extend to inciting violence. There is a profound difference between expressing an opinion and advocating for the destruction of a community. This bill introduces new prohibitions on expressions specifically intended to incite violence against groups in our community. The threshold is intent. We are not policing political disagreement; we are preventing violence.

In my community of Pumicestone, people want to feel safe when attending their places of worship. They want to send their children to school without fear. They want to gather, celebrate and live their faith openly. Queenslanders do not want division imported into their neighbourhoods. They want safety and that is what this bill delivers. We are modernising criminal offences relating to religious worship. We are increasing penalties and strengthening protections around places of faith. We are sending a clear message that intimidation, harassment or violence directed at people of faith will not be tolerated in Queensland. However, if we are serious about preventing acts of terrorism then we must be equally serious about access to weapons because ideology alone does not kill; weapons in the wrong hands do.

This bill introduces some of the toughest illegal firearm penalties in the nation. If you steal a firearm or ammunition, you will face 14 years imprisonment, not 10. We are targeting the unlawful possessions of weapons, the unlawful supply of weapons, the trafficking, manufacture and modification of weapons. We are cracking down on the alteration of identification marks because criminals should not be able to erase accountability. We are banning the possession of blueprints for 3D printed firearms, closing a loophole that has no place in a modern, safe Queensland.

We are strengthening firearm prohibition orders to target organised crime syndicates and high-risk individuals. We are ensuring Queensland police can consider histories of violence and firearm misuse when assessing licence suitability. We are limiting firearms licences to Australian citizens except in limited and strictly defined circumstances, and we are mandating secure steel storage, removing outdated wooden storage practices that have made theft easier.

Debate, on motion of Miss Doolan, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9:00 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Ipswich West Electorate, Environmental Risks



Ms BOURNE (Ipswich West—ALP) (9.00 pm): I am astounded at the blatant disregard shown by this government to environmental risks in my electorate of Ipswich West. I spoke at the last sitting about the unregulated presence of hazardous waste in our community and, in the three weeks since, I have been inundated with phone calls and emails from locals backing our calls for urgent government action. These are real people, real Queenslanders—people who, like any other Queenslanders, deserve a safe home, a fair go and to live life without worrying about what is in the air around them.

Unlike the minister who has not even had the courtesy to visit communities affected by this government's neglect, I met with the locals who contacted me, as I have done many times and as is our duty as elected representatives. Those people are, of course, frustrated, but most striking of all is they are scared—scared of what is being forced into their backyards, scared to open their windows, scared to breathe in their own homes.

A constituent from Tivoli contacted me with photos of the inside of her windows and air-conditioner caked in thick black waste, unlike anything I have ever seen before. This is what is in the air around her home. This is what is going into her lungs.

People in my electorate, exacerbated by this government's unwillingness to help and this government's inability to respond to an urgent call from me to send an environmental compliance officer to visit the site, are resorting to running at-home toxin tests on the waste coating their homes. The results are higher than acceptable levels of toxic matter. We are talking lead, nitrates and complex metals—contaminants we have known are hazardous for the better part of the last century. How in 2026 is it acceptable that families in Ipswich are exposed to matter restricted across the world for decades? These at-home tests align with what the department report into noxious industries in Ipswich has already indicated, that having these industries mere metres from homes poses serious health risks.

My community braves the risk of respiratory, neurological, gastrointestinal, skin and mental health conditions every time they step outside, every time they open their windows, every time they turn the air con on, every time they breathe the air that is around them. This is simply unacceptable and I do not know how much more plainly I can put it.

I again call on the government to act: urgently send an environmental compliance officer, review the planning decisions that place industrial developments too close to homes, strengthen environmental safeguards and, most importantly, establish a community reference group for our community to hold these industries to account. This is not my first speech on this matter. I hope it will be my last.

