



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

### Thursday, 26 March 2026

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## THURSDAY, 26 MARCH 2026


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The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

### ABSENCE OF SPEAKER


The Clerk informed the House of the unavoidable absence of Mr Speaker for the day's sitting and advised that the Deputy Speaker will take the chair as Acting Speaker.

Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Jon Krause, Scenic Rim) read prayers and took the chair.

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


### PRIVILEGE

#### Committee Membership

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (9.31 am): I rise on a matter of privilege. Pursuant to the Parliament of Queensland Act, the Leader of the Opposition nominates non-government members to committees. It is the practice that the Leader of the House, a member of the majority in this chamber, moves the motion to give effect to the changes. The Leader of the Opposition wrote to the Leader of the House the morning of Wednesday, 4 March and to date no action has been taken by the Leader of the House. The Leader of the House, who derives their powers from the Premier, advised me in the last sitting week that it would occur this sitting week as the government was considering their own committee changes. This sitting week he has been unable or unwilling to confirm when this change will occur.

I submit that the rights and privileges of the Leader of the Opposition and opposition members subject to the committee membership changes have been impacted, infringed and abused by the Leader of the House and the Premier. As such, I will be writing to the Speaker in respect of this grave and serious matter.

#### Premier and Minister for Veterans


 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (9.32 am): I rise on a matter of privilege. Last night the Premier was walking through the chamber talking with his LNP colleagues. I was unaware of his presence until I looked up from my phone and saw that the Premier was yelling aggressive statements and gesticulating in a threatening way across the chamber towards me. I understand from a government minister that the Premier may have thought I was using my phone to take photos of him. That is far from the truth. There are enough cameras in here to capture the Premier's conduct. I was watching a video of my son blowing out candles on his fifth birthday.

I take personal offence at the interjection of the Premier towards me last night and ask again today that the Premier withdraw his unparliamentary comments and gesticulation towards me.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** I will seek some advice. Member for Bundaberg, would you please write to the Speaker in relation to this matter of privilege you have raised.


### ACTING SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

#### Acting Deputy Speaker

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I inform the House that, in the absence of the Speaker and in accordance with standing order 12(2), I nominate the member for Southern Downs to act as Deputy Speaker for the duration of Mr Speaker's absence.

## REPORT


### Auditor-General

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General Report 13: 2025-26, *Managing third-party cybersecurity risks*. I table the report for the information of members.

*Tabled paper:* Auditor-General Report 13: 2025-26—Managing third-party cyber security risks [\[409\]](#).

## ACTING SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

### Same Question Rule

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, yesterday evening the Manager of Opposition Business moved that the minister no longer be heard. It is from the *Record of Proceedings* 25 March 2026, page 771. The House resolved the question in the negative with no division being called. Shortly after, on the same question with the same minister speaking, the same member, the Manager of Opposition Business, again moved that the minister no longer be heard. After taking advice I ruled that the same question rule applied and that the motion was out of order. This last event occurred only moments before the motion agreed to by the House came into effect, bringing an end to consideration in detail on the bill. I have circulated a detailed ruling on this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT—APPLICATION OF SAME QUESTION RULE TO SO 247(4)

MR SPEAKER: Honourable members,

Yesterday evening the Manager of Opposition Business moved 'That the Minister no longer be heard' (ROP 25 March 2026 p.771). The House resolved the question in the negative (with no division being called). Shortly after, on the same question with the same Minister speaking the same member, the Manager of Opposition Business again moved 'That the Minister no longer be heard'. After taking advice, I ruled that the same question rule applied and that the motion was out of order. This last event occurred only moments before the motion agreed to by the House came into effect bringing an end to consideration in detail on the Bill.

This was an unusual matter and so I requested the Clerk to conduct some research on the matter and prepare a fuller explanation.

Standing Order 247(4) provides that a member may move that a member speaking "be not heard" or "be not further heard". Motions of this nature are subsidiary motions, that is they are ancillary to the question before the House. They are also procedural in nature, require no notice and are not open to debate or amendment.

Standing Order 247(4) is an unusual procedure because it essentially enables a process to 'gag' a member from speaking on a matter; effectively denying a member their right to speak further. Not all Westminster jurisdictions have an equivalent Standing Order. Presumably because the right of a member to speak on an issue is deemed so vital.

It is a more common rule in upper houses, where there is often very generous or unlimited speaking times. *Erskine May* (para 25.78) only relates to the rule in the context of the House of Lords: "If in a speech a Member of the Lords is thought to be seriously transgressing the accepted practice of the House, it is open to another Member of the Lords to move 'That the noble Lord be no longer heard'. This motion is very rare and is moved only in exceptional circumstances. It is debatable. The effect of agreeing to it is to prohibit the Member of the Lords in question from speaking further on the substantive question or motion, but not on any subsequent one."

*New South Wales Council Practice* under the heading "Member to be heard and Gag of an individual Speaker" states: "The standing orders also provide for the 'gag' to be applied to individual speakers. Standing order 98 provides that any member, except a member who has already spoken in the debate, may move without notice that a member who is speaking 'be no longer heard'. The motion may not be debated or amended. As with the closure motion, standing order 98 now requires that before putting the question the Chair is to advise the House to consider whether the member speaking has had ample opportunity to debate the question, whether the member is abusing the standing orders or conventions of the House, or is obstructing business, or whether the motion, if carried, would take away the rights of the minority. The last attempt to gag a member occurred in 1995. On that occasion, the motion that the member 'be not further heard', the form required under the old standing order, was moved twice during the speech of the Reverend the Honourable Fred Nile and was negatived both times. 14 LC Minutes (15/12/1995) 474.

In 1921, Speaker Bertram ruled that a motion that a member 'be not further heard' was equivalent to a dilatory motion and the Speaker was not compelled to put the question. (V&P 1921 p.36)


In terms of the application of SO 247 and the same question rule, the latter rule seeks to ensure efficiency by preventing the House reconsidering an issue already dealt with. In respect of the exercise of the same question rule as against a provision like SO 247, a change in context, purpose, or a significant passage of time can allow a similar motion to be treated as a new question. The passage of time or a different context or purpose may readily transform identical text into a different question.

