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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, 25 March 2026

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WEDNESDAY, 25 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, whom we represent to make laws and conduct other business for the peace, welfare and good government of this state.

PRIVILEGE


Release of Cabinet Documents

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (2.01 pm): I wish to clarify a statement made in this House during question time on Tuesday, 9 December 2025. While answering a question I asked why the opposition had refused to release cabinet documents raised as part of the *In Plain Sight* report. As per section 3.11.5 of the Cabinet Handbook, former government cabinet documents can only be released with the consent of the former premier or current leader of the party concerned, and that leader has the right to grant or deny access.


My statements were based on the reasonable expectation that all established steps in the Cabinet Handbook would have been followed to obtain access to the cabinet documents in question. I am advised and can clarify for the House, however, that a formal request to the opposition was not made, which is an issue I have since raised with the department.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS


Tabled Paper, Redaction

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, during debate on the dissent motion yesterday the member for Maiwar tabled a bundle of documents relating to the conflict in Gaza. Upon review, one of the documents contained unparliamentary language. I have ordered the online document to be redacted. I would ask all members to take care to check documents that have been tabled in the House.

Parliamentary Education Cup

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to inform the House that the 2026 Parliamentary Education Cup will be an art competition inviting students to respond to the question 'What does democracy mean to me?' This competition will encourage young Queenslanders to reflect on their understanding of democracy. It is open to all Queensland students from years 4 to 12 across three age categories. Winners will receive a gift voucher and have their artwork displayed in the Parliamentary Annexe. I encourage all members to convey that to the schools in their electorates. The competition closes on 26 June. Further details are available on the Queensland parliament 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 Queen of Apostles Catholic Primary School in the electorate of Stafford, the Australian International Islamic College in the electorate of Gaven, Sherwood State School in the electorate of Miller, and Woodridge State High School in the electorate of Woodridge.

PETITIONS

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

Tully-Mission Beach Road, Infrastructure

Mr Knuth, from 1,251 petitioners, requesting the House to deliver the construction of a safe, modern and resilient road infrastructure at Banyan Creek on the Tully-Mission Beach Road [\[385\]](#) [\[386\]](#).

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

Underground Mine Supervisors

294 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce a mandatory statutory competency requirement for underground mine supervisors [\[387\]](#).

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services (Hon. Gerber)—


[388](#) Office of the Victims' Commissioner: Sexual Violence Review Board—Annual Report 2024-2025

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

[389](#) Families Responsibilities Commission—Annual Report 2024-25

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Fuel Security


 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.04 pm): Affordability and access to fuel are top of mind for every Australian right now. Yesterday the Commonwealth convened the first meeting of the national Fuel Supply Taskforce. This morning, less than 24 hours later, our representative, Bob Gee, convened stakeholders from the fuel industry, agriculture, business and industry groups, and freight and transport representatives. One message was very clear from all of them: we need a nationally consistent approach. We need information to flow and fuel to fill tanks in every part of our state. The Commonwealth needs to share with Australians where the fuel blockages are and what they are doing about it. As a nation we have to focus on short-, medium- and long-term ways of increasing supply, refining and storage.

We cannot continue to ignore that Australia has been at the mercy of foreign markets. Increased domestic supply protects our sovereignty, which increases our fuel security. That is why in February, before this crisis, we announced exploration in the Taroom Trough to pave the way for Australia's first major oil discovery in a generation and more. That is why we will be talking to companies about increasing their local storage options. That is why we should also be brave and admit that a nation of our size should have more than just two refineries, including the one here at Lytton. We are doing our bit in Queensland—

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection from the member for Pine Rivers, who is now a fan of the Taroom Trough. After all of these years, she has seen the light. I join with other state and territory leaders in asking for transparency and details on how this national crisis is being addressed.

Olympic and Paralympic Games

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.06 pm): Our government is committed to delivering a 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games that Queenslanders can be proud of. We are doing what those opposite could not. Queenslanders want games that benefit every part of the state, from the south-east to the regions. They want to see benefits that will last well beyond 2032. Our 2032 Delivery Plan steps out our plan to do just that and deliver generational infrastructure for our state. Most importantly, Queenslanders want to see the games delivered. After

years of delay and inaction, our government has made significant progress in 12 months. We are getting on with delivering 17 new and upgraded games venues right across the state. We have gone to market on new indoor sports centres in Moreton Bay and Logan, the Sunshine Coast Stadium, Barlow Park in Cairns and the Redland Whitewater Centre.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, could I just stop you for a moment. We are back to where we were with noise in the chamber. I am going to make it very clear this morning that when I ask for silence in the chamber anyone who does not abide by that will be warned. If you want to have conversations, take them outside. Obviously whips and the Leader of the House have business to do, but the rest of you can take it outside if you want to have a conversation. You are all on notice.


Mr CRISAFULLI: As the Deputy Premier announced this morning, preparatory works for the new Brisbane Stadium will start in the next few months—as soon as June. We are also moving ahead with the delivery of athletes villages in Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast, the Gold Coast and Rockhampton to support their local events. These projects will convert to housing after the games, leaving yet another important legacy. Connectivity will also be a defining feature of our games legacy, including critical upgrades for the Bruce Highway. Faster rail to the Gold Coast and the Wave will support our growing population, reduce congestion and enhance productivity.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection from the member for Waterford, who is a long-term critic of infrastructure in this state. We are also strengthening grassroots sport. Our Play On! program has provided more than 350,000 sports vouchers to families across the state, and \$250 million will be invested into clubs through the Games On! fund to upgrade local facilities.

The 2032 games are a catalyst for skills and more jobs in construction, tourism, events, technology and services. Regional Queensland will play a role—not just by hosting major events but also through training camps and tourism opportunities that showcase the very best our state has to offer. The benefits will be shared across the state. This will be a games for all of Queensland.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Delivery

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.09 pm): Today is an exciting day of delivery for the Crisafulli government. It marks 12 months since the Crisafulli government handed down our 2032 Delivery Plan, and it has been a busy 12 months. It is a plan that lays out a vision—not only for an Olympic and Paralympic Games that is spread right across Queensland but also for a once-in-a-generation economic uplift that will set up our state for the future. Queenslanders are beginning to see the fruits of the trust they placed in us to get the games back on track after more than 1,200 days of chaos and mismanagement from the former Labor government. In one year, this government can point to a number of significant achievements and milestones that will shape our state for decades to come.

GIICA has appointed a consortium of multinational designers and construction companies as the delivery partner for the game. Architects and engineers have been and continue to be appointed for each of the 17 games venues across the state, and Arup are already kicking goals in master planning the Victoria Park precinct, anchored by a new 63,000-seat Brisbane Stadium at Victoria Park.

I am also pleased to advise the House today that the Crisafulli government is continuing to forge ahead with the delivery of generational infrastructure for our state. Queenslanders have today seen for the first time the precise location, field orientation and shape and size of the field of play for the Brisbane Stadium. The field of play will be the same size as Australia's biggest stadium, the MCG—nestled within a central location of Victoria Park, close to existing and upgraded public transport connections that will deliver patrons to and from the precinct.

I must say that, as the sport minister and I were just leaving hundreds of people at the Press Club, Hayden Johnson of the *Courier-Mail* asked me a final question. He asked, 'If it's as good as the MCG, is it a hard patch, a soft patch?'—something about cricket.

Mr Mander: Pitch.

Mr BLEIJIE: Pitch. I said, 'Mate, out of everybody in the Crisafulli government to be asking, you're asking the wrong guy.' Even though I had my cricket socks on to support the Premier's love of cricket, I said, 'I'm going to take that one on notice and give it to the sport minister'—so take that on notice, Minister for Sport.

Mr O'Connor: A cricket patch?

Mr BLEIJIE: Pitch. Sixes and sevens.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. The opposition leader is going through a hard patch.

I can also announce that drilling has commenced at the site of the new 17,000-seat indoor arena at Woolloongabba—a transformative project that will deliver a world-class facility in the heart of our capital city and drive major entertainment events to our state. I handed the key to the driller today and he started the drill and we are doing that testing. This process begins the geotechnical work required to get the venue off the ground, marking the transition from the Woolloongabba Cross River Rail station worksite as major construction works on that project near completion.

Once completed, the Gabba arena will be the catalyst for significant urban and economic transformation of Woolloongabba into a mixed-use entertainment, housing, transport and retail project—housing that otherwise would not have been built under the former Labor government. Queenslanders have not forgotten the indecision that plagued the former Labor government with the chopping and changing of games venues, including an arena which changed location three times under Labor. The Crisafulli government saw the opportunity to save taxpayers \$2½ billion—the cost of the former government's Roma Street arena—and are partnering with the private sector to deliver both an entertainment venue for legacy and housing. It will see the Gabba come down after 2032 and be replaced by thousands of homes.

I am also pleased to advise the House for the first time that two major consortia have been short-listed today to deliver the Gabba arena from a globally competitive field of eight bids—being Brisbane Entertainment Alliance Consortium and Gather Brisbane Consortium. Both will now provide detailed design proposals to the state, with construction to begin early next year once a proponent is selected.

Finally, nothing brings me as much joy as the next announcement. I am pleased to update the House with the news that the jewel in the crown of sport in Central Queensland is progressing to the next phase of assessment—rowing on the mighty Fitzroy River. Rowing in Rockhampton has been backed in by the international federations, with both World Rowing and the International Canoe Federation supporting the move by GIIICA to the next design phase in the development of the rowing venue ahead of the 2032 games. The independent technical analysis has indicated two preferred field-of-play options, delivering a full two-kilometre competition course, with no alternative venues being considered.

A government member interjected.


Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. It is better than LA which is only 1,500 metres—although I did announce this morning that it was going to be a 2,000-kilometre course for rowing but I meant 2,000 metres. We go big in Queensland; we do everything big in Queensland. It is a two-kilometre competition course.

Importantly, no alternative venues are being considered by either the federations or the state government. GIIICA will continue to work with the international federations and all relevant stakeholders to ensure the Crisafulli government's vision of a world-class facility for our rowers in Rocky comes to fruition. I thank all the rowers who have backed in our plan. I want to give a shout-out to former Olympic rowing silver medallist Alexander 'Sasha' Belonogoff, who represented Australia at Rio in 2016. He said—

The Rockhampton course is a gift from the rowing gods ... Rowing was born on the mighty rivers of the world, like the Fitzroy. It's where the roots of our sport lie and so to bring rowing back to its origins and showcase this magnificent natural waterway on the world stage is very special.

I could not agree more. After 1,200 days of Labor failure, decline, destruction, decay, chaos, paralysis and delivering nothing, the Crisafulli government is delivering the fresh start we promised in the October 2024 election. We are getting on with the job and the games are back on track.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Infrastructure

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (2.16 pm): I want to congratulate the Deputy Premier on a great 'patch' for the games of 2032.

The Crisafulli government understands the extraordinary opportunity before us in 2032 and beyond. Last week, I was proud to be in Cairns to announce Architectus as the principal architect for the Barlow Park Stadium upgrade ahead of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This is more than an architectural appointment; this is a declaration that the 2032 games will be a games for all of Queensland—not just Brisbane and not just the south-east corner but Cairns to the Sunshine Coast, Townsville to Toowoomba and the Whitsundays to the Gold Coast. Every corner of our state will share in the opportunity and the legacy from hosting the greatest sporting event on earth. Unlike those opposite, who sought to confine the benefits to the south-east and QSAC, the Crisafulli government is delivering a games for all of Queensland.

Let me be clear about what we inherited. We did not inherit a plan; we inherited a shambles. A decade of delay, dysfunction and decline had left Queensland's Olympic and Paralympic preparations in chaos, but we got on with the job. Within months, the Crisafulli government delivered what Labor could not—a comprehensive 2032 Delivery Plan. This is a plan that locks in venues across the state, a plan that guarantees regional participation, a plan that delivers lasting infrastructure, a plan that creates pathways from grassroots sport to Olympic and Paralympic success, and a plan that positions Queensland as Australia's premier sporting destination.


What does a games for all of Queensland actually look like? It looks like Cairns hosting Olympic football at a transformed Barlow Park, turning Far North Queensland into an international tropical sports destination. This is not a patch-up job but a genuine upgrade: a new grandstand meeting international broadcast standards; expanded seating from 1,700 to 5,000; world-class player facilities and accessibility; a better spectator experience; and a venue that will serve that region for generations.

It looks like the Whitsundays and Townsville showcasing our natural beauty to a global audience through Olympic sailing; it looks like Toowoomba delivering a world-class equestrian centre, building on its proud agricultural heritage; it looks like Maryborough hosting archery, creating new opportunities and a lasting legacy for the Fraser Coast; and, as the Deputy Premier has already mentioned, it looks like Rockhampton hosting rowing on the Fitzroy River, establishing Central Queensland as Australia's rowing capital with world-class courses, training facilities and community access.

These are not one-off events; these are long-term investments that will position regional Queensland as a destination for international sport, training and tourism for decades to come. We are backing it up at the grassroots. Through the Games On! infrastructure program we are investing in community sporting facilities right across Queensland so local clubs can host pre-games training camps, attract national international teams, build capacity for future competitions and give Queensland athletes the facilities they need in their own communities. More importantly, we are leaving a legacy that extends far beyond 2032, ensuring more Queenslanders can access sport no matter where they live. This is not just about the games; this is about economic growth. This is about stronger communities. This is about Queensland's future.

The countdown is on. Queensland is ready. This government is delivering because, unlike those opposite, we are ensuring 2032 will be a games for all Queenslanders and nothing less.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Transport Infrastructure


 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.20 pm): The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be a magnificent sporting event for Queensland. However, it is important to remember that when the South-East Queensland mayors first suggested bidding for the 2032 games the motivation was not to host a great sporting event for a couple of weeks; it was a catalyst to get the three levels of government working together to build the infrastructure required for a growing region and a growing state. They also knew that government works best when there is a deadline and that the 2032 games could be just that deadline.

While I look forward to seeing the Olympic flame lit above our new world-class stadium at Victoria Park, what really excites me is the transport infrastructure legacy that the Crisafulli government will deliver by 2032. The Crisafulli government has a massive program of investment in our public transport network: from the Wave on the Sunshine Coast, through Cross River Rail which we have back on track, connecting with faster rail to the Gold Coast and on to new stations being opened on the Gold Coast. We are delivering huge investments in sector 1 of our rail network—that section which is effectively the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast lines. We are also undertaking major upgrades of the rail signalling system on that sector to increase capacity and to improve reliability following years of chronic underinvestment by the Labor Party. Brisbane, the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast will also see big investments in high-frequency bus networks. We will ensure we have the bus depot and layover sites needed to cater for that increased fleet.

When we came to government we said that we wanted to make the 2032 games a games for all Queenslanders, not just the south-east. Our strategy on infrastructure investment is no different. I am proud to have secured a \$9 billion investment with the federal Labor government for the Bruce Highway, which is our critical corridor here in Queensland. Those opposite had given up on an 80-20 deal but we did not. Instead, we fought for a better outcome for Queensland and that program is already delivering critical safety upgrades right up and down the coast. We will also deliver the Tiaro bypass and the Rockhampton bypass—the Rockhampton Ring Road—a project that I was proud to help champion alongside our LNP federal CQ colleagues. That was from opposition, I might add, alongside the Rockhampton community. We are also rescuing the Cairns Western Arterial Road, which was sent back to the drawing board by the federal government under the previous Labor government—a fact that no rewriting of history is going to erase.

Just like our athletes, we know that we have a lot of work to do in the six years until the Olympic and Paralympic Games. With dedication and perseverance we will achieve great things in 2032 and leave a legacy that will benefit all Queenslanders for many years to come.

Tourism Industry


 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (2.23 pm): There is a buzz right across Queensland at the moment and that is because this government is delivering what those opposite could not: a strong, stable pathway to 2032 and beyond. Queenslanders are excited about the Olympic and Paralympic Games and that confidence is already flowing through our visitor economy. International visitors spent a record \$7 billion in Queensland last year, up 13.3 per cent on the previous year. Total visitor expenditure climbed to \$43.5 billion, including a record \$1.1 billion in Tropical North Queensland alone. That is real momentum, that is real confidence and it shows that Queensland is firmly cementing its reputation as the home of the holiday.

That reputation was also on display at the Australian Tourism Awards. Queensland operators delivered our strongest result since 2022. We have already topped one medal tally, bringing home seven gold, two silver and three bronze awards. From Brisbane to the south-west and to Tropical North Queensland, those awards showcased the depth and the strength of Queensland tourism. They send a clear message: Queensland sets the benchmark. That momentum is not accidental; it is the result of a plan—in fact, two plans. On the back of our delivery plan for 2032, Destination 2045 is the Crisafulli government's road map to grow our visitor economy, to create jobs and to ensure Queensland remains the home of the holiday.

As we build the green and gold runway to 2032 we want Queenslanders to have more to see and more to do and we want them to share that with the world. We want Queensland to be the events capital of this country and we are securing world-class events that bring visitors to our state. I speak of events like the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo held earlier this year, a spectacular global production that delivered \$39 million to the local economy. They are events like CMC Rocks Queensland, which was held over the weekend, one of the biggest country music festivals in the world, drawing thousands of visitors to Ipswich. Soon we will welcome Sting's *The Last Ship* at Brisbane's new Glasshouse Theatre following acclaimed seasons on Broadway and across Europe. Later this year the Pacific Airshow will again take to the skies above Surfers Paradise, the only place outside California where it is staged. While those opposite dithered and did not deliver around the Gabba and we lost test cricket, there will be test cricket—on a pitch—in Mackay as Australia takes on Bangladesh. There are events like Savannah in the Round in Far North Queensland, a stand-out regional festival bringing visitors to the gulf and showcasing the very best of Outback Queensland.

This pipeline of events is no accident; it is the result of a government determined to deliver to attract a global calibre of events, to support local jobs and to give Queenslanders more reason to get out and enjoy their state. When the world looks to Queensland in 2032 we want them to see a state that is vibrant, a state that is confident, a state that is buzzing with activity, a state where there is always something to see and something to do. That is what building the green and gold runway to 2032 is all about. That is why the Crisafulli government will not stop delivering for Queensland.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Small and Family Business

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (2.26 pm): On this side of the House we understand that Queensland's small and family businesses and their staff are the heartbeat of our great state's economy

and that is why we are putting small and family business first. On this side of the House we also understand that Queensland's small and family businesses right across the state are vital to delivering the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. We are not sitting around navel-gazing like those opposite did for nearly 1,200 days.

The Crisafulli government has well and truly fired the starting gun and we are out of the blocks when it comes to Queensland's small and family businesses preparing for and getting involved in procurement opportunities for 2032. Whether you are a small business builder in the Redlands or an IT consultant in North Queensland, a fencer on the Gold Coast or a sign maker on the Sunshine Coast, we simply need you. Our 2032 games procurement program gives Queensland's small and family businesses the opportunity to bid for contracts to supply the goods and services needed to deliver the world's greatest events, including temporary infrastructure, transport, barrier fencing, catering, housekeeping, uniforms and—as was the case in Paris—10,000 whistles.

This important procurement program is underpinned by our Queensland Procurement Policy 2026 that sets a clear 30 per cent target for small and family businesses. It is a policy that will deliver billions of dollars in government contracts directly to small and local businesses to help them grow and succeed. We have also made it easier for small and family businesses to work with government by simplifying procurement opportunities.


I recently had the pleasure of joining my colleague the Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, who indeed knows a good cricket pitch or two. We did that on the Gold Coast and there were almost 400 local businesses in attendance. There was genuine excitement when we outlined the opportunities for local businesses to become involved in the procurement opportunities for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. In fact, it was our third event. We had similar events across Queensland, at Cleveland as well as Townsville. We will continue to do that because we know it is proof that our plan is delivering for small and local businesses.

It extends beyond our athletes and our international partners. We also know that Queenslanders who own or who are employed by small and family businesses have the opportunity to deliver the quality and ingenuity they are renowned for. If there is one thing that small and family businesses need more than anything, particularly at the moment, it is certainty in order to make informed decisions.

I commend the Deputy Premier and the Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games for the 2032 Delivery Plan. We had to get on and deliver it, and that was indeed done this time last year. The malarky of going around and around in circles came to an end and there was a comprehensive plan outlined for Queensland and, as members heard in the minister's ministerial statement, we are getting on and delivering it. Queensland businesses can go online at brisbane2032.org/procurement and look at 59 current expressions of interest work packages that are live right now to help prepare their business for a slice of the Olympic and Paralympic pie. Under the Crisafulli government, Queensland's small and family businesses have a chance to be part of history and help us build a legacy that will continue to benefit Queenslanders way beyond 2032.

We are not stopping there, though. I look forward to joining small and family businesses on the Sunshine Coast next month and then on the Darling Downs to continue the rollout with Minister Mander to explain to them the procurement opportunities for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. At the end of the day, we want to make sure that not just the big end of town gets its slice; we want to make sure that small and family businesses, which are indeed the backbone of this state economy, get their opportunity. Again, that web address they need to go to is brisbane2032.org/procurement.

Resources Industries

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (2.31 pm): As I said this morning, it is a great day for Gladstone and an even better day for Queensland. I have stood in the red bauxite pebbles at Rio Tinto's Amrun bauxite mine in Weipa and today I stood at the Boyne Island smelter with Minister Tim Ayers, along with many of the thousands of local workers, to announce one of the biggest joint Queensland, Commonwealth and private-enterprise investments this country has ever seen.

Under a new agreement, the Crisafulli government and the Commonwealth will invest \$1 billion each over 10 years to support Gladstone's smelter to stay open and protect more than 3,000 jobs in the Gladstone region. Like the deal we did in Mount Isa to save the smelter and the copper industry and protect that community, this is not simply about throwing money at a problem and walking away.

In return, Rio Tinto will underwrite close to \$7½ billion of investment in new energy generation and transmission in Central Queensland to secure the long-term future of the smelter, with more investment to come in its operations in the Far North.


Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gladstone, the minister has the call.

Mr LAST: He likes it, Mr Speaker; he likes it! Only in Queensland can we mine, refine and smelt to produce aluminium. At a time of so much global uncertainty, I make no apology for protecting our sovereign manufacturing capabilities. We need more aluminium. The world needs more aluminium. It is used in everything from transport to construction, packaging, electronics, energy infrastructure and more, and we will not let our capabilities in Queensland fall by the wayside.

This investment will safeguard the local value chain, protect thousands of jobs and build national resilience. Unlike those opposite, who threw millions of dollars at a fanciful green hydrogen project in Gladstone that, I would like to remind the House, produced zero jobs, zero investment and zero returns and only served to line a billionaire's pockets, we have today delivered a sensible, practical support package that will secure the future of thousands of workers, protect our sovereign manufacturing capability and give industry the confidence and certainty it needs to continue to invest for the future.

Youth Crime, Response

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.33 pm): Queenslanders were promised action to turn the tide on the youth crime crisis in this state after a decade of decline under Labor, and I am proud to say that we are a government that listens to Queenslanders and we are a government that sticks to our promises. We are delivering on our plan to restore safety to Queensland communities with tougher laws, more police and new youth crime-fighting early intervention and rehabilitation programs.

I am really proud to update the House today that we have delivered 47 new early intervention programs right across Queensland under our Kickstarter grants. From learning trade and vocational skills like carpentry and barbering to engaging in intensive family mentoring or education sessions, each program is regionally focused and tailored to meet the needs of their local community. That means more at-risk youth are now starting to head away from a life of crime and into education, training or employment. They are now receiving the support and guidance they need to turn their lives around to head towards a brighter future. Ultimately, do members know what it means? It means fewer victims of crime in this state. It means that fewer youth are going to become serious repeat offenders.

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs GERBER: I hear those opposite laughing, because under them youth crime was a joke. It spiralled out of control. Under our government we are seeing fewer youths become serious repeat offenders because intervening early is crucial to breaking the cycle of crime. We know that under the former Labor government during the past decade there was a severe lack of investment in effective early intervention programs, with the number of serious repeat offenders rising year on year under Labor. That is what we are changing, and that is why we will keep delivering new early intervention programs to stop crime at its roots.

We are also delivering our new intensive rehabilitation program, Staying on Track, right across the state. For the first time, youth offenders leaving detention receive 12 months of rehabilitation. They are partnered with a mentor while in detention and receive tailored support alongside their family to help them get back on track to make sure they do not end up in the rinse-and-repeat cycle of crime like we saw under the previous Labor government. Instead, they are on a pathway to education, to employment—a pathway of hope.

I can also update the House today that there have been more than 1,000 visits inside youth detention centres in Queensland by Staying on Track mentors in the first three months of this program. That means that youth offenders are finally receiving proper intensive support inside detention so they do not go on to reoffend when they are released back into communities. That is a huge change in the way our detention centres are operating. Previously in Queensland under the Labor government there was a measly 72 hours of support for a small cohort of youth in our detention centres, and it did not work. It failed. It failed our Queensland communities and it failed the youths. We are delivering the change needed to make our communities safe again and to reduce victims of crime, and we will continue to work every single day to achieve that goal.

Disability Services



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) (2.37 pm): The Crisafulli government will stand up for Queenslanders with a disability and we will continue to hold the federal Albanese government to account—accountable for a program and a deal called Thriving Kids, which risks Queensland children and their families being worse off. We cannot allow it to get away with shirking its responsibility to Queensland children with low, mild or medium autism or development delay. We must do this and we must stand up for them and their families. Even if we are the last state to hold out to sign the bilateral agreement, we are prepared to take a stand, because we know that in its current form it is a bad deal for our state and a bad deal for children with a disability and for our vulnerable children and their families.

The crucial details are still lacking. We as a state are expected to sign a deal in good faith when right from the start the federal government outlined its lack of willingness to engage with disability ministers and denied us the important detail that we need to inform families of what they will face under the new Thriving Kids program. The federal government is not only keeping Queenslanders in the dark; it is treating state and territory disability ministers with disdain. The Albanese Labor government has not yet finalised a date to convene a crucial meeting with the states' disability ministers while it goes about making changes to NDIS rules.

There remain many questions about the cost-shifting deal, which is what it is—we call it out for what it is; that is exactly what the Albanese government is doing—is already having an impact on the lives of Queensland children and their families. It is where we see thousands of children who have low to medium autism or development delay currently either lose their funding during plan reviews or risk provider viability like we have seen reported in the media with the administration of AEIOU. I have real concern when I speak to families—particularly across rural and regional Queensland—about their inability to fund occupational therapy, speech therapy or the individual support they have come to rely upon under the NDIS provisions. This morning I spent time with Frances Scodellaro, the CEO of Autism Queensland, and Sarah Bone, the CEO of Down Syndrome and Intellectual Disability Queensland. I want to thank them for their time and continued advocacy and for providing that much needed support for families in such uncertain times.

There will also be flow-on effects to businesses right across this state that offer crucial programs for children with a disability. The anxiety of what this means, not just for those providers but for their clients, is very real. The federal government needs to be held accountable, and we will continue to do that. The Crisafulli government will continue to advocate on behalf of those who have been left voiceless by the federal government. We will call out this cost-shifting exercise for what it is.

While we continue to work with other states and territories with regard to NDIS rule changes, we understand the challenges that many face. What this means not only for children here and now but also for a generation of Queensland children who may come to learn through their families, through diagnosis, that they have mild autism, medium autism or development delay is that they will be placed at risk, whether it be in the education system or whether they are then channelled through to the health system. That has dire consequences for these children and for our costs as a state with regard to the sustainability of our systems.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Fuel Security



Mr MELLISH (Aspley—ALP) (2.41 pm): I give notice that I will move—


That:

1. this House condemns the Crisafulli LNP government for its lack of fuel affordability action in Queensland;
2. this House condemns Crisafulli LNP government members for indicating that the Transport Affordability Amendment Bill that will take real action against increased fuel prices in Queensland is a political stunt;
3. in lieu of any meaningful action by the Crisafulli LNP government, this House calls on the federal government to immediately undertake further actions to ensure Queenslanders have available the fuel supply they need;
4. notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders the Transport Affordability Amendment Bill 2026 be declared an urgent bill, discharged from the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee and be considered by this House during this week's sitting.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time today will conclude at 3.42 pm.

Child Safety

 **Mr MILES** (2.42 pm): My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. I table a letter from a family services worker which states—

Despite these reports from various professionals, Child Safety appeared to take no meaningful action ... we let Hayley down, we let her unborn child down ...

Can the minister explain why she failed to protect Hayley Malcolm, who tragically died?

Tabled paper: Extract from letter, dated 27 December 2025, to the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Hon. Amanda Camm, regarding the death of Hayley Malcom [390].

Mr SPEAKER: I will ask you to repeat the question without the imputation.

Mr MILES: I refer to the letter I tabled earlier, which states—

Despite these reports from various professionals, Child Safety appeared to take no meaningful action ... we let Hayley down, we let her unborn child down ...

Can the minister explain why the child safety department failed to protect Hayley Malcolm, who tragically died?

Ms CAMM: I commence my response with this: any circumstance in which a child or young adult loses their life—whether it be through the tragic circumstances outlined in the case that the member opposite is quoting or where a child has had an interface or an interaction with the child safety system—is a true tragedy. We should always be very respectful and mindful that those children have family, friends and, in fact, also child safety officers, service providers and other people who work very closely day in, day out to protect their lives. We must ensure our dialogue and questioning is always done with humanity and with respect. The Leader of the Opposition would also be well versed in his understanding that under the Child Protection Act I cannot speak about any individual case, no matter the circumstances, because the legislation prohibits me from doing so.

Mr Bleijie: So do the standing orders prevent him from asking questions.

Ms CAMM: I will take that interjection from the honourable Deputy Premier. What I would say more broadly about the child safety system—and the commissioner who has undertaken the commission of inquiry on behalf of the government has placed it on the record—is that we inherited a broken system from those opposite after a decade of decline and a revolving door of child safety ministers.

To date, the commission of inquiry has received more than 1,000 submissions. I want to thank each and every organisation or person who has made a submission to the commission of inquiry in the interest of protecting children and fixing a broken child safety system. As late as this morning I met with Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership and former director-general Michael Hogan as they are formulating and finalising their submission to the commission of inquiry. I welcome that. In fact, I welcome submissions from anyone who has insight into this system—whether they are a frontline child safety officer, whether they are a non-government organisation that we partner with or whether they are our statutory bodies or peak bodies. I look forward to the outcomes of the commission of inquiry.

Child Safety

Ms McMILLAN: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. Child Safety allowed an under-age teenager in state care to live with a man in his 40s who 'used her as a sexual object'. 'Child Safety appeared to take no meaningful action, even reportedly suggesting that she would at least have a place to stay once she turned 18,' a family services worker has stated. Can the minister explain why the child safety system has let Hayley Malcolm down?

Mr LANGBROEK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Can I ask about standing order 117(2), which clearly mentions that the naming of children affected by child safety is outside the standing orders in terms of asking questions?