Canegrowers



Hon. DR LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (9.03 pm): On Saturday evening, dignitaries, community representatives and local canegrowers gathered in Ayr to celebrate 100 years of the Canegrowers organisation. It was an honour to attend and to speak about what would come from a meeting in Mackay in January 1926 where the Queensland Canegrowers Council resolved to form a single statewide organisation to represent growers collectively.

Despite featuring on the state's coat of arms and being one of the state's most important industries, sugar growers felt they had little influence on decisions made beyond the farm gate, including those made by government. The raw sugar price at that time sat at around three cents per pound—three cents—and as a result of this, the state and federal government agreed to regulate domestic sugar prices.

Like the wider economy at the time, there were elements that were both positive and negative in the sugar industry. Here, in this House, several important pieces of legislation relating to the sugar industry were passed, while in the Burdekin farmers were protesting the actions of the Central Sugar Cane Prices Board for not advising of the closing date for nomination of local representatives. Despite the passing of 100 years, there are some obvious similarities between then and now.

In 1926 in the Burdekin there was a proposal to produce a building product called megass from sugar waste. Today value-adding is still on the agenda and the focus is on energy, with renewable diesel, sustainable aviation fuel and bio-energy generation among the options. In the coming weeks we will see the results of the inquiry into sugarcane bioenergy opportunities. It is a report on the benefits and the challenges facing the sugar industry.

On Saturday night, and more widely, growers welcomed a detailed examination of opportunities for their industry, and they have also welcomed the Crisafulli LNP government's Primary Industries Prosper 2050 initiative. Why? It is because industry is finally receiving genuine engagement from a government that backs our primary industries.

The Crisafulli LNP government know that Queensland needs a strong agricultural sector to provide the jobs, the food and the fibre that we all need. That is why we have taken a whole-of-government approach to the challenges that exist at the local and statewide levels. It is why we refuse to put those challenges in the too-hard basket. It is why we continue to support communities in the Burdekin—the largest cane-growing area in Australia—as they continue to grow a crop that has been grown in that area now for 100 years. We celebrate the innovation and just how far they have come since those early days when they were cutting cane by hand through to using mechanical cane harvesters and into developing new methods of production. As I did on Saturday night, I congratulate our canegrowers on 100 years and, dare I say it, wish them the best for the next 100.

Banyo, Housing

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (9.06 pm): Last sitting week I stood in this House to draw attention to the recent debacle of an announcement by the LNP government that the six-hectare former Energex depot site in Banyo is to be sold to the highest bidder to build up to 400 new homes. It was a debacle, of course, because this LNP government left a few key details out of their announcement. They left out words like 'contamination', 'asbestos', 'PFAS' and 'arsenic'. I do not think I got to mention arsenic last time I spoke. They are inconvenient words to this LNP government but the truth of the matter nonetheless.

I am not going to cover the same ground tonight because everyone in my community is more than aware and across the history of the site and its long-term remediation. Tonight there are other issues my community want me to canvass. They are issues that I had intended to speak about in my speech last sitting week, but I ran out of time after I was forced to defend my community from the unprofessional ranting of the housing minister when he interjected on my speech to call my local residents NIMBYs. That is the last thing they are. What they are is legitimately concerned.

My community welcomes housing on that site. It is the scale of density and what that means for the existing infrastructure that is the key issue here. If this LNP government actually cared enough to listen to locals rather than call them names, they would hear that one in three have reported having already experienced flooding from run-off in the area, nearly half have reported sewerage or drainage issues at their property and an overwhelming majority—more than 93 per cent—are concerned about the capacity of the local road network to handle up to 400 additional homes and the likely upwards of 800 extra cars.

These are the issues that hundreds of residents have already raised via my community survey or with me personally while I am out doorknocking all of the homes in the surrounding area. These are the issues that must be resolved before a development of this magnitude is even considered. As one resident put it—

Our sewerage and drainage issues are well known ... this will put significant pressure on an already broken drainage system.