In 2018 Speaker Pitt applied the same question rule to a question of leave to move a motion without notice. Speaker Pitt said:

Honourable members, the opposition has twice sought to seek leave to move the motion. It also of course has the opportunity each sitting week to put a motion on notice and debate said motion. In light of those points with regard to any future attempts to seek leave for this motion, I will be enabling the same question rule and I will be ruling it out of order. Pitt (S) 01/11/2018 p 3265

In the case of the matter yesterday evening, the House had decided the question only a little earlier and it was correct to apply the rule to prevent the same question being put to the House.

### Visitors to Public Gallery

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Moggill State School in the electorate of Moggill, Dayboro State School in the electorate of Pine Rivers and St Margaret's Anglican Girls School in the electorate of Clayfield.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order, members. Deputy Premier and member for Woodridge, cease any quarrelling across the chamber.

## PETITIONS

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

### Ormiston College Expansion, Koalas

8,300 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the proposed expansion at Ormiston College does not proceed until the impacts on koalas have been properly assessed [\[406\]](#).

### Water Fluoridation

358 petitioners, requesting the House to conduct research into the incidence of dental caries in fluoridated water areas vs unfluoridated water areas and table the research in Parliament [\[407\]](#).

2 Petitions received.

## TABLED PAPER

TABLING OF DOCUMENT (SO 32)

REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

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

### Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

*Omit—*


'Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025'

*Insert—*

'Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026'

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Fuel Security

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.36 am): Our government is delivering affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for Queenslanders. Our Energy Roadmap outlines our plan to put downward pressure on electricity prices. During a decade of decline under Labor, our energy assets were neglected and Queenslanders were left to pay the price. One of the first things we did when we came to government was to scrap Labor's \$36.8 billion hydro hoax. It would have seen Queenslanders pay \$1,035 extra per year on their power bill. Our plan is based on economics and engineering, not ideology.

Last week we saw a strong vote of confidence in our Energy Roadmap. The latest draft default market offer from the Australian Energy Regulator shows residential prices in South-East Queensland are set to drop by more than 10 per cent. For small businesses, prices are set to reduce by almost

13 per cent. This is the first proposed decrease in many years and the biggest reduction in the history of the scheme. We are calling on electricity retailers to ensure these reductions are passed on to Queenslanders in full.

Queenslanders in the south-east expect and deserve to see genuine relief, but regional Queenslanders deserve to share in the benefits, too. The Queensland Competition Authority is currently undertaking their draft determination for regional electricity prices. We are calling for reductions in power prices to flow through to the regions in full. Whatever the final figure is in the south-east, that should be replicated in the regions. We have invested in our network across the state. All Queenslanders should benefit from that. It is a commitment that is more important at a time when we know Queenslanders are struggling with affordability and access. Comments out of Canberra that there is more fuel today than two months ago belie Aussies' intelligence. They know that they are paying more. They know it is getting harder to get fuel. They are worried about whether future shipments will arrive.


Our request is clear: we want information and fuel to flow to every part of the state. I will not stand for Australians not getting the information they need. Today I am calling for the fuel prices and supply levels right across the country to be shared publicly and consistently. The Prime Minister has appointed a national taskforce coordinator. We were the first state to publicly announce our point of contact in Queensland at the highest level of government. We have proven we can put political differences aside, including during disasters, to get the right outcome.

We are asking Canberra to release information about prices and outages at a specific time every day for every state and territory. My submission to National Cabinet next week will be for coordinated, standardised, consistent and transparent information every day. We all have a role to play. The federal government's role is to coordinate the response. For our part, we were the first state to raise the concerns about supply shortages, and we were criticised for doing so by Canberra. We are ensuring there is a flow of information. We have convened suppliers and retailers, we are removing planning hurdles to promote supply and future fuel security, and we are opening up new areas for gas and petroleum exploration like the Taroom Trough—a decision we took before this fuel crisis.

My ask is very straight: give Aussies the info they need about price and supply. In the vacuum of that information, anxiety will continue to grow. That is not the way through in a time of crisis. If the information is bad, we need to know about it, because my experience is that Queenslanders and Australians can handle that. When you provide people with the right information, you have a better chance of them making the right decision. It is a national crisis. We need a national solution guided by clear and consistent information.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** There is too much chatter on my left. Members who are standing in the aisles talking, please sit down or take your conversations outside.

### Housing Supply

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.41 am): The Crisafulli LNP government is giving Queenslanders a place to call home after a decade of decline under Labor. Since coming to government, Queenslanders have seen how we are tackling Labor's housing crisis head-on, unlocking supply around the state. As I have said on many occasions, supply, supply, supply; fast, fast, fast. Our Land Activation Program—

**Ms Scanlon** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Out of all of them, you are not the one to be interjecting on this because I am about to get to you. I was going to spare the honourable member the grief, but now she has interjected and it is going to force me to respond.

**Mr O'Connor:** It'd be rude not to.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** It would be rude not to; I take the interjection from the honourable Minister for Housing. Our Land Activation Program is releasing underutilised state land to the market to unlock housing after Labor left these sites to sit vacant instead of delivering desperately needed housing for Queenslanders. Its failed ground lease model unveiled in the dying days of the Palaszczuk-Miles government would have cost taxpayers \$1.7 billion to unlock only 715 dwellings, equating to \$2.4 million per dwelling. The honourable member for Gaven, who is the former housing minister who came up with this, talks about affordable housing. \$2.4 million? Not so affordable, member. Luckily—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** She is trying to do the calculation—\$2.4 million. I do not know: maybe the house that the honourable member has purchased under the Crisafulli government was—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Speaker's ruling is quite clear about ministerial statements. That sort of conduct is inconsistent and in defiance of the Speaker's rulings and I would ask you to instruct the member to be orderly.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you for your point of order, Manager of Opposition Business.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order, members on my left! Manager of Opposition Business, I hear your point of order. I have been listening carefully to the Deputy Premier. The ministerial statement is in order, but I would ask you to direct your comments through the chair, Deputy Premier.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. By contrast—

**Ms Scanlon:** Does the member for Everton have a house yet?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Say it again.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order, member for Gaven!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** By contrast, under the Crisafulli government, the Land Activation Program has seen the release of three sites so far: Mango Hill, Banyo and Pimlico. In the Leader of the Opposition's own electorate, in Mango Hill we are unlocking 250 homes through the Land Activation Program. I am pleased to announce today that the Mango Hill site, which is 1.5 hectares, has received 64 expressions of interest from the market to deliver housing that he was not able to deliver as the premier in his own electorate, but—and Mr Acting Speaker, I will table a copy—he did stand on the site with long grass. All that he did was keep mowing that grass, not build a house on it. He just kept putting the contractors there to mow it. I table a copy of that.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, dated 3 February 2024, from the Instagram account of the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Steven Miles MP, in relation to a Ground Lease Model [\[410\]](#).