Mr SPEAKER: I will take some advice. According to the advice I have received, the child is deceased so that standing order does not apply.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Excuse me! You are warned, member for Mudgeeraba. There have been other examples: Mason Jett Lee. There are so many. I will allow the question.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to three elements. One is the lengthy preamble in relation to the question; the second relates to an inference or imputation that was in the question; and the third is to assure the House that these matters are not under active investigation or prejudicial to any matters that may be before legal entities. I would ask you to consider that matter as well.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you for the point of order. It is a valid point of order. I believe the minister will be aware if there are any sub judice issues. Minister, if there are any charges laid, you should be aware and cognisant of that fact and take that into account in your answer. I have allowed the question. It was lengthy, but it probably needed a little bit of explanation so I allowed that.

Ms CAMM: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The question was around failing children in Child Safety. This government inherited a decade of failures from those opposite in child safety. That was uncovered in my first month, when 91 frontline officers were not funded through to Christmas. When it comes to accountability, when it comes to fixing the broken child safety system, our government is doing everything in our power, in both the commission of inquiry and the recommendations—

Ms McMillan: And you shut it down.

Ms CAMM: I will take that interjection from the shadow minister because I am yet to have one question about this portfolio from the five former child safety ministers. One is not there because we have in the House our local member from North Queensland.

Ms McMillan interjected.

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I allowed the question. The minister is on her feet responding. Members for Mansfield and Lytton, you are both warned because you are deliberately trying to disrupt.

Ms CAMM: I took the interjection from the shadow minister because what continues to perplex me is that those opposite admit it is a broken child safety system and ask why we have not fixed it in 16 months. They had it for 10 years. Not only did they destroy a system but they left a system with more children in care than any other state or territory in this nation. In fact, there were more children in residential care in Queensland than in all other states and territories combined. The shadow minister comes in and asks why we have not fixed the broken child safety system, which for 10 years—

Ms Mullen interjected.

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

Ms CAMM:—was overseen by the member's own colleagues, including the member for Jordan, the most recent child safety minister. Over and over again I have uncovered failings, and when I uncover them I tell Queenslanders. We await the report of the commission of inquiry. I am very grateful and appreciative of the work that the Attorney-General and her office have done with the commissioner—

(Time expired)

Housing Supply

Mr LEE: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. How is the Crisafulli LNP government taking real action to tackle the housing crisis, and is the Premier aware of any approaches that exacerbated the lack of housing in Queensland during a decade of decline?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the honourable member for Hervey Bay for his question and for his advocacy. I certainly want to thank him for acknowledging what is a major issue in his community but more generally across the state. The member asks what we are doing. Everything we are doing is focusing on supply.

Ms Scanlon: Except for affordable housing.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I take the interjection from the shadow housing minister, who could not deliver anything. The only thing she delivered was a welcome mat to the CFMEU. That is the only thing she delivered.

I want to say some of the things we are doing: a nation-leading home ownership scheme by abolishing stamp duty; the Boost to Buy program—we unashamedly want to take Queensland from last place to first when it comes to home ownership; the Residential Activation Fund, which is unlocking land across this state, removing those infrastructure barriers; and the Land Activation Program. Blocks

of land sat idle and saw announcement after announcement, but this guy has got on and he is delivering. I look at BPIC, the union encouragement clause; productivity returning to job sites; planning reforms; and the greatest social housing pipeline in generations. I say to the member for Gaven: if only there was someone who would stand up and contrast what is happening now with what was happening then. The member for Gaven will be able to listen and reflect on what delivery looks like with a capital D.

In the end, there is one word in relation to home ownership that this side of the House is giving—that is, hope. For the first time in a generation we are giving hope to young people that they might be able to own a home. We are doing it through supply, by removing taxes and by delivering social housing to vulnerable Queenslanders. I want to make the point that I sat in a room with the member for Southport and listened to and spoke with young people who wanted to own a home and did not believe they could. When I hear stories like that I know that we have a role in this place. I look over and see the same faces who failed to deliver it.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: The guilty party! They all sat around the cabinet table; they all sat on CBRC. There are 77,000 fewer homes because of BPIC, a housing infrastructure fund that did not deliver a single home, a 35 per cent reduction in new home approvals, and a 29 per cent reduction in housing lot approvals. You can tell today that they have learned nothing. This side offers hope; that side offers criticism. We are giving young Queenslanders the ability and the aspiration to own a home.

Child Safety

Mr DICK: My question is to the Minister for Education and the Arts. Can the minister confirm how many times Goodna Special School made a mandatory report of suspicion of child harm or risk of harm to Child Safety regarding then 17-year-old Hayley Malcolm, who was living with a man in his 40s?

Mr LANGBROEK: I join with the child safety minister in acknowledging the concern that all ministers have in a coordinated fashion dealing with these issues between departments. This has been an issue over a long time, whether it is people who are affected in housing, unemployment, drug use, alcoholism or domestic and family violence. That is why this government is committed to working together, including with our Police Service. Importantly, when it comes to a specific name and number that the honourable member has asked me about, that is not something I can provide with no notice. I am happy to get the answer for the honourable member. I clearly remember those opposite, when they were on this side of the chamber being asked similar questions about specific cases, saying they were only too happy to provide the information—

Ms Farmer interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Bulimba, I have cautioned you before. You are warned.

Mr LANGBROEK: We are happy to provide the information. We are happy to do it on a personal level. We are happy to provide the information to the House. Most importantly, as the Minister for Child Safety has said, and as many other ministers have said, we have inherited systems that clearly need to be improved. When it comes to child safety, we have called a commission of inquiry and we had a blue card inquiry because it was clear that these were shortcomings overseen by the former government—by many of those members opposite who were ministers—about which they did nothing.

We have taken significant action since we have come to government, including introducing reportable conduct. When it comes to early childhood, we have ensured that we have mandatory child safety training in the child safety system to try to prevent the very issues that those opposite ignored for a decade. It is clear there was no mandatory child safety training in the early childhood system. Child protection officers were checking whether children may have been suffering at home but there was no child safety training, which is about checking that early childhood educators were identifying problems amongst themselves. No-one imagined that child safety educators could be potentially doing the terrible things that happened under those opposite. There is no way they can get away from it. It happened. There was no way of tracing whether a—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The quarrelling will cease.

Mr LANGBROEK: By working with the federal government we have brought in a national system for early educator registration so that we can find out whether a perpetrator or potential perpetrator from interstate has come into our state and is in our system. Under those opposite, that never existed. That led to the unspeakable issues that we saw under those opposite for which they should hang their heads in shame.

Mr DICK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am seeking confirmation that, under the standing orders, the minister is taking that question on notice.

Mr SPEAKER: He did not state that he was taking it on notice. The minister did not state that he was.

Housing Supply

Ms MORTON: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. After a decade of decline, the dream of home ownership has become a nightmare due to a lack of investment in housing supply. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering more housing approvals for Queenslanders, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the honourable member for Caloundra for her question and her advocacy. She wants roofs over the heads of people in Caloundra. It was great to see her turning the sod for the Aura shopping centre that she is delivering with Stockland. That is great.

I could not agree more with the honourable member: there is a housing crisis. In the past year and a half, we have been doing everything we can to deal with the housing crisis left to us by the Labor government. Minister after minister in the former government—whether the planning minister, the state development minister, the deputy premier—made announcement after announcement but they never delivered. They never built homes. In the past two weeks I have turned the sod on so many blocks of land that I have literally lost count of the number of homes that we are delivering for Queensland.

Mr O'Connor: In every patch of Queensland.

Mr BLEIJIE: In every patch of Queensland. Interestingly, I heard an interjection about housing when the honourable Premier was talking. The member for McConnel, who always overreaches, said, 'All our projects.'

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence at the previous comment and I ask for it to be withdrawn.

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

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. I take the interjection from the member for McConnel 6½ minutes ago when she said, 'All our projects.' No! The Residential Activation Fund is not a Labor project. The Land Activation Program is not a Labor project. I can tell members what is a Labor project: Mango Hill in the electorate of the Leader of the Opposition. He promised he was going to build homes for his own community on a vacant block of land but it never happened. Misinformation and disinformation is being spread by those opposite to try to scare Queenslanders, and it is a mistruth that has to be corrected.

Incidentally, last week the opposition leader—brave enough to come to my electorate of Kawana but not brave enough to ever ask me a question in parliament—said the TLPI signed off between the council and me as planning minister shows a reduction of 300 units at the Stockland Birtinya development. Let me correct the record for the shadow housing minister. I will quote from the developer, Stockland, which was asked about this by the media. They said—

We understand the Birtinya TLPI is very close to taking effect and we look forward to sharing our refreshed vision for the Birtinya town centre. When it takes effect, the TLPI will increase the residential yield for the Birtinya town centre to a maximum of 2,600 dwellings, which is consistent with what was initially sought.

The Labor Party are making things up. There were 2,600 units before the TLPI and 2,600 units after the TLPI. They literally did a rubbery, dodgy figure on the back of an envelope and said, 'Reduce the height and that's going to mean fewer units.' No, because we are allowing them to build another tower. There will be 2,600 units. It is time for the Labor Party to stop the scare campaign on housing across the state, grow up and tell the truth. However, I would not expect anything less from this opposition leader.

(Time expired)

Child Safety

Ms BOYD: My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. After an assault complaint was made in May 2025 regarding Hayley Malcolm who was living with a man in his 40s, can the minister confirm if the police reported this matter to the child safety department?

Mr PURDIE: I welcome the question because it is an awfully important matter. It is actually the highest priority of this government to protect vulnerable people in our community, and children are among them. We have done more in 16 months of government than those opposite did in 10 years.

Ms Grace: Like what?

Mr PURDIE: Daniel's Law, blue card reform—where do you want me to start?

Mr SPEAKER: Member for McConnel, you have continually interjected. You are warned.

Mr PURDIE: I take the interjection because, from the time we came into government and even before we came to government, we have made it quite clear that protecting Queensland children, particularly vulnerable children, is a top priority. That is why before the election we made a commitment to the Morcombe family and the people of Queensland that we would introduce Daniel's Law.

I have been asked specifically to list the things that we have done. Following on from the education minister's earlier contribution, it was great to attend the childcare centre in Noosaville—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The quarrelling will cease.

Mr PURDIE: On top of the blue card reform that the education minister and I announced while I was there, he announced the work that we were doing to—

Ms Boyd interjected.

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

Mr PURDIE:—empower early childcare educators with the information they need to identify young people who are in need of protection. That is one small thing that we are doing, whether it is the—

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

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, the point of order was on relevance. The question was about a result being reported to the police. You have one minute and 37 seconds to respond.

Mr PURDIE: The initial question was about a matter that I understand is before the Coroners Court. The interjection asked me to list what we have done and I am more than happy to do that. I was a child abuse detective on the Sunshine Coast when poor Mason Jett Lee was murdered. In that case, a subsequent coronial report highlighted that Mason Jett Lee was failed at every possible opportunity by the child safety department under those opposite. Only the other week in parliament I tabled the annual Child Death Review Board report. I do not have the report in front of me so am unsure of the year but it was under one of those failed child safety ministers opposite. The report found that you were likely to die if you were a child in Queensland—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is a very important question. The point of order is on relevance.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister was responding to an interjection and, by responding to that, he is entitled to some latitude in relation to how he responds to the question as asked.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you were responding to an interjection, but not for the duration of that time. I would ask you, in your time remaining—

Mr PURDIE: In relation to the question, as I said before, I understand that matter is currently before the Coroners Court, so what I am highlighting now are other coronial court matters that found that under those opposite—when they were in government, under multiple failed child safety ministers—children were failed in their care, like Mason Jett Lee. It was around that time, as I was starting to say before—and I tabled the report in parliament only a few weeks ago—an annual Child Death Review Board committee report found you were more likely to die if you were a child in Queensland than in any other state in Australia.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Twice you have drawn his attention to relevance. My point of order remains on relevance.

Mr SPEAKER: Yes. The minister has concerns about investigations under sub judice. You have to deal with that. I cannot put words into the minister's mouth. Minister?

Mr PURDIE: Mr Speaker, in relation to the question, I understand it is before the Coroners Court. It is the top priority of police and this government to protect all children in Queensland. It is our top priority and it will continue to be. We have done more in 16 months than they did in a decade.

(Time expired)

Home Ownership

Miss DOOLAN: My question is of the Treasurer, Minister for Home Ownership and Minister for Energy. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering more options for home ownership in Queensland, and is the Treasurer aware of any policies that saw home ownership ripped away from Queenslanders under a decade of decline?

Mr JANETZKI: I thank the honourable member for the question. She is part of a generation that, under those opposite, lost hope in ever owning their own home. After a long decade of the former Labor government, a generation of the ilk of the member for Pumicestone lost hope. We are doing everything in our power to get the dream of home ownership back onto the agenda for young people in this state. I listen to the Deputy Premier talking about RAF and LAP and I think about productivity being reintroduced into Queensland, with 458 pages of productivity-enhancing advice from the re-established Productivity Commission. I think about the work we are doing across the board to bring back the dream of home ownership here in Queensland.

Amongst my portfolios is the first ever Minister for Home Ownership, which the Premier brought in so we can send a message to young people that we are caring about their concerns. We have introduced 'rent out a room'. We funded the first home owner grant. At this point in time, we have funded 2,639 people into the first home owner grant. That is what we have done on this side of the House. Our abolition of a tax has now benefited 2,204 Queenslanders: we abolished stamp duty for first home buyers purchasing a new build. That is our record. The first round of our Boost to Buy program is out and is receiving overwhelming demand. I will have a lot more to say about that in coming weeks.

The member asked about the decade of decline. When we took government, we had the lowest home ownership rate in the country, at 63.5 per cent. How did we land there under those opposite? I tell you one thing: they increased taxes on housing eight times—eight times—while they were in government. They never mentioned home ownership unless it was to ridicule us on this side of the House.

The shadow treasurer never mentioned home ownership. The member for Woodridge only mentioned home ownership when he was ridiculing those on this side of the House. In December 2021 he was asked whether he was concerned about people trying to break into the home market and he said, 'No, not at all.' That is what the former treasurer said in Queensland. What did he do in the same MYFER at the end of 2021? He introduced a multijurisdictional land tax, very sneakily. We said that was a renters tax. He introduced a renters tax. That is how much those opposite hate home ownership and what they care so little about. He introduced a renters tax that drove up rents and drove out investment in the middle of a housing crisis, and we are turning it around.

(Time expired)

Child Safety

Mr RYAN: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. After child safety officers discovered that Hayley Malcolm was living with a man in his 40s who 'used her as a sexual object' did the child safety department refer the matter to the Queensland Police Service prior to Hayley Malcolm's tragic death?

Ms CAMM: I thank the member for the question. I want to preface my answer by saying that, with regard to complex cases that impact both Child Safety and police—any frontline agency, I think—we need to be respectful and ensure we have the individual children or adults at the forefront of our thinking in our careful and considered response. As the Attorney-General has confirmed for me, and as the police minister stated, there is a coronial inquiry underway with regard to the specific case those opposite have raised today.

Those opposite, particularly those who have held this portfolio, know that daily, weekly or monthly ministers are informed of critical incidents that, frankly, display the worst of society. That is the reality of this portfolio. What makes the portfolio even more challenging is the established systems in place to protect children and clear legislation in place to protect children. Funding, policy or culture has led to systems failing. While those opposite are raising a particular case that will be dealt with—particularly any system failings or findings will be dealt with through a proper process of—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was clearly about a referral from Child Safety to Police.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you are well aware of the question.

Ms CAMM: I think I have stated but will clarify further that any matters that identify any failings in that system will be dealt with through the coronial inquiry. What I have said and what I will continue to say in this House is that I will not speak about individual matters, about individual children or individuals who are impacted under the Child Protection Act. I will continue with that line until I am no longer the child safety minister. That is the law. I will not come in here and speak about things that I am not allowed to speak about. What I will say, though, is that I welcome anyone from my frontline child safety service contacting my office or my director-general's office with any information they ever come into contact with that they believe should be elevated to our attention.

(Time expired)

Housing Supply

Mr MOLHOEK: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth. How is the Crisafulli LNP government increasing productivity to build more homes, and is the minister aware of any instances where much needed homes were not built during a decade of decline?

Mr O'CONNOR: I thank the member for Southport for his question. I acknowledge him in particular for his advocacy for housing for our most vulnerable Queenslanders. It was great to join the member for Southport at the Southport Supportive Housing Project just a couple of weeks ago where we announced that Mission Australia will be our community housing partner there, and Uniting Care Queensland will be running the services in that really important facility which will provide over 200 social and affordable homes for our most vulnerable.

I contrast the member for Southport's positivity with the disgraceful scare campaigns we see those opposite constantly push. We had the claims around funding for specialist homelessness services which we completely refuted with our budget, which took that 20 per cent uplift all the way out to 29. We had the false statements about crisis accommodation eligibility and claims that single mums and pensioners would be left sleeping rough. They were impartially corrected at estimates. We had most recently the coordinated social media scare campaign around social housing sales, despite the fact that it was the Labor Party that sold 1,960 social homes over their decade of decline. That was a claim I did not even know about until they raised it.

I had some questions on notice recently from one of the former failed housing ministers—the member for Springwood—and he was asking about the Housing Investment Fund. The member reminded me of the fact that the Housing Investment Fund did not deliver a single newly built home in the 3½ years that those opposite were running it. They announced it in June 2021 and, despite all of the announcements, not one single newly built home was opened by those opposite in 3½ years. What were they doing for 3½ years to not open a single newly built home from their centrepiece housing fund?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr O'CONNOR: They are probably interjecting about the homes that the fund did lead to—the 678 existing homes that were purchased from the private market through the Housing Investment Fund. They promised that the fund would deliver 5,600 homes but, because of the appalling way in which they managed it, it fell over 2,200 short of that total. In contrast, in the short time that we have been in government our construction pipeline is at nearly 6,200 social and community homes.

For the member for McConnel's benefit, nearly 3½ thousand of those alone have been contracted since the Crisafulli government came to office—that is not even counting the ones we had under construction. That compares to an average of just 509 that were delivered by the former Labor government during their decade of decline. We are on track to deliver 2,000 social and community homes a year—four times what Labor could manage.

(Time expired)

Child Safety Commission of Inquiry

Mr MILES: My question is to the Attorney-General. Can the Attorney confirm if she reduced the time of the Child Safety Commission of Inquiry by six months to protect the Minister for Child Safety and the child safety department?

Mr SPEAKER: I will take some advice.

Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Mr SPEAKER: That was a clear accusation and imputation. I am going to rule it out of order.

First Nations, Housing

Mr BAILLIE: My question is to the Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering housing options for all Queenslanders, including those in places like Palm Island, and is the minister aware of any approaches that failed during a decade of decline?

Ms SIMPSON: I thank the member for Townsville for his question and for his advocacy on behalf of the Townsville electorate, which includes Palm Island. He has worked hard to deliver for all of his electorate. I particularly want to make mention of the Palm Island Home Ownership Scheme. Mayor Alf Lacey has been visiting this week and working with the member and my colleague the Minister for Housing with regard to delivering this Palm Island Home Ownership Scheme. It has been designed for the community. They are aspirational. They want to break the cycle of not being able to own their own homes. We have been working with them to design a rent-to-buy program. This program will help them to meet their aspirations of owning a home and having secure housing that they will be able to pass on to their children. Let's compare and contrast that, though, with Labor.

Ms Enoch interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Algeester.

Ms SIMPSON: They focused on spending money on lawyers and consultants, particularly in Brisbane—far removed from those who are sometimes the most vulnerable. The dream of owning a home for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families was disappearing under Labor, and life got worse. The question from the member for Townsville is a good one because, when we compare and contrast our scheme with Labor's decade of decline, we see that they were filling the pockets of Brisbane-based lawyers—a lawyer's picnic. They simply did not look at the aspirations of the most vulnerable or deliver the housing solutions they wanted to see. We are addressing something that they see as aspirational and also a primary need: having access to housing. The legacy of Labor's decade of inaction is their failure to meet the Closing the Gap targets with regard to housing, including crowded housing, for our First Peoples. In Queensland that is Labor's legacy of their inaction.

Since November 2024 a total of 45 new houses, one extension and 20 new land lots have been completed across all Indigenous housing programs. The 2025-26 budget has \$182.2 million across all programs to continue to deliver more homes, more extensions and more land lots.

Ms Enoch interjected.

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

Ms SIMPSON: I am pleased that, along with the Minister for Housing and my colleagues in the Crisafulli government, we are making significant progress on the Palm Island Home Ownership Scheme, in collaboration with the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council. We are on track to finalise the first participants in this scheme. They are aspirational. They want a fair go. We are working with them to see them thrive with a better future.

(Time expired)

Fuel Security, Ethanol Mandate

Mr KATTER: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. In 2015 the LNP proposed an ethanol mandate to improve fuel security. Given the current fuel crisis, will the Premier advise if this is the current government's policy, and will he take steps to immediately implement a robust ethanol mandate to enable our farmers to grow our own fuel?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the honourable member for the question and for raising a really important issue. At the moment, fuel security is front and centre of everyone's minds. The reason is that there is great uncertainty. I particularly point to the fact that there is so much uncertainty for the member's constituency. I know that in an electorate like Traeger fuel is everything. It is absolutely everything. It is everything for the mining industry and for the agricultural sector, and we have to do everything we can to secure a long-term future.

I make this point to the honourable member: in whatever format it takes, this state needs to get back to doing what it used to do in years gone by—in an era when we were prepared to dream big—and start developing new frontiers, like in Taroom. I say to those opposite today that they have a choice: are they prepared to back new opportunities to go and explore in places like Taroom or will they continue to kowtow to the green movement? Will they continue to say one thing in Brisbane and yet say another thing about fuel security? Will they continue to attack the mining industry to keep the member for Maiwar happy?

What are they prepared to do? Are they prepared to invest in opportunities and remove planning frameworks so that people can get on and do things like refine again? Are they prepared to see that? Are they prepared to see opportunities? Are they prepared to remove barriers so that people can store more fuel? Are they prepared to do that or will they continue to have layer upon layer of bureaucracy?

Mr Mellish interjected.

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

Mr CRISAFULLI: I say to the honourable member: we will do everything we can to ensure Canberra knows that this place is open for business. We will do everything we can to ensure we raise this as an issue. I say to the honourable member: we were prepared to raise this when others were not. When it was first called out by the Treasurer and energy minister and by the Deputy Premier, they were lambasted and criticised by the shadow energy minister. We were right, and I say to the honourable member that we should look at all of the opportunities to ensure energy in this state and in this nation is plentiful. The country that we all grew up in is one that we should return to—where we are prepared to drill, where we are prepared to refine, where we are prepared to store and where we are prepared to look after our sovereignty.

Sporting Events

Mrs STOKER: My question is to the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. How is the Crisafulli LNP government supporting the long-term future of major sporting events in Queensland, and is the minister aware of any approaches that lost opportunities during a decade of decline?

Mr MANDER: I thank the member for the question. She is a member who will benefit from future sporting events because of the legacy we will be leaving with the infrastructure we are building for the games in 2032. These games are all about setting us up for the future, to make sure we have infrastructure that can stage world-class sporting events and entertainment events, whether it is Barlow Park in Cairns; whether it is Rocky rowing, which will be a permanent infrastructure feature there; whether it is the equestrian centre at Toowoomba; whether it is the new stadium at Victoria Park; whether it is the QTC, the new tennis centre; whether it is the whitewater rafting at Redlands; or whether it is the arena on the Gold Coast, the arena on the Sunshine Coast and the arena in Brisbane. They will all benefit us in the future when it comes to world-class sporting and entertainment events.

This is in contrast to those opposite, who are all about temporary infrastructure. They were going to have a drop-in hockey centre at Ballymore. They were going to have a drop-in pool at the Brisbane arena. They were going to have a drop-in athletics stadium at QSAC, with a \$1.4 billion temporary overlay. They were not worried about legacy infrastructure; they were worried about politics and they had 1,200 days of chaotic decision-making.

The member also asked me about lost opportunities. This is very important. The dithering that took place at the Gabba—it was going to be a \$1 billion project, then \$2.4 billion, then \$3.4 billion—and the chaos associated with that meant that the Gabba was wiped out from the cricket agenda for the next five or six years. For the next five or six years we were going to lose all of those opportunities. What happened this week? Cricket Australia announced its games for 2026 and 2027 and there is no test at the Gabba. For the first time in living memory there will be no test at the Gabba. Forget the first test. There will be no test at all! Then when the media went to the Leader of the Opposition he did what he does best: he misled Channel 7 and he misled the people of Queensland when he blamed this government, knowing full well that that decision was made well before the election because of the chaotic decision-making by the opposition leader.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There are only 11 seconds on the clock, but I could not hear the minister. Most of the noise was coming from my right.

Mr MANDER: That is now why the tourism minister and I as sports minister are busily working with Cricket Australia to clean up their mess to make sure we have test cricket back at the Gabba.

(Time expired)

Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

Ms GRACE: My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier advise why he approved leave for the Minister for Child Safety to go on an African safari 26 days after the tragic death of Hayley Malcolm and her unborn child?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the honourable member for the question, but I will make a point: someone who purports to have a degree from another country should not be asking questions about someone visiting one.

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence and ask him to withdraw.

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

Mr CRISAFULLI: I withdraw. I sense that I understand what this is about. This is about the honourable member trying to stitch up a person three to her right who left to go to Splendour in the Grass in the middle of a child safety crisis. That is what I sense this is really about. That is what this is about. The opposition are a complete and utter rabble at the moment. They are a mess. Let me assist the Deputy Premier: there are more cracks than a day 5 pitch at Hyderabad. That is what we are seeing over there.

Mr Bleijie: But he's the nightwatchman!

Mr CRISAFULLI: Got that.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, there are a couple of things. Obviously you heard the question, so you know what the question was. It would really help if you were to address your comments through the chair instead of to various parts of the chamber.

Mr CRISAFULLI: The one thing I will say about this minister here is that the way she has approached transparency and decency in managing a very difficult portfolio is something I am really proud of. She found out—

Mr Miles interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: The member for Murrumba is running out of credibility upstairs with all the fake campaigns, isn't he? He is running out of credibility with all the fake campaigns.

Ms Fentiman: A child died.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I take the interjection—a child did die and you went on holidays. I take the interjection from the honourable member. Children under her watch died and she did go on a holiday. I want to bring this back as I want to say something. When children in care are dealt a situation like that, it is something we should all pause and reflect on. It is something we should all be deeply remorseful for.

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

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, the point of order was on relevance. The question was about leave, if you could come to that in the 39 seconds remaining.

Mr CRISAFULLI: The way this minister has contrasted herself to the last five ministers—who were underhanded, who were sneaky, who refused to front up, who refused to accept responsibility—is a breath of fresh air. I say to those opposite: her work is fixing up the mess you created.

Sporting Events

Mr BOOTHMAN: My question is to the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation. Can the minister explain how the Crisafulli LNP government is securing Queensland's place as the events capital of the country, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches during a decade of decline?

Mr POWELL: I thank the member for Theodore for the question. It is actually a question that has got me a bit fired up—and I want to follow on from the contribution of the member for Everton, the Minister for Sport—because it goes to the heart of just how those opposite lost interest in the things that Queenslanders love. We all know in this House that the Premier is a mad cricket fan, the Treasurer is a mad cricket fan, the Minister for Sport is a mad cricket fan, the Minister for Youth Justice is a mad cricket fan, the member for Gympie and I are mad cricket fans—the Deputy Premier not so much but that is all right.

Mr Bleijie: But I know a nightwatchman when I see one!

Mr POWELL: I take that interjection.

Mr Bleijie: He is the nightwatchman. That is the opposition leader.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr POWELL: I do take that interjection from the Deputy Premier: he knows a nightwatchman when he sees one.

Mr SPEAKER: Once again, Minister, the noise is coming from over that side.

Mr POWELL: I apologise for getting them so worked up, Mr Speaker. Cricket fans right across this state absolutely love a Gabba test, but this week they woke up to news that they never thought they would see. For the first time in half a century there will be no test match at the Gabba—no first ball, no packed stands, no roar of the crowd when the Aussies take a wicket. Queenslanders know exactly who to blame.

The Leader of the Opposition might do what he does—misleads, misinforms and tries not to talk about his record—but the *Courier-Mail* called it out: ‘Dithering and decay cost Gabba a test’. There have been years of indecision, years of backflips and years when Labor simply could not make a call on what they were going to do about the Olympic and Paralympic Games venues. While other states upgraded their structures and while other governments fought over major events, Labor dithered and Labor delayed and Queensland, as a result, lost. As the member for Everton said, because of the dithering, because of the delay, Cricket Australia could not put a test match at the Gabba. They had no certainty; well, Mr Speaker, I can assure you that they now have.

Under the leadership of the Premier and Deputy Premier and with our 2032 Delivery Plan and the building of a new stadium at Victoria Park, we have given certainty back to Cricket Australia. They can come back to the Gabba in the meantime. As the Minister for Sport said, we are busy working with them to ensure test matches come back to the Gabba sooner than they ever would have under those opposite. In the meantime, we will take the sport to Mackay and we will take the sport to the Gold Coast, but in the end cricket will return to where it is meant to be—Brisbane at the Gabba and then at the new Victoria Park stadium.

Child Safety

Ms SCANLON: My question is to the Attorney-General. Will the Attorney-General reverse her decision to reduce the Child Safety Commission of Inquiry by six months to ensure it can investigate the child safety department and the tragic death of Hayley Malcolm?

Mr SPEAKER: Attorney-General, you have two minutes to respond.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: That is typical of the former Labor government that thought it was okay to leave children in a system that was set up by them and clearly failing because of a decade of decline under them. We will let the death of that poor girl, may she rest in peace, be investigated through the coronial investigation system—as it should. We will get to the bottom of what those failed child safety ministers did. We will not let children be failed by their system for one minute longer than we need to.

Mr Dick: You can't handle the truth.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection. I will tell that member a bit about the truth.

Mr Langbroek: Pure misogyny.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Pure misogyny; I take that interjection as well.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Woodridge, I find your comments unparliamentary and unhelpful. I ask that you withdraw.

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

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. I would like to let this House know of the findings in the *In Plain Sight* report. Let me remind those opposite about the failures under them. The report said this about the former Labor government: 11 per cent of children suffered sexual abuse, 46 per cent of children were physically abused, 83 per cent of children suffered emotional abuse and 88 per cent of children were neglected under those opposite. They want us to delay? That is what a former Labor government would do. We will deliver for the children of Queensland because that is what a good government would do. Shame on them to think it is okay to leave children in a system that failed them under all of those failed child safety ministers.

(Time expired)


Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired. Will those leaving the chamber please do so quietly.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 24 March (see p. 724), on motion of Mr Bleijie—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (3.43 pm): I rise to support the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The safety and workplace conditions of Queenslanders are very important and we are committed to legislating conditions to stop organisations from committing injustice. That includes the CFMEU, whose methods of operation, as has been revealed at the commission of inquiry, include thuggery and a business model of bullying and intimidation, and whose outcomes do not contribute to workplace health and safety, especially on construction sites.