We have seen no investment from the Brisbane City Council in the area to address the issues we have now—none—and already the local councillor is doing his usual trick of buck-passing, this time to EDQ. My community now has an LNP state government which is more interested in stunts than real consultation, an LNP councillor who does not stand up for locals and a former LNP federal member appointed as the CEO of EDQ making decisions for the community. My community want to have their

say, and I will keep standing up in this House week after week to make sure the voices in my community are heard because they deserve nothing less.

Hinchinbrook Electorate

 **Mr CHIESA** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (9.09 pm): Winning the Hinchinbrook by-election was an honour. This is a region with vast opportunity, and I am immensely proud to represent it—and what a start to 2026 it has been! Over the last two months we have had cyclones and continuous rain threatening the region, and now more is forecast for this weekend. That is nothing new for North Queensland, but it has caused real concern for people who have the 2025 floods still fresh in their minds and with some families still living the aftermath.

I commend the councils of Townsville, Cassowary Coast and Hinchinbrook for the way they prepared and responded to keep their communities safe. Students are back at school, families are working hard and I have been focused on the practical issues that affect daily life in the electorate. As an example take Mount Spec Road—a vital lifeline for Paluma and Hidden Valley. I was up there in February speaking with local businesses and residents. After the damage from last year's rain event, locals have endured uncertainty and closures. It has impacted families, businesses, visitors and residents alike, costing time and money. It is a complex fix, but I am committed to being the community's voice and pushing for certainty and safety. It is a beautiful part of the world and I want locals and tourists back supporting those small businesses as soon as possible.

Then there is the backbone of our state—the Bruce Highway. Flood-prone sections near Ingham, including Gairloch and Seymour, were closed earlier this week. It reminds us how exposed we are when that link goes down. I have spoken with councils, transport operators and local businesses about the need to strengthen the resilience in that section of the road.

North of Townsville, infrastructure has not kept pace with population growth and that has created daily traffic pressure points. This is not a luxury. It is essential for getting to work, getting kids to school and keeping communities connected. I am fighting for targeted upgrades that deliver for this community.

We cannot talk about Hinchinbrook without talking about Port Hinchinbrook. Locals are passionate about this jewel in the crown, and it was a pleasure to be there with the Premier two weeks ago to announce that works are commencing. This community deserves clarity, accountability, progress and, most importantly, delivery.

In the Herbert River region farmers are rightly frustrated. They tell me the region floods more easily, more often and for longer. Drainage systems built decades ago have not been able to be properly cleaned due to unworkable regulations from the former Labor government. That failure has hurt agricultural land and allowed floodwaters into low-lying areas.

There is a lot more to do. Hinchinbrook deserves a strong, prosperous future. I was elected to be a strong local voice, and that is exactly what I will continue to be. I am a fighter for safer roads, strong communities, a productive agriculture industry and a future that works for regional Queensland.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to mention the Townsville Fire winning their fifth WNBL championship on Sunday. They are the state's most successful female sporting team, and the community looks forward to celebrating with them this weekend.

Housing Affordability

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (9.12 pm): The Deputy Premier and the Crisafulli government are steadily making housing affordability worse in Queensland with their actions. How bad has housing affordability becoming under the LNP? As we heard yesterday, the cost of an entry-level market home in Brisbane is now more expensive than in Sydney. Brisbane entry-level house prices are up 20.6 per cent in just 12 months under the LNP. It takes 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. This is the LNP's housing affordability crisis.

The LNP have made their housing affordability crisis worse by axing the delivery of social and affordable homes. They have axed the pipeline of thousands of affordable homes on the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast and in Brisbane. Now public land development—on land we all own—no longer has social and affordable housing requirements. For example, at Mango Hill we have 1.5 hectares of land across two sites where the LNP want to put 250 dwellings, but they are silent on how many mandated social and affordable homes will be part of that development. At Banyo, as the member for Nudgee was just talking about, the LNP have said they want 'diverse housing outcomes' on that

particular block—I thank the member for Nudgee once again for bringing that to our attention—however, they do not have anything online about what those requirements are going to be and, as the member has said, they have scrapped plans to mandate affordable housing.