**Mr O'Connor:** You mow; we build!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take that interjection: Labor mows; we build!

**Mr Nicholls:** Cutting other people's grass.


**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take that interjection. He stood on that very site in February 2024 and did nothing after that.

Further, round 1 of our public servants' award-winning \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund is unlocking more than 98,000 homes across Queensland, with 50 per cent to be spent outside of South-East Queensland. I was in Mount Isa only last week with Mayor Peta MacRae, turning the first sod on a new development as part of the \$12.5 million investment across the north-west, demonstrating what can be achieved when the state government partners and works with councils rather than riding roughshod over them like Labor used to do.

I have been travelling this state turning sods on new housing developments everywhere being unlocked by RAF—something Labor would be unfamiliar with given it unlocked nothing. Who could forget Labor's failed approaches to delivering housing, including the plan to take over student accommodation at Griffith University in Mount Gravatt for housing? Labor cost Queenslanders \$2.1 million to determine that the project, which was devised 24 hours before it was announced, would not work. The Leader of the Opposition was the minister responsible for state development and that failed scheme. Is it any wonder those opposite have no credibility when it comes to delivering housing across the state?

We have opened round 2 of the Residential Activation Fund. I can announce today that it is so successful, just as round 1 was, that we are going to put a closing date on this one. On 24 April we will be closing round 2. I say to local government and the private sector across the state: if you have land and you want to unlock it for housing for Queenslanders, get your applications in now. Queenslanders now have a government that is working to deliver housing supply for them to make the dream of home ownership real.

## Energy Prices

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (9.46 am): The Crisafulli government is delivering more affordable power for Queenslanders, with the default electricity reference price set to drop by more than 10 per cent next

financial year. Under the latest draft default market offer from the Australian Energy Regulator, residential power prices would fall 10.1 per cent in 2026-27 while the small business benchmark will drop by 12.8 per cent. The power price drop for residential customers in South-East Queensland is bigger than any other participating jurisdiction. This result confirms that the Crisafulli government's Energy Roadmap is delivering affordable, reliable and sustainable power for Queenslanders after a decade of skyrocketing power prices under the former Labor government which included a 19.9 per cent increase in one year alone.

By improving Queensland's existing energy assets while building what is needed for the future, the Crisafulli government is putting downward pressure on power prices, optimising investment to respect taxpayer money and boosting private sector investment in new generation. Backed by the \$1.6 billion Electricity Maintenance Guarantee to properly maintain energy generators after they were neglected by Labor, the Energy Roadmap is facilitating new generation to deliver more electricity supply into the grid. It is now up to retailers to ensure savings are passed on to customers, and I have called on the CEOs of Queensland's electricity retailers to ensure that once the final determination is released any savings are passed on to Queenslanders. A draft determination from the Queensland Competition Authority for regional Queensland is expected to be released shortly. The QCA should reflect the same deal as those in the south-east and see regional Queensland get the cost-of-living relief that they need.

For many Queensland families and small businesses, energy bills have been a significant source of stress. Cost-of-living pressures remain real and persistent. Every dollar saved on power bills matters. While this is only a draft determination, with the final default market offer to be released in May, last Thursday's announcement is an encouraging sign that the measures we are taking to stabilise and strengthen the energy system are beginning to have an impact. When this government came to office we promised to deliver an energy policy based on economics and engineering, not ideology, and that is our Energy Roadmap. It is about taking methodical action to put systemic downward pressure on power prices, not chasing headlines or slogans.

If Labor had its way, Queenslanders would be paying an extra \$1,035 on their power bills every year—a direct hit to the cost of living at the worst possible time. Their ideological approach to energy put politics before practicality, and that resulted in higher prices for Queensland households. Who can forget the former government's \$36.8 billion Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro pipedream—a project with massive cost blowouts, endless timelines and no guarantee that it would ever deliver cheaper power. Our Energy Roadmap and our first budget are putting downward pressure on power prices through structural reform and responsible, targeted and permanent cost-of-living support, just as we promised.

## Skills and Training



**Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (9.50 am): The Crisafulli LNP government is delivering a better lifestyle through a stronger economy and providing real cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders. While the federal Labor government continues to make excuses about the fuel crisis, the Crisafulli LNP government is working tirelessly to bring costs down across the board for Queenslanders.


One of my top priorities is overcoming the dire skills shortage left behind by Labor's decade of decline. One of the legacies of failure of those opposite was a predicted peak shortage of 50,000 skilled construction workers, but I can tell the House that under the Crisafulli LNP government that predicted peak has now eased by 15,000 workers. We are doing this by supercharging TAFE and getting Queenslanders the skills they need today for a job tomorrow. There are thousands of students attending classes today free of charge thanks to the Crisafulli LNP government.

As is typical of those opposite, the former Labor government's approach to free training would have seen funding run out this year, meaning tens of thousands of students would have had another hit to the hip pocket. We know that young Queenslanders were ignored during a decade of decline and left without pathways to work, and we know how important it is to undo Labor's mess and get Queenslanders back on the job. We know that the best way to help Queenslanders recover from Labor's cost-of-living crisis is to get them the skills they need so they can get into well-paying jobs. That is why the Crisafulli LNP government funded 2,000 brand new free training positions for nursing students; that is why we have boosted free apprenticeships for under-25s and free construction apprenticeships for over-25s; that is why we have invested over \$201 million to build new TAFE centres of excellence, which will provide high-tech accessible locations for students to train; and that is why we have invested \$19 million to help small business cover the cost of putting on an apprentice.