As a former shadow minister for the Olympic Games I want to point out that these issues involving the CFMEU were ongoing throughout the entire period of the last government. Over nine years, eight months and 26 days they let the CFMEU basically run the show. I saw that in 2016-17 in terms of the Commonwealth Games when there were rolling stoppages at the Parkville Commonwealth Games Village site and the Carrara sports and recreation project on the Gold Coast. I table an article from Lucille Keen titled 'Union threatens delays on Commonwealth Games site', which states that they were holding two-hour meetings that were subsequently ruled by the courts to be inappropriate.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Australian Financial Review*, dated 2 June 2016, titled 'Union threatens delays on Commonwealth Games site' [391].

Another article I am going to refer to states—

The Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union unlawfully and intentionally held up work at a \$126 million Gold Coast Commonwealth Games site for three weeks in 2016, a Federal Court judge has found.

Justice John Reeves found the construction union intentionally held two-hour meetings twice a day over 17 days in May 2016 "so that minimal work was performed" at the Carrara Sports Precinct.

It was done in a bid to coerce contractor Hansen Yuncken into signing a new enterprise agreement.

I table a copy of that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Australian Financial Review*, dated 24 February 2017, titled 'Judge rules against CFMEU on Games site' [392].

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Minister, would you pause for a moment, please. There is too much noise in the chamber.

Mr LANGBROEK: My point is that the bill that has been brought to the House by the Deputy Premier deals with issues we have heard ventilated by many members from our side of the House about the inappropriate actions of the CFMEU over a long period of time. Of course it was BPIC, Best Practice Industry Conditions, which drove up the cost of projects I had to revisit. For example, at Springfield state high a project was shelved because of the increased costs of BPIC. We are going to deliver that, but we have obviously had to redo it now that BPIC has been removed. Importantly, these are issues that the CFMEU and those opposite refused to accept. It is clear that we needed to deal with those issues, and that is what we are doing in this bill.

I also note that we are going to be watching the Glasgow Commonwealth Games in the next couple of months because Victoria gave them up, no doubt in no small part due to the increasing demands of the CFMEU in relation to the construction they were going to have to do in Victoria for the 2026 Commonwealth Games. The quote from former premier Daniel Andrews was that the costs were going to be some billions of dollars. It is a matter of public record that it was the CFMEU and their demands that led Victoria to say they were giving up the games, which is terrible for our international and their national reputation, and that was all because of the CFMEU.

I also want to address comments made by the member for Bulimba in criticising the process this government has undertaken in making legislative changes, and I am speaking specifically about JCU. The member opposite reduced it to a four-point tick-the-box process. The naivety in her statement is reflective of her failings as a former education minister. She not only produced zero legislative changes; the member for Moggill, the Leader of the House, will remember that the only attempt at some sort of legislative change the honourable member made was to home education, and that was met with so much resistance it had to be shelved, so it was a disaster by the former education minister.

I want to deal with specific changes regarding amendments made to the James Cook University Act. The member for Bulimba criticised the lack of evidence supporting this amendment, so I table a submission from the Queensland Council of Unions to the committee in 2017, when the previous Labor government weakened the act to allow for the dual model of governance. It states—

... it [is] reasonable to say the union movement would oppose any dilution of governance structures at JCU or any other university. It further states—

It is also feasible that a reduction in governance structures is counter-productive to open and transparent operation of universities. I table that submission.

Tabled paper: Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee: Report No. 38, 55th Parliament—University Legislation and Amendment Bill 2017, Submission No. 4 [393].

I will read another quote from that submission. It states—

QCU submits there should be greater scrutiny and transparency of universities rather than less.

At the most recent meeting of state and territory education ministers and the federal minister, Jason Clare, who is setting up a Tertiary Education Commission, the operations of universities were clearly under the microscope—whether that be vice-chancellor remuneration, sexual harassment and attacks on campus, or underpayment of staff. Those issues are not as relevant for Queensland's seven universities, as I have stated, but we do want uniformity amongst our universities. These changes are clearly about bringing uniformity to James Cook University because this is the only university institution in this state with this model, and the subsequent council composition is also largely an anomaly. These legislative changes are bringing the governance back into line with the rest of the state, with improved oversight and input from appropriate council members.


I want to draw attention to a contribution from Mr Michael McNally, the Queensland Division Secretary of the National Tertiary Education Union, to a 2017 public hearing. He stated—

In summary, the proposals reflect an ideological corporate model that does not fit with universities' missions or structures and there has been no evidence provided to show that they do.

I quote Dr John Martin from the Queensland Council of Unions at the same session. He stated—

It is our view that for universities which are publicly owned there should be no weakening of external observation of their governing bodies. We do not believe that would serve the public interest to reduce that level of representation.

As the House can see, the former failed Labor education minister not only ignored two union organisations but also ignored the evidence that the changes they were making were ill-conceived. The proposed amendments will normalise JCU's council with the rest of the state and it will also align with national reforms that, as I have mentioned, strengthen the governance and oversight of universities. I am advised that the amendments for during consideration in detail have been recirculated to correct a typographical drafting issue. I urge members to support the amendments to strengthen the governance and oversight of an important education institution in our state.

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (3.51 pm): It is interesting to hear the education minister castigating the member for Bulimba for ignoring union organisations. When you look at the guts of this bill, it seems like the government completely and utterly ignored union consultations, but I will get to that in a minute.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Greenslopes, one of those words you just uttered has been deemed to be unparliamentary. Could you withdraw it and continue, please?

Mr J KELLY: I withdraw. Once again, I stand in this chamber with other Labor members on this side of the House to fight for the rights of working people. We know that if we are going to reach that light on the hill we need to continue to empower working people. We know that to get to that light on the hill women need to be empowered, and if they are empowered then our society is empowered. We know that First Nations people need justice and the capacity for self-determination. We know that people who arrive here as migrants and refugees will make massive contributions to a fair and just society if they are welcomed, supported and not vilified or targeted for a few cheap political votes.

We know that young people need to be educated and empowered, not denigrated. We know that people with disabilities can lead full lives and make a massive contribution with support. We know that the LGBTIQ community must be supported and empowered. Labor members know that we are only going to get to that light on the hill if we all get there together. Once again, I stand in this House opposing an LNP attack on the rights of working people. At the core of this bill is an attack on the safety of working people. The LNP is cynically using the behaviour of the CFMEU to attack all working people, and that is simply not acceptable.

In this country and in this state, when we have found corruption, maladministration or criminal behaviour in any institution—be it banks, churches, scouting groups, sporting clubs, schools, political parties, the military—we have not attempted to use this to destroy these institutions or seriously damage their reason for existence. We have dealt with the core of that problem. However, the LNP and the Deputy Premier just cannot help themselves. They will use any excuse to mount the sorts of attacks contained in this bill on working people.

The Crisafulli LNP government—despite its claims of being a calm and methodical government, despite its claims of being a government that is open and transparent—has once again failed to consult key stakeholders about the changes relating to workplace health and safety in this bill. I can only assume that, as we head to the consideration in detail of this section, the LNP will do one of two things. They will once again ram through some significant amendments with no time for proper consultation or debate, or they will shut down any meaningful opportunity for Labor to put forward any amendments and debate those. In either case, this makes their claims about being calm, methodical, open and transparent completely false.

Labor knows how important the role of health and safety representatives and entry permit holders is to workplace safety. I know that because I have done both roles. Labor knows that the things being cancelled by this legislation would have made workers safer. When we were in government, Labor rightly considered this an important addition to the toolkit of workers and their representatives in the vital work of making Queensland workers safer. It is a reasonable and necessary way to obtain information that may not be available through the usual employer and workplace channels or where an employer's records may be inaccessible or access is refused.

More importantly, these provisions would have provided an avenue to gain essential safety information in the event of employers refusing to meet their obligations to provide information, instead of being required to lodge an application with the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. These rights, therefore, go to the fundamental rights of workers in relation to safety—the right to know of a risk or hazard in a workplace and to cease work until it is rectified.

I speak to this from some degree of personal experience. I once had a group of junior doctors in a pathology lab at the Princess Alexandra Hospital who were being forced to work in a malfunctioning fume cabinet where they were exposed to formaldehyde, which is a very dangerous gas that you should not be exposed to. They all knew what impact formaldehyde would have on them because they were highly educated people who had studied this very thing. When we approached management and said, 'We believe this fume cabinet is broken,' management refused to work with us and refused to give us any information or do any testing. The only recourse we had in that situation was to rightly walk those workers off the job. That set back anatomical pathology in this state for several weeks, but we were right because that was a very dangerous situation.

The amazing thing about the rollback on this reform is that it had not even started yet. We heard during the committee process that stakeholders—including the QCU, the QNMU, which is my union, and the SDA—spoke up strongly against the LNP's proposed removal of section 52 the WHSOLA Act as a further example of this government's attacks on workers and their representatives. This comes on top of the changes the government has already made requiring workplace health and safety permit holders to provide 24 hours notice to access sites.


These combined changes will make every worker in Queensland less safe. They could lead to injury and death. I would urge all members of this House to ignore the hysterical rantings of the Deputy Premier and his patently obvious pathological hatred of working people and their democratically run industrial unions. Instead, listen to the voices of workers on these changes and do not let them go through. Labor will never give up on the fight for workers' rights and we will keep working towards that light on the hill.

I want to take a few moments to talk about some amendments that have been tabled. I congratulate the government because I think this is the first time in a year that we have had amendments tabled with enough time to consider them and discuss them in a debate. When I read through the commentary that is going on behind these amendments, I can only refer to them as the Sky News amendments. It seems the minister has reacted to a bit of Sky News. I know that lots of members on that side love Sky News. Let me be very clear for the four people watching Sky News tonight, including the member for Oodgeroo as she relives those glory days of being on Sky News: all the furore on Sky News was about changing the name of James Cook University. This is a university I am very familiar with because I grew up on campus there. I spent my high school years living on campus because my parents ran St Paul's boarding college.

This furore is all about changing the name of James Cook University. I have looked through this and I have looked through the explanatory notes, and I cannot find anything that will prevent that from happening. I say to the four people who are watching Sky News tonight, including the member for Oodgeroo, that you are going to be very disappointed because what we clearly have here is a minister who is attempting to seem like they are doing something to placate those people who are concerned about this.

I think James Cook is someone we should respect and someone whose contribution we should think about in historical terms. However, I also do not resile from the significant impacts and damage that colonialism has had on First Nations people in this country. I think to deny that and to ignore that is problematic in the extreme. I also do not ignore the fact that since James Cook there have been many worthy people we could similarly think about naming great institutions after. I think about Townsville and I think about one great name and that is Mabo, who was heavily associated with the community of Townsville. That is a name perhaps that we should consider. However, I do not want to get into that. My point is that this bill and these amendments have absolutely nothing to do with that and have no bearing on that.

I say the government should put these amendments through so we can have a look at them. Let's have a debate about them. Let's have a discussion about them. However, they should not go out there and try to fool the people that they are trying their right-wing dog-whistle politics—that they are actually doing something here that they are not—because they are not doing anything. They are playing around with some governance that will have zero bearing and impact on the decision that the council of the James Cook University may or may not make. If they want to do that, they should bring in some amendments that deal with that. They should not go out there in the public and try to fool and try to con people that they are actually doing something they are not. All this is doing is playing around with the governance of the council. From my perspective and the perspective of every member of this House, we are sick and tired of amendments being jammed through that we have had no time to debate. We are happy to see this, but let's be honest: the government cannot just con the people of Queensland. If they really cared about that issue they would bring in amendments that actually deal with that issue. These amendments certainly have nothing to do with that.

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (4.00 pm): The member opposite is someone who supposedly fights for workers, but I heard very little about workers and a lot more about the LNP, but I digress. I rise to speak in strong support of the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, a bill that puts Queensland workers first, restores common sense to our workplaces and strengthens genuine safety protections right across our state. This is the Crisafulli government delivering on our promise to keep Queenslanders safe on the job while getting our construction industry working efficiently again.

In my electorate of Thuringowa and right across Townsville city, these balanced changes cannot come soon enough. As we consider the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 let me be clear: safety must remain the single most important factor guiding every decision we make. Electricity is an invisible but unforgiving force. One small oversight, one outdated regulation or one moment of complacency can result in devastating injuries, tragic loss of life or catastrophic fires that destroy homes and businesses in an instant. This bill is not introduced for the sake of merely updating rules. It is about putting people first by strengthening standards for installation, maintenance and inspection of electrical systems across Queensland. It demands higher accountability from contractors, better training for workers and clearer protections for families and communities. When we prioritise safety above convenience, above cost and above political expediency, we send a powerful message: every Queenslander deserves to live and work in an environment where electrical hazards are minimised and human life is valued most of all.

At the heart of this bill is a clear and practical focus on worker safety. The former Labor government introduced changes that would have given union officials virtually unfettered access to every enforcement notice the regulator ever issued going back decades. We are repealing section 155A of the Work Health and Safety Act. This restores balance so the regulator can focus squarely on protecting workers rather than being drawn into unnecessary workplace disputes or information-gathering exercises. Those opposite have been vocal in their opposition, claiming the repeal undermines workers' rights and weakens safety, yet the very laws they defend risk turning historical safety data into a tool for division rather than prevention. We believe real safety comes from a regulator that acts independently and fairly, not from handing unions unrestricted access to decades-old records that could be used to target employers or disrupt sites. This repeal brings Queensland back into line with every other state and territory. Labor's changes were an outlier that risked undermining the safety culture we all support.

The evidence supports this measured approach. The State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee recommended the bill be passed. Industry bodies such as Master Builders Queensland, Civil Contractors Federation Queensland and Master Electricians Australia have welcomed the changes, highlighting the need to restore productivity while maintaining strong safety standards onsite. As Rob Maroney from Master Builders noted—

This provides a platform for productivity to start to return to worksites in Queensland ...


Kristian Marlow from the Civil Contractors Federation emphasised that safety includes psychological safety and personal privacy of workers. Matthew Duncan from Master Electricians described it as 'an important step towards restoring proportionality, accountability and efficiency'. These are practical steps that support the men and women on the tools—the electricians, carpenters and labourers—in Thuringowa and Townsville who simply want to do their job safely and return home to their families each day.

The bill also delivers important improvements to our electrical safety framework, the very rules that protect every home, school, business and worksite from the deadly risks of faulty wiring and unsafe electrical equipment. We are clarifying the powers for electricity entities to issue defect notices—a practice they have carried out safely and effectively for over 20 years. We are modernising the regulator's powers to ban unsafe electrical equipment by moving them into the act itself with clear time limits, greater transparency and stronger safeguards. These commonsense measures will ensure the Electrical Safety Act continues to eliminate the human cost of electricity related deaths and injuries. In North Queensland when cyclones, storms and extreme heat constantly test our infrastructure, strong electrical safety standards are essential for protecting workers and our wider community.

It cannot be clearer to Queenslanders: the former Labor government handed the CFMEU the keys to the kingdom. In March 2024 they rammed through laws that gave union officials, including the CFMEU entry permit holders, virtually unfettered access to every enforcement notice the regulator ever issued going back decades—no limits, no safeguards, no fees, just a blank cheque for the CFMEU to weaponise safety data against any employer or worker who dared to stand up to them. Their own minister at the time dressed it up as 'strengthening the rights of health and safety representatives'. What absolute rubbish! What it actually did was open the floodgates to aggressive, intrusive and obstructionist conduct—exactly the tactics the CFMEU has used to terrorise workers and worksites across Queensland.

There were 10 years of Labor enabling the CFMEU, 10 years of looking the other way while productivity tanked and workers suffered. Now even in opposition they still cannot bring themselves to put Queenslanders ahead of their union mates. This bill is a clear test for the Labor opposition: do they back the safety of Queensland workers and the productivity of our construction industry or will they continue to enable the CFMEU's culture of bullying and standover tactics? If they vote against this bill the message to every family in Thuringowa and Townsville is loud and clear: nothing has changed. They have not learnt a thing. If they ever crawl back into government it will be straight back to the bad old days: more harassment, more delays, more fear on our worksites.

This bill strikes the right balance. It strengthens genuine safety protections for workers, restores fairness and proportionality on worksites, and ensures our laws focus on getting every Queensland home safely at the end of their day without unnecessary disruption or conflict. The Crisafulli government is delivering practical reforms that protect workers, support productivity and keep safety at the centre of everything we do. I commend this bill to the House.


 **Hon. FS SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism) (4.08 pm): It is a pleasure to speak on this Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. I also note the amendments with regard to James Cook University that are being moved to bring about governance and integrity in the oversight of that institution. It is vital that we have robust systems that are based on integrity that are, in fact, best practice. I believe that the amendments that are being brought forward will achieve that and are also to be supported. Let's talk about this particular piece of legislation and the current environment. We have a situation where there is a global impact with regard to energy in terms of our fuel supplies and the war in the Middle East, which has really brought home why our nation needs sovereign capability regarding energy supply.

I firstly want to call it out that the federal government has a responsibility to ensure it is dealing with fuel security on a national basis, but the Crisafulli government was raising this issue before it was being raised by our federal politicians because we knew that it mattered the length and breadth of our state. That is why we are very strongly supporting not only a national response but also the need to ensure that anticompetitive behaviour and any price gouging is dealt with by the ACCC.

With regard to the way the CFMEU has operated in Queensland, there should be no more protection racket from the Labor Party. It should be a case of it recognising that this law needed to be reset not only for worker safety but also to ensure there was no coercion and bullying closer to the behaviour of the old mafia that was being allowed to happen legally under Labor, and it had to be addressed. This legislation is about resetting the balance—worker safety first, not coercion and bullying by the likes of the CFMEU and those of its ilk. This was an overreach of a previous Labor government that was more intent on paying the piper: its thugs in the extreme labour union movement. There is a place for unions to do their job; however, the CFMEU was in fact threatening its own workers and anybody who spoke about the way they were being treated.

We should not forget the misogyny—the way it was attacking women. When I see the flag across the road saying ‘CFMEU Women’, a flag allegedly in support of women in the CFMEU—boy, it is a weird world because it has been appalling with its behaviour not only against women in the workforce but also against men whose partners were being threatened with rape, intimidation and physical harm. That is why there has to be a reset of legislation—to get the balance right so that that bullying, that thuggery and that appalling criminal behaviour is never again accepted and is not aligned to government to look the other way the way it happened under Labor. We are fixing the legislation. We are also fixing the culture so that it is about workplace safety and it is about people’s right—whatever their politics—to be safe at work and to get home safely with a legislative framework so that the regulator and those who act in this space are looked after.

I also want to give a shout-out to the Minister for Natural Resources for the outstanding work he has done with regard to our sovereign capability with the announcement of new approvals to explore gas, petroleum and coal. It is outstanding and it is in contrast to what the Labor Party did, where approvals did not even make it to a point where the minister in the Labor government would make a decision. It is a dramatic contrast because, while there is an international crisis with fuel supply and energy at the moment, sovereign capability was not addressed by the previous Labor government. We are cracking on with it because it needs to occur. I speak in strong support of the need for that sovereign capability going forward for the national response to the fuel crisis but also with regard to ensuring that all workers are safe and that this legislation before the House is supported.

 **Mr VORSTER** (Burleigh—LNP) (4.13 pm): Today I rise in strong support of the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. Before making my contribution I want to closely associate myself with the contribution made by the member for Mermaid Beach. I did not know the story that was shared by the member and it just underscored to me why it is so very important that we take firm action to avoid unnecessary trauma by insisting on the absolute highest possible standards of electrical safety. As the member for Townsville mentioned in his contribution, electrical systems are often hidden from view. They are subject to all sorts of stressors, weathering and damage which might create latent risks and then in a moment it can all be over. I extend my deepest sympathies to the member for Mermaid Beach.

I also make a contribution as somebody who joined a family business that manufactured home automation equipment and underfloor heating systems. When I joined that business it was my role to design and specify electrical underfloor heating systems. One of the deep concerns I had was that we, as an Australian business, were taking the time to adhere to the prevailing standards, but all too often there would be products imported into this country not necessarily adhering to Australian and New Zealand Standards. I am not suggesting that those other products created an electrical safety risk, but when you fail to meet the best practices in Australian and New Zealand Standards you do create unnecessary risks. Therefore, I am very proud to be part of a government that raises the bar and ensures that products connected to our grid are safe.

One of the reasons I am also proud to stand up in support of this bill is to address something raised by the minister and member for Maroochydore, and that is to call out the fact that the CFMEU is Australia’s mafia. On countless occasions in this House I have called it out as one of Australia’s most successful criminal enterprises. I say ‘successful’ not just because of the millions and millions of dollars it raises in revenue from its long-suffering members—money that it pushes through the coffers of the Queensland Labor Party; I think over \$100,000 at the 2020 election—but because it has managed to exert a gobsmacking amount of control over the Queensland Labor Party.

It really concerns me that we have not heard from those opposite an unequivocal backing of this legislation that can rein in militant unions like the CFMEU, because it makes me worry that if ever there is a change of government we will see a return to the bad old days—bad old days that create material risks for worker safety. Those opposite have stood up and talked a big game and have preached about how they stand up for workers’ rights, but I am reminded of an incident in 2022, I believe, when the


CFMEU stormed a building. I think there were about 200 union representatives. They stormed this building and caused such fear and consternation that public servants from the Department of Transport and Main Roads had to cower in a closet to protect their own safety. I just wonder how those opposite can stand up and say with a straight face that they are for the rights of the workers when those working in our Public Service have to cower in closets for their own safety.

The response by the former former premier was absolutely lacking in leadership. She had a moment to stand up and to call out that behaviour and to return the political donations that she had benefited from to send a clear signal that the fortunes of the Queensland Labor Party were decoupled from the fortunes of the CFMEU and she refused to do that, and she refused to take up the very worthwhile suggestion made by our Deputy Premier to forward those donations to an antibullying charity. That is the truth of the matter. Those who support the CFMEU and those who are not firmly committed to this bill are not serious about worker safety, restoring law and order, and making sure that public servants who come to their workplace to serve the public good—to serve the state of Queensland—can do so to the best of their ability to achieve absolute productivity in their workplace.

That is what this bill is ultimately about. It is about worker safety and productivity. Both need to be addressed because if workplaces are not safe, workers will not be enticed into these industries and if workplaces are not productive, then we will compound the challenges that we have in this state—the challenge to build the hospitals we need, the challenge to build the roads that we need and the challenge to build the housing that we need. We know that when those opposite are in government—which means when the CFMEU are in power—it becomes more expensive to do those three things and Queensland cannot afford that expense.

I want to turn briefly to the amendments proposed in this bill that relate to James Cook University, a very fine institution which I had the great pleasure of visiting recently in my capacity as the assistant minister responsible for international student attraction. It is a fine institution, but it is an institution that should adhere to the same governance model as all other institutions. Why? Because the rule of law matters, and there should not be double standards. That is why the amendments related to JCU are actually very closely tied to the bill itself. What we are attempting to do is say that there is no special rule for a union and there is no special rule for one university. The rule of law provides consistency, it provides predictability, it provides fairness and it provides justice. By restoring the rule of law on workplaces and by restoring the rule of law in places of education that create the workforce for the economy we can get Queensland back on track, which is precisely what our community voted for after a decade of decline.

I want to conclude by reflecting on a present challenge which is the energy question. It is a serious issue but we should not miss the opportunity to respond to this crisis. I want to closely associate myself with the contribution made by the Premier today where he talked about a return to a state where we have sovereign capacity to find fuel, to refine fuel and to use fuel for the prosperity of this state. Although we face an extraordinary challenge, we have enormous mineral wealth—hydrocarbon wealth—under our feet. We owe it to the state to extract as much as we can and to make those resources work for the state of Queensland. It is the only way we will avoid long-term energy concerns.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (4.23 pm): I rise today to speak in strong support of the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. At its core, this bill is about restoring some common sense and balance to our workplace laws. The Crisafulli government is focused on improving productivity, strengthening safety and ensuring that Queensland workplaces are respectful and fair for everyone. A big part of that is calling out and addressing behaviour that crosses the line, particularly the kind of systemic bullying and intimidation that Labor allowed to take hold in parts of the construction sector.

This bill is about getting things back on track. It is about ensuring workplace health and safety laws are used for what they were designed, which is keeping people safe, and not used as a tool for pressure or disruption. When you look at what the former Labor government did in 2024, it is hard to see how those changes were ever going to deliver better safety outcomes. Labor's amendments gave union officials very broad access to worksites. In reality, it opened the door to behaviour that many in the industry have described as intrusive, aggressive and at times completely unnecessary. At the time, the then industrial relations minister, the now shadow minister, said these changes would simply help officials do their jobs and reduce disputes, but that does not stack up with what we have heard from people on the ground.

What those changes actually did was create an environment that could be easily misused. They handed organisations like the CFMEU access to sensitive compliance information without proper safeguards, without clear limits and without thinking through the real-world impact on businesses and

workers. That is exactly why this government is acting. This bill repeals those information-sharing provisions before they come into effect, and it is worth being clear about what those provisions would have allowed. Union officials and health and safety representatives would have been able to request detailed enforcement information directly from the regulator. That includes improvement notices, prohibition notices and non-disturbance notices in some cases potentially going back decades.

Most people would ask a pretty simple question: how does trawling through decades-old compliance records make a worksite safer today? The answer is simple: it does not. What it does is create an opportunity to gather information that could be used for other purposes. It creates an opportunity for that information to be used as leverage, to apply pressure or to target businesses. There were no real guardrails around it—no limits on how many requests could be made, no limits on how often and no clear boundaries on how far back those requests could go. It was, in effect, a blank cheque. Not only that, it would have placed a significant burden on the regulator. Every request would need to be reviewed manually to ensure personal or commercially sensitive information was not released. That takes time. It takes resources and it distracts from the regulator's core job. The regulator exists to keep Queenslanders safe; it does not exist to support fishing expeditions or to facilitate ongoing disputes on worksites. That is where the focus should be and that is exactly what this bill restores.

More broadly, this is part of a pattern we saw under the former Labor government. Time and time again they introduced changes that seemed to favour the CFMEU while ignoring the impact on the wider industry. This bill draws a line in the sand. It says clearly that workplace health and safety laws should be about safety. They should not be used as a workaround for industrial leverage or influence. Of course those opposite are now trying to paint this bill as something that it is not. They are trying to suggest that it somehow weakens safety, but that simply does not reflect reality. In fact, the feedback from industry tells us a very different story. The committee that looked at this bill recommended that it be passed and a majority of submitters supported the repeal of these provisions. As Robert Maroney from Master Builders Queensland said—


We also support the passing of this bill. We see it as an opportunity to move back to the model laws in relation to the misuse of power and workplace relations laws in this state by bad actors we have seen in the past. We feel that repealing this part of the amendment from March 2024 is the first step to doing that. This provides a platform for productivity to start to return to worksites in Queensland ...

That is what this is about—getting the balance right. It is about ensuring safety remains the priority while also ensuring laws are not open to misuse. Importantly, the bill also strengthens Queensland's electrical safety framework. It clarifies the ability of electricity entities to use defect notices, it modernises the regulator's power around unsafe equipment and it ensures that those powers are clear, consistent and fit for purpose.

These are practical changes, they are sensible changes, and they are all focused on improving outcomes for Queenslanders. This bill really does come down to a simple choice: a system that prioritises safety, productivity and fairness or a system that enables overreach, misuse and intimidation; backing Queensland workers and businesses or continuing to enable the CFMEU and the culture that has too often accompanied it. Those opposite how have an opportunity to demonstrate that they have learned from their mistakes, to show that they are willing to put the interests of Queenslanders ahead of their longstanding allegiances, but if history is any guide I suspect that they will once again choose to stand with the CFMEU. They will choose to cue the scary music and whip up all sorts of concern and make all sorts of statements about how watering down these laws will impact on people's lives. We will probably hear statements from them such as if it saves one life it will have been worth all of these other pervasive and invasive conditions, that it will be okay to stymie business and hold business back from getting on with the job and creating more work.

Often when I hear those on the non-government benches railing about the LNP I am reminded of Robot from *Lost in Space*—'Warning, warning, warning, Will Robinson'. I am not referring to the modern re-release of *Lost in Space*; I am referring to the old 1970s version, where Robot was always warning about things unnecessarily, was always seeking to create a sense of drama around matters that perhaps did not need that level of attention. That is exactly what we have heard in the debate today and yesterday—lots of warning, lots of great protestations about saving puppy dogs, babies and little children and how it will change lives when at the heart of this legislation is protection for the CFMEU, the thugs who have been holding this state to ransom, the thugs who have prevented Queensland from getting on and delivering housing. We hear Labor talk about standing up for the battlers. What about the battlers who need a roof over their head? What about Queenslanders who need somewhere to live? What about young people who need hope and aspiration? We have seen so much of that stymied because of the behaviour of the previous Labor government over the last decade.

The Crisafulli government, on the other hand, is choosing to stand with Queenslanders. We are getting on with the job and fixing the mess left by Labor after a decade of debt, division and decline—and, I would suggest, also on many occasions deception and deceit. We are restoring integrity to the system, we are backing safer and more productive workplaces and we are making sure the focus stays exactly where it should be: on keeping Queenslanders safe and on delivering a brighter future for Queensland. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Hon. AJ PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (4.33 pm): I rise to speak on the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. The fundamental goal in this bill is to address safety: safety for workers, families, individuals and communities; safety for workers at their workplace; and safety for those who might be affected by the work. The Electrical Safety Act is aimed at eliminating the human cost to individuals, families and the community of death, injury and damage to property that can be caused by electricity. This bill makes a range of amendments to the Electrical Safety Act regarding powers to issue defect notices; prohibiting the sale, installation and use of unsafe electrical equipment; and clarifying the operation of unsafe equipment directions. It also amends the Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024 to remove an additional avenue for health and safety representatives and WHS entry permit holders to request information contained in improvement, prohibition and non-disturbance notices from the regulator.

Too many institutions stray from their core business by pandering to political activism, grievances, culture wars, revisionism of our history and costly woke posturing. The amendments to be moved regarding the James Cook University Council will strengthen governance and increase transparency, accountability, oversight and, ultimately, public trust. Instead of going rogue, JCU needs to get back to its core job of education. It should not indulge in woke agendas such as name changes which demonise one of the world's greatest explorers. It does nothing for education. We are restoring trust in the university.

During the dying months of the former Labor government it introduced changes which allowed health and safety representatives and WHS entry permit holders to request certain information contained in notices. These representatives and permit holders would include members of the CFMEU. These information-sharing laws would have come into effect from 29 March this year. They give unions, including the notorious CFMEU, unfettered access to worksites and powers to seek compliance and enforcement information. The delay in the commencement of the provisions was ostensibly to give the Office of Industrial Relations enough time to operationalise the information-sharing provisions. The explanatory notes reveal that was unachievable. The notes state—

... attempts to operationalise this reform identified insufficient safeguards and an unanticipated administrative burden for the regulator.