At the South Brisbane site—and I thank the member for South Brisbane for this—the LNP have removed the social and affordable housing requirements in the temporary local planning instrument. Out of 4,000 homes, there are no mandated social or affordable homes on a site that does have flooding issues. With the Hamilton North Shore PDA Labor planned for 14,000 dwellings over 20 years; five per cent were supposed to be social and affordable homes. Those requirements were axed under the LNP. At Woolloongabba the Lord Mayor of Brisbane called for a 30 per cent target for affordable homes but that was rejected. Instead of having developments with social and affordable housing requirements, publicly owned land is being handed over on a platter to major unit developers. That public land will now generate little direct public benefit but greater private benefit for these developers.

We have heard from the Deputy Premier about how you solve the housing affordability crisis. He talks about supply, supply, supply, which is no real solution at all. You cannot get supply, supply, supply if there is no supply of affordable homes. You cannot get supply, supply, supply if you only have a monopoly of supply for luxury units. You cannot get supply, supply, supply for social and affordable homes when you sell off government land to luxury unit builders.

Keppel Electorate

 **Mr HUTTON** (Keppel—LNP) (9.15 pm): To live in Keppel is to live in a part of the world that is blessed. It is beautiful and many people want to come and live there; however, we are in the midst of a housing crisis which has been caused by a lack of investment and planning throughout the decade of decline. Action is required. I am proudly delivering for my community, in partnership with my local councils in Livingstone and Rockhampton, along with working with developers to ensure that more Central Queenslanders have a place to call home.

Just this last week we had the Deputy Premier join Team CQ in our community for a sod turning for one of the Residential Activation Fund projects funded in round 1. This project, when joined together with four other projects in CQ, will see over 4,000 homes in our region. Unfortunately, there is just not enough housing, and at local schools in Farnborough, The Caves, Yeppoon and Emu Park there is work to do to ensure safe access for our children and their families. I am working with these families to get the planning and design work done so we can get these projects on track. We need to hunt down the funding and deliver improvements for these school communities. These are not 'nice to haves'; these are essentials. The consequence of growth in our community should not be reduced livability for those who live there.

The Tandy Road corridor is yet another example of how our community was left behind under the former government. Year on year, this road has seen increased traffic and an increase in the population using the road, yet there was no design, there was no plan and there was no work for a vital corridor to meet our growing community's needs. Alas, things that should have been done years ago are going to have to be done now, with logical and rational infrastructure put in place by our team. I have heard the voice of my community. I will work with my local council. We are going to work to make sure we get the design and planning for the Tandy Road corridor underway. This should not have had to wait until today; this work should have started years ago.

In my community this week we will have a funeral for a life that was lost all too soon: young Charlotte Zilm. I had the privilege of teaching her in grade 3 and again being part of her education when she came and joined us at Yeppoon State High School. Her loss to her family and our community is grave, and I share in the grief of our community at this time. To her family and friends I offer my love and a reminder that, even in these times of great darkness, when we walk together towards the light we will find peace. Vale, young Charlotte.

Community Healing and Accountability Initiative

 **Mrs NIGHTINGALE** (Inala—ALP) (9.18 pm): Member for Keppel, I was reflecting on that sad loss for your community and I share my support for your words.

I will speak today about something happening quietly in my community of Inala that deserves real recognition: the Community Healing and Accountability Initiative, CHAA, delivered by Inala Community House. Inala Community House has been a trusted part of our community for decades. Generations of local families have walked through its doors for support, for connection and for practical help when times are tough. CHAA has grown out of that trust. It is not a glossy program designed in an

office somewhere else; it has been shaped by local women, local families and local leaders who understand what domestic and family violence looks like in real life, in extended families, across cultures and behind closed doors.