Unlike those opposite, we understand that the cost-of-living crisis is only being further flamed by Canberra's inability to handle the fuel shortages Queenslanders are facing. The Crisafulli LNP government is committed to supporting our hardworking apprentices, including with travel allowances to make it easier for them to get to training. We are also investing heavily in skills and training to get Queenslanders into work, including the construction workforce, where we have already had more than 9,000 sparkies, almost 7,000 chippies and more than 3,000 plumbers in training. Unlike those opposite, we have a clear plan to get Queensland's construction industry moving to deliver jobs now and into the future. We are not only training our tradies of tomorrow but also improving industry standards so they can get on with the job and earn a good living for themselves and their families.

The Labor Party let the CFMEU ride roughshod over the construction industry during its decade of decline. In stark contrast, the Crisafulli LNP government has introduced new laws to block the CFMEU's bullying—and guess who stood in the way? The Labor Party. They have learned nothing and they have not changed, but today we will give them a chance to learn something new. We have a showcase of the Crisafulli LNP government's improved Gateway to Industry Schools program out on the Speaker's Green. There will be everything from bricklaying to a hospitality skills competition. I warmly invite everyone to get along if they can. This is just part of how we are delivering a plan to get Queensland's workforce back on track after Labor's decade of decline.

### **Epilepsy, Purple Day; Influenza, Vaccination**

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.53 am): Before I start my ministerial statement, I alert the chamber that today is Purple Day—otherwise known as world Epilepsy Day, to raise awareness and stand with those who are impacted by epilepsy. Of course, epilepsy is one of the areas that we cover with our election commitment around neuro wellness hubs—another election commitment that the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering for Queenslanders.


We know that many Queenslanders are doing it tough. That is why the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering cost-of-living relief to all Queenslanders, including from the mighty health department. As thousands of families are coming to grips with the reality of the 14th interest rate rise under the Albanese Labor government, the Crisafulli government continues to provide relief to ease the pressure on household budgets across the state.

On top of abolishing Labor's GP tax, Queenslanders will be pleased to know that this month we commenced the expanded and improved Free Flu Vaccination Program. Our new and expanded program will enable every Queenslanders aged six months and over to access the free flu vaccine ahead of winter—access for free and properly funded. For the first time in Australia, a needle-free nasal spray flu vaccine will be available for children aged two to five years, saving Queensland families between \$50 and \$100. This nasal spray vaccine will help improve uptake amongst young kids by removing the distress that we know can be caused with needle vaccinations. Importantly, the 2026 vaccines include a strain to better protect Queenslanders from the Super-K variant that threatens to make this year's flu season worse than in recent years.

Vaccine supplies are rolling out now, so now is the time for Queenslanders to consult with their GP, their pharmacist or their health provider about getting vaccinated. To help roll out the vaccine, we have also expanded the scope of practice for trained pharmacists, registered nurses, midwives and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners. This means these health practitioners can administer the flu vaccines not just in their typical place of practice but in many other areas. This means vaccinating in workplaces, at community and sporting events and, importantly, in remote communities.

This is Australia's largest and most accessible statewide free flu vaccination program. It is in sharp contrast to the appalling record of those opposite. Labor left the free flu vaccination program unfunded with plummeting vaccination rates, while ramping and elective surgery waitlists skyrocketed under their watch. After Labor's decade of decline, this is one of the many different ways we are delivering cost-of-living relief and easier access to health services and protecting the everyday life and wellbeing of Queenslanders.

### **Public Transport, Fares**

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.56 am): The Crisafulli LNP government's permanent 50-cent fares are continuing to deliver savings to the hip pocket of Queenslanders in the midst of the cost-of-living crisis Labor has left Queenslanders in. I recently

heard claims by certain members of the now Labor opposition that they have been thinking about 50-cent fares since they were teenagers. It has been a while since I was a teenager, but we managed to make 50-cent fares permanent within the first 100 days of coming to government.

The results speak for themselves. Queenslanders have taken more than 230 million trips and patronage has increased by 22 per cent compared to the same period under Labor's previous fare structure. Importantly, bus patronage outside of South-East Queensland has also increased since the introduction of permanent 50-cent fares, with patronage rising by 25 per cent in Cairns, 19 per cent in Townsville—

**Opposition members** interjected.


**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Minister, could you pause for one moment, please? Members on my left, there is too much noise emanating from your benches.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Bus patronage outside of South-East Queensland has also increased since the introduction of permanent 50-cent fares. Patronage has risen by 25 per cent in Cairns, 19 per cent in Townsville and 29 per cent in Rockhampton. All of this would not have happened under Labor. We know that their temporary 50-cent-fare policy was only a short-term, six-month measure. Despite the apparent best endeavours of the failed former transport minister the member for Aspley, who said that he spoke to the opposition leader about 50-cent fares on 'the day he was sworn in as the transport minister', he still could not get the job done.

To my recollection, fares actually went up under the previous Palaszczuk Labor government, but I can assure Queenslanders that they are staying down under the Crisafulli LNP government. There is a very important reason they are staying down. Putting money back into the pockets of Queenslanders through the LNP's permanent 50-cent fares means that those kitchen table conversations about bills might be a little easier, it might make a family day out on the weekend a little more achievable or it might mean that those who might not otherwise be able to pick up an extra shift are able to because it is a little easier.

In an increasingly uncertain world, this sort of considered and meaningful cost-of-living relief is what Queenslanders are telling us they need now. To those Labor members opposite I say: this is what leadership looks like—not spending more on advertising than on making 50-cent fares permanent, not a politician flogging off sausages as part of some failed social media stunt. This is real action on cost of living by a real government committed to delivering for all Queenslanders.

### Women's Career Grants

 **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) (10.00 am): While women across the state are making important gains, barriers remain—particularly in relation to economic security. That is why the Crisafulli LNP government did something that Labor never did: we invested in women getting into jobs. We delivered help for women after a career break. I am pleased to report to the House that round 2 applications for the Crisafulli government's Women's Career Grants opened on Monday. For women across Queensland this signified cost-of-living relief with up to \$5,000 available to help reduce the cost of returning to paid work and boosting women's economic security. This life-changing \$20 million program saw incredible interest and resounding success in round 1. More than 1,000 Queensland women were supported and 93 per cent of successful applicants sought assistance across three or more categories. This demonstrates the need across the state for this kind of support and cost-of-living relief, which the Labor Party never even thought about delivering during its decade of decline.