Furthermore, the notes state the provision does not prescribe 'limits on the number of requests that can be made, nor specific grounds for making requests' and—

... the process for the regulator releasing this information is not suitable for automating, and all notices requested would need to be manually reviewed to ensure personal information or commercial in confidence information is not unintentionally released.

The notes also state that the provision 'is also not aligned with other states and territories'. The Labor government's provision is clearly open to abuse and exploitation. It is open to exploitation for purposes which are not genuine. It has insufficient safeguards, it has no limit on the number of requests that can be made, it has no specific grounds on which to base the requests and there is no time limit on requests for historical information. It means that information can be gathered on businesses going back decades. In effect, it empowers unions, including those with nefarious intentions, to harass and intimidate employers and workers. It was not about safety for workers. Civil Contractors Federation Queensland policy adviser Kristian Marlow said—

Safety on the worksite is not just about avoiding incidents but also about ensuring the psychological safety and personal privacy of workers. Accordingly, we are supportive of the bill in its entirety

Labor's provision does not protect workers. Despite its protests, we know that Labor has been deeply and historically tied to the CFMEU. This provision was another blank cheque to the CFMEU. The Deputy Premier said in his introductory speech that the former government was more interested in legislating for the benefit of unions and the CFMEU. The laws are proof that the former Labor government approved and backed the CFMEU's business model. Under Labor's decade of decline it turned a blind eye to a business model of bullying and intimidation. If it did not approve their model it would not have tried to give them the power to be able to gather information.

The former Labor government justified these legislative changes by saying they came from the 2022 review of the Work Health and Safety Act. It was a review commissioned by the former Labor government and staffed with Labor appointees. It was straight out of Labor's playbook: commission a

review, stack it with Labor appointees, claim everything is independent and ensure any outcome is designed to entrench power for its supporters. It is not surprising, then, that the review's recommendation suited Labor's agenda and, more importantly, the agenda of its masters, the unions. The then Labor minister, the member for McConnell, claimed Labor's bill 'strengthens the right of health and safety representatives to undertake their job without barriers'. That claim was a euphemism for the rights of thuggish unions to have no barriers. The then minister went on to say—

Registered unions, with well-established eligibility rules, have a recognised interest in regulating the performance of the way in which work is performed within their area of coverage.

They were weasel words intended to empower thuggish unions. It was a gift to the unions that was deliberately conducted before an election. It was dressed up to dupe the electorate—to dupe Queensland workers, families and businesses. The now Deputy Premier, who was the shadow minister at the time, said—

The irony is that we are debating a workplace health and safety law that is about workers' safety and the CFMEU are receiving additional powers to continue their bullying and intimidatory practices on work sites.

During that speech on the electrical safety legislation, during the dying days of the former Labor government, the now Deputy Premier observed—

It all seems very curious and convenient that CFMEU powers and entry permit powers are all being increased just before an election.

The majority of submissions supported the repeal of these laws. The Master Electricians Australia submitted—

The existing unrestricted power is vulnerable to overuse, with no requirement to demonstrate relevance to a specific workplace or incident. Such unchecked access risks misuse and creates unnecessary administrative burden as businesses shift their focus from practical risk management to unwarranted levels of risk management. This could further impede construction productivity ...

The Crisafulli government is committed to restoring productivity and stamping out systemic misconduct and bullying.


Master Builders Queensland general manager of workplace relations, Rob Maroney, said—

Put simply, this piece of legislation is one minor and small step in what we see as a change needed to bring productivity and remove as much as possible the industrialisation of sites away from WHS and keep it in IR and let safety be about safety and proper engagement and support of workers going home safely every day.

Productivity growth is one of the most significant factors for the long-term economic prosperity of this state. It is also a central and crucial factor in determining our standard of living. Kristian Marlow of the Civil Contractors Federation Queensland, said—

Ultimately, productivity will be the tide that lifts all boats in the sector. Productivity drives higher wages, profits and value for taxpayers. It is a win-win-win for businesses, workers and Queenslanders. We commend this bill for driving safety and for helping the Queensland construction industry move towards a more harmonious and productive future.

The reforms of this bill will return productivity to the worksite. They will put the safety of Queensland workers first. These reforms put Queenslanders first. I welcome and support the bill.

 **Mr DILLON** (Gregory—LNP) (4.42 pm): I rise to speak to the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. At the outset, I thank the Deputy Premier. He may not be a lover of cricket, as we have learnt through various contributions he has made here today, but his timing is impeccable, and that is a critical element to being a first-class batsman. Throughout the lengthy debate that we have had on this critical piece of legislation, in terms of productivity we have heard that the harassment and misogyny that was allowed to fester and grow got to a level where the state of Queensland and the individuals who are instrumental in building it could no longer afford or sustain it. The Deputy Premier's timing in terms of his election and his understanding of the implications of section 155A are impeccable because, as bad as it is, worse was still to come. We have heard all manner of contributions that I do not need to replay but if we were not able to repeal this then worse was still to come. Numerous speakers have referenced those groups that strongly support the repeal of section 155, but I will list three of them again: Master Electricians Australia, Master Builders Queensland and the Civil Contractors Federation Queensland. They have been unequivocal in their support for the repeal of section 155.

I want to speak to an earlier contribution that has been referenced by my friend the member for Burleigh. It was the speech given late last evening in this place by the member for Mermaid Beach. Often when we hear contributions in this place from both sides, but in my case particularly from those on this side, we hear a reason legislative change is important or the alternative cannot be stomach. Other than when the member for Capalaba has made contributions during debates on other pieces of

legislation in this place, I have not heard a more heartfelt or touching contribution than that of the member for Mermaid Beach, who spoke of the direct relevance that this legislation has to events that impacted his life and the life of his family. If ever we were to draw a line under the importance of the qualifications of those who speak in support of this legislation then there is no voice in this place that I would give more credit to and stand behind more strongly than that of the member for Mermaid Beach given what he has said on this legislation. He also commented on the amendment to the James Cook University Act and the fact that we will prevent a move towards the woke idealistic vestiges of what was perhaps proposed and canvassed in another place.


I come back to the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. In the state of Queensland, productivity collapsed over the past decade. It did not matter what sector, whether it was construction or agriculture; whether we were looking at road building or civil construction; whether we were looking at building government offices or schools, as we heard from the Minister for Education earlier this afternoon. This has been a broad-ranging debate on the full plethora of issues affecting the entire state of Queensland. Every sector is affected by this. Yesterday the member for Oodgeroo made a wonderful contribution about the need for productivity to be restored to fundamentally underpin the growth of Queensland. We saw BPIC wipe 25 per cent, which is a conservative estimate, off values with a reduction in scope or overrun in budgets as a direct result and that builds.

Think of 25 per cent off billion dollar builds in South-East Queensland and what that money alone could build in my electorate of Gregory or in Hinchinbrook because little dollars build big things in regional Queensland. For a decade we have survived off the crumbs from the Labor table. That was a fraction of the money that has been wasted on BPIC through the hotlines and the welcome mat that the CFMEU received through the then deputy premier and every other ministerial office. All of that assistance—that umbilical cord—no longer exists. However, imagine if we had that money. I cannot wait to speak to another piece of legislation that will come before the House this week regarding the financial waste through sweetheart deals with the unions.

I commend the work of the Deputy Premier and, may I say, the sterling work of the parliamentary committee that had oversight into this, led very ably by my good friend the member for Lockyer. In a partisan parliament this would have been a challenging piece of legislation to chaperone and receive support on, but they did it. The committee made one recommendation that the bill be supported, showing sterling leadership from the member for Lockyer in that respect.

I go back to why this bill is critically important for the future not only from a productivity perspective and all of those things that are very important but also from the human perspective. There is no more fundamentally important reason to stand in this place than to protect human lives. I commend the work that has gone into ensuring that administrative burdens and red tape do not pull back on the practical safety that can be delivered. A number of submissions and a very well written committee report looked very closely at whether section 155 would create such an administrative burden as to affect not only productivity but also real safety outcomes. This affects electricians who go to work every day across the state of Queensland as well as those people who use electrical equipment on the premise that it is safe. We have heard about simple things such as last night when one member mentioned phone chargers not being fit for purpose. We see this, we hear this and we understand it as something that is critical.

Every tenet of this bill supports everything we need to see supported across the state of Queensland, be it productivity or restoring fairness and safety in the workplace, but also understanding that generally with the provision for the James Cook University, we need to restore good governance. We need to pull back from the woke idealism that is capturing certain elements of the media and those people who seek to support things that will effect no real change on both the state of Queensland and educational outcomes at James Cook University. It is a wonderful piece of legislation that gives me great pleasure, as the member for Gregory, to stand in this place and support.

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (4.50 pm), in reply: I want to thank all honourable members for their contributions to the debate over the past two days, but I must say that the lack of Labor Party members speaking to this bill today was noticeable. I was intently watching the television screen. Government members were getting up to speak one after another. I recall yesterday those opposite were in here spending 20 or 30 minutes whingeing that they did not have enough time to speak on the bill, yet when given the opportunity today they just did not want to speak on it.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: The Deputy Speaker did not even have to tell me that the time for the debate was over at 4.50 pm, as per the motion yesterday. The member for Logan could have tried to take the call, but he did not. You did not!

Mr Power interjected.

Dr Rowan interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the honourable Leader of the House: they have run out of things to say. Or maybe they got a call overnight after the honourable shadow minister for industrial relations' speech and said, 'Hey, this isn't going quite how we planned. The strategy we have utilised for the last 10 years coming in here backing the CFMEU is probably not the best strategy for us to keep doing.' It will be interesting how they vote today because we had the shadow minister for IR saying, 'Oh, we support the electrical safety amendments of this bill,' but that is but a small portion of this bill. The majority of the bill is the information sharing with union officials like the CFMEU, and that gets in their grill. That is what they do not want to support, and that is why the shadow minister for industrial relations yesterday was very careful when she said—I think in the last five seconds of her debate—'We don't support those other provisions, but, oh, the electrical safety part is fine.'

We have seen it time and time again. The shadow minister for industrial relations, the member for McConnell, just cannot bring herself to vote against anything to do with the CFMEU. Who are they afraid of? You do not have to be afraid.

Mr Stevens: 'Blocker'!

Mr BLEIJIE: Well, they can't be afraid of Blocker; he has just been booted. Even Blocker has been rolled! I am not sure who they are afraid of getting a call from—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): I have been listening intently and the Deputy Premier has been relevant.

Mr BLEIJIE: I was responding to the member for McConnell's contribution yesterday, which I found entirely irrelevant and was again just CFMEU backing and CFMEU support. They just cannot bring themselves to speak against the entity that created the issues we have seen in Queensland over the last 10 years—that is, the CFMEU.

I want to again thank the committee chair and all of the committee members who did a power of work on this. I want to thank my department, particularly the Office of Industrial Relations. Yesterday I spoke about the courage of the Office of Industrial Relations and the former Workplace Health and Safety inspectorate and current Workplace Health and Safety inspectorate that have gone to the commission of inquiry, stood on the stand and been very brave and courageous in telling their stories of the past 10 years and how no-one in government was listening to them.

The most interesting testimony I heard from the royal commission a couple of weeks ago was that since the LNP government was elected in October 2024 it all seemed to change, and the Office of Industrial Relations and the Workplace Health and Safety inspectorate seemed to have a minister and government that backed them now to do their job independent of the CFMEU. That is why we do what we do. That is why it was so important that we got rid of the former government. If we had had another four years of cosyng up to the CFMEU, who knows where we would be in this state?

As I said, there is no doubt that the last decade saw the development of a growing imbalance in our industrial relations system. Those favoured by the former government prospered, while those without close links to Labor faced difficulties and barriers to progress. The time has come to call a halt to the favouritism and to restore balance in the industrial relations system.

The bill, as honourable members know, repeals the provision introduced by the former government to provide an additional and unnecessary information-sharing pathway. If it had come into effect, this provision would have meant work health and safety entry permit holders and health and safety representatives could request certain information directly from the workplace health and safety regulator. We have heard that this provision is open to misuse and abuse. It will burden the regulator and risk diverting essential resources away from the regulator's core functions. There are already mechanisms in place under the Work Health and Safety Act to help representatives access relevant safety information. The bill repeals this unnecessary information-sharing provision before it comes into effect and brings Queensland back in step with other states and territories.

Both sides of the House agree that the electrical safety amendments in the bill are important for preventing the human cost to individuals, families and the community that can be caused by electricity. Ensuring our electricity entities like Energex and Ergon can continue keeping our community safe by issuing defect notices is essential, and the bill ensures this practice can continue with certainty and transparency. Likewise, confirming the regulator's ability to prohibit the sale, installation or use of unsafe electrical equipment and setting clear grounds to give these directions will further strengthen our robust electrical safety framework.

As the Minister for Education set out in his contribution, the amendments to the James Cook University Act 1997 will ensure its governance structure is consistent with other public university acts. Changing from the current dual-model governance framework to a single fixed legislative framework will increase transparency and public trust through a higher degree of governance visibility and predictability. Transitional arrangements will also ensure the new legislated council composition does not impact on existing council membership terms.

I will begin by reflecting on the unhealthy relationship between the former Labor government and their union allies the CFMEU, although one would be forgiven for looking at the Labor Party and the CFMEU and wondering where the line is even drawn anymore, because they are so alike and had basically a relationship of 'If you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours.' Legislation was changed; donations were made. Legislation was changed; CFMEU got jobs for the mates, particularly Kurt Pauls, who was put into the Work Health and Safety Board.

This is actually quite bizarre. Kurt Pauls was put into the Work Health and Safety Board. He was a CFMEU official who had a list of contraventions of the Workplace Relations Act. The former minister for industrial relations, the member for McConnel, thought it appropriate to put a person with a list of contraventions as long as your arm into the Work Health and Safety Board of Queensland. How could any reasonable person doing due diligence think it appropriate to put someone like that individual onto the Work Health and Safety Board? His contraventions were well and truly listed not only in the courts but also in the Fair Work Commission. But she did. Maybe she can explain herself, because I did not hear her talk about that during her contribution as shadow minister for industrial relations.

Having seen what happened over 10 years with the relationship that developed between the former minister for industrial relations, the member for McConnel, and the CFMEU, what leader would put her back into the position of shadow industrial relations minister?

Mr Stevens: One that needs a vote.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection; yes, someone who needs a vote. He is going to need all he can because I do not think the opposition leader is there for much longer. He is Blocker's boy and he is gone, so who knows what is going to happen?

The point is: it shows a lack of leadership that the opposition leader would put the member for McConnel back in as shadow industrial relations minister when all the evidence coming out of the royal commission into the CFMEU now dates back to her time as industrial relations minister in this state, and I think it is a disgrace.

Labor's Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, which passed in 2024, gave virtually unfettered access by union officials to worksites. It opened the door to aggressive, intrusive and obstructionist conduct. The then industrial relations minister, the current shadow minister, claimed that Labor's amendment simply allowed entry permit holders 'to perform their intended role and functions effectively and minimise the opportunity for dispute'. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The then minister dressed up Labor's bill, saying it 'strengthens the right of health and safety representatives to undertake their job without barriers'. What it did was give a free right of entry under the guise of health and safety. Two years ago I nailed Labor's shabby deal with the CFMEU when I said—and one does not like quoting oneself, but I will—

The irony is that we are debating a workplace health and safety law that is about workers' safety and the CFMEU are receiving additional powers to continue their bullying and intimidatory practices on work sites.

The evidence is clear: the CFMEU has a consistent record of abusing right-of-entry privileges over health and safety matters to disrupt construction, halt work on sites and blacken the name of contractors who will not bow down to union demands. Giving this union access to records of construction companies is to be complicit in a scheme that would allow the union to further its aims of blackmail, intimidation and obstruction. This had nothing to do with worker safety; it had everything to do with promoting the CFMEU's opportunities to harass non-unionised workforces and employers.

Despite what is said in the superannuation advertisements, past performance is an indication of future performance when it comes to the CFMEU. The simple fact is this: if you want to see what the CFMEU will do, look at what they have done. If the opposition does not want to believe what I am saying, they should pay attention to the evidence that is being delivered in the Wood commission of inquiry.

A government member: It's all there.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the honourable member. He said, 'It's all there.' Yesterday, I was viciously attacked by the shadow minister for industrial relations when I made the comment, 'You won't be able to get away with saying that if you're in the dock.'

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence at the phrase 'viciously attacked' and ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. Yesterday, in a robust debate with the shadow minister, I said to the shadow minister, 'You won't be able to get away with that if you're in the dock of the Wood royal commission into the CFMEU.' She replied with words to the effect, 'Be careful what you wish for. You might end up there as well.' I would volunteer. Please! I do not need to be called to give testimony; I will volunteer. In fact, what the shadow minister does not know is I am about to sign off on my submission to the Wood royal commission. I set out the last 10 years. I have set out every time I raised these issues in the parliament. I have set out every time I raised these issues publicly. I am not afraid of being called—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): I am sorry for interrupting you, Deputy Premier. We had an issue with the clock, which was not going, but you may continue.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you. I am happy to reclaim the time. I have been calling out these issues for years. I will make a submission to the Wood royal commission. I say to the shadow minister that I am more than happy to be called to give evidence because I have a lot of it from the last 10 years. The question is: is the shadow minister as excited as I am about being called to give testimony? I do not know. Maybe she is. Knowing what I know about her and her inaction over 10 years, I do not think she would be so excited.

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

Mr BLEIJIE: You cannot get away with this at a royal commission.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, the member for McConnell has taken offence.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. In a royal commission there is the commissioner and the counsel assisting. We design our own destiny in this place. It would be a very courageous former minister who says to the commissioner in a royal commission, 'I take offence at how you're treating me and I ask you to withdraw.' That ain't going to fly in a royal commission. Counsel assisting are not going to play that game, as we do in this House. Who knows? Maybe we will see the member for McConnell on the stand, or maybe not. I am volunteering for it. Hopefully she will as well. I think she should volunteer. Don't wait to be called—just volunteer. If you have a good story to tell, just tell it. I say to the honourable member for McConnell, the shadow minister, that she should proactively engage with the royal commission.

Mrs Nightingale: How about you proactively engage with the topic and be relevant? How about that?

Mr BLEIJIE: Proactively engage with the topic of the bill?

Mrs Nightingale: Yes. Be relevant.

Mr BLEIJIE: It is about the CFMEU and the corruption of the CFMEU—the Labor aligned CFMEU. That is what the bill is about, so I am being relevant.

Mr POWER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I thought we could continue with the debate without engaging across the chamber.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Logan. Did you have a point of order on that point of order?

Dr ROWAN: I do have a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. The Deputy Premier was responding to an interjection from the member opposite.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Logan, for your point of order. Thank you, Leader of the House, for your point of order. Member for Logan, I have heard your point of order. The Deputy Premier was responding to an interjection. The Deputy Premier has the call.

Mr BLEIJIE: If you want to be in the power seat for a hot minute you have to get up, but sometimes it is best just to stay quiet, I would say. Earlier this month a current workplace health and safety official gave evidence that the CFMEU was motivated by more than safety issues to intervene on worksites. She said—

I believe you'd be able to see the targeting of certain—certain PCBUs. You would see the targeting of certain principal contractors, and you would see that there was some—yeah, some political, commercial—some interest other than safety that it was in relation to.

When asked by the commissioner why these companies were targeted, she replied—

Their lack of an enterprise bargaining agreement with the CFMEU and their employment of certain subcontractors that weren't favoured by the CFMEU.

The witness stated further—

I believed that they—

the CFMEU—

weren't interested in the health and safety of their workers; they were interested in other agendas that they had going on that I wasn't privy to.

If the shadow minister—or any of her acolytes—thinks this sort of activity relates to safety, she should tell the people of Queensland. None but the most biased would agree with her. Why does the opposition think that the CFMEU will moderate their behaviour if given additional opportunities to intervene on worksites, which is what their legislation did?

Unlike Paul on the road to Damascus, it is hard to imagine Michael Ravbar and Jade Ingham undergoing some sort of extraordinary conversion, renouncing their past behaviour and embracing a cooperative industrial relations system. I invite members of the opposition to read weeks of evidence on the commission's website. I invite them, particularly the member for McConnel, to go to www.cfmeuinquiry.qld.gov.au and read exactly what their CFMEU mates have been up to under the guise of health and safety measures.

The provisions this legislation is seeking to remove are an open-ended invitation to the CFMEU to continue their disgraceful conduct against workers and businesses. Labor is acting as an enabler in this reprehensible plan to target businesses, stifle productivity and bully workers. The time has come now to draw a line in the sand and call a halt to these abuses. I challenge the Labor Party to adopt a civilised approach to industrial relations, cast off the bullyboy tactics of their allies and do something to help the workers they claim to represent.

Yesterday, the shadow minister told us the opposition were generally supportive of the electrical safety elements of the bill. She was not as enthusiastic about our amendments to the Work Health and Safety Act. Her primary reason for this was her view that, just because Labor's own legislation was not CFMEU specific and applied to all unions, there could be nothing wrong with it. This would go down in history as one of the most spurious justifications for legislation that this House has ever heard. When one union above all others has an established record of violence, abuse and intimidation, it is immaterial whether other unions also came within the ambit of the legislation. If one union has abused its position, it is entirely reasonable for this government to move to curtail its objectionable behaviour and close the loopholes that allowed it to march unchecked across the industrial relations landscape for 10 years.

The shadow minister made much of the fact that their 2024 amendments are yet to come into force and, as a consequence, there is no reason to move against them this week. To the contrary, it is reasonable to surmise that the CFMEU's conduct under existing legislation has been so appalling that a further increase in their powers of intervention would result in even worse conduct. Our legislation is the only responsible response to what has been a Labor endorsed campaign of industrial and criminal brutality by their allies, the CFMEU.

I was astounded when the shadow minister seemed to take credit yesterday for the federal and Queensland governments moving against the CFMEU. I would have been more impressed if the shadow minister told us that the ALP government had done this some time earlier in their nearly one decade in office. In an effort to make a virtue out of a necessity, the shadow minister portrayed her party as leading the charge against her criminal associates. No-one is fooled by this fantasy. However, fantasy seems to be at the very top of the shadow minister's reasons for opposing aspects of the bill.

She suggests that the possibility floods and fires will destroy business records as a justification for giving her union mates the right to barge onto worksites and cook up spurious reasons for intervening. I suppose there will be wars, earthquakes, tsunamis and plagues that will also cause problems. If I have omitted any disasters, please correct the record, member for McConnel.

Yesterday, in the face of denials by the shadow minister, I offered to present evidence as to her record in the face of the CFMEU's disgraceful conduct—her insistence that, like Frank Drebin in *The Naked Gun*, 'There's nothing to see here.' Some of her great lines are as follows, and I quote from *Hansard*. In 2016 she said, '... continually broken record talking about one union—the CFMEU.' In 2018 she said, 'Every time we sit in this House, the member for Kawana and the Leader of the Opposition come in complaining about the CFMEU'. At estimates in 2021 she said, 'Not one of the allegations raised by the member for Kawana has been substantiated. I feel for Helen Burgess, who he keeps writing about.' That is the same Helen Burgess who is under investigation by the CCC and whose activities have been raised at the Wood inquiry. In relation to Kurt Pauls, one of CFMEU's most notorious operatives, she said at estimates in 2024—

Kurt Pauls is a worker representative on the board established under the act. My understanding is that he gives advice and recommendations. They work with the department. He went through all of the checks and balances.

Again, at estimates in 2022 she said, '... it is union bashing by the LNP ... The first day of the parliament hearing and what did they embark upon? Good old union bashing.'

It is said that there are five stages of grief. The last is acceptance. Unfortunately, the shadow minister is trapped in the first stage when it comes to the CFMEU, and that is denial. I urge her and her colleagues to drag themselves through the next three stages—anger, bargaining and depression. Then they might be able to reach acceptance around the appalling conduct of the CFMEU and their disturbing relationship with the ALP.

We heard time and time again in the debate opposition members raising issues about union bashing and the CFMEU and that these laws are for workplace health and safety. As I have said time and time again in this debate—and as all government LNP members have said—this is about stopping information sharing flowing to the CFMEU. Who could forget when Anastacia Palaszczuk—a former, former premier—put a blanket ban on members meeting with the CFMEU and her government? As soon as the member for Murrumba was elected as leader in the Labor Party he opened the floodgates to ministers in his government meeting with the CFMEU. That is after the CFMEU stormed the TMR building.

Again, I put on the record my incredible thanks to everyone who is employed and who has been employed in the Office of Industrial Relations for raising these issues for 10 years, having the courage to keep going—whistleblower after whistleblower. I say to them: we listened. The LNP listened and when given the first opportunity in government we have acted. God knows, for 10 years they tried to get the member for McConnel to act. For 10 years we raised it in estimates. We raised it in parliament. She turned a blind eye to these issues that were raised by her own workplace health and safety advisers and inspectors. Read the testimony in the commission of inquiry, member for McConnel. It is all there in black and white and available online. I thank the government members on this side of the House for their strong support of this legislation to finally go after the CFMEU and return productivity to Queensland worksites.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 9, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Mr BLEIJIE (5.13 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Mr BLEIJIE: I move amendment No. 1 circulated in my name—

1 **After clause 9**

Page 10, after line 24—

insert—

Part 3A **Amendment of James Cook University Act 1997**

9A **Act amended**

This part amends the *James Cook University Act 1997*.

- 9B Amendment of pt 2, div 3, hdg (Council membership—no membership resolution)**
Part 2, division 3, heading, ‘—no membership resolution’—
omit.
- 9C Omission of s 11A (Application of division)**
Section 11A—
omit.
- 9D Amendment of s 12 (Membership of council)**
Section 12, ‘an additional member’—
omit, insert—
additional members
- 9E Amendment of s 14 (Appointed members)**
Section 14(1), ‘8’—
omit, insert—
6
- 9F Amendment of s 15 (Elected members)**
- (1) Section 15(1), ‘10’—
omit, insert—
5
- (2) Section 15(2)(a) to (f)—
omit, insert—
- (a) 2 members of the academic staff of the university; and
- (b) 1 member of the professional and technical staff of the university; and
- (c) 1 undergraduate student; and
- (d) 1 postgraduate student.
- 9G Replacement of s 16 (Additional member)**
Section 16—
omit, insert—
- 16 Additional members**
- (1) There are 2 additional members.
- (2) The council must appoint the additional members.
- (3) An additional member must not be a member of the university’s staff or a student.
- 9H Amendment of s 17 (When council is taken to be properly constituted)**
Section 17(1)(a) and (b)—
omit, insert—
- (a) if there is an official member under section 13(c)—at least 9; or
- (b) otherwise—at least 8.
- 9I Amendment of s 19 (Elected member’s term of office)**
- (1) Section 19(1), ‘, (b) or (f)’—
omit, insert—
or (b)
- (2) Section 19(2), ‘, (d) or (e)’—
omit, insert—
or (d)
- 9J Amendment of s 20 (Additional member’s term of office)**
Section 20, ‘The’—
omit, insert—
An
- 9K Amendment of s 20A (Dealing with casual vacancy in office of an elected member)**
- (1) Section 20A(5)—
omit, insert—
- (5) Despite subsection (4), if the elected member was an undergraduate or postgraduate student, the council may appoint a student of that type to the office.
- (2) Section 20A(7)—
omit.

9L Amendment of s 21 (Failure to elect elected members)

(1) Section 21(1)(a), ‘, (b) or (f)’—

omit, insert—

or (b)

(2) Section 21(1)(b), ‘to (e)’—

omit, insert—

or (d)

9M Omission of pt 2, div 3A (Council membership—membership resolution)

Part 2, division 3A—

omit.

9N Amendment of s 24 (Vacation of office)

Section 24(1)(b), ‘(f) or 22F(1)(a) to (c)’—

omit, insert—

(d)

9O Amendment of s 26AA (Election policy)

Section 26AA(1)(a), ‘, 20A, 22F and 22O’—

omit, insert—

and 20A

9P Amendment of s 26AB (Conduct of election)

Section 26AB, ‘, 20A, 22F or 22O’—

omit, insert—

or 20A

9Q Amendment of s 26AC (Eligibility to vote)

Section 26AC, ‘(f) or 22F(1)(a) to (c)’—

omit, insert—

(d)

9R Amendment of s 26C (Minister may extend terms of office)

(1) Section 26C(4)(b), ‘, 20, 22E, 22F(3) and 22G(1)’—

omit, insert—

and 20

(2) Section 26C(5)—

omit.

9S Amendment of s 62B (Report about person’s criminal history)

Section 62B(1), ‘or 22E’—

omit.

9T Insertion of new pt 8, div 4

Part 8—

insert—

Division 4 Transitional provisions for Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2025**87 Definitions for division**

In this division—

continuing member see section 88(2).

new, in relation to a provision of this Act, means the provision as in force from the commencement.

repealed, in relation to a provision of this Act, means the provision as in force from time to time before the commencement.

88 Existing members

(1) Each person who held office as a member immediately before the commencement continues to be a member on the commencement.

(2) A person who continues to be a member under this section on the commencement is a **continuing member**.

- (3) On the commencement—
 - (a) for new part 2, division 3, each continuing member is taken to be a member of the same type the person was immediately before the commencement; and
 - (b) a continuing member who was appointed under repealed section 22E is taken to be a member appointed under new section 14; and
 - (c) a continuing member who was appointed under repealed section 22G is taken to be a member appointed under new section 16.
- (4) On the commencement, a continuing member's term of office is taken to be the same term for which the member was appointed or elected under repealed part 2, division 3A.

89 Particular appointments of additional members do not take effect

- (1) This section applies to a person who was appointed as an additional member under repealed section 22G before the commencement but whose term of office was to start after the commencement.
- (2) The person's appointment does not take effect and is taken never to have been made.

90 Number of additional members during transitional period

- (1) From the commencement, the number of additional members is taken to be equal to the number of continuing members mentioned in section 88(3)(c) whose terms of office have not ended.
- (2) This section—
 - (a) applies despite new section 16(1); but
 - (b) stops applying on the earlier of—
 - (i) the first day after the commencement on which there are not more than 2 continuing members in relation to whom subsection (1) applies; or
 - (ii) 20 April 2026.

91 Minister may appoint elected member in particular circumstances

- (1) This section applies if, during the period starting on the day of the commencement and ending on 20 April 2026—
 - (a) no person is elected for a class of elected members mentioned in new section 15(2)(c) or (d) (each a **student class**), other than because a casual vacancy has arisen; or
 - (b) both of the following apply—
 - (i) a casual vacancy arises in the office of a continuing member who is a student;
 - (ii) as a result of the vacancy, the council requires an elected member of a particular student class to comply with new section 15(2).
- (2) The Minister may appoint a person as an elected member for the student class.
- (3) The council may, if asked by the Minister, nominate a person for appointment under subsection (2).
- (4) A person appointed under subsection (2) is taken to have been elected at a council election for the student class.
- (5) This section applies despite new section 20A.