Through local pods, CHAA brings women together in safe, familiar spaces. Some groups focus on empowerment; others provide culturally safe connection for women from migrant backgrounds. These are spaces for mothers and children. They are not crisis rooms; they are places of belonging, and that matters because often the first step towards safety is not calling police. It is telling someone you trust. It is asking a quiet question. It is testing whether you will be believed. CHAA strengthens those circles of trust. It builds the confidence of natural helpers—the aunties, the neighbours and the community leaders—so they know how to respond safely and appropriately. The healing happens here.

I have met the women involved and seen how powerful this work is—when someone gains the language to describe what has been happening to her, when they feel supported enough to take the next step. That is why I am deeply concerned by recent decisions affecting specialist domestic violence roles within the Queensland Police Service. We all agree the police play a critical role in helping keep women safe, but specialist DFV expertise inside the system matters. When that expertise is stripped away, it sends the wrong message at a time when we know the complexity of coercive control and repeat offending demands more skill, not less.

Community organisations like Inala Community House will always step up—they always do—but they should not be left to carry more because this government chooses to do less. If we are serious about women's safety, then investment has to be consistent. Programs like CHAA help women access support and navigate the justice system, helping to 'balance the scales', which is this year's UN International Women's Day theme. Cuts to any domestic violence services or programs do not help balance the scales. Instead, they tip the scales in the wrong direction. It is our women, our children and our families who pay the price of any cuts that may come and any that have already taken place.

Rotary Club of Townsville Saints

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (9.21 pm): Turning 13 is always a milestone—those teenage years. I am sure we all look back on ours fondly. The moment you officially enter your teenage years is a time of growth, energy and finding your place in the world. Today I rise to celebrate the 13th birthday of the Rotary Club of Townsville Saints who were proudly chartered on International Women's Day, 8 March 2013.

Thirteen years ago, alongside a group of passionate and community-minded women, I had the privilege of helping establish the club and serving as its charter president. We wanted to create something a little different—a Rotary Club built around friendship, service and supporting our local community as a group of women. What started as a small group of women who simply wanted to give back has grown into a strong and vibrant club that continues to make a real difference in Townsville.

A special part of the Saints Rotary Club story is Sylvia, our club's dedicated icon, named in honour of Sylvia Whitlock, the world's first female Rotary president. Sylvia represents the pioneering spirit of women in Rotary and reminds us why the club was created—that is, to empower women to lead, serve and make a difference in their communities.

The club has always had a strong focus on supporting women and children, particularly through initiatives that promote education and mental health. Through fundraising, volunteering and community partnerships, the Saints have worked tirelessly to support programs that help young people thrive, strengthen families and build a healthy community. We are especially proud of the partnership with the Townsville City Council in creating the remembrance garden—a beautiful and meaningful space that provides comfort for families who have lost a loved one and a place for reflection in our community.

Over the years members have rolled up their sleeves time and time again, volunteering at markets, supporting local charities and stepping up whenever the community needs a hand. Their work truly reflects Rotary's spirit of service above self. It is incredibly fitting that the club was founded on International Women's Day because the club itself was founded by women passionate about making the community better.

Today I congratulate the Rotary Club of Townsville Saints on reaching this wonderful milestone. Happy 13th birthday, Saints Rotary and a happy International Women's Day to Saints Rotary and all our young women.

Banking Industry

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (9.24 pm): Interest rates are on the rise again. Has anyone noticed that when the RBA raises the cash rate the interest rate on the mortgage will go up in a flash, but the same does not always happen for the interest on a savings account? We know the big banks are not just charitable lenders; they are not there doing their best in difficult times to get by like the rest of us. They exist to make money and they make money not to benefit you or me but so they can continue to pay massive multimillion dollar salaries into the coffers of their CEOs.