The Women's Career Grants deliver financial relief for the cost of new work wear, registered child care, training, recertification, transport to and from job interviews, tools and technology or relocation expenses for new employment. Let me tell members about one of our round 1 recipients, Evie. She has been caring for her children for 16 years, with her youngest being just three years old. Evie had been trying to do her resume and apply for jobs on a phone—just on a phone. Then there is Lin, a mother of four, who had not had paid work since becoming a mum 17 years ago. After receiving our support she now has a job in real estate.

We have brought forward round 2 of our Women's Career Grants because we see these grants are making a difference in the lives of real women and their families. The former Labor government's record on issues affecting Queensland women is clear: the closure of 38 maternity wards across the state under their watch and rampant workplace bullying and harassment of women at the hands of

Labor's CFMEU. We are still seeing appalling revelations emerge from the CFMEU commission of inquiry, such as the unions having direct lines to former Labor ministers. The continued silence from those opposite speaks volumes. They put the demands of their CFMEU mates above the rights of Queensland women.

When it comes to delivering cost-of-living relief, supporting women's economic security and having the best interests of all Queensland women at heart, the former Labor government failed miserably. Based on the 17 months they have spent in opposition, they have learned nothing and they have not changed.

### Social and Affordable Housing

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (10.03 am): After a decade of decline, where housing supply did not go anywhere near keeping pace with demand, where Labor's procurement and building regulation policies meant that 77,000 fewer homes were delivered since 2018 alone, many Queenslanders are doing it tough. Across our state families are feeling the pressure of higher rents, higher mortgages and the cost of everyday essentials like groceries and fuel. We know that a lack of supply in the housing market has directly contributed to these pressures, driven by a failure of those opposite to plan and build the homes that Queenslanders need.

This government is getting on with the job of turning things around. We are delivering a record \$5.6 billion investment into new social and community homes, part of our commitment to deliver a million new homes, including 53½ thousand for our most vulnerable, by 2044. This is not just a plan for the future and it is not just something we talk about or announce; it is a pipeline that is being delivered at scale. Last Friday I visited Charly, a mum in Logan, who is now living in a beautiful new social home delivered through our Queensland Community Housing Investment Pipeline—or Q-CHIP. This was a 17-home proposal that Mangrove Housing had been working on with a developer. In a matter of months we were able to get that deal over the line through our new 'always open' pathway. It is all because we have empowered community housing by replacing the old stop-start, time-limited, funding-limited system with a permanent pathway backed by perpetual funding. I want to acknowledge Sarah Amos, Sam Betros, Kelly Mangan and their entire team within the housing capital delivery part of our department for the work they have done to get Q-CHIP up and running in such a short period.

Right now we have work underway on almost 6,200 social and community homes across Queensland, the vast majority of which were contracted for delivery since we were elected. I need to correct a number that I gave yesterday in the House in response to the member for McConnel saying that most of those homes were under Labor. I said it was 3½ thousand when it is actually 4,103 homes that we have contracted for delivery since we were elected—two thirds of the pipeline contracted, let alone the ones under construction under our government. We are also unlocking supply by opening up land that has been sitting idle and that the Labor Party mowed for many years.

**Mrs Gerber:** 'Stevo's Mowing Service'!

**Mr O'CONNOR:** 'Stevo's Mowing Service'! I will take that interjection from the member for Currumbin. Land that was locked up under those opposite is now being activated so we can get more homes out of the ground sooner. That includes delivering more affordable housing, like the work we are facilitating with the Deputy Premier at the Banyo site which, despite the misinformation we have seen from the Labor Party, has a dedicated community housing opportunity with funding on the table to build affordable homes. The Deputy Premier does not just talk about building affordable homes, he actually backs it with funding. This is what real action on the cost of living looks like.

**Ms Linard** interjected.

**Mr O'CONNOR:** Boosting supply is the single most effective way to put downward pressure on rents and improve housing affordability. I am not taking those interjections from the NIMBY from Nudgee.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Correct titles, please, Minister.


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

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Would you withdraw, please?

**Mr O'CONNOR:** I withdraw. We are proud to be delivering homes in Nudgee because boosting supply is the single most effective way to put downward pressure on rents and to improve affordability. We also know that Queenslanders need support right now, which is why this financial year alone we have helped 23,885 households with private rental products and services valued at nearly \$50 million. Our bond loans, rental grants, rental security subsidies and RentConnect service is delivering practical support to help Queenslanders secure and sustain a roof over their heads while we get more homes out of the ground.

I also want to acknowledge the growing uncertainty around construction supply chains from the situation in the Middle East. Global instability can have real consequences here at home. It is not just diesel for tradies' utes and delivery trucks, it is things like the resin needed to make PVC pipes that are being massively impacted. We have been engaging with industry leaders, including Master Builders, the Master Plumbers' Association and Master Electricians, to understand these pressures and we have begun preparations with the QBCC to establish a dispute resolution and mediation service for any material or labour shortages which may arise. This government is getting on with the job of delivering more homes sooner because every Queenslander deserves a place to call home.

### Justice System

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (10.08 am): The Crisafulli government is doing what we said we were going to do—that is, delivering faster access to justice and providing greater safety for victims through our \$75 million court improvement program. From Atherton to Southport, Rockhampton to Mareeba and Cairns to Toowoomba, we are investing in our courthouses to provide a modern and accessible justice system.


Earlier this year I visited North Queensland to see firsthand the difference our strategic investments are making for victims and their families. Our government is investing \$19.3 million to upgrade the Cairns Courthouse as part of our Domestic and Family Violence Courthouse Improvement Program, which was left unfunded by those opposite. This funding boost is delivering long-overdue upgrades after Labor neglected our court facilities, leaving our state's court infrastructure chronically underfunded. Recently I visited Atherton Courthouse to inspect our \$5 million refurbishment, which is funding upgrades to the vulnerable witness room and providing new videoconferencing facilities.

Last month, with the member for Mirani and the member for Keppel, I was pleased to visit Rockhampton to inspect progress on our \$8.6 million investment to upgrade the mighty Rockhampton Courthouse. I know that the member for Rockhampton really wanted to but unfortunately was unable to be there on the day. That upgrade includes a new specialist courtroom, two safe rooms and security and registry improvements. Likewise, our strategic investments are delivering better support for victim-survivors in the Toowoomba region. We are investing \$16.1 million to fund the upgrade, which will include a new secure DFV safe room to give vulnerable witnesses private and secure areas to prepare for and access court.