9U Amendment of sch 2 (Dictionary)

- (1) Schedule 2, definitions *class*, *current membership resolution*, *effective day*, *eligible person*, *end day*, *membership class*, *membership resolution*, *previous membership resolution* and *total number of members*—
omit.
- (2) Schedule 2—
insert—
 - eligible person**, for a class of elected members mentioned in section 15(2), means a person who is—
 - (a) for the class mentioned in section 15(2)(a)—a member of the academic staff of the university; or
 - (b) for the class mentioned in section 15(2)(b)—a member of the professional and technical staff of the university; or
 - (c) for the class mentioned in section 15(2)(c)—an undergraduate student; or
 - (d) for the class mentioned in section 15(2)(d)—a postgraduate student.
- (3) Schedule 2, definition *additional member*, 'or 22G'—
omit.

- (4) Schedule 2, definition *appointed member*, 'or 22E'—
omit.
- (5) Schedule 2, definition *official member*, 'or 22D'—
omit.

I table the explanatory notes to my amendments and a statement of compatibility with human rights.

Tabled paper: Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes to Hon. Jarrod Bleijie's amendments [394].

Tabled paper: Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Jarrod Bleijie's amendments [395].

The amendment we have moved is with respect to the James Cook University amendments that the honourable education minister has spoken about. In his contribution he spoke about the resupply of the amendment because there was an administrative error owing to human error of the date 1997 in the bill which the honourable minister will explain shortly. We have resupplied the amendment. This amendment deals with the composition of the James Cook University board. It is clear that what we are trying to achieve in the amendment is consistency, as best as possible, across all of the universities that are subject to the same legislation.

Mr Kempton: Restoring fairness.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the honourable member for Cook—restoring fairness and accountability. If anyone else wants to interject, I will take their interjection as well. I will go one by one by one. Thank you, member for Hervey Bay. I take that gesticulating as an interjection. His wave was a sign of good, strong support for this administrative amendment.

Mrs Gerber: I did first-year law at JCU.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the honourable Minister for Youth Justice, who did her first year of law school at James Cook University. It is a great university. In fact, our Premier is an alumnus of James Cook University and the fourth estate when he got his journalism degree. It is a great university.

Mr Boothman: In 2017 their union masters didn't want it.

Mr BLEIJIE: Correct. I also take the interjection from the honourable whip. In 2017 their union masters did not want it. I also take the interjection that we take these issues with universities very seriously, because when one gets a degree from a university one must portray that correct degree and title. I note that the honourable shadow minister for industrial relations has had some problematic experiences with identifying and portraying online her qualifications which—

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

Mr BLEIJIE: I am talking about James Cook University.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): What is your point of order, Manager of Opposition Business?

Mr de BRENNI: My point of order is in relation to standing order 236 and the Deputy Premier's remarks being irrelevant to the matter. There are other clauses that many other members wish to speak to. Therefore, I move—

That the question be now put.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Manager of Opposition Business, I have heard your point of order and the standing order you have referred to. I am aware there are other members who wish to speak from both the government and opposition side. I am not accepting that motion that the question be now put at this point in time, given that knowledge. The Deputy Premier has the call.

Mr BLEIJIE: For someone who espoused democracy two days ago and then is now trying to silence me and guillotine my own summation of the amendment that I am moving—it is a very important amendment and it is important for the House to fully comprehend and appreciate what this amendment is all about. Now because I have been sidetracked I have to collect my thoughts and it may take additional time to collect my thoughts as to this amendment.

Essentially, we are giving a shout-out to James Cook University. Who would pull anyone up for giving a shout-out to a regional university? We have many alumni on this side of the House from James Cook University.

Dr Rowan: They don't care about Townsville and Cairns.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the Leader of the House. Perhaps the Labor Party now do not care about Townsville and Cairns like they used to or pretended to. The reality is that this is an important amendment because we are dealing with the composition of the board. The board of James Cook University makes important decisions on behalf of the university. The honourable Minister for Education will tell me how many students James Cook University has.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is a clear attempt to abuse the guillotine motion.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr de BRENNI: I have indicated to you that there are other amendments that members wish to speak to. Therefore, I move—

That the minister be no longer heard.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion negatived.

Mr BLEIJIE: As I was saying earlier, this is an important amendment that we have moved because it was not, as some would indicate, an issue of James Cook University just saying that they were going to look at changing the name or set up or establish a committee for changing the name. It is about the composition of a board.

Mr de Brenni: Complete abuse of the procedure.

Mr BLEIJIE: Ministers from the beginning of time since the establishment of this great House have been moving amendments and been afforded the right to speak to them in order to explain them fully, because sometimes matters—

Mr Power: You said you'd start again.

Mr BLEIJIE: Well, I will now.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, stop quarrelling across the chamber, please.

Mr BLEIJIE: Courts use amendments and debate in the House to interpret laws if they are challenged, and it is important to get on the record why we pass these laws and why we move such amendments.

Mr Power interjected.

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

Mr BLEIJIE: Courts use debate, as we have seen over the last two days on this very important bill and amendments, to interpret context and speech around said amendments if they are ever challenged in court. It is important to get—

Mr de Brenni: Everybody knows what you are doing.

Mr BLEIJIE: I am speaking to an amendment I have moved, and this is the first opportunity—

Opposition members interjected.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Manager of Opposition Business is constantly interjecting while the Deputy Premier is addressing a serious amendment and he is providing respectful commentary about that, but I would draw your attention to the constant interjections.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): I will manage the conduct of the House. There is sometimes difficulty in determining whether or not the Deputy Premier is responding to the interjections, but quite often he is. They remain in order for now, but I caution members to my left. The Deputy Premier has the call.

Mr BLEIJIE: For the sake of the opposition, I think I need to go through the amendments we are moving today for context. I think they have a lack of understanding of what this is, so I need to put on record the amendments. Amendment No. 1 states—

1 **After clause 9**

Page 10, after line 24—

insert—

Part 3A **Amendment of James Cook University Act 1997**

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Chatsworth and member for McConnel, stop your quarrelling.

Mr BLEIJIE: As I have indicated, this part amends the James Cook University Act 1997. As the honourable education minister set out in his contribution to the whole debate, there was an issue. That is why we have resupplied the amendment. We apologised for that. There was a human error and one of the dates was incorrect, but we resupplied that at the first available opportunity after we found out about it. Amendment No. 1 further states—

9B Amendment of pt 2, div 3, hdg (Council membership—no membership resolution)

Part 2, division 3, heading, ‘—no membership resolution’—
omit.

9C Omission of s 11A (Application of division)

Section 11A—
omit.

9D Amendment of s 12 (Membership of council)

Section 12, ‘an additional member’—
omit, insert—
additional members

9E Amendment of s 14 (Appointed members)

Section 14(1), ‘8’—
omit, insert—
6

So it omits what is currently there in the legislation and puts ‘6’. That is appointed members, because it is important for honourable members to understand that a university council’s composition is made up of appointed members and elected members. It is important in the context of this that we raise this. I believe it is 16 in total that will be the composition. Amendment No. 1 that I have had circulated in the chamber puts the appointed members at six. It inserts that into the legislation of the James Cook University Act. Amendment No. 1 continues—

9F Amendment of s 15 (Elected members)

(1) Section 15(1), ‘10’—
omit, insert—
5

(2) Section 15(2)(a) to (f)—
omit, insert—

- (a) 2 members of the academic staff of the university; and
- (b) 1 member of the professional and technical staff of the university; and
- (c) 1 undergraduate student; and
- (d) 1 postgraduate student.

9G Replacement of s 16 (Additional member)

Section 16—
omit, insert—

16 Additional members

- (1) There are 2 additional members.
- (2) The council must appoint the additional members.
- (3) An additional member must not be a member of the university’s staff or a student.

9H Amendment of s 17 (When council is taken to be properly constituted)

Section 17(1)(a) and (b)—
omit, insert—

- (a) if there is an official member under section 13(c)—at least 9; or
- (b) otherwise—at least 8.

9I Amendment of s 19 (Elected member's term of office)

(1) Section 19(1), '(b) or (f)'—

omit, insert—

or (b)

(2) Section 19(2), '(d) or (e)'—

omit, insert—

or (d)

9J Amendment of s 20 (Additional member's term of office)

Section 20, 'The'—

omit, insert—

An

9K Amendment of s 20A (Dealing with casual vacancy in office of an elected member)

(1) Section 20A(5)—

omit, insert—

(5) Despite subsection (4), if the elected member was an undergraduate or postgraduate student, the council may appoint a student of that type to the office.

It goes on further and talks about council membership, membership resolutions, vacation of office, election policy, conduct of the election and the minister extending the term of the office. What it boils down to in these very simple amendments is governance and transparency around the university board. They are important amendments because the honourable education minister advised us of this issue with the composition of the board. It is about transparency, because you cannot have a board simply increasing their numbers just for the sake of increasing their numbers. Any board could do that. Any vice-chancellor or chancellor could keep doing that and you could end up with an enormous number of board members. That is why it is important to put it back. Remember that this amendment was put in in 2017 by the Labor Party and we did raise an objection to it. The member for Theodore raised objection to this very provision that was put in in 2017. A former member for Hinchinbrook, former minister Andrew Cripps, also raised a particular objection as a North Queenslander.

A government member: North Queenslander!

Mr BLEIJIE: He is from North Queensland; I take the interjection from the honourable minister. He is a great guy. We have had some great members for Hinchinbrook. We have a great one now. It was wonderful to see the member. I know how passionate he is about North Queensland and the James Cook University. No doubt in your contributions—

A government member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: You are an alumni? Oh my gosh, we have another alumni of James Cook University!

Ms Grace: What goes around, comes around.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the member for McConnel. I take the constant interjections. I believe she is already on a warning.

Ms Grace: I'm not interjecting: I'm talking.

Mr BLEIJIE: You are interjecting now. I have been taking your interjections for the last 20 minutes. I believe the member is on a warning.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for McConnel, you are on a warning.

Ms GRACE: I was actually speaking to my colleagues.

Mr BLEIJIE: I was taking your interjections.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for McConnel, you are skating on very thin ice. Cease all talking, please. I remind members that warnings made during the first session today last until dinnertime. I was not in possession of the list of warnings when I first came to the table, which has probably assisted some members.

Mr BLEIJIE: The honourable member for Hinchinbrook, now understanding that he is an alumni of James Cook University, understands the importance of the composition of the board and transparency and accountability. The member owes it to his constituents to ensure the composition of the board and that it is duly elected, because constituents will inquire. You will get university students who go to James Cook University as well as all of our North Queensland MPs. You will rightfully be

able to now say that we have corrected this. The Labor Party put in this dual model system and we are now fixing that wrong. This is the first available opportunity we have had to do that since 2017 because we were unfortunately out of office for a substantial period of time.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I submit to you that this is an egregious abuse of the standing orders, and I move again—

That the minister be no longer heard.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Manager of Opposition Business, I am advised that that is subject to the same question rule. The motion has already been put and determined by the House, so your motion is out of order.

Mr BLEIJIE: What a shame. I was ready to end my contribution. Alas, his political stunt has caused me to be more excited about this particular amendment and the composition of the James Cook University, where we are correcting the wrong from—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, I am sorry to interrupt you. In accordance with the motion agreed to by the House, the time for consideration of the bill has expired.

Question put—That the minister's amendment No. 1, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

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

Division: Question put—That clauses 10 to 14 and schedule 1, as amended, stand part of the bill.

AYES, 52:

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, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 34:

ALP, 34—Asif, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahan, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Pair: Lister, Bailey.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clauses 10 to 14 and schedule 1, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading

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

AYES, 52:

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, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 34:

ALP, 34—Asif, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahan, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Pair: Lister, Bailey.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

Question put—That the minister's amendment No. 2, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment, as circulated—

2 Long title

Long title, after 'the *Electrical Safety Regulation 2013*,'—
insert—

the James Cook University Act 1997,

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

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

Fuel Security

Mr SPEAKER: Before we go to the private member's motion, I remind members that warnings still stand. Members on the warning list are as follows: Mansfield, Lytton, Jordan, Mudgeeraba, Bulimba, McConnell, Pine Rivers, Algester and Aspley.



Mr MELLISH (Aspley—ALP) (5.39 pm): Thank you for the reminder, Mr Speaker. I move—

That:

1. this House condemns the Crisafulli LNP government for its lack of fuel affordability action in Queensland;
2. this House condemns Crisafulli LNP government members for indicating that the Transport Affordability Amendment Bill that will take real action against increased fuel prices in Queensland is a political stunt;
3. in lieu of any meaningful action by the Crisafulli LNP government, this House calls on the federal government to immediately undertake further actions to ensure Queenslanders have available the fuel supply they need;
4. notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders the Transport Affordability Amendment Bill 2026 be declared an urgent bill, discharged from the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee and be considered by this House during this week's sitting.

We stand on the side of Queenslanders wanting affordable fuel. This morning I had the opportunity to appear before the state development committee to speak on Labor's Transport Affordability Amendment Bill and the real practical difference it would make to the lives of Queenslanders. Instead of engaging with the substance of the bill, government committee members chose to play politics—delivering cheap political statements rather than asking the serious questions Queenslanders deserve. Government members even called capping fuel price increases a political stunt. Let me say that fighting for affordable transport is not a political stunt. Queensland Labor has done the work. We have stood with the RACQ and taken up the fight for fairer, cheaper fuel. Our plan is ready to go. Our bill would cap price increases at five cents a day.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, I notice your name is on the speaking list. You will get your turn.

Mr MELLISH: The bill would require prices to be reported to the regulator and locked in by 2 pm the day before. These are sensible, measured reforms designed to deliver certainty to Queenslanders. If you are waiting for your next pay to land before you fill up, you deserve the ability to plan ahead and not be ambushed at the bowser. The ACCC data shows that Brisbane has a six-week fuel cycle, meaning motorists do not have the luxury of waiting until the price cycle reaches its low point to fill up. The solutions to this are on the table, but the LNP government refuses to even come to the table. All of this is unfolding against the backdrop of global instability. In just a matter of weeks since military action began in Iran we have seen exactly how unfair our fuel system really is. Let's be honest: it has not just become broken; it has been broken for a long time.

Other states are cracking down on the bad actors—the fuel retailers exploiting a supply issue and international crisis to supercharge their profits. Instead, the Deputy Premier has been stroking his ego, appearing before the Queensland Media Club today to 'a room full of hundreds', he boasted this

afternoon. I say to the Deputy Premier that Queenslanders out there struggling to make ends meet and already paying 24 per cent higher rego under this government are now battling to afford record high petrol prices. They could not give a damn about the two-course alternate drop at the Media Club.

This government has the wrong priorities. When Queensland Labor is talking about what can be done to assist the daily lives of Queenslanders, the Deputy Premier is talking about the size of his pitch. As shadow transport minister, I have spoken directly with industry bodies, transport operators, farmers and tourism businesses all struggling under immense pressure. They are all asking the same question: what is their government doing to help them? Sadly, the answer so far is nothing.

In New South Wales, Fair Trading inspectors have been at fuel stations actively investigating price gouging. Where is our Attorney-General? What action has the Office of Fair Trading in Queensland taken? What directive have they been given? Nothing! It is not often we hear silence from the Attorney-General. In Victoria the energy minister is engaging with distributors to ensure smaller independent stations are not cut off from supply, ensuring that no community is left behind. Where is our energy minister? What has he done? What Queenslanders see day after day is a government that is missing in action.

It is clear that even some LNP backbenchers can understand what is currently at stake here. The member for Mirani said it plainly—

... fuel is not just about getting from A to B; it is about keeping our industries running, food on our tables, our communities connected and our economy moving.

He is right. The member for Hinchinbrook said it, too: when fuel prices spike regional Queenslanders feel it first and hardest. I agree; they clearly understand the problem, but will they stand by their words and back our solution?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!


Mr Chiesa interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Hinchinbrook, I also notice you are on the list, so you will have your opportunity. At the moment it is the member for Aspley who is speaking.

Mr MELLISH: Any regional LNP MP sitting in this chamber who does not support our bill that would limit fuel price increases needs to go back to their electorate on Friday and explain to their constituents that they have chosen to play politics instead of delivering real change. The LNP should explain to their constituents, who are often coping the highest prices in the state, why they still cannot bring themselves to support our plan for action. If they are complicit in voting down this motion today they have made their choice very clear. They have bent their knee to the Premier and turned their back on the very Queenslanders who sent them here.

If the Premier refuses to get his shirt dirty for affordable fuel for all Queenslanders, it shows he is just a slick slogan. He does not want to withstand any scrutiny. We saw it in question time today. Whenever he gets a question he does not like, he remains grumpily araldited into his seat for a few long seconds while he looks over wistfully at the Leader of the House to save his bacon with a point of order. Queenslanders need leadership, but Queensland does not have a Premier in charge; Queensland has a pedestrian in charge.

The Premier said in January 2025 that he owed it to Queenslanders to look at these measures, but that was just another slick slogan. The Premier said that he would look at this, but here we are 14 months later and we have seen nothing from this Premier. He does not want to answer questions. He does not want to front up and look at what can be done. He is hiding on this issue and Queenslanders are paying the price every single day when they go to fill up with petrol. They have a government that is missing.

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (5.44 pm): I move the following amendment—

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

'calls on the federal government to immediately undertake further actions to ensure Queenslanders have available the fuel supply they need.'

I am glad that the member for Aspley appeared at the committee hearing today because there we saw the genesis of the motion before the House tonight that the opposition has moved. I also note that the member for Aspley raised the games analogy today. Watching that event today I was nearly inclined to give the Deputy Premier a call because I reckon there should be a new event added to the

Olympics. It should be called 'train wreck committee hearings'. Today those opposite were getting gold, silver and bronze as the member for Lockyer as chair of that committee schooled them all. When I see gold, silver and bronze, I see the three failed leaders of the former government who are sitting up the front still in opposition today. Let's run through the committee hearing that the member for Aspley wanted to talk about. Member for Aspley, how is the modelling for this proposal?

Mr Kempton interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Who was it who yelled out while I was on my feet? Member for Cook, you are warned under the standing orders. Treasurer, if you could address your comments through the chair that would be very helpful.

Mr Boothman: How was the modelling?

Mr JANETZKI: Let me ask the member for Aspley. Table the modelling.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Theodore, you are also on the list. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr JANETZKI: I asked the member for Aspley to table the modelling to the proposal that he put in a private member's bill and yet he has not done any work on it. The member for Aspley should table the modelling or risk another schooling by the member for Lockyer.

Those opposite still want to talk about 50-cent fares. Do they mean the permanently funded Crisafulli government's 50-cent fares? Is that what they are talking about? What else did they raise today in the committee hearing? I think they raised the Western Australian model. They seemed to be suggesting that the Western Australian model is a model we should be considering. Let's go to what the Labor Premier of Western Australia had to say about this proposal. Premier Cook said, 'The laws were passed in a bygone era.' Forget the modelling; they cannot be bothered doing modelling because they are a lazy opposition that do not do any work. Now they cannot even be supported by their Labor colleagues across the continent. What else did Premier Cook say? He said, 'I think it was unanimous in the room that we don't need price caps but we do need calm.' Wouldn't that be something from those opposite! They are quiet now. We do need calm because we see from those opposite that all their posturing is opportunistic political pointscore and they know it. Do honourable members know what else they could have done today?


Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Buderim and member for Bundamba.

Mr JANETZKI: They could have ruled out state owned service stations, but they could not even do that. Under questioning today the member for Aspley could not rule out state owned service stations. The member for Murrumba took the gold medal today. This was a member who could not concede defeat on the night of the election and they still cannot walk away from the policies that they were defeated on. That is the truth. They still cannot walk away from state owned service stations notwithstanding that they went to the election and were defeated on it.

As all our speakers will show, we have been fully engaged with this challenge facing the Australian economy. We wrote to the ACCC first. We wrote to Christopher Bowen saying that we were on the precipice of a major challenge. We have been speaking regularly with CEOs of fuel companies. We have been meeting with agricultural leaders. We attended National Cabinet. We have been to ECMC. We have done everything. Bob Gee has now been appointed to the national taskforce. Bob Gee went to the first meeting yesterday and convened a meeting today. We are willing to collaborate towards the national solution to this national challenge and those opposite should just get out of the way.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (5.50 pm): Well, Mr Speaker, there was a bit of energy from the energy minister and Treasurer which has taken us all a little bit by surprise. He geed himself up for this one. What I think is really interesting is the energy with which the Treasurer called us all lazy for not being able to table the modelling, but I want to remind the Treasurer that we still have not seen any modelling for his energy plan. We certainly have not seen any modelling for the \$7 billion in savings for its consultancy plan.

Mr JANETZKI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I will be writing to you about this, but the member is deliberately misleading the House. A third of the—

Mr SPEAKER: If you have an issue—

Mr JANETZKI:—I will be writing to you—road map was modelling.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! As I said, you can write to me on that issue if you so wish.

Ms FENTIMAN: We know they love a good letter, so I am not surprised the Treasurer is going to write you a letter, because that is all we have seen from this Premier and this Treasurer and energy minister to actually do something to help Queensland families and businesses that are struggling. Do members know what? We have done the hard yards for those opposite. We have the bill before the parliament. It is a practical solution. If those opposite asked any of their constituents—

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Currumbin!

Ms FENTIMAN: I may have hit a nerve there. I say to the member for Currumbin: if she asked any of her constituents on the Gold Coast whether they would like to see retailers cap fuel price increases to five cents a day and publish the price the day before, I bet they would say, 'That sounds like an incredibly sensible, good idea. Can you please support that?'

Honourable members interjected.

Ms FENTIMAN: I know. Apparently what we need here is calm, but there is not a lot of calm coming from those opposite. What I cannot understand is why the Premier and those members opposite are opposing this. Why do they not want to give Queensland motorists, Queensland small businesses and Queensland families some relief? It is all here in front of them. It was proposed by the RACQ. This is not just the Labor opposition for the first time bringing an idea to this parliament with no backing. This is the RACQ that we are talking about.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms FENTIMAN: It is really interesting, Mr Speaker, that those opposite find that so amusing, because I wonder what Queensland families and businesses think. Do they trust the RACQ when it comes to fuel prices, or do they trust the LNP? I bet they back the RACQ to limit fuel price increases and to have some transparency around fuel prices so that businesses and families can make some decisions about when they fill up, because right now they are getting smashed at the bowser.

What have we seen from this Premier and this LNP state government? They are so determined to say that this is all about the federal government—and our motion in fact calls on the federal government to do more—but you can collaborate and coordinate nationally and take action at a state level. Why are the two mutually exclusive? Why can't those opposite work with the federal government while also taking action at a state level? That is what every other state premier has done. From Labor to Liberal premiers, this is what they are doing. They are working with the federal government, but they are also taking action at a state level because there are levers available to the state government—like capping fuel price increases and mandating transparency on price—but those opposite are not interested. They are going to send a letter!

The member for Aspley talked about how the Office of Fair Trading could make sure that our retailers are not gouging, which is something that other states have done, but those opposite do not seem interested in that either. I cannot understand. In January last year—and I have his statements here—Mr Crisafulli confirmed that he had asked his cabinet to have a look at different models, like what is in place in Perth, to determine what the government should do. He said—

There are mixed reports about how effective it is, but it's something that we owe Queenslanders to look at.

He continued—

We also owe Queenslanders to do everything we can to drive down their cost of living across the board.


Mr Miles: What's he done?

Ms FENTIMAN: What has he done in those 14 months to help Queensland families and businesses with cost of living?

Mr Miles: Put our rego up.

Ms FENTIMAN: Absolutely nothing! I take that interjection from the Leader of the Opposition: he has hiked their rego and electricity bills are up. This Premier is doing nothing to support Queenslanders and he should vote for this motion regarding the bill.

(Time expired)

 **Mr DILLON** (Gregory—LNP) (5.55 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise to speak to the amendment, but how dare they! How dare those opposite come into this place and politicise cost of living and fuel supply. How dare they, after a decade of not only neglecting rural Queensland but driving Queensland into the ground. They are responsible for every significant cost-of-living increase in this state for not only the last 10 years but for 20 of the 22 before that, yet they come in here and seek to posture because of a bill that old Nostradamus the member for Aspley decided to introduce in this place a couple of weeks ago.

Those opposite want to come in here and talk to score points while the Treasurer and energy minister, the Premier and the Deputy Premier are trying to secure fuel to put into the bowsers. Those opposite are talking about prices. They are talking about putting inspectors into the small servos of Western Queensland and limiting them and upping them for gouging prices. Have a guess who is gouging prices? It is called the Strait of Hormuz. Have a guess where the real problem is coming from? It is coming from the trading down and the lack of supply because the national government did not listen to the state government when we called this out weeks before the opposition woke up to the fact that somewhere in Queensland we might run out of fuel and—hey, presto—those who do not drive the 10 electronic cars in Western Queensland might not be able to find fuel for them.

This is being slated home at their feet and they are trying to hide. They are hiding behind the thinnest, most poorly thought out piece of legislation that even the Queensland Labor Party has brought to this place, and it has brought some doozies! Those opposite have brought some absolute hell-clangers of bills here that have destroyed the economic credibility of this state. I could take interjections from every one of them and name them all by name for the interjections and the things that they did not do when they drove Queenslanders to the brink. No-one in regional Queensland will take one thing they say seriously or trust anything they say in this place tonight about us going home, because it was us in regional Queensland as a government that raised the issue. We were the people on the front foot talking to the Prime Minister and talking to the energy minister, who dismissed us, who laughed at us, who belittled the Deputy Premier for raising the same issue that those opposite are trying to raise tonight like it is the first time anyone has ever heard of a fuel crisis.

This side of the House has been talking about the impact on farmers, on tourism operators, on emergency services, on people recovering from natural disaster.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DILLON: We listened to their speaker in silence, but they know that this is the truth.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr DILLON: The truth is being slated home at their feet.

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Bundaberg!

Mr DILLON: They have not once genuinely thought about the impact of cost—


Mr Smith interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Bundaberg, I want you to be clear that you are warned.

Mr DILLON: As we come into this place to responsibly do what needs to be done to address a national crisis, there are parts of the Middle East at war. There are people losing their lives, and that will continue to be so until it concludes. The fundamental responsibility of the Australian government is to provide a national response. It owned this itself by its own words in recent days. It is a national crisis requiring a national government to take leadership, but guess who called for that first?

Paragraph 3 of the member for Aspley's motion states that, in lieu of any meaningful action by the Crisafulli LNP government, this House calls on the federal government to act. This House has already done that by extension through the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Energy. We have already called for that so, once again, Labor is late to the party. They are 10 years late in looking after Queensland. They were in office for that time. Thank goodness that for the last 14 months we have had a government delivering for Queensland. We will deliver to the best of our ability and work alongside the people who have been appointed as national commissioners and our Cross-Border Commissioner, Bob Gee. We will do the work necessary to ensure our fuel supply. People need to have the confidence that they can fuel up to get home and that the price of that fuel is driven by supply. Put fuel in the bowsers and the price will come down. Put fuel into the tanks in the refineries.

It is not only today that those opposite decided to play politics with fuel. They came in here yesterday with the most ill-thought-out questions and attacked everybody on the front bench on fuel, without doing their homework in terms of what was happening at Lytton—that is, that capacity was already being reached there. They get their little sound bites for social media to try to promote the fact that the government is not doing all it can do at Lytton when it was already happening. This government has been on the front foot fighting for Queenslanders and fighting for the supply of fuel, not only for people in Brisbane, the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast but also for people from Boulia to Cairns and from Mount Isa to Coolangatta. We will continue to do that. We will put aside the petty political games of those opposite who have no understanding of what it actually means to run out of fuel. There are people in my electorate who have no fuel. We will ensure it comes back through sturdy leadership and working with the federal government.

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (6.01 pm): I do not know what other members in this place think, but I think the member for Gregory might be spending too much time at the race track!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Stretton, you managed to ignite that in a very short period of time. Let's go again. I call the member for Stretton.

Mr MARTIN: Across Australia, governments at all levels—state and federal—are taking action to protect their constituents against the impacts of rising fuel prices, or rather I should say all governments except for this one. In other jurisdictions we have seen the formation of fuel security round tables, new anti-gouging laws and personal responsibility adopted by the leaders of those states. What about the Queensland Premier? Is he putting new laws on the table to protect consumers against price rises? No. Is he offering to take personal responsibility to protect Queenslanders? No. Instead his big plan is to send two letters—one to the ACCC and one to the federal minister. I do not know about other members in this place and I do not know how good he thinks his letters are but on this side of the House we know that Queenslanders expect a bit more than correspondence. In the face of the most significant oil shock in almost half a century, the Premier's response boils down to two pieces of paper. The Crisafulli LNP government is an utter failure on fuel security and affordability. They have failed hardworking Queenslanders, mums and dads trying to make ends meet, because their plans to help people doing it tough do nothing and pass the buck.

If the Premier's current plan fails, what is his backup? Maybe a strongly worded email, maybe a text message with some angry face emojis. All they have done so far is have a few meetings and appoint a coordinator, but what is the coordinator's job? Well, it turns out the coordinator's job is to pass on information to the federal government. Wow, the coordinator is going to forward the emails. The coordinator can forward all the emails. Fantastic. There is no enforcement, no crackdown on price gouging, no action—nothing. Instead we get a jelly-armed promise from a jelly-armed Premier and a jelly-armed government that they will shine a spotlight on the issue. That is what the Premier said yesterday.

Queenslanders do not need a light show; they need fuel in the tank and prices that they can actually afford. The Treasurer is no better. He followed on yesterday with the same tired script. There was talk of more letters and his big promise—this was a big one; it got the people of Queensland really excited—monitoring: 'We are going to monitor the situation.' I can see the Treasurer on the second top floor in 1 William Street. He is behind his desk looking at Petrol Spy. His staffers are around him and they say, 'Boss, the price is going up—what do we do?' and he says, 'Calm down, boys. We are going to monitor the situation.' 'Okay, no problem.' There will be lots of monitoring at 1 William Street. I cannot wait to hear how that goes. There is no action, just the handballing of everything straight to Canberra.

Writing letters, shining spotlights, monitoring—it is not leadership, it is surrender and it is pathetic. In fact, the LNP have put more effort into attacking Labor's ideas for transport affordability than coming up with any of their own. We saw that today in the committee hearing. The hypocrisy is staggering. This is the same LNP that believes in bold state intervention when it suits their agenda, like rushing through laws that attack free speech, sacking 700 rail workers or cancelling electric buses—they would have been pretty useful right now. When it comes to protecting families from \$2.60 a litre or \$3 a litre diesel, suddenly they are all small government purists, all libertarian purists. 'Oh, we cannot do anything, but do not worry we are going to monitor the heck out of this, guys.'