Can honourable members believe these salaries? We will start with CBA boss Matt Comyn. He took home more than \$7 million last year. That is some extraordinary labour he is doing. They reported a \$5.45 billion cash profit in the first half of this financial year, up six per cent apparently. The ANZ CEO has a base salary of \$2½ million with up to \$5.9 million in bonuses. This next bit is amazing. When they welcomed their staff back into the office this year, they had the option to spend \$10 out of their own pocket for a sausage sizzle. It makes Bunnings look like Robin Hood. They had to pay an extra \$5 if they wanted an extra sausage.

What is driving the big banks' profits? First of all it is skyrocketing house prices—obviously; none of us have missed that. Then there are schemes and policies like federal Labor's five per cent deposit scheme. This was predicted before it was implemented and now that it is in place it is predictably inflating prices, particularly in those brackets where first home buyers might want to look. Higher prices makes bigger mortgages which means massive windfalls to the biggest banks in the country. The Australian economy is clearly stacked in favour of the big banks. They benefit from inflationary housing policies, low corporate tax and bailouts in a crisis, as we have seen.

Why does the government not tax them properly? It is simple; it is because they take their political donations and their jobs after politics. There is quite a roll call here, too. Former Queensland Labor premier Anna Bligh is still at the ABA—at least for the time being—the pinnacle banking lobby in the country; the Liberals' Mike Baird is at NAB; Josh Frydenberg is at Goldman Sachs; and Simon Birmingham is at ANZ. Is it any coincidence that the Greens are the only party who are making the case to tax the big banks properly?

The big banks have gotten away with too much for too long. They use a rigged system to funnel ordinary people's money into CEOs' salaries and it is time we took something back.

Moura Retirement Village; Jandowae, Road Safety

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (9.27 pm): Last week I had the pleasure of opening the extension to the Moura Retirement Village, a project funded by the Queensland government with over \$5 million. This money helped them install six two-bedroom units to their complex. Of course, they also used a lot of the leftover money in the project to upgrade the 14 existing units, which has provided a brilliant facelift to this wonderful community owned facility—importantly—run by a fantastic committee of volunteers. Warren has been the lead on that.

I commend that committee for the attention to detail they have used when they have been building this facility. I got to see it during the middle of construction and some of the features they have installed to make those units cater to residents as they age are absolutely fantastic. There are cabinets in the kitchen that fold out right down to waist height and the clothes hangers in the cupboard are just a couple of little thoughts and attention to detail they have used in constructing these. It is a fantastic community facility and it is great to see this result in the Moura community. While I was there I drove past the aged-care extension, a project that the Crisafulli LNP government is getting on with the job of building. It is a fantastic project that I am looking forward to seeing opened in the great town of Moura.

Jandowae is at the opposite end of the electorate to Moura, but Jandowae is a fantastic community that had been asking me for a fair while now that the speed limit be lowered on High Street, the main road through Jandowae. Business owners and residents have been saying that there are a lot of trucks that use that road and a lot of traffic. Many residents who do their shopping on that street are backing out on that main road when vehicles were travelling at 60 kilometres an hour. I took that up with the transport minister and his team and it is fantastic to see that we are installing those signs to reduce the speed limit through High Street in Jandowae. I do not always get a chance to read Facebook comments, but I have seen a lot of the locals talking about the need to upgrade roads in that region. As someone who grew up just up the road near Brigalow, I know all too well about the state of the roads in that neck of the woods. I can assure the Jandowae community that, yes, we got the speed limit reduced on High Street, but there are a lot of roads in that region like Jandowae Connection Road that I want to see upgraded. This is something that I have already raised with the minister and will keep fighting for. With regard to the cameras that we committed to installing in Jandowae, I have sought an

update on that. We are working with local council to make sure that we can deliver on that commitment, so there are some great things happening for the Jandowae community.

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, 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, Poole, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stoker, Sullivan, Vorster, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Young