Our investments do not just stop at bricks and mortar. The Crisafulli government has funded an additional judge for both the Supreme Court and the District Court, strengthening our judiciary's capacity and capability. This is the first additional Supreme Court judge funded since 2018 and is on top of the already additional District Court judge previously appointed for Townsville. In our short term so far, that means an extra Supreme Court and two extra District Court judges. This is all about ensuring victims can get through the court process faster and, of course, safer.


Our investments are improving facilities, strengthening safety for victims and supporting faster access for justice. I contrast that with those opposite, who abandoned victims, prioritised the rights of offenders and failed to invest in court infrastructure. The Crisafulli government is getting on with the job and is delivering for victims and our court users. We are repairing the funding black holes, fixing our courts and investing in the justice system—a system that those opposite left in decay during their decade of decline.

### ABSENCE OF MINISTER

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (10.12 am): I advise the House that the Minister for Primary Industries will be absent for today's sitting. I advise that the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development will answer questions for the minister in question time.

## MOTION

### Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (10.12 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the time allocated for debate on government business notice of motion No. 1, Revocation and Dedication of a Protected Area, standing in the name of the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation, be a maximum of 30 minutes before the question is put.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (10.13 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 21 April 2026.


Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Question time will conclude today at 11.13 am.

### Rail Network

 **Mr MILES** (10.13 am): My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Why has the minister allowed for the entire rail network to shut down for nine days during a fuel affordability and supply crisis?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. It is a question that, like so many from their playbook—and I saw the commentary in the *Cairns Post* today that quotes the Leader of the Opposition—stokes fear on an issue that is all about ensuring we deliver projects on time and on budget. The Leader of the Opposition asks me about closures to the rail network. I want to be very clear that this question is about ensuring we can do the work required to deliver projects such as Cross River Rail on time so that Queenslanders can use them.

So that we are very clear, there will be a nine-day closure of some sections of the rail line here in South-East Queensland in order to facilitate safe work on that network. So that we are very clear, there are two options here: we can do that work and close the rail line or we can leave the rail line open while that work happens, putting rail workers at risk. Let us be very clear: rail workers on that line are put at risk or we do it in a calm, considered and methodical way, ensuring we deliver—on time and on budget—the projects that Queenslanders deserve.

I contrast that with the approach of the former Labor government and now opposition to Cross River Rail. They caved in to the CFMEU and absolutely destroyed productivity on Queensland job sites. In 2024, when they were in government, there were more than 140 days of protected industrial action on Cross River Rail. Since we have come to government, in 2025 there have been zero days of protected industrial action on Cross River Rail. That tells Queenslanders everything they need to know about this government's approach to delivering the infrastructure and services that Queenslanders deserve.

Let us get to some facts. Those opposite are trying to stoke fear by suggesting that people in North and Far North Queensland will not have access to the freight that they need because of a nine-day closure here in the south-east. I want to be very clear: in June last year, this was notified to all of the freight network. Aurizon is the predominant provider on that network. In advance of the closure we facilitated 14 additional services to ensure that Coles, Woolworths and other providers of retail products in the north have access to the supplies they need to continue to supply the people of North and Far North Queensland. Coles and Woolworths are on the record, in the article that the Leader of the Opposition is referring to, saying that they have the supplies—the groceries and the like—but the Leader of the Opposition wants to whip up fear about Easter eggs. I want to be very clear: this is just another grubby Labor scare campaign, stoking fear without any basis in fact.

*(Time expired)*

### Rail Network

**Mr MILES:** My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier immediately convene a round table of freight operators to hear their concerns about the LNP's nine-day shutdown during a fuel affordability and supply crisis?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. I do believe the minister answered very well what has been put in place in terms of the forward planning. Forward planning is not something the Leader of the Opposition does very well. Reflecting on what the minister said about the forward planning, is the Leader of the Opposition suggesting that workers should be put at risk? I would never stand for that. Last night in this House they ran a protection racket for the CFMEU and they did it under the guise of worker safety. Today the Leader of the Opposition stands and says that hardworking people who just want to fix assets for this state should be put at risk. I think it is a very dark day.

Unfortunately, from this second question we see the inability of the Leader of the Opposition to pivot. The honourable minister answered his question about what has been put in place but unfortunately—and we see it time and time again—the Leader of the Opposition does not have the ability to pivot.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Members on my left, I cannot hear the Premier because of your interjections, which are not being taken.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I wonder what happens at the strategy meeting of those opposite in the morning. I just wonder. The Deputy Premier saw the opposition leader loitering around in casual clothes yesterday morning, just loitering around, and I say to the opposition leader—

**Mr Healy** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I take the interjection from the member for Cairns. I will tell you why. Every day that the member for Cairns sits there is proof of the rotting carcass—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Members on my left!

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** The member for Cairns sits there with all his anti-Semitism and all his misogyny. The member for Cairns is like a rotting carcass behind the Leader of the Opposition that the Leader of the Opposition cannot move. I tell you why. The Leader of the Opposition is hanging by a thread. He is hanging by a thread. He has no friends, he has no credibility and he has no plan, and just now—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was about meeting with the industry.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you for your point of order, Manager of Opposition Business. I have been listening carefully to the Premier, although I must say that at times I cannot hear him for all of the interjections from your team. However, I believe the Premier is being responsive to the question and responsive also to interjections. The Premier has the call.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I note the point of order from the Manager of Opposition Business. I do not believe that was directed at me. That was directed at the member for Cairns: 'Sit down. Be quiet. Don't say anything. Don't let them notice you are still there.' You should be there! The member for Cairns should be with the member for Stafford and that way there—

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

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Cairns. Premier, the member for Cairns has taken offence. Will you withdraw?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I withdraw. The member for Cairns sits there as a reminder of the weakest opposition leader who is hanging by a thread, and the transport minister just proved what good planning looks like.