What is worse is that while Premier Crisafulli sits on his hands other premiers are acting. They are rolling up their sleeves and they are protecting their states and constituents. Only the Queensland Premier is asleep at the wheel and Queenslanders are copping it the worst. Regional Queensland, the very heartland the LNP pretends to represent, is being smashed the hardest—farmers, truckies and families forced to choose between food and fuel. This is not just a national problem; this is a Queensland

problem made worse by them. We have heard from their backbench who are eager to talk about the problem but it is pretty clear the frontbench is not willing to listen. My suggestion to the backbench is: if the frontbench are not doing what you say—

(Time expired)

Hon. AJ CAMM (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (6.06 pm): One thing I will say about the assistant minister—the gentleman sitting on the backbench—is that he did not have to read a word of his speech. He spoke from the heart because he knows full well the reality confronting regional and rural Queensland. We are being lectured to by those opposite when two weeks ago our Treasurer called this out. They are a bit late to the party and then we hear lip-service and scripted comedic acts, which were not very funny—

Mrs Gerber: Personal attacks.

Ms CAMM: And personal attacks—I take that interjection—on members on this side of the House who represent the sugar industry, the tourism industry, the freight industry, the supply chain of the mining industry and the resources industry and our local chambers of commerce.

We sit with our community. We fuel up our four-wheel drives with diesel—unlike many of those opposite who do not even own a diesel or petrol car. We on this side of the House know what that means to the hip pockets of our constituents. That is why we will hold the federal government to account for their failure to plan, prioritise and ensure we have a secure supply chain, not just across our state and our nation but internationally and globally. That is at the forefront of this issue. This issue has demonstrated that our federal government has failed with respect to security—not only fuel security but also supply chain security for food and fibre; the food that goes onto the tables of not just those in regional and rural communities but also those in South-East Queensland, Sydney, Melbourne and all of our major capitals.

Those opposite want to play politics and want to spin but Queenslanders see through it. There are many reasons they see through it. One is the pumped hydro project that those opposite brought forward. The reason the now member for Mirani sits in this chamber is that Queenslanders saw through the billions of dollars for the hydro hoax and the con job that they tried to do on the people of Queensland. Why else do the people of Queensland see through this? The now member for Hinchinbrook sits in this chamber. People saw through the lies, the spin and the propaganda pumped out by those opposite and that is why—

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

Ms CAMM: I withdraw.

A government member: Untruths.

Ms CAMM: I will take the interjection from my good colleague and minister: the untruths spun by those opposite that are pushed out—


A government member: Falsehoods.

Ms CAMM: The falsehoods—I will take that interjection as well—that are pushed out through social media. Queenslanders do not buy it. They elected a Crisafulli government in October 2024. Those opposite are still coming to terms with the fact that they are sitting in opposition and that the Queensland people elected our government to deliver initiatives such as permanent 50-cent fares by our good transport minister—real cost-of-living measures.

If those opposite were truly serious about putting downward pressure on the cost of living they would have made that decision when they were in government, but they failed to. What else did they fail to do? They failed to deliver new industries. They failed to deliver legislation that would open up new opportunities and security for our state. We commend the work of our resources minister and the collaboration that is occurring across our cabinet. We do not have the factional issues that continue to be played out over there. We are working as a team. We are looking to secure a long-term future for Queenslanders and ensure we have gas and petroleum exploration into the future. Those opposite are ideologically opposed to and do not support the long-term initiatives of this government. If those opposite took this so seriously, why did they not pick up the phone and call their Canberra mates?

Mr Head: Because they choose their mates over Queenslanders!

Ms CAMM: I will take that interjection from the member for Callide: they choose their mates over Queenslanders—over their constituents—every day of the week. Pick up the phone to Albanese and find out what he is doing to secure not just fuel but also energy and supply chains for this state and for our nation, because it is a national issue. My constituents, and those of the member for Mackay, see through this Labor hoax.

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (6.12 pm): I move the following amendment to the amendment—

That the following words after 'they need' be inserted—

and, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders the Transport Affordability Amendment Bill 2026 be declared an urgent bill, discharged from the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee and be considered by this House during this week's sitting.

I say to the member for Whitsunday: look out because the member for Gregory is coming for you. We have heard that loud and clear. He gave his audition tonight. It is very clear what is going on. He is looking for a seat up the front. Minister, he is coming for you. I support this opposition motion tonight because it is important for the people of Central Queensland.

Government members interjected.

Mr BUTCHER: I knew that those opposite would be over there yelling, with the hubris and rubbish that goes with it, but they should be mindful that the backbenchers are coming for their seats in the front. They should be ready for that. Not a single decision of this government has brought down the crushing cost of fuel in this state. They have been hammering families, farmers, freight operators, small businesses and industries across the state. Let's not talk about anything other than the way this government has reacted to this crisis here in Queensland. When fuel prices soar, everything goes up: groceries, transport and production costs. We have heard from this government that they have written a letter. My six-year-old granddaughter can write a letter. I think if she wrote a letter to the Premier it would simply say, 'Just do something!'

While farmers are paying more to run their machinery and small businesses are deciding whether to shut down or curtail their business, this government is not making one decision to support them in this terrible time. Let me give an example. In Gladstone, a business called Curtis Ferry Services is facing challenges due to surging fuel costs. They have not had one bit of support from this government. They have had to put an eight per cent levy on the cost of their tickets to support people in the island communities around Gladstone. It is an absolute shame that a business that does such great work for Gladstone is not getting any support from a government that is not listening to them.


The government is acting like it is still in opposition. It is in government! Make some decisions that benefit Queenslanders. Support our bill tonight—or tomorrow if you want to have a few drinks and watch the band tonight—and make it happen. That will benefit Queenslanders, not writing a letter that a six-year-old could write to someone in Canberra. That is just one example. There are many more examples of businesses doing it tough in Gladstone because of this Premier, who has not shown one ounce of care for those industries and people who need their support.

Clearly, this state government has dropped the ball on its responsibilities to the people of Queensland. Calling on Canberra is not a substitute for doing their job. It is not leadership to pass the buck while Queenslanders are suffering. A letter does not fill their fuel tank or make it cheaper. This government must do much more. We need real measures. We do not need a government that does not understand the urgency of what is happening in this state and the unintended consequences of the price of fuel going up.

This bill must be immediately discharged from the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee. The people of Queensland want us as a parliament to come together, make a decision and cap the price of fuel in Queensland to make some difference to their lives. This is real and it is happening right now in all of our communities. It is not just happening in one community and it is not just happening in South-East Queensland; it is happening right across Queensland. I say to the government: stop acting like spectators and pretending that writing letters is governing. Step up and take responsibility and deliver action for Queenslanders.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to the amendment of the member for Gladstone. It has not been circulated. Also in relation to the amendment as moved by the member for Gladstone, I want to clarify that it is compliant with standing orders.

Mr SPEAKER: I have been seeking some advice on that. The advice I have is that the amendment is within the scope so it is in order and it will be circulated.

 **Mr CHIESA** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (6.17 pm): I rise in support of the Treasurer's amendment. This issue is too serious for politics and too serious for this House to get wrong.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Logan, you are warned.

Mr CHIESA: What is clear from state and territory leaders right across the country is that this problem is a national crisis that requires a national response. Fuel security is first and foremost a Commonwealth responsibility. The Commonwealth controls the key national levers—fuel security policy, national reserves, fuel standards, import settings and national coordination. When the problem is national, the response must be national. That is why members of this side of the House were the first to call it out. The Crisafulli government was the first to call it out. Why? Because we listen to regional Queenslanders.

As I said yesterday, regional Queensland needs fuel to deliver food to feed our families and secure our future. That is why the Crisafulli government has consistently called for a national plan. Queensland did not wait for this issue to get worse. On 5 March the Treasurer wrote to the ACCC raising concerns about price gouging and unjustified price increases. On 9 March he wrote to his federal counterpart, Minister Chris Bowen, calling for an immediate update on the Commonwealth's plans for fuel security and for a national strategy to protect the economy, industry, productivity and national security. On 10 March those concerns were raised again through the Queensland Agricultural Disaster Taskforce, with industry making clear the seriousness of the challenge on the ground.

Only later, on 19 March, did the Prime Minister convene National Cabinet and announce the national Fuel Supply Taskforce. When Queensland raised the alarm, Chris Bowen accused the Deputy Premier of engaging in 'undergraduate politics'. No, regional Queenslanders are not playing politics. Canegrowers are not playing politics. Truck drivers are not playing politics. Farmers are not playing politics. People delivering diesel are not playing politics. Families paying more for food are not playing politics. Those who are playing politics are the Labor Party in Canberra and the Labor opposition who are too slow to act and too reluctant to level with the regions.

Let us be clear: Queensland acted early, responsibly and in the national interest. That stands in stark contrast to those opposite. The Leader of the Opposition and the Labor Party are not serious about this issue. They are late to it, they are inconsistent on it and they refused to call it out with their federal Labor counterparts in Canberra.


Yesterday, the Leader of the Opposition asked about the operating hours of the Ampol refinery at Lytton, trying to score political points without understanding that the refinery is already operating at capacity, 24 hours a day and seven days a week. Less than two years ago, in August 2024 when he was premier he said, 'We don't control oil prices and we can't force privately owned petrol retailers to charge less.' They are not serious. Let us also remember this: Labor had a decade in government and did nothing to strengthen our sovereign fuel capability. They had a decade to improve long-term planning, a decade to strengthen supply resilience and a decade to secure our long-term energy future and they wasted it.

Labor do not get regional Queensland and they would love to have everything powered by batteries, but I have a lesson for them: batteries do not power road trains or cattle trucks. They do not power harvesters or haulouts. Do they know what haulouts are? They do not power heavy machinery across regional Queensland. The practical reality is that Queensland runs on diesel.

To be fair, the Commonwealth has finally started to take some steps. There has been a partial release under the minimum stockholding obligation. The ACCC has launched an investigation into allegations of anti-competitive conduct by major fuel suppliers. While those are welcome developments, they also confirm the seriousness of the issue. It also confirms that this is a Commonwealth responsibility that requires further action. That is why the Treasurer's amendment is the right amendment.

Queensland, though, will continue to play its part. In the short term, we are ensuring that there is a flow of information to the federal government to deliver fuel supply and we are convening suppliers and industry stakeholders to ensure the issues of Hinchinbrook, of Gregory, of regional Queensland and of all Queensland are heard loud and clear. We will continue to do that. I wish the Labor opposition would do the same with their federal mates in Canberra. In the long term we are opening up new areas for gas and petroleum exploration to secure jobs growth and energy security—just like the Taroom Trough, which, as I said yesterday, has the potential to become the first new major oil province in the country since the 1970s. The question is: will the Labor opposition back more projects like the Taroom Trough?

If anything, this crisis has shown that we need to improve our sovereign capability and we need to be more self-sufficient in fuel, fertiliser, fibre and food. That is practical action. That is responsible action. However, Queensland cannot carry a national fuel security task alone. The Treasurer's amendment puts the focus where it belongs—that is, on the fact that this is a federal government issue and a national response is needed.

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (6.22 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the member for Aspley. Queenslanders are in an affordability crisis and this LNP government is missing in action. Right now, families across Queensland are pulling up to the bowser and being hit with petrol prices of more than \$2.50 a litre and diesel has topped \$3.60 in parts of regional Queensland. Those prices are being paid by parents trying to get their kids to school, truckies wondering if they can keep their business alive, pensioners spending more than \$100 from their pension to fill the tank and our frontline workers trying to get to work to earn a wage for their families. However, this crisis goes beyond the bowser. There are freight operators who are considering parking their trucks. We know that if it is on your table then it came off the back of a truck and those supply chains are under threat. While businesses are considering closing and families are feeling the pain, this government refuses to act.

Across this country, state governments are taking action to tackle this issue—every single one of them except in Queensland. Some have legislated anti price gouging laws where retailers must lock in a daily maximum price for 24 hours, with significantly increased fines for noncompliance. They have declared an energy supply emergency and are tracking fuel availability in real time. They have convened emergency round tables with industry. All are taking action, convening round tables, legislating anti price gouging measures, increasing penalties, setting up crisis coordination and prioritising supply to the regions. But what has the Queensland Premier done? Nothing! There is no emergency round table, no crisis team, no compliance action, no legislation and not even a press conference to tell Queenslanders, 'Hey, our government has a plan.' I guess that is hard to do when you do not have one. He is the only premier in the country who has not taken action to help struggling Queenslanders with fuel prices—the only one.

Where the government has failed, the Labor opposition has acted. We have introduced the Transport Affordability Amendment Bill and we are calling on this government to support it. I know government members say that the Transport Affordability Amendment Bill is a political stunt but it is not. It is called action. I know that that is a concept that is foreign to those opposite but Labor's Transport Affordability Amendment Bill is going to help businesses such as Deagon Bulk Meats in my electorate that are really feeling the pinch. It will prevent service stations from increasing fuel prices by more than five cents in a single day. There will be no more overnight spikes of 20, 30, 40 or 50 cents, designed to gouge Queenslanders. It will require service stations to publish their prices the day before. It will ensure that 50-cent fares are made permanent and this sneaky LNP government will not be able to change them behind closed doors. A truckie in Toowoomba will know what they will pay before they leave the depot and a mum in Bracken Ridge will be able to find the cheapest option before the school run. It will protect 50-cent fares for the future.

When fuel costs go through the roof, we know that public transport is not a luxury; it is a requirement. Labor legislated to make 50-cent fares law in Queensland and we will protect them. This is a practical, ready-to-go plan with precedent in every other state. It could be passed this sitting week if the government wanted.

However, this is a government of inaction. It is a government that watches while other states lead and while Queensland families are squeezed at the pump and at the check-out. There are levers that this government can pull to help. Every other state has pulled them—every other state except Queensland. This Premier has taken a leaf straight out of the LNP playbook. Do members remember when the Deputy Premier said, 'Cry me a river' on housing affordability or when the LNP's Scott Morrison said, 'Well, I don't hold a hose'? This Premier might as well say to Queenslanders, 'I don't hold a hose at the bowser. There's nothing I can do.' This premier is showing the same indifference and the same refusal to accept that, when people are in crisis, as a leader it is his job to act.

This is a cunning, calculated decision by the LNP Premier to do nothing and to let Queenslanders cop it at the bowser while they avoid making a single decision. The Premier and the minister would rather see Queensland families pay the price than pull the levers at their disposal. They are dodging responsibility, they are staying silent and they are hoping that Queenslanders will not notice. But Queenslanders are noticing. In my electorate there are constituents and businesses that are noticing as there are in yours. There are people who are paying an incredibly high price and your government is refusing to take any action to help them.

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

Ms ASIF: The government is refusing to take any action to help constituents in the electorates. Queenslanders are really feeling the pain. It is time for the Premier to do his job and to lead. You have the tools and the only thing missing is your courage to act. Queenslanders deserve a government that fights for them, not one that stands by watching. Do not just watch, Premier; get off your backside and do something to help Queenslanders. They are feeling the pain. It is time to act. It is time lead. It is time to do something to help Queenslanders.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Sandgate, I will ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language.

Ms ASIF: I withdraw.



Mr HEAD (Callide—LNP) (6.27 pm): No fuel means no farms, no freight and no food. Fuel security is national security and national security is a federal responsibility. What we get from those opposite is complete silence when it comes to the responsibility of the federal Labor Albanese government. What they also forget to do—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Let's try again.

Mr HEAD: The importance of fuel is not lost on us. It is important for our farmers, our truckies, our civil contractors, our small and family businesses, and our tourism operators. That is why we were the first state to blow the whistle on this problem more than two weeks before the federal government convened National Cabinet and weeks before they were even talking about it. I was on the phone with the Treasurer's team well before the federal government and those opposite in the Queensland Labor Party even realised it was an issue. Why would it take them so long to realise that this is an issue? Probably because they turned their back on the oil and gas industries and the energy sector here in Queensland a long time ago—that is, the sector that produces baseline power and the sector that keeps this country running. They make their green deals, but turn their back on the industries that underpin national security.

Of course, when we did blow the whistle on this, the federal government laughed at us. They mocked us and they made out that 'there's nothing to see here'. They made out that there is no problem and that Queenslanders and Australians can just get on with the job and forget this is a problem. Well, now we well and truly know it is a problem. It is nice to see those opposite finally awake, but it is a shame they have not realised that the people they need to be calling are their mates in Canberra. Why aren't they calling on their mates in Canberra to do something? Because they will always back in their mates over Queenslanders. That is what we see from those opposite. We saw it when it comes to—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! We are getting there slowly. Member for Callide?

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Waterford, you are warned.

Mr HEAD: At the end of the day, we did not need a crisis to understand this is an issue. There is something that those opposite have not been talking about through this. Maybe they need an economics lesson. Something I learned back in grade 8 economics is that when you have a limited supply of something prices go up. Now they are talking about capping prices, but through that they have not mentioned one thing—that is, supply. They have failed to mention supply and what they would do to improve supply in Queensland.

The LNP Crisafulli government backs in the oil industry. We were talking about increasing supply to the state well before there was even an oil crisis. We were doing that through the likes of the Taroom Trough. I was meeting with Omega Oil and Gas again today—

Mr SPEAKER: No props!

Mr HEAD: There is a fantastic ASX announcement that they have been making recently. I have been meeting with that company for a long period of time, as has the minister, who also met with them today. We back in these companies that are doing business here in Queensland.

For a bit of information on what the Taroom Trough may bring, for that company alone, on their publicly released information, one of their bore holes could produce 950,000 barrels of oil in a day. That is nearly a million barrels of oil. What does that mean when it comes to fuel supply here in Queensland? That is the equivalent of 151,000 cubic metres of fuel. When you break that million barrels of oil down to refine it—and I do not have the petrochemical analysis—that is 45 million litres of diesel and 60 million litres of petrol, plus jet fuel, bitumen and other fuels.


What does that mean? For that one bore hole to come into production, if you are taking four decks of cattle from Taroom to the Dinmore abattoir—a good load of Callide's finest beef—that is 85,000 round trips of four decks of cattle going to the abattoir. That is a lot of beef we are bringing on board. Plus, that is enough fuel over a year to keep 60,000 cars on the road.

However, what we get from those opposite, of course, is the politicisation of this. I want to place on record that, through the likes of the Taroom Trough, it is time we had conversations about a refinery on the Western Downs. It would be a great thing for my community. Those opposite—

A government member: They have no plans.

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection; they have no plan when it comes to improving supply of oil here in Queensland. They still failed to pick up the phone to Canberra. It is Canberra's responsibility to fix this fuel crisis and we will keep fighting until they do.

(Time expired)

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (6.33 pm): Doesn't it just put in lights how adept the Crisafulli government is at dodging responsibility that when there is a motion in this House about taking real action to say—

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause one second. Member for Buderim, you are on the list; you are warned.

Mr McCALLUM: Thank you for your protection, Mr Speaker. There is a motion before this House that will deliver real cost-of-living relief and transport affordability. What is the government's response? How do they prove to this House and therefore to Queenslanders that they are taking action? They move an amendment to the original motion that says it is all the federal government's responsibility. You have to hand it to them: they have proved our point by moving their amendment. It is quite incredible that they cannot see the hypocrisy and that they cannot see that what they have done in this House by moving the amendment simply proves our point.

I want to respond to some of the speakers' comments. The member for Gregory was talking about electronic cars. I am aware of electric cars, but electronic? Perhaps the member for Gregory has a collection of radio-controlled cars out there on his property? Maybe. I am not sure. I think the member for Whitsunday's contribution would have been better concentrated on fuel security for the Serengeti. The member for Hinchinbrook—don't worry about fuel solutions; you just worry about SET Solutions. The member for Callide was obsessing over fuel security when Labor's motion literally says in paragraph 3 'meaningful action ... available supply they need'. It literally says 'fuel supply' in the motion. I am so glad he is a geologist because he certainly has rocks in his head.

We have seen that every other government in the nation has taken action when it comes to fuel security and fuel supply. We have seen an extremely strong amount of action from the federal government and National Cabinet: 20 per cent release of domestic fuel reserves—we have 100 million litres flowing; more scrutiny and surveillance on the fuel sector; bigger penalties—the list goes on.


The New South Wales government has an energy and utilities crisis team. We do not have one of those in Queensland; there is no crisis team here. Victoria has taken action. South Australia, when they were in caretaker mode, still took action and convened a round table. Western Australia have taken action. In Queensland, the energy minister wrote a letter. It would have been in crayon; that is for sure. It would have been a very short letter and would have had some pictures there with a sad face—'We need more fuel.'

I will help out the energy minister. Queensland has something called the Liquid Fuel Supply Act. Part 3 is 'Contingency planning'. Section 16 is 'Maintenance of reserves'. Section 17 is 'Directions to create and maintain reserves'. Part 4 is 'Powers in event of shortage or anticipated shortage of liquid fuel'. Section 19 is 'Directed release and sale of liquid fuel'. Section 20 is 'Output from refineries'. Part 5 is titled 'Liquid fuel emergency' and contains section 24, which is 'Ministerial control during emergency'. They sit here and say that they cannot do anything, that it is all Canberra's fault. I will table the relevant sections of the Liquid Fuel Supply Act so the energy minister can actually go and do his job.

Tabled paper: Extract from Liquid Fuel Supply Act 1984 [\[396\]](#).

This is a government that is very slick with its words and very careful to avoid responsibility—because that is what it is all about—led by this Premier. I am getting ready for the member for Buderim to come down the Strait of Hormuz like a ghost tanker. Every member in here should support the original motion and the member for Gladstone's amendment to the amendment.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (6.38 pm): What a rambling, incoherent attempt at a policy from a listless and lazy opposition, led by a listless and lazy opposition leader. One need only look at the now opposition leader's own words to see how hollow this pathetic motion is from those opposite today. On 6 August 2024 the now opposition leader—there is a reason he is not speaking on this motion—said—

We don't control global oil prices and we can't force privately owned petrol retailers to charge less at the bowser ...

That is the Leader of the Opposition's record. That is what he said. It might explain why he has been silent for the last two weeks. As the federal government sat on their hands, did he pick up the phone to Canberra? Has he rung Chris Bowen or Albo and said, 'I think we've got a bit of a problem here, Canberra'? Did he ring Catherine King? I had a chat to Catherine King. I said, 'You know, we've got a problem here in Queensland. We're running out of fuel. You guys need to provide some supply. We've got a problem.' My question to the Leader of the Opposition is: have you rung him, mate? Did you ring him? Did you pick up the phone?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, speak through the chair, please, and use correct titles.

Mr MICKELBERG: I take your guidance, Mr Speaker. This Labor opposition are failing. They are failing at every turn. The leader-in-waiting, the member for Waterford, belled the cat. She said—I will broadly quote, because I do not want to verbal her—'For the first time, the Labor opposition have brought in a policy without any backing.' That is what she said in her contribution. What a tremendous argument. The policy in this eight-page bill—it is pretty light on—has no modelling, no detail and no intent on how it would be operationalised. Do we want to roll out 'Stevo's servos' again? What a tremendous idea that was! That was their policy. They have not ruled that out.

Let's be very clear: this is an opposition that is devoid of capability, devoid of ideas and devoid of policy. Sausage sizzles and scare campaigns do not cut it. That is all those opposite have. The least one could say about this bill is the member for Aspley spelt his name correctly.

Mr SPEAKER: The clock—

Mr MICKELBERG: I am happy to go for 10, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: The clock is not correct. The minister has been going for two minutes and 44 seconds, according to this clock. Minister, I have you here. Keep going.

Mr MICKELBERG: Let's turn to the member for Aspley—that savant in Aspley. This is a bloke who is trying to divert attention from his appalling record as a minister if ever I have seen one. This is a bloke who had the opportunity to make 50-cent fares permanent. Apparently, he spoke to the then premier and now opposition leader about it on his first day as a minister. He had all of that time to make it permanent. When it came to the budget, what did he do? Nothing. He did not make it permanent. He spent more on advertising 50-cent fares than he did on making them permanent.

It took an LNP government to make them permanent, to fund them through the budget, as a responsible government does. He had an ambition. He had a desire. He spoke about it on the first day. He did nothing. In fact, they actually cite the LNP's permanent 50-cent fares in their own explanatory notes to this bill as being evidence of success. I agree. It is a great success. It is a great LNP initiative that has been delivered by the Crisafulli government. Those opposite could not deliver it, even though they were in power for 10 years.

The member for Aspley's record is overseeing a \$6.7 billion blowout in road and rail projects. That is his record. On the radio a couple of weeks ago, Steve Austin asked him, 'What did you actually do in the former government?' I have to say that I and many Queenslanders have been asking ourselves the same question. He is clearly so worried about his job that he has taken to doorknocking in Stafford next door. He has jumped over the border and he is knocking on doors in Stafford. We know that he is worried about his existence, and he should be. The performances we saw today in front of the committee were disgraceful—absolutely incompetent. They had to bring in the protection squad—the Leader of the Opposition and the leader-in-waiting—

Mr MELLISH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. On behalf of everyone's ears, I take personal offence and ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence and I ask that you withdraw. According to my clock, you have 30 seconds left.

Mr MICKELBERG: I withdraw. The federal government is responsible for supply. If those opposite were serious about tackling this problem, they would pick up the phone to Canberra and advocate.

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: The member for Gladstone calls out about the Curtis Island ferry. I know Adam Balkin, mate, and I will be ringing him after this debate to tell him how you voted if you choose to vote against picking up the phone to Canberra.

(Time expired)

Division: Question put—That the member for Gladstone’s amendment to the amendment be agreed to.

AYES, 36:

ALP, 34—Asif, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O’Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Ind, 1—Sullivan.

NOES, 51:

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

Pair: Lister, Bailey.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr Butcher) negated.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Clarification is required in respect of the Treasurer’s amendment. The Treasurer’s amendment states, ‘That all words after “That this House” be omitted,’ but in the motion moved by the member for Aspley those words appear in both paragraphs 1 and 2, therefore potentially rendering the Treasurer’s amendment unintelligible and not in order. It is unclear, then, if the Treasurer still agrees with condemning the Crisafulli LNP government for its lack of fuel affordability action in Queensland.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr de BRENNI: Before this House is requested to vote on the Treasurer’s amendment, we ask for clarification on whether it applies to paragraph 1 or paragraph 2.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Did anybody just hear me? I will take some advice. Treasurer, could you resolve that issue for us in terms of the amendment that you moved?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I remind the House that there are a lot of members here on warnings and you are going to be leaving the chamber—although that will probably be a reward.

Mr JANETZKI: It is just in respect of paragraph 1—that all words after ‘That this House’ will be deleted.

Mr SPEAKER: Everything after ‘That this House’ in paragraph 1 will be omitted.

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

Mr SPEAKER: A division has been called. Ring the bells for one minute.

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, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O’Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

NOES, 36:

ALP, 34—Asif, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O’Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Ind, 1—Sullivan.

Pair: Lister, Bailey.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Amendment agreed to.

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


Motion agreed to.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House calls on the federal government to immediately undertake further actions to ensure Queenslanders have available the fuel supply they need.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Contravention of Parliament's Terms and Conditions of Broadcast


 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (6.54 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. It has been brought to my attention that there may have been a deliberate misrepresentation of proceedings and deliberate fabrication of an official parliamentary committee hearing which was held today. The Leader of the Opposition has posted videos to social media which are in contravention of the conditions of access for the reproduction of proceedings in the Queensland parliament. As such, I believe there are reasonable grounds to conclude that the actions of the Leader of the Opposition amount to a contempt of parliament under section 58 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, and I will be writing to you about this matter.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the House, you can write to me on that issue.

Sitting suspended from 6.55 pm to 7.55 pm.

TRANSPORT AND OTHER LEGISLATION (MANAGING E-MOBILITY USE AND PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES) AMENDMENT BILL

Message from Governor

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (7.55 pm): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

Mr SPEAKER: The message from Her Excellency recommends the Transport and Other Legislation (Managing E-mobility Use and Protecting Our Communities) Amendment Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

TRANSPORT AND OTHER LEGISLATION (MANAGING E-MOBILITY USE AND PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES) AMENDMENT BILL 2026

Constitution of Queensland 2001 section 68

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


A Bill for An Act to amend the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014, the Summary Offences Act 2005, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Accreditation and Other Provisions) Regulation 2015, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Road Rules) Regulation 2009 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes

GOVERNOR

Date: 25 March 2026

Tabled paper: Message, dated 25 March 2026, from Her Excellency the Governor, recommending the Transport and Other Legislation (Managing E-mobility Use and Protecting Our Communities) Amendment Bill 2026 [\[397\]](#).

Introduction

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (7.56 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014, the Summary Offences Act 2005, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Accreditation and Other Provisions) Regulation 2015, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Road Rules) Regulation 2009 and the legislation mentioned in

schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Transport and Other Legislation (Managing E-mobility Use and Protecting Our Communities) Amendment Bill 2026 [398].

Tabled paper: Transport and Other Legislation (Managing E-mobility Use and Protecting Our Communities) Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes [399].

Tabled paper: Transport and Other Legislation (Managing E-mobility Use and Protecting Our Communities) Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights [400].

I rise tonight to introduce the Transport and Other Legislation (Managing E-mobility Use and Protecting Our Communities) Amendment Bill 2026. The Crisafulli government was elected with a clear mandate to restore safety for all Queenslanders. In recent years we have seen a steady proliferation of illegal, high-powered devices on our roads and footpaths—devices that are not only noncompliant but also dangerous. Across the country, high-powered e-devices are now flooding the market, putting lives at risk.

Between 2022 and 2025, more than 6,300 injuries related to e-scooters were reported at emergency departments across 36 Queensland hospitals. Tragically, 12 people lost their lives in e-device related incidents last year alone—several of them children. Eight of these fatalities involved personal mobility devices, known as PMDs. These are not just statistics; they are lives lost, families shattered and communities left grieving. It is therefore only natural that many Queenslanders are fearful about their safety on our footpaths and streets.

The community has been clear in its message: enough is enough. Queenslanders are tired of unsafe and illegal e-device use. They are tired of dodging speeding e-scooters on footpaths, of seeing children on dangerous devices and of witnessing reckless behaviour that puts lives at risk. They are tired of the lack of accountability for riders who break the rules, and the police are fed up that they have not been provided with the tools they need to address these issues.

Let's be honest: the rise in popularity of these e-mobility devices is a challenge for governments around the world and, unfortunately, there is no silver bullet. There are no simple answers, but sticking your head in the sand, using taxpayer money to encourage the uptake of illegal devices or making promises to fix RBT loopholes but failing to act are options that no reasonable government should take. That is why our government asked the parliament to task the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee to undertake an inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland. We needed a thorough investigation into this complicated issue. We also needed to allow Queenslanders to participate in the process, using local knowledge to understand and to then craft a response.

I thank the member for Lockyer as the chair of that committee as well as all of the committee members, including the member for Mulgrave and the member for Cook, for their hard work and deliberations. The inquiry received over 1,200 submissions from individuals, organisations and stakeholders. Some of the testimony the committee heard was heartbreaking. Parents spoke of the devastating loss of their children in preventable accidents. Pedestrians, including vulnerable path users like those with low vision, described near misses and injuries caused by reckless riders. Medical professionals shared their experiences of treating serious injuries, including traumatic brain injuries, caused by unsafe e-device use. These stories reinforced the urgent need for action to address the risks associated with e-devices and to protect all road and path users.