*(Time expired)*

### Crisafulli LNP Government, Achievements

**Mr WATTS:** My question is of the Premier and Minister for Veterans. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering on its promise to take Queensland forward, and is the Premier aware of any policies that would take Queensland back to the decade of decline?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I want to thank the honourable member for the question. When we talk about taking this state forward, it starts with good service delivery. It starts with dealing with the youth crime, health, housing and cost-of-living crisis. I want to start with crime. I want to give a shout-out to the member for the way he articulated the case of the youth crime crisis in Toowoomba and seeing those victim numbers escalate during the decade of decline. The way the member stood up for his community is proof of the kind of member he is. He is a great member. I want to touch on some of those things, but I make the point that we have a long way to go in fixing these big four crises. I want to give a little higher level as the member asked about those policies. As a result of early intervention, rehabilitation, stronger consequences for actions through Adult Crime, Adult Time, which those opposite voted against, and more police on the beat, victim of crime numbers in this state have fallen by 7.2 per cent. There is a long way to go, but finally there is a start.

As a result of a health rescue plan, a diligent focus and extra doctors and nurses on the front line, we have seen ambulance ramping fall to 37.3 per cent—the lowest figure in over half a decade. As a result of a partnership with local government, diligence in delivering infrastructure on time and on budget, we have finally seen, through the Residential Activation Fund, housing supply being put on the agenda. As a result of the government doing things on time and on budget, making relief permanent, this government is focused on the cost-of-living pressures and right now we are proving why 50-cent fares are so valuable.

The honourable member asked me about contrasts. I do not know if members will recall, but I want to remind them, that a little over a year ago the opposition leader said there was going to be a new platform. He said he was going to wipe the slate clean and start again. Well, we are waiting to see. What has transpired? Where is the new platform?

Last night in this House they stood up and ran a protection racket for the CFMEU. Why would anyone want to do that when, through the commission of inquiry, we have seen the bullying, the intimidation, the harassment, the misogyny? I will tell you why. We found out some other things through the commission of inquiry. The member for McConnel, in 2015, rolled out the welcome mat and that was called out during the commission of inquiry. We heard that the member for Miller said the CFMEU should play favourites on who gets contracts. Don't forget the former deputy premier who had a direct line—a bat phone. That is why.

So, today I want someone to show me Labor's policy platform. That is what I want to see. What is it? What does it look like? Furnish it. Because this side is dealing with the big crises. This side is getting on with it. All I see from the opposition is the same faces. They have learnt nothing and absolutely nothing has changed.

### Glasshouse Theatre

**Ms FARMER:** My question is to the Minister for Education and the Arts. The minister has said the Premier approves everything he does, including the naming of the Glasshouse Theatre. Did the Premier approve the name 'Glasshouse' before or after the public consultation process?

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order, members! We will have order before I call the minister.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** I thank the honourable member for the question. I welcome students in the gallery who I am sure are fascinated to see the goings-on in this House this morning. It gives me great pleasure to look at the naming of things that have happened in the past as well as the naming of the very transparent Glasshouse Theatre, so I thank the honourable member for the question.

We have had history in the past from those opposite about the renaming of a hospital—the Lady Cilento Hospital. As I recall, that was something that was the subject of a poll with a subsequent cost to Queenslanders of half a million dollars—to rename a hospital. Who was it who took part in that poll? As it turned out, there were people from the then minister's department, from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Minister, could you just resume your seat for a moment, please? I am not sitting you down. Members, from all sides, there is too much chatter going on during people's addresses to the House. You are able to make interjections, but chatter amongst yourselves is too high. Minister, continue, please.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** I say very simply, though, to the honourable member and those opposite that the Premier approves of everything that I do, now that I am not posting on Instagram myself. Most importantly, I welcome the interest of those opposite in the magnificent new Glasshouse Theatre. When it comes to the issue of the naming, those opposite had a preferred name. They had seven months. In fact, the now shadow minister for the arts had that prospective name on the then premier's desk—the now Leader of the Opposition's desk—for seven months. They could have named it. That was not a name about which there had been any public consultation.

Fast forward to October 2024 and we came in with a preferred name and we asked Queenslanders what they thought about 'Glasshouse' and they endorsed it—42 per cent of 5,000 people who voted. To contrast that, when Queenslanders were asked for any other name that they might like to give to this Glasshouse, very transparent, theatre, five people came up with the alternative name that had been proposed by the shadow minister—five people out of a prospective 900 names. So, I encourage those opposite and all Queenslanders to visit the magnificent Glasshouse Theatre. I note that the shadow minister attended and waxed lyrical in her online Facebook post, which I am happy to table, with no question asked about the name of the theatre. I table that. Importantly, it is—

*Tabled paper:* Extract, dated 13 March, from the Facebook page of the member for Algester, Hon. Leeanne Enoch MP, relating to the opening of a new theatre [\[411\]](#).

*(Time expired)*

### Productivity

**Mrs YOUNG:** My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. How is the Crisafulli LNP government restoring productivity to Queensland worksites to deliver the infrastructure our growing state deserves, and is he aware of any alternative approaches during a decade of decline?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I thank the honourable member for Redlands for the question. It is a great question. We are returning productivity to worksites. I have seen statistics coming through in the last year from the big companies in Queensland that show that productivity on worksites has been increasing since the Crisafulli government's crackdown on the CFMEU. We even have worksites and cranes operating on a Saturday now, which was not happening under Labor. Literally, productivity was at 2.3 days a week under Labor because of their dodgy deals with the CFMEU.

We have seen it in the royal commission. I saw it yesterday in this House. We asked the question: how on earth could anyone have voted against electrical safety last night? How could anyone have voted against ending the dodgy deal that the Labor Party had with the CFMEU? Who could do that? They did. Again, they put the interests of the CFMEU first yesterday by voting for the CFMEU and not for Queenslanders. The honourable Premier asked me earlier, 'Has anything changed? What has changed in their policy? Where is this direction? Are they still in bed with the CFMEU?' The honourable Premier said, 'Show me the Labor Party policy.' He has challenged us, ladies and gentlemen, to show him the Labor Party policy.

Premier, here is what I found earlier: the 2025 Labor Party platform. I am interested in the Labor Party platform because I want to know if they still aspire to the bad policies in the housing and productivity spaces. One must turn to page 81. It states—

Labor in government will commit to invest in affordable housing through reputable private-public partnerships and push for contribution from State and Federal Governments Best Practice Principles.

Where have I heard that before?

**A government member:** BPIC is back, baby.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** It is back, baby—I take the interjection. Under Labor, BPIC is back, baby, but not under the Crisafulli government. Labor have learned nothing. They have not changed.