We also heard from the police. As the frontline agency responsible for enforcing the law, they have been hamstrung in their ability to respond to this growing menace. It is fair to say that the committee heard many different viewpoints and positions, and it is therefore impossible to deliver recommendations that everyone will be happy with. Through a lens of public safety it is clear that the committee has come up with a series of commonsense and nation-leading recommendations that will make our streets and footpaths a safer place for everyone. That is what we promised this process would deliver. I now table the Crisafulli government's response to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee's report highlighting our strong support for all of the recommendations.

Tabled paper: State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 21—Inquiry into E-mobility Safety and Use in Queensland, government response [401].

This bill will put these recommendations into action. This bill delivers the strong, decisive action that Queenslanders have been calling for. It introduces a suite of nation-leading reforms to address the challenges of e-device use and ensure the safety of our communities. These reforms are comprehensive, evidence-based and practical. They strike the right balance between preserving the benefits of e-devices and addressing the risks they pose.

A minimum age of 16 years and a requirement to hold a valid licence is a key reform under this bill. This change recognises that operating an e-device requires a certain level of skill, knowledge, maturity and being medically fit to drive. By setting age and licensing requirements, we can ensure that riders have the necessary understanding of road rules and the ability to operate them safely and interact with other road and path users in a safe and respectful manner.

Illegal high-speed e-devices continue to cause significant safety concerns across Queensland. To address this issue, the bill significantly strengthens police powers, allowing officers to seize and destroy high-powered e-bikes and e-scooters that exceed speed or power limits. This will ensure that dangerous e-devices are removed from our roads and footpaths for good, reducing the risk of accidents and injuries. This approach may seem tough, but it is a necessary change that will enable our police to have the right powers to start cleaning up the streets and making our communities safe again. The community continues to be shocked by the reckless behaviour of young hooners on illegal devices partaking in rideouts across Queensland. This behaviour will not be tolerated by the Crisafulli government, and that is why this bill introduces new hooning-related offences for e-devices to aid police in targeting behaviours like organising, filming, promoting, encouraging and spectating at hooning activities.

The Crisafulli government will ensure that young offenders cannot escape the consequences of dangerous driving or riding behaviours. This reform will be particularly important in an environment of increasing road trauma. The bill ensures that 16- and 17-year-olds are held accountable for road safety offences like speeding and careless driving. Currently, unpaid fines issued to 16- and 17-year-olds for vehicle related offences are not enforceable. This creates a gap in accountability and diminishes young people's abilities to establish lifelong safe driving habits.

Under this bill unpaid fines will no longer be ignored and young drivers will face the same consequences as adults. However, parents and guardians will also be held accountable under this bill. Any parent who allows a minor under 16 to ride an e-device or illegal device will face significant penalties. Similarly, retailers who sell e-devices to children under 16 will be subject to strict penalties just as they would for selling knives to minors. These measures send a clear message that everyone has a role to play in ensuring the safe use of e-devices.

We will also be holding shared e-device providers accountable under this bill. Companies offering hireable e-devices will be required to take reasonable steps to ensure their riders meet age and licence requirements. Providers who fail to comply will face significant penalties, ensuring accountability across the industry.

The Crisafulli government will not continue to allow riders of e-devices to flout the rules without consequence. This bill ensures that the seriousness of offending directly matches the severity of the penalty. Penalties for speeding, carrying passengers, riding without a helmet and riding on prohibited roads are significantly increasing under this bill. This approach is designed to deter dangerous conduct and protect all road and path users.

The bill introduces several new offences to curb the new behaviours that are concerning the community. Riding without due care and attention such as weaving, riding too closely to other road and path users, and failing to alert others before overtaking are some of the behaviours which will not be tolerated and will be met with a fine of \$500. Similarly, parking e-devices in a hazardous or obstructive manner will attract fines, and local government officers are empowered to issue these fines as well as police.

Let me be clear: there is no place for drink-driving or riding under the Crisafulli government. Drink riding puts the most vulnerable path users at risk and inebriated riders suffer more significant injuries, often to the face or head. The bill enables police to random breath-test any e-device or bike rider over the age of 16 in any public place, with fines starting at \$500 for riding while intoxicated. This will allow police to respond efficiently to the community's concerns about intoxicated riders and the dangers they present to themselves and others.

Another key reform in the bill is the modernisation and simplification of e-device definitions. The bill aligns Queensland's definition for e-bikes with the European standard, which is internationally recognised as the best practice approach for pedal-assisted bikes. The bill also reintroduces the requirement for personal mobility devices, the most common of which is an e-scooter, to be limited to 25 kilometres an hour by design. The previous framework attempted to operate under a behaviour-based enforcement model for personal mobility device speed regulation, but it ultimately failed and has resulted in the proliferation of high-speed devices in Queensland. This bill will return the framework to a device-based compliance model and ensures that riders, parents and retailers are acutely aware that personal mobility devices cannot legally go faster than 25 kilometres an hour.

To assist police with its identification of illegal devices, the bill creates a new clear definition to capture noncompliant devices. Any device which exceeds the strict new requirements for e-bikes and personal mobility devices is considered to be a prohibited bike and will be the focus of targeted police enforcement. These changes will provide clarity for riders, retailers and enforcement agencies, ensuring that everyone understands what is legal and what is not. By adopting these clear and consistent definitions we can stem the rampant use of illegal devices and ensure that only safe, compliant devices are used on our roads and footpaths.

The bill also introduces measures to improve safety on footpaths and roads. It establishes a 10 kilometre an hour speed limit for e-devices on footpaths, reducing risks to pedestrians. It expands road access for personal mobility devices to roads with speed limits of up to 60 kilometres an hour, encouraging riders to move off footpaths and on to roads as appropriate to suit the needs of riders and pedestrians. These measures will help create a safer environment for all road and path users.

The benefits of this bill are clear. By addressing unsafe and illegal e-device use we will reduce injuries and fatalities, making our roads and footpaths safer for everyone. With stronger enforcement powers, our police will have the tools they need to crack down on dangerous devices and behaviours. By holding riders, parents and retailers accountable we will create a culture of responsibility and compliance. By aligning our regulations with national and international standards we will provide a clear and enforceable framework for e-device use that is harmonised with other jurisdictions.

These reforms will also support the safe integration of e-devices into Queensland's transport network into the future. By providing clear rules and expectations for riders, we can promote responsible use and reduce the risks associated with them. This will help ensure that e-devices remain a viable and safe transport option for Queenslanders.

This bill is not just about addressing the problems of the past; it is about setting a vision for the future. It is about creating a safer, stronger Queensland where everyone can enjoy the benefits of e-devices without fear for their safety. It is about ensuring that our roads, footpaths and public spaces are safe for everyone—from pedestrians and cyclists to e-device riders and motorists.

The Transport and other Legislation (Managing E-mobility Use and Protecting Our Communities) Amendment Bill 2026 is a comprehensive, evidence-based response to the challenges of e-device use. It addresses the concerns of our communities, empowers our police and delivers the strong reforms needed to keep Queenslanders safe. These are nation-leading reforms, and they will set the benchmark for e-device regulation across Australia. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. BA MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (8.10 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

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

REGIONAL PLANNING INTERESTS (CONDAMINE ALLUVIUM) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (8.10 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, the Regional Planning Interests Act 2014, the Regional Planning Interests

Regulation 2014 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Primary Industries and Resources Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Regional Planning Interests (Condamine Alluvium) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 [402].

Tabled paper: Regional Planning Interests (Condamine Alluvium) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes [403].

Tabled paper: Regional Planning Interests (Condamine Alluvium) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights [404].

I am pleased to introduce the Regional Planning Interests (Condamine Alluvium) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 into the parliament this evening. During the 2024 state election we made a commitment to the people of Queensland to require gas companies to demonstrate beyond any reasonable doubt that new projects would not have a detrimental impact on the Condamine Alluvium, a large and significant water aquifer used for agricultural purposes.

The Crisafulli government has heard landholder and industry concerns and, after working with key stakeholders, we have developed a bill that provides a coordinated approach to deliver this election commitment and protect this important aquifer as we promised. This approach stands in stark contrast to those opposite who, under Labor's decade of decline, repeatedly ignored community and landholder concerns over the Condamine Alluvium.

Not only are we delivering upon our election commitment after a decade of decline under Labor; the Crisafulli government is also introducing more property rights for landholders to underpin coexistence in the Condamine Alluvium area. Coexistence is something that the Labor Party could never understand, and there is no better example of that than when those opposite had to pull their proposed subsidence measures from their own bill in 2024.

This bill addresses the concerns at the core of the Condamine Alluvium—opaque approvals processes and gaps in the existing regulatory framework designed to protect water quality. In Queensland, gas companies must obtain an environmental authority before they are allowed to start drilling wells. While assessing impacts to the water quality of the Condamine Alluvium is currently part of the process of obtaining an environmental authority, the Crisafulli government is committed to addressing community concerns and providing certainty that we will prevent long-term detrimental impacts from new CSG activity.

The bill delivers on our election commitment to protect the aquifer by introducing a new deemed condition that will apply to all new environmental authorities issued for CSG activities in the Condamine Alluvium CSG area. This proposed condition will prohibit the release of contaminants, by the operation of a new well, into waters in the Condamine Alluvium CSG area where that well would cause detrimental long-term impact on water quality.

Prescribing the deemed condition in the Environmental Protection Act 1994 will ensure that water quality objectives are consistently applied and embedded as a mandatory condition on all new environmental authorities issued within the Condamine Alluvium CSG area.

Under the bill, gas companies exercising their right to remove groundwater as a necessary aspect of extracting CSG from new wells in the future will need to operate under the proposed new deemed condition to apply prospectively to CSG activities that have the potential to impact on water quality. This amendment to the Environmental Protection Act 1994 provides clarity and certainty about the environmental outcomes that need to be achieved to protect the water quality of the Condamine Alluvium aquifer and delivers on our election commitment.

In addition to concerns about the water quality of the aquifer, some landholders in the Condamine area have raised concerns about their farm activities and productivity being impacted by CSG induced subsidence. These concerns are hindering coexistence between the resources sector and the agricultural sector. The resources industry has also raised concerns about the duplicative approval processes under the current regulation of CSG activities in the Condamine Alluvium area. The bill goes beyond delivering on the election commitment to protect the aquifer by including an holistic government response to both of these issues.

The current approval process for new CSG activities in the Condamine Alluvium area is complex and lengthy, involving separate assessments, including self-assessment by operators, and needing multiple approvals across several government agencies. Gas companies must obtain resource authorities and environmental authorities before commencing a project, whereas regional interests development approvals can be obtained later in the project life cycle. The multistep process can lead to stagnant and fractured approvals, creating uncertainty for both gas companies and landholders until all necessary approvals are obtained.

Under the Regional Planning Interests Act 2014, in practice many activities in the Condamine Alluvium are not subject to regional planning interests approvals as the approval process allows considerable scope for exemptions, determined by the self-assessment of the operators. This is evidenced by there being only five decided and approved CSG applications in the Condamine Alluvium since the Regional Planning Interests Act 2014 commenced in 2014. This means that the community has not been consulted or made aware of the proposed development for CSG activities.

Combined with a limited compliance and enforcement framework, a range of impacts on agricultural activities in the Condamine Alluvium are not being considered under the regional planning interests approval framework at present. To address this complexity, the bill removes the requirement for a regional interests development approval for CSG activities in the Condamine Alluvium CSG area and shifts the assessment to the familiar and trusted environmental authority process with a proven and robust compliance framework.

The removal of the requirement for a regional interests development approval will see the assessment of water quality shift to the enhanced environmental authority framework and the consideration of impacts to agricultural land and productivity to the CSG induced subsidence compensation framework. Relying on the environmental authority framework will further support landholders by providing for a robust compliance and enforcement system with compliance officers located statewide and serious penalties, financial assurance and director liability enforced under the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

The Environmental Protection Act 1994 also provides powers to step in to stop activity where an operator contravenes their obligations and to compel the release of documents and information—important powers that do not exist under the Regional Planning Interests Act 2014. This is further supported by ensuring the environmental authority applies to the operator instead of the land as per the regional planning interests approval, which ensures that, where an operator may change, the responsibilities of ensuring compliance with the approvals are retained.

Importantly, a deemed condition cannot be altered, reviewed or appealed by gas companies, ensuring consistency across the operation of CSG wells in the Condamine Alluvium CSG area applied for after these legislative reforms commence. Further to this, the environmental authority framework also offers greater transparency and accountability through notification requirements and third-party appeal rights. This established framework is well respected by a broad range of stakeholders for providing a comprehensive assessment, consultation and compliance features.

As the regional interests development approval is generally the final approval for a new CSG activity, removing this requirement will provide a more predictable, front-loaded approval process. This front-loaded approval process also is designed to provide clarity and certainty to landholders.

Consistent with the government's election commitment to change the framework for new CSG projects, the regional interests development approval removal will not be applied retrospectively, meaning existing approvals for CSG activities in the area will continue to apply.

The bill also addresses stakeholder concerns about subsidence and the impacts on farm activities and productivity by clarifying and expanding property rights in response to CSG induced subsidence impacts on private land in the Condamine Alluvium CSG area. The framework relies on the existing land access and compensation framework, including conduct and compensation agreements, CCAs, and the primary mechanism for addressing compensation.

The amendments make it clear that gas companies must compensate landholders for CSG induced subsidence impacts they have caused to agricultural activities or productivity. This clarity does not exist under the current legislation and is therefore an important step change in boosting landholder rights. Landholders with 'advanced activities' being carried out on their land will be able to seek this compensation through the existing CCA framework and related dispute resolution processes.

The compensation framework is also being expanded by requiring gas companies to enter into a CCA with landholders prior to drilling directional wells under their land. This is achieved by deeming directional drilling as an advanced activity in the Condamine Alluvium CSG area. This means new landholder rights where a well is drilled beneath a person's land even if there are no surface wells or associated infrastructure on that property. These amendments are proposed to apply prospectively by capturing CSG activities after commencement that are not already covered by an existing CCA or voluntary agreement where financial payments are made to the landholder.

Compensation is also being expanded to cover landholders within five kilometres outside the resource tenure boundary in the Condamine Alluvium CSG area. The five-kilometre distance is based on advice from the Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment. Compensation is limited to CSG induced subsidence impacts. This is a significant change to the current framework. Compensation is currently limited to land within a resources tenure and access land.

These landholders may seek this compensation directly from gas companies, not through CCAs. Any disputes may be addressed through the existing conferencing process or under a new pathway to resolve CSG induced subsidence compensation disputes through the Land Court. This is the case for landholders experiencing CSG induced subsidence impacts within a resource tenure where there are no advanced activities on or beneath their land. These landholders can also seek compensation directly from gas companies if they do not have an existing CCA or voluntary agreement in place.

In any Land Court proceedings, these landholders are not required to prove the impacts suffered are from new CSG activities. This recognises that it is technically difficult to attribute CSG induced subsidence to new versus historical activities. By expanding access to compensation the bill provides greater parity among landholders, which will improve neighbour relations and reduce community conflict about coal seam gas operations.

To deliver this package of reforms, a map of the Condamine Alluvium CSG area will be prescribed by the Regional Planning Interests Regulation. The Condamine Alluvium CSG area is largely consistent with the existing mapping of the Condamine Alluvium under the Regional Planning Interests Regulation but excludes a tributary within an area known as the Taroom Trough. This area reflects the known CSG formations in the Condamine Alluvium and covers the areas that may pose the greatest risk to the aquifer. This map will provide clear boundaries for the application of these amendments and indicate this government's priorities for the protection of the aquifer.

Through this bill, the LNP government delivers again on an election commitment to ensure the Condamine Alluvium aquifer is protected from new CSG projects and that the regulatory frameworks regulating CSG activities in the Condamine Alluvium CSG area are robust and effective. The amendments to the three legislative frameworks I have outlined will ensure a clear operating environment for agricultural and coal seam gas industries in the area and promote coexistence going forward. This bill is yet another example of the Crisafulli government delivering on the commitments made to Queenslanders at the last election.

Unlike the decade of decline under Labor, when repeated local community and landholder concerns over the Condamine Alluvium were ignored, we are acting with tough new laws to protect water quality and increasing property rights to support greater coexistence. Through the new mandatory environmental authority deemed condition we are prohibiting the release of contaminants that could cause detrimental long-term impacts on water quality in the Condamine Alluvium CSG area. In addition to the delivery of this election commitment, the Crisafulli government recognises the importance of coexistence and that is why we are going further to increase property rights over CSG induced subsidence. In the mapped area, landholders will now:

- have the right to enter into a conduct and compensation agreement for wells under their land—a CCA will now be required irrespective of whether CSG infrastructure is on or under a property owner's land,
- have the clarity that CSG induced subsidence is a compensatable impact under the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014,
- have the right to seek compensation for CSG induced subsidence off tenure within five kilometres of the resources tenure boundary.

Our government is about creating lasting economic opportunities for regional Queensland, delivering jobs, investment certainty and coexistence for both agricultural and resource industries. It is always the LNP who have to address coexistence issues that have been left unchecked by Labor governments that do not understand rural and regional Queensland and do not back our farming families to supply food and fibre to our growing state.

The amendments will commence on assent. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (8.25 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to Primary Industries and Resources Committee


Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Marr): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Primary Industries and Resources Committee.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (SUPPLEMENTARY 2024-2025) BILL

APPROPRIATION (SUPPLEMENTARY 2024-2025) BILL

Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill resumed from 30 October 2025 (see p. 3488) and Appropriation (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill resumed from 30 October 2025 (see p. 3489).

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (8.25 pm): I move—

That the bills be now read a second time.

The purpose of these bills is to provide for supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure that occurred in the 2024-25 financial year. I would like to thank the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee for its report tabled on 19 December 2025 regarding the 2024-25 supplementary appropriation bills. I note the committee made one recommendation to parliament: that the bills be passed.

Section 35 of the Financial Accountability Act 2009 provides that should expenditure from the Consolidated Fund exceed the amount approved by annual appropriation, the Governor in Council, on the recommendation of the Treasurer, may authorise the expenditure. This amount must be approved by Governor in Council within four weeks of the end of the financial year. Accordingly, in July 2025 the Governor in Council authorised unforeseen expenditure incurred during the 2024-25 financial year of \$5.746 billion. This is made up of \$5.741 billion for 17 departments and \$5.4 million for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service—in all, representing 6.3 per cent of the original appropriation in the Miles government's 2024-25 budget handed down in June 2024. The payment of unforeseen expenditure must be formally authorised under an act of parliament in accordance with section 66 of the Constitution of Queensland 2001.

The audited Consolidated Fund financial report, tabled on 12 September 2025, contains explanations of all unforeseen expenditure incurred by departments for the full 2024-25 financial year in accordance with sections 23 and 24 of the Financial Accountability Act. 'Unforeseen expenditure' is the term used to describe payments from the Consolidated Fund to a department which are above the amounts approved in prior appropriation acts. For example, a department may need supplementary appropriation to respond to genuinely emergent issues, or there may be a change in the timing of Commonwealth payments or project delivery. There are also some more technical changes which may trigger the need for supplementary appropriation, including changes in depreciation, or the timing and quantum of beneficiary payments for superannuation and annual leave which are difficult to estimate. These are paid from existing provisions and do not represent an additional expense. These kinds of matters are normal functions of government. However, that is not what lay at the heart of the bills before us.

At the heart of this debate is the deception of the former Labor government—something we have uncovered bit by bit since coming to government and something which the numbers make very clear. In the 2024-25 budget handed down by the member for Woodridge, the Miles Labor government hid their project blowouts from the people of Queensland and they underfunded critical frontline services relied on by Queenslanders. Their last budget was a document designed to make it through the four months to the October election—not the full financial year—and certainly not the next four years of the budget forward estimates.

It was a document that was part of a short-term cynical political strategy, not a long-term agenda to improve the sustainability of our state's finances, deliver better services or build the new infrastructure our state needed after a decade of decline. In the short time between the election of the Crisafulli

government and the 2024-25 MYFER—Labor’s last budget update—we uncovered many of the hidden cost blowouts and the critical frontline services facing funding cliffs because of the decisions made by the leadership team of the Miles government and now leadership team of the opposition. They left a budget littered with ticking time bombs, knowing that money for essential services and poorly managed capital projects would run out before the end of the year.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: For example, as referenced in the Consolidated Fund financial report, this bill factors in the \$461 million—

Mr SMITH: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence. I ask that the Premier withdraw his unparliamentary comments.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: This bill factors in the—

Mr SMITH: Madam Deputy Speaker, the Premier has just left in another unparliamentary attitude. I will be writing to the Speaker.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O’Shea): Attorney-General, just one moment. I am afraid I did not hear the unparliamentary language.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: And it is a longstanding convention that people do not mention people who are not in the chamber.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Attorney-General, I have just dealt with that point of order. I ask the Treasurer to resume and for quiet in the chamber to hear the Treasurer.

Mr JANETZKI: For example, as referenced in the Consolidated Fund financial report, this bill factors in the \$461 million we provided to fully fund Child Safety. Without the Crisafulli government stepping in to fund the services the members for Murrumba and Woodridge did not, vulnerable children living in residential care would have been stranded without carers to help them and without a roof over their heads. For all the bluster from the opposition about jobs before the election and since, its last budget would have seen dozens of frontline child safety jobs ended—not in one year’s time, not in two years time—because the funding was running out in a matter of months. Then the opposition had the temerity to suggest that it was this government that was planning to end those jobs when it was its government that never funded them. The supplementary appropriation bill makes it very clear that it was Labor that planned and budgeted to end these jobs, and it is the LNP government that stepped in to provide funding and employment certainty for those frontline workers in Child Safety, among others.

There was over \$200 million in net unforeseen expenditure across the Department of Housing and Public Works in 2024-25. This includes nearly \$120 million for previously unfunded housing and homelessness services and \$62½ million for unfunded essential social housing maintenance. When it comes to delivering for those who need public housing in our state, we can never again take the member for Gaven seriously. She was the minister for housing at the time of the 2024-25 budget. Other examples in the bill include \$118 million in previously unbudgeted funding which was required to provide financial assistance to victims of crime to help them recover from the physical and psychological effects of violent crime.

This bill also reflects the actions we took to fully fund the delivery of the Crisafulli government’s permanent 50-cent fares—a great initiative of the Crisafulli government after the Labor Party failed to do so. Let’s be honest: it did not even fund 50-cent fares for a full year, let alone fund them in the forwards. There was more money in the 2024-25 budget to advertise its temporary initiative than there was to deliver it permanently, and that is why it will always be known as the Crisafulli government’s permanent 50-cent fares. We funded it; those opposite did not.

There is over \$2 billion in unforeseen expenditure for Queensland Health. This includes the funding the Crisafulli government provided for the Surgery Connect Surge to urgently address the elective surgery waitlist, which was out of control during Labor’s decade of decline. Thanks to our government’s efforts, led by Minister Nicholls, we have stabilised the elective surgery waitlist—one of many green shoots we are seeing across the health system as we work to get it back on track after Labor’s decade of decline. Over \$800 million out of the \$2 billion extra for Queensland Health is equity funding for black holes and cost overruns in hospital maintenance, refurbishment and infrastructure delivery—funding which we have now provided as part of our comprehensive Hospital Rescue Plan. Those opposite, including the member for Waterford, spin stories and spread mistruths about their failed

health capital program and our Hospital Rescue Plan on a near daily basis, but their last budget did not even have enough funding to last the year. The then minister for health and now shadow treasurer sat around the CBRC table when this budget was being decided.

To make matters worse, in response to this very bill, the member for Waterford told the ABC that the LNP government had 'failed to rein in spending'. The opposition is all over the shop. Which is it? Are we investing too much or too little, as its story keeps changing? We know that it is painful for the opposition and we know it does not want its record to be scrutinised. When Andrew Fraser was treasurer, Labor would only introduce the supplementary appropriation bills for the previous year with the appropriation bills a year later. After the Liberal-National government returned transparency to the process, the member for Woodridge tried to game the system once again by splitting up his blowouts into more manageable pieces. For the 2023-24 financial year, their massive \$9 billion in supplementary appropriations was split into three separate bills. They can slice and dice it as much as they want, but at the end of the day the numbers do not lie. I note the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee report notes that we have returned to the convention brought in previously by the LNP of approving unforeseen expenditure in a single set of bills and welcomes this streamlined approach.

As I have already said, we know that the opposition is not that interested in discussing budget management, and that was evident in the public briefing on the bill as part of the committee inquiry. During the public briefing the deputy chair of the committee, the member for Bancroft, did not ask a single question, instead complaining that he wanted to ask Treasury about a different bill. This followed on to the committee report, which saw the Labor members not providing any statement of reservation or dissenting report. During last year's debate on supplementary appropriation for the 2023-24 financial year the members for Murrumba, Woodridge, Waterford and McConnel spoke for a combined total time of six minutes—six minutes. Those senior Labor figures—part of the Cabinet Budget Review Committee—could only muster six minutes in defending their fiscal management in their last full year of office. I certainly hope they will contribute more to this debate and explain why they hid their project blowouts and underfunding of key frontline services.


The members for Woodridge and Murrumba left behind a budget with an unsustainable trajectory with massive debt and deficit. That is despite the member for Woodridge collecting \$70 billion more in revenue than he forecast in his first budget, and that was just in three years—\$70 billion more revenue than he forecast—and Queenslanders rightly ask to this very day: where did it go and what do they have to show for it? Where did the money go?

On 26 October 2024, four months after the 2024-25 budget was handed down, Queensland voted for a fresh start. They voted for a government that would deliver respect for their money, and we are delivering. As I said earlier, the \$5.746 billion of unforeseen expenditure for 2024-25 represents 6.3 per cent of the original appropriation—high by historical standards. It is a significant reduction from last year, when unforeseen expenditure was over \$9 billion, or 11.6 per cent of the original appropriation. We continue to calmly and methodically work through the budget mess left behind by Labor. Our first budget laid the foundation for budget repair while restoring funding for services that would have ceased and jobs that would have ended under the former Labor government.

They were building a hospital in Springfield but they did not even budget a dollar for the hospital to be operationalised. We saved infrastructure and projects that Labor would never have built and we delivered responsible and targeted cost-of-living relief. Labor's decade of decline left Queensland on track for record debt and consistent worsening deficits and their fiscal vandalism has left Queensland facing a potential credit rating downgrade. While ratings agency S&P earlier this year determined there was to be no change to Queensland's rating, we have repeatedly said a downgrade in the future is highly likely, even inevitable. That is Labor's legacy.

The weakened fiscal position we inherited from them makes it harder for the government to respond to external shocks and global economic conditions. We know events in the Middle East are having a significant impact, with global economic ramifications flowing through the national economy from households to industry. Labor's reckless budget management has consequences. We have laid the foundation for a fresh start but it will take time to turn it around—this term of government and the next.

Getting the budget under control and restoring respect for Queenslanders' money starts with budgets actually meaning something. Our latest budget update showed this very clearly, with the lowest budget to MYFER expense growth since the pandemic. It is not our money; it is Queenslanders' money. That is what those opposite forgot, and they should use this debate to finally own up to their record and apologise to the people of Queensland. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (8.41 pm): After that contribution from the Treasurer it would seem that what economists and political commentators are saying about this government—that there is a clear lack of budget strategy—has been borne out. The Treasurer spent more time during his speech on his own appropriation bills talking about Labor than he did about what his government will do to manage the budget and the huge challenges ahead for the budget.

The bills in front of us seek approval for \$5.4 million for unforeseen expenditure incurred by the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service and \$5.7 billion for government departments. Queensland's Constitution provides amounts can only be paid from the Consolidated Fund under an act so that any unforeseen expenditure must also be formally approved by parliament via these bills. The payments have been made to agencies authorised by Governor in Council but now must be formally authorised. These bills fulfil that requirement and for that reason, of course, the Labor opposition will be supporting them, but I note the Treasurer's commentary around previous supplementary appropriation bills.

One of those previous bills happened to fund universal electricity rebates for households of \$1,000 and \$300 small business rebates. Obviously there would be no need for such a bill under this government because they have scrapped rebates. I remind everyone why we had to introduce that bill separately. We had to lock in those rebates and protect them from being lowered or even cancelled by the LNP, and their actions since have proven the necessity for doing that. They have completely abandoned any cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders but I am glad the Treasurer is so proud of having fewer supplementary appropriation bills. I am sure Queensland families will be absolutely thrilled that the supplementary appropriation bill was consolidated this year whilst they lose out on their electricity rebates.

I want to thank Treasury officials for their time assisting the committee and for their ongoing work. I note Treasury's advice that not all of the appropriations that fit the category of unforeseen expenditure would match the layperson's definition of 'unforeseen'. Unforeseen expenditure is any appropriation required above that provided to the department at the time of the budget and the original appropriation. That can be for any number of reasons including enterprise bargaining agreement outcomes to centrally held funds. I note from the committee briefing that this includes expenditure on election commitments. The Crisafulli LNP government's election spending commitments were, naturally, not included in the June budget before the election. According to the LNP's costings handed down by this Treasurer that should not matter. The Treasurer promised—with a straight face—he would find so many savings on consultants that there would be no extra cost to the bottom line. Apparently, the entirety of the LNP's \$712 million worth of election spending would be offset by achieving their cap on contractors and consultants. That was the only way they could possibly pretend that they had balanced their election costings.

Economists have said it was not a credible commitment and it turns out they have missed their cap by \$1 billion. As the Queensland Audit Office revealed, the LNP are missing their promised cap on contractors and consultants by a mile. In fact, in the 2024-25 financial year—the year of these appropriations—they overran that figure by \$1 billion. They did not even get around to setting up the much hyped Queensland government consulting service in time. It looks like the Premier has lost faith in his Treasurer to ever deliver on these savings because they have been crab walking away from that commitment for some time. I am quoting from the *Brisbane Times* article entitled 'Crisafulli blames Labor for debt woes, but experts say otherwise'. It reads—

Asked on Wednesday if the government was still committed to implementing the caps, Crisafulli would not say.

I remember when this Premier was committed to KPIs so that his ministers would be held to account. That used to be his style. Now the Treasurer has failed spectacularly when it comes to his consultant caps, the Premier seems to have completely abandoned the idea. It only gets worse from here on in. The problem is that this failure to deliver these savings will not be a one-off. These promised savings are baked in across the forward estimates. In fact, the savings are meant to be even greater this year. The LNP's costings are relying on a cap this financial year of \$2.5 billion.

Mr Janetzki: Tick, delivered.

Ms FENTIMAN: I take the Treasurer's interjection; 'Tick, delivered,' he says. I note that this financial year it is lower than the \$3 billion cap they missed in the 2024-25 financial year, and that is meant to be coming off a base that they missed by \$1 billion last year. There are a lot of billions here, Treasurer. This financial year runs the risk of the wheels truly coming off the government's only savings plan. They are meant to save nearly \$7 billion but no-one believes that figure. Delivering on this promise

would have saved us unforeseen expenditure in 2024-25. Instead, the LNP's failure to deliver is putting more at risk for Queensland and it comes at a time when ratings agencies are expecting those savings to be delivered.

The Treasurer likes to get up and foreshadow a credit rating downgrade. That is right—the Treasurer of Queensland is actually saying that he expects there to be a downgrade but he does not take any responsibility for that. As we have just heard, he likes to blame Labor but, in fact, it is the ratings agencies looking at their expenditure in their budgets and their failed savings that will result in a downgrade. S&P have placed Queensland's credit rating on a negative outlook. I remind everyone that S&P affirmed Queensland's AA+ rating on a stable outlook in September 2024—a month before the election. Ratings agencies and investors do not seem to like this Treasurer's tricks in MYFER and the budget and they are concerned about what they are seeing. S&P have warned the Treasurer. Their latest note said of his promise to deliver consultancy savings that 'successful implementation will be crucial to maintaining the credit rating in the state'. The credit rating agencies have put this Treasurer on notice that if he fails to deliver on his savings plan that will be the reason for the downgrade. That is what the ratings agencies are saying but this Treasurer comes into this place and says it is all Labor's fault.


Of course, the Treasurer missed the savings by a mile in the first year. I really wonder whether or not maintaining a AA+ credit rating is a KPI for this Treasurer because it is a very dangerous path he is setting down upon. He thinks this is just a political calculation, that he can just blame Labor, but this attitude will lead to Queensland copping a ratings downgrade and that means higher borrowing costs for Queensland. That is an opportunity cost for future investment, for investment in schools, roads, hospitals, funding our frontline workers, our police, our doctors, our nurses and our teachers. Speaking of our teachers and nurses, these everyday Queenslanders are feeling the pressure every single day at the checkout, at the bowser, with their rent and with their insurance. ABS Consumer Price Index data shows electricity prices increasing by 43.2 per cent; rents increasing by 4.9 per cent; housing costs increasing by 7.4 per cent; and insurance costs in this state increasing by 4.4 per cent—that is nearly double the national average.

This was an election commitment from the Premier, who said that his Adult Crime, Adult Time laws would lower insurance premiums. In fact, they have skyrocketed. At a time when costs are rising across the board, this appropriation bill is going towards absolutely nothing to support Queenslanders doing it tough. Former under treasurer Sir Leo Hielscher always said to his treasurers, 'It is you against the 18 others in cabinet.' This Treasurer seems to lack any influence over his colleagues and so he has resorted to excuses and finger-pointing.

Government members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): Order, please!

Ms FENTIMAN: He said it to every treasurer. You are not unique there, Treasurer. I think Sir Leo's point is that this Treasurer seems to lack any influence over his colleagues. He has resorted to excuses and finger-pointing while he careers towards a ratings downgrade for Queensland, ignoring those Queenslanders who are struggling day to day. Ratings agencies and economists are waiting for a fiscal plan from this Treasurer. They are waiting on him to deliver on his promised \$7 billion in savings. There is too much at stake for him to continue bumbling along. He needs to start delivering for Queenslanders and start to have a credible budget plan for this state.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (8.51 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill 2025 and the Appropriation (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill 2025. The Economics and Governance Committee, of which I am proudly the chair, presented report No. 17 to the House.

In her contribution the opposition spokesperson talked about the cost-of-living relief of \$1,000 that went to every person who had an electricity account, including the Clive Palmers of the world. There was no discretion in it. It went to all people who had an electricity bill. It did not matter who they were. There was billions of dollars spent. Let us call it for what it was: a last-ditch attempt to buy votes at the October 2024 election. It was unfunded. If it had been properly planned, those billions of dollars would not have ended up in the blowouts that we saw.

This bill is the latest chapter in the sorry story of Labor's fiscal deception and mismanagement. In its 2024-25 budget the Miles Labor government hid its project blowouts and underfunded key frontline services. They all started to come into the light when we started going through the books after winning government. It is billions of dollars. As an example, the Coomera Hospital is a year behind schedule and a billion dollars over budget. The foundations had not even got out of the ground. That is the type

of planning the Labor government did. We have rescued it, we have revamped the plan and we are going to take it from a 400-bed hospital, which was never going to be delivered on budget and on time by those opposite, to a 600-bed hospital. That is for the people of the northern Gold Coast.

The last budget was designed to make it through the four months to the October election—I alluded to that a short while ago—not the full 12-month financial year. Again, that became abundantly obvious when we came in to government. Even the 50-cent fares were not funded. It was funded for six months. It was a trial. There was no funding beyond that. We have locked them in. We have made sure the people of Queensland are guaranteed those 50-cent fares going forward.

The unforeseen expenditure, we must remember, relates to the 2024-25 budget—appropriation not allowed for in the former government's last budget. Parliament is now required to formally approve this unforeseen expenditure. Across 17 departments and the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service, the supplementary appropriation required in 2024-25 was \$5.746 billion. This represents 6.3 per cent of the original appropriation. That sounds like a lot, but I will come to the previous year a bit later.

Key frontline service areas, such as child safety, social housing, homelessness services and support for victims of Labor's crime crisis, were underfunded in the 2024-25 budget. Those opposite cannot escape that. It is out there for the people of Queensland to see. Over \$2 billion extra was required for Queensland Health due to the mismanagement of the former minister and now shadow treasurer, the member for Waterford. Also included within the 2024-25 supplementary appropriation is the funding provided by the Crisafulli government, as I mentioned a short while ago, for the permanent 50-cent fares.


Despite all of the significant funding black holes and blowouts left behind by the Miles government, this is significantly down on the previous year: a 11.6 per cent, or \$9 billion, blowout in supplementary appropriation for the 2023-24 year. For 2023-24, the massive \$9 billion in supplementary appropriation was split into three bills. Why was that? They were trying to sneak it through. They were trying to make it look a little bit smaller. Of course, Treasury realised we do not need to do that—we should bring it all together in one appropriation, and that is what we are doing going forward from here.

Nonetheless, the 6.3 per cent outcome for 2024-25 is still historically high and is as a result of Labor's mismanagement. Let us add those figures together. It is not really two years of funding that we are talking about—the 2023-24 and 2024-25 figures—because it was only funded for a short period. Let us add them together and say that between the two of them there is around \$15 billion. I think I would be fair to those opposite if I said that three-quarters of that was because of their mismanagement. Some of it was for our 50-cent fares—to bring that into the equation—and there were a few bob here, there and everywhere. Of the \$15 billion, something in the order of \$12 billion was on their shoulders.

Mr Head: That is a lot of hospital upgrades.

Mr CRANDON: I will take the interjection from the member for Callide; that is a lot of hospital upgrades. In fact, you could build a few hospitals for that. Interestingly, the opposition is still sheepish on its record. It is still ducking and diving. The Labor members of the government's economics and governance committee clearly could not mount any response to the levels of supplementary appropriation required for the year. At the public briefing on the bills the deputy chair of the committee, the member for Bancroft, did not ask a single question. Instead, he complained that he wanted to ask Treasury about a completely different bill. It comes back to bite him in the end. It was a matter of 'let's not talk over there; let's talk over here'. This followed on to the committee report, which saw the Labor members not providing a statement of reservation or dissenting report. Every other report has one but not this one. There was nothing for them to dissent from.

The Crisafulli government's first budget laid the foundation for a fresh start for Queenslanders after a decade of decline under Labor. We continue to calmly and methodically work through the fiscal mess left behind by Labor. We are making progress, with the Treasurer's budget update revealing the lowest budget-to-MYFER expense growth since the pandemic. Queenslanders voted for a fresh start and we are delivering on our commitment to return respect for Queenslanders' money across government.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (8.59 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the supplementary appropriation bills that are before the House. I start by saying that the LNP could have used this bill to help out Queenslanders and deliver more cost-of-living relief. That is what they need and that is what they want. That cost-of-living relief is badly needed. We have heard the shadow treasurer say that Queensland now has the second highest rate of inflation in the nation.

Debate, on motion of Mr Whiting, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.00 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Pallara State School; Arnol, Ms S; Roberts, Ms R



Hon. LM ENOCH (Algerger—ALP) (9.00 pm): Pallara is the fastest growing suburb in my electorate of Algerger. It has grown from around 500 residents in 2016 to close to 5,000 today, with further growth still expected. Not surprisingly, Pallara State School has experienced rapid growth in student numbers over the same period, so much so that a few years ago it was determined that a separate prep to year 1 junior campus was deemed necessary to accommodate the growing student population. At the start of this year, we saw the official opening of the junior campus by the Premier alongside his Minister for Education. According to the minister's own social media—

... you could sense the enthusiasm in the air as the students prepared for the new school year!

However, while the ribbons were being cut and the photos taken, the families of those students were already dealing with chaos: dangerous roads, limited footpaths, unsafe crossings and traffic congestion that now stretches up to 40 minutes during peak school times.

After nearly 20 years of an LNP council in Brisbane, growth in Pallara has been extraordinary with more and more development approved every year, yet roads such as Ritchie Road have been left behind, effectively handed over to developers without the proper investment in kerbing, crossings or pedestrian safety. Our local hardworking councillor, Emily Kim, has been raising these concerns consistently, but her repeated requests for the Lord Mayor to visit Pallara and see these conditions firsthand have gone unanswered.

Recent local media reports highlighted these concerns, documenting traffic gridlock, frustrated parents and growing fears for student safety. Despite that coverage, we have seen no meaningful response from council and no urgency from the state government to step in and coordinate a solution. This is not about politics; it is about children crossing dangerous roads, parents navigating inadequate infrastructure, teachers having to don high-vis vests to manage traffic and a government that celebrates openings but fails to deliver the basics that make those facilities safe.

Why has the LNP council failed to fund critical upgrades on Ritchie Road and refused to engage with the community that is raising legitimate safety concerns? Why did the LNP state government not ensure that the surrounding infrastructure was ready in time for the opening of the new campus? I am calling on the minister to assess the risks, implement immediate safety measures and deliver what this community desperately needs. That means safe crossings, traffic calming measures, proper signage, speed management and infrastructure that reflects the reality of a growing school population. If the LNP are serious about turning their slogans into action then the minister can start by fixing the Pallara disaster.

In the short time I have left I want to pay tribute to Simone Arnol and Rhoda Roberts, two incredible Aboriginal women who made their individual marks in the Indigenous political and arts landscapes. Both women succumbed to ovarian cancer last week and both will be remembered for their legacy. In particular, to Simone Arnol's family, the Singleton family; especially her husband, Bernie; and the Yarrabah community I send my love and deepest sympathies. I will miss Simone's unique energy and her full-speed, no-breaks approach to life. Vale, Simone Arnol.

Rural Fire Service



Hon. DG PURDIE (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (9.03 pm): Tonight I rise—and I know I speak on behalf of all members of the House—to acknowledge the amazing work that our volunteers and staff in the State Emergency Service do right across the state. We have seen that in this high-risk weather season that, according to the calendar, is due to end next Tuesday, 31 March. On behalf of us all, I put on the record our acknowledgement of the work they do.

Tonight I want to talk particularly about the Rural Fire Service. I speak on behalf of my colleague, the member for Warrego and minister. On Saturday morning, I represented the minister as we handed out awards to our local Rural Fire Service volunteers and members in the presence of their families. I

also got to hand over the keys for three new appliances to the Rural Fire Brigade. That was off the back of another appliance worth about \$400,000 that I had the privilege to give to the Bli Bli & Districts Rural Fire Brigade in my electorate only a few weeks before. These are state-of-the-art appliances, with all the modern safety requirements you would expect to give our volunteers.


It was pleasing, as I said, to present these awards in front of all their families, our broader community, the chief officer and the deputy chief officer on behalf of the honourable minister, the member for Warrego, for diligent, dedicated and disciplined service. Some have given decades of service to the rural fire brigade and to our community.

Sunshine Coast locals have seen firsthand their amazing work. We would all remember, particularly Sunshine Coast members, the 2019 bushfire that ripped through Peregrin Springs, across Coolumb. As it headed towards Peregrin Beach it was our rural fire brigade, backed up with the red trucks and the QFD officers, who held the line and stopped the fire from progressing and taking out more homes during that night.

Not only do our rural fire brigade do an amazing job, as we know, during the high-risk fire season; they are also called upon to help our communities recover from flooding events. It was only almost two weeks ago, Thursday week past, that I attended Bundaberg after the flooding event we saw there—the worst flooding event in about a decade. I was on the road just as the tide turned and the waters started to recede. It was our rural fire brigade that was out in force helping the community recover, doing washouts and supporting the community.

I give a particular shout-out to Nigel Kemp, the first officer from Bli Bli and Districts Fire Brigade. He has been a long-term volunteer and member there. I was privileged, in front of his family on Saturday, to present him with a very much deserved award. It was one of many awards he has received. I acknowledge the Perren family and other long-term residents of Bli Bli, some of whom have given decades of volunteering service to the rural fire brigade. It was great to be there on behalf of the government and the responsible minister to hand over the keys to these state-of-the-art appliances and present some awards, which were duly deserved.

Public Transport

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (9.06 pm): The mask is slipping. It has managed to hang on for over a year, but what we are seeing right now from this LNP government is a return to type—the same DNA, the same playbook, the same cuts. Seven hundred Queensland Rail workers will be gone from May Day—700 workers who are the backbone of safety, accessibility and support across our rail network, cut by a government that promised Queenslanders they would not do this.


This is Campbell Newman mark 2. This is David Crisafulli taking Queensland backwards. Let's be very clear about what these cuts mean for the real world. They are not just numbers on a spreadsheet. They are the difference between a station that is safe and a station that is not. They are the difference between a system that is accessible and one that locks people out, because when you cut staff you cut support. You cut help for a person with a disability who needs a ramp to get on a train. You cut assistance for a young parent trying to get a pram onto the platform. You cut guidance for an elderly passenger who simply needs help to navigate the network. You cut the safety net for thousands of school students travelling each and every day. Let's not forget the level crossings at three of the stations I am talking about.

This is what cuts look like on the ground in my electorate: no staff at all over the weekends at Wynnum, Lindum, Hemmant, Lota and Wynnum North and only on a Saturday at Wynnum Central station. During the week, Wynnum station will be manned from 5 am to 9 am on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and from 5 am to 1 pm on a Wednesday. That is a bit kooky. At Hemmant station there will be no staff from 1 pm on weekdays. At Lota station the same is true: there will be no staff after 1 pm on weekdays. At Wynnum North station commuters will be left on their own from 12.36 pm. At Lindum station, as I said, there will be no staff on weekends. At Wynnum Central, the busiest station, the heart of our bayside, there will be no staff at all on a Sunday.

Of the seven stations in my electorate, only Manly remains fully staffed and fully functional. Across the remaining six stations—Wynnum, Lindum, Hemmant, Lota, Wynnum North and Wynnum Central—there will be a rail network that simply switches off human support halfway through the day and on weekends. Six stations that serve hardworking baysiders are now facing reduced staffing, reduced safety and reduced accessibility.

This is not a public transport system; this is reckless abandonment. We know that staffed stations deter antisocial behaviour, we know that they provide immediate assistance and response in emergencies and we know that they are critical for people with disabilities. Without staff, many Queenslanders will simply not be able to use the network. This is not just bad policy; it is a failure of basic fairness.

Burnett Electorate, Flood Recovery

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (9.09 pm): Flood recovery across our region is well underway. What has been clear is the strength of our community. We have seen neighbours helping neighbours, local businesses stepping up without hesitation and volunteers giving their time, energy and resources to support complete strangers. Their willingness to lend a hand without a second thought defines our region and makes me proud to represent it.

I place on the record my sincere thanks to our emergency service workers—our police, firefighters, SES, volunteer paramedics, swiftwater rescue teams and rural fires—who stood on the front line to keep our community safe. To the volunteers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes and on the ground, thank you. To our local councils—the Bundaberg Regional Council and the Gladstone Regional Council—our mayors Helen Blackburn and Matt Burnett and our disaster management teams, who have worked around the clock to coordinate the response, thank you. I thank the community organisations, charities and faith groups who opened their doors and provided meals, shelter and comfort. I give a big shout-out to Alive Church, led by Joey and Adam, and the many mud army volunteers.


It is appropriate, with the number of ministers in the House tonight, that we acknowledge their work and their staff. Their commitment was very much noticed in our community, and we thank all who are here tonight and their colleagues. They made a real effort, which has made a lasting difference to the many families across our region.

In recent weeks, the Crisafulli government's priority has been clear: get practical support out the door as quickly as possible. I strongly encourage anyone who has been affected and has not yet reached out to the Community Recovery Hotline to do so. Many of our small businesses and not-for-profits have been strengthened by grants of up to \$50,000. Our primary producers can get significant support—up to \$75,000 in concessional loans. Freight subsidies are also available to assist with clean-ups and repairs. Additionally, local sporting clubs impacted by these events can now access grants of up to \$5,000 for immediate recovery. If there is one thing we know about Bundaberg and the Burnett, it is this: when times get tough we come together and get things done.

I want to talk quickly about the flood mitigation that has been raised in the House over the last couple of days. We are going to work with the local governments in our community to ensure we get this right. It will be a staged approach and, more importantly, we are going to get this right. Those opposite bumbled around with this issue for 10 years and left our community in limbo, but the Crisafulli government will rectify it.

In light of Queensland Women's Week earlier this month, I also want to address the remarks made last night by the member for Bundaberg in relation to our Bundaberg mayor. Without repeating the language used, it is fair to say that the nature of those comments was inappropriate and disappointing. There is no place in this House—or in our community—for commentary that dismisses or disrespects women, especially petty schoolyard name-calling. I know that the member was also involved in a heated interaction in the mayor's office during the flood recovery to such an extent that he refused to leave when asked and was subsequently escorted out by male council staff members, yelling threats down the corridor. During a crisis, it is vital that there is a coordinated and respectful approach taken by all levels of government, not cheap political pointscoreing. In closing, my message to the community is simple: my door is always open if you need help. Let's work together to ensure Bundaberg is repaired to the best that we can do.

Public Transport

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (9.12 pm): I would like to raise concerns on behalf of my community about the cuts to staffing hours proposed by this LNP government to the Queensland Rail network. Come May, this government will be slashing the hours of up to 700 Queensland Rail workers across our network. They are proposing to remove station staff from platforms after 1 pm on weekdays and, in some cases, entirely on weekends. They were hoping that no-one would notice, but people have and they are calling for action.

Local stations in my electorate of Sandgate and neighbouring stations on the northside that people rely on every day to get to work and to get home safely will be directly affected. This is what it will mean for our local northside community. At Deagon weekday staffing will be cut by six hours, finishing at 1 pm instead of 7 pm, and all weekend shifts will be removed entirely. At Shorncliffe, Bald Hills and Carseldine weekend staffing hours will be cut. Families rely on these stations that are being affected. Every single Queenslander who uses our network—families, students and elderly commuters—will be impacted.

The government is using language like ‘rostering changes’ and ‘operational efficiencies’, but what it really means is wage cuts for working people in Queensland. Queensland Rail workers work hard every day to keep our community safe and to keep people who travel on our trains safe. The cuts will mean that students who are travelling home from school in the afternoon will be left unsupervised on platforms and have no-one to turn to when things go wrong. The staff work hard to prevent dangerous behaviours around the tracks and make sure kids get home safely so parents do not have to worry about what has happened. It means elderly people who need assistance with ticketing or directions on which train to catch are not going to have anyone to turn to. Also, the public toilets are not going to be left open. Where are people supposed to turn when this happens on weekends?

It is simply unfathomable that these hours are being cut and that people are going to lose tens of thousands of dollars in wages at a time when their wages should be increased. When they are facing cost-of-living pressures, the government is cutting their wages. I simply do not understand how the government think they can get away with doing this. It is simply Campbell Newman 2.0, just wrapped up in a pretty bow under the Crisafulli LNP government. When things go wrong—and things will go wrong—there will be no-one to turn to, and anything that happens on those tracks will be at the hands of this government.

The transport minister is claiming that there is nothing to see here—that there are no changes. I invite the transport minister to go out and talk to people in the community and ask them what they think about these changes, because I have been out at the stations and people are appalled at these changes. They do not want to see this happen. They want their hours restored, and I will be calling on the government to do this. I would like them to reverse these changes, which are proposed to come into effect in May, and do better.

Everton Park Bowls and Community Club; Freeman, Mr T



Hon. TL MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.15 pm): Everton Park Bowls and Community Club will celebrate its diamond anniversary this year. Established in 1966, it celebrates being one of the strong community clubs in my electorate.


Today I want to inform the House of the passing of their beloved club patron, Terry Freeman. His life was celebrated by family, friends and club members on 10 March at a service in Albany Creek. Terry had been the club patron for two decades, being appointed in 2006, and he resided in Everton Park. Terry made application to join the Everton bowls club in 1967. When a vacancy prevailed, he was able to join the bowls club in 1968. Terry was an electrician by trade and was able to provide help with his services across the club.

After volunteering at the club he joined the board of management as the house director and remained in that position for many years. He was awarded life membership of the club on 16 September 2001. Terry was a respected skip, coach and mentor, known for providing firm yet considered guidance to developing players, and he represented the Everton Park bowls club across Brisbane and the state. He has been part of winning teams and claims many victories, but most important was his devotion to the club. He was the utmost gentleman—professional and dignified—and I know the club could not have had a better patron in Terry. I know that he took great pride in wearing his RQBA blazer on important occasions which was adorned with many badges.

Only late last year, at the first ever combined club patron and patroness day, Terry symbolically opened the day with the rolling of the first jack. On Terry’s passing the club’s flags flew at half-mast and a minute’s silence was held on the following Friday evening at the time of the raffles, which Terry so fondly engaged with while enjoying a stubbie with mates from across the club. A book of condolence is still available at the club for those who want to pass on their best wishes.

It is good to see thriving local clubs, particularly bowls clubs, still honouring and offering the traditions of the local bowls club while positioned strongly and leaning into the future. Vale, Terry Freeman.


Voluntary Assisted Dying

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (9.18 pm): Tonight I would like to share the story of a constituent of mine, Chris Green, and his wife, Margaret. I met with Chris recently to hear his deeply personal account of Margaret's experience with Alzheimer's disease. Margaret was diagnosed in 2016 at just 65 years old. Over time, the disease has taken everything from her. Today, Margaret is in residential aged care. She is non-verbal, has no recognition of her family and is completely dependent on others for every aspect of her care.

Chris told me that her body is rigid and permanently contracted. She spends most of her time in a semi-fetal position. Every time she is moved she is visibly in pain, and yet she cannot tell anyone where it hurts. Chris said something that has stayed with me: 'She has no dignity.' Once vibrant and independent, Margaret is now living a life of suffering that she cannot escape or understand. Margaret only has months to live, but those months matter because right now she has no choice and Chris, as her husband and enduring power of attorney, cannot honour what he believes would have been her wishes. Margaret's greatest fear was developing dementia, yet under our current laws people like her are excluded from voluntary assisted dying because they no longer have decision-making capacity. I was very proud to support voluntary assisted dying laws because they are about dignity and choice, but for people with dementia that choice does not exist. That is the gap that Chris is asking all of us to confront.

The laws that we passed were an important first step, but our job does not end there. We must keep listening and keep asking what more we can do. We must ask whether our laws are keeping pace with diseases like dementia and whether mechanisms like advanced health directives should be considered. It is about whether dignity in death should extend to all Queenslanders, not just those who retain capacity at the very end. This access should not be dictated by postcode either. I firmly believe that the federal Labor government must act immediately to amend the Commonwealth Criminal Code, which makes it illegal to use a phone or internet to counsel or instruct people on suicide. The reality of this means that for Queenslanders, particularly in regional and remote communities, access to local voluntary assisted dying is not just limited by eligibility but also by geography. It is not just a federal issue. As highlighted in a recent *Sunday Mail* article, Queensland's current conservative interpretation of federal law has led to devastating consequences for families. While other states have been able to send prescriptions electronically without issue, Queensland Health has taken a narrow view and this must be addressed. I thank Chris for sharing Margaret's story. I know how difficult it is to share something like this whilst living it every day.

Pumicestone Electorate

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (9.21 pm): The Crisafulli government continues to deliver for my electorate of Pumicestone. Earlier this month we completed the Bribie Island Road upgrade from Old Toorbul Point Road to Saint Road one month ahead of schedule. That is a fantastic outcome for our community. After months of roadwork, locals are rightly thrilled to enjoy a smoother and faster drive to and from Bribie Island. The feedback from the community has been overwhelmingly positive. Fran from Ningi said, 'It certainly is a much faster drive. It makes such a difference.' Nicole from Bribie Island said, 'Fantastic! I really appreciate the Queensland government's investment and delivery in our community. I drove through last night and it was wonderful.' Infrastructure upgrades and better transport remain a major focus of mine because I know how important it is to get people home sooner and safer.

I am also pleased to congratulate our local transport operator Caboolture Bus Lines on winning the contract to deliver the on-demand bus service for Bribie Island. This was an election commitment, and I thank Karen, Cecilia and the wider Better Bribie Transport group for their advocacy over the past couple of years to help make this service a reality for our community. I also thank the Treasurer for joining me a couple of weeks ago at my Brewing Business event, where he spoke about our government's work to support Queensland's economy, strengthen our small business sector and help Queenslanders achieve the dream of home ownership. I am looking forward to our next Brewing Business event on 8 April at the Bribie Island RSL where we will be joined by the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Sam O'Connor.


I also take this opportunity to recognise the incredible contribution of small businesses across Pumicestone. These businesses work hard every single day to keep our local economy strong and provide the goods and services our community relies on. I am also proud to say that our Pumicestone Business Excellence Awards are open once again. It is always one of the busiest and most exciting

events of the year. Nominations have finally opened up. For those businesses that have not nominated just yet, I encourage them to jump on my Facebook page and get involved. We have added a new category this year, best pet store, and I cannot wait to see the nominations continue to roll in.

I also give a shout-out to the many wonderful women across Pumicestone who were nominated as inspirational women during Queensland Women's Week. In particular I acknowledge Rachael Hincksman, who received a significant number of nominations. Rachael and her husband are now running Beachmere Takeaway, and they are doing a fantastic job delivering great food and outstanding customer service for the Beachmere community.

I would like to conclude with an important message to the people of Pumicestone. I know that families are feeling the pressure right now. When fuel prices rise, it affects everything—from the cost of getting to work to the price of everyday essentials. For communities like Toorbul, Beachmere and Ningi—where so many people rely on their cars—that pressure is felt even more sharply. This is a national issue that requires a national response, and there is a clear role for the federal government to step up.

Hill Electorate, Queensland Redistribution Commission

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (9.24 pm): The proposal by the Queensland Redistribution Commission to abolish the seat of Hill is a disgraceful act of betrayal to North Queensland. The recommendation supports the LNP government's submission to abolish the seat of Hill. The commission has endorsed the LNP's submission by wiping out the seat of Hill and carving it up between surrounding electorates that extend to the Northern Territory border. This raises very serious questions about the integrity of the redistribution process. The reality is that the majority of submissions made to the commission overwhelmingly opposed abolishing Hill, yet somehow one submission from the LNP is followed while North Queenslanders are ignored. How does one political party get its way while the voices of regional Queensland are completely dismissed?

The LNP won government off the back of regional Queensland, particularly North Queensland. The LNP came into our towns and made huge statements and promises about how they are backing North Queenslanders, but they then stabbed them in the back by recommending taking a seat away, cutting our representation from 13 seats to 12 and handing that seat straight down to Brisbane. This is not about fairness; it is about politics, and North Queenslanders are the ones who will pay a severe price. Communities will be ripped apart, with the commission proposing to form mega electorates stretching across impossible distances, where people who used to travel 15 minutes will now travel 15 hours to see their local MP.

After more than two decades representing regional Queensland, this could be the third time my electorate has been abolished. It is pretty hard to see this as anything other than a political hit job. The LNP cannot take me out fairly and transparently so instead they use the commission to do their dirty work for them. I am disgusted that none of the LNP members who hold seats in North Queensland have spoken out against this. This will reduce North Queensland's representation from 13 to 12.

An article in the *Cairns Post* highlighting the Cairns Regional Council's objection to abolish the seat of Hill stated—

Far North Queensland already faces challenges in ensuring the priorities of the region are heard within a Parliament that is increasingly dominated by southeast Queensland representation.


The proposed redistribution risks worsening this imbalance.

I table the article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Cairns Post*, dated 25 March 2026, titled 'Council against plan' [\[405\]](#).

Regardless of what political party you belong to, this pathetic proposal reduces our voices in parliament and affects every North Queensland.

Run Army; Gallipoli Barracks Open Day

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (9.27 pm): Run Army is a remarkable event that continues to bring Queenslanders together in support of our Australian Defence Force, our veterans and our emergency services personnel. I am proud to once again be taking part in Run Army 2026, joining thousands of Queenslanders and Australians who will step forward to not only participate but also show their respect and gratitude. Run Army has grown into one of the most significant community events on the annual calendar. This event is not just about physical endurance; it is about service, sacrifice and community. It provides an opportunity for people of all ages to come together whilst also raising vital funds for

organisations that support our service men and women, veterans and emergency services personnel. Run Army 2026 has already raised more than \$109,000 from over 1,643 donations made by more than 12,600 individuals. This is an extraordinary achievement and a testament to the generosity of our community.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge and commend the leadership behind Run Army. In particular, I recognise the President of Run Army, Major General (Ret'd) Jake Ellwood DSC, AM, CSC, for his continued commitment to this event. I also acknowledge the Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Simon Stuart AO, DSC, and the Deputy Chief of Army, Major General Chris Smith DSC, AM, CSC, for their strong and ongoing support. Their leadership ensures that Run Army continues to grow and thrive year after year.

As assistant minister to the Premier and Leader of the House, it was an honour to also recently represent the Premier and Minister for Veterans at the 2026 Gallipoli Barracks Open Day in Enoggera. This year's event held particular significance, as the Australian Army celebrates 125 years of service to our nation.

I was pleased to join Brigadier Jennifer Harris CSC, Commander of the 7th Brigade, and Regimental Sergeant Major Warrant Officer Class One Grant Gripske, together with a number of senior Australian Defence Force personnel as well as representatives from across all levels of government, for the official opening. The Gallipoli Barracks Open Day offered Queenslanders a chance to better understand the capability of our Australian Army and to gain a deeper appreciation of the work undertaken by those who serve. Importantly, it also highlighted the vital contribution of organisations such as Legacy Brisbane, Veterans Queensland and RSL Queensland, whose ongoing support for veterans and their families remains invaluable. Together, events like Run Army and the Gallipoli Barracks Open Day remind us of the enduring connection between our community and those who serve and of the responsibility we all share to honour and support them both now and into the future.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.30 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Asif, Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Chiesa, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, de Brenni, Dick, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Field, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Grace, Head, Healy, Howard, Hunt, Hutton, James B, James T, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly G, Kelly J, Kempton, King, Kirkland, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Linard, Mander, Marr, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Mullen, Nicholls, Nightingale, O'Connor, O'Shea, Pease, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stoker, Sullivan, Vorster, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Young