Under the opposition leader, the Labor Party have learned nothing. Nothing has changed. They said for 12 months that they had been on a listening tour of Queensland. They have not listened very well, because in their own 2025 document they are saying that they still believe in BPIC. BPIC drove up costs, meaning taxpayers had to pay 30 per cent more to build hospitals, schools, road projects and Olympic and Paralympic infrastructure. They believe in it. It is in the Labor DNA. It is more costly for Queenslanders. The CFMEU is in Labor's DNA. We will continue to fight for Queenslanders, not the CFMEU.

### Police Service

**Ms HOWARD:** My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Police sources have told the opposition that the decision to disband the Domestic, Family Violence and Vulnerable Persons Command is being reviewed by the acting commissioner. Can the minister confirm this review?

**Mr PURDIE:** I thank the member for the question. As I have said in answer to this question before in this House, the policing of domestic and family violence is a top priority for the Queensland Police Service, as it always has been. The new commissioner has put that on the record, and he has been a previous champion for the policing of domestic and family violence.

The answer to the question is no. As I have answered before, as a result of the 100-day review of the Queensland Police Service, the Domestic, Family Violence and Vulnerable Persons Command has been elevated to the new office of the commissioner and reports directly to the office of the commissioner. I think that is where it belongs. It needs to be in the top echelon of the Queensland Police Service because we need to do everything as a government to support our police to protect vulnerable victims of domestic and family violence.

This is in stark contrast to those opposite, who sat on their hands and did nothing when calls to the service and incidents of domestic and family violence rose by 218 per cent over 10 years. It was a top priority of ours when we came into government only 16 months ago to listen to police. Shortly after getting the job, commissioner Gollschewski, whom they appointed, raised publicly that police had been calling for better laws, procedures and regulations to better protect vulnerable victims of domestic and family violence for over five years. We did that. I acknowledge the domestic violence minister for listening to the police and doing that.

We have enabled police to put rapid protections in place to protect those vulnerable victims by way of police protection directions. I advise the House that hundreds of those have been issued across the state, giving on-the-spot protection to victims. The policing of domestic and family violence will always be a top priority of the Queensland police.

To answer the member's question, that is not the case because the DV command unit has been elevated to the office of the commissioner and reports directly to the new commissioner, Brett Pointing. That is what is happening, which is what the police asked for in the 100-day review. They presented that to us, and we supported its being elevated. Not only that, but we have delivered more specialist DV support workers across the state. We have 48 more police in the vulnerable persons unit who have been dispatched across this great state, in all of the electorates that we represent. That is how important policing domestic violence is to us. Also, we have GPS trackers for high-risk perpetrators.

We have delivered more groundbreaking reform, more legislation and more police across the state. Under those opposite, in one police district alone there were up to 200 calls to the service at any one time—85 per cent being for domestic and family violence—that the police could not respond to, and DVConnect was broken. We have delivered more police, tougher laws, appropriate law enforcement opportunities and the ability for police to put protections in place more rapidly so they can get to the next victim sooner. This is still a top priority for the Queensland Police Service.

*(Time expired)*

### Youth Justice

**Ms MARR:** My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering change to youth justice, and is the minister aware of any policies from the decade of decline that failed to listen to victims?

**Mrs GERBER:** I thank the member for Thuringowa for that question. The member for Thuringowa is a fierce advocate for her local community, a community that has been at the heart of Labor's youth crime crisis for many years. She has fought alongside her community for stronger laws, more police and early intervention, and this government is delivering that for the member for Thuringowa and her community.

We are delivering the change that is needed to fight Labor's youth crime crisis—a youth crime crisis that we would go back to if those opposite had their way. We have just seen a policy document from Queensland Labor—their state platform for 2025. Let's turn to what their state platform says about youth crime. Let's turn to what their policy is in relation to youth crime. On page 109, it states—

Labor will increase the age of criminal responsibility from 10 years old to 14 years old ...

That is still their policy. Nothing has changed.

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Mrs GERBER:** I take the interjection from the member for Waterford, who took this in 2021 to the attorney-generals meeting. It is still their policy. Nothing has changed. Labor do not support Adult Crime, Adult Time, and they would have us go back to the bad old days of the youth crime crisis if they were in government.

The headline of an article in the *Courier-Mail*—a very well written article—reads, ‘Steven Miles admits Labor “failed as a govt”, vows to scrap and rebuild policy for 2028’. Their ‘rebuilding’ is rehashing the same policies that caused the youth crime crisis, the same policies that resulted in a youth crime crisis ripping through the member for Thuringowa’s community.

**Mrs Nightingale** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Inala, your interjections are not being taken.

**Mrs GERBER:** They have learned nothing and they have not changed. They are continuing to pursue a policy that would see youth criminals not face consequences for action. They weakened our youth justice laws when they came to government. This platform proves that they have not changed and they would continue to weaken our youth justice laws. The Crisafulli government will strengthen our youth justice laws. We are introducing strong laws in this state to unwind the decade of decline and see Labor’s youth crime crisis come to an end.

### Legal Aid, Board Membership

**Ms ENOCH:** Mr Acting Speaker—

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Algester, you have the call. However, I would caution you not to turn your microphone on while the minister is still on their feet and still has time on the clock.

**Ms ENOCH:** I apologise, Mr Acting Speaker. My question is to the Attorney-General. Did the Attorney-General consult with Indigenous leaders before removing respected First Nations lawyer Avelina Tarrago from the Legal Aid board and controversially appointing Darren Robinson?

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** I am going to seek some advice. Member for Algester, your question contains an argument and I ask you to re-ask the question in accordance with the standing orders.

**Ms ENOCH:** My question is to the Attorney-General. Did the Attorney-General consult with Indigenous leaders before removing First Nations lawyer Avelina Tarrago and appointing Darren Robinson?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I would like to thank the shadow minister for the question. Like all board positions, there are positions that come to an end and new people are appointed to those boards. It is vitally important to talk about the hard work that Legal Aid do across Queensland for all communities and what ATSILs do on behalf of Indigenous communities particularly across Queensland.

I will tell the shadow minister and the shadow ministers sitting around her that it is obvious that they have not changed and that they have learned nothing. When I first had the honour of getting this role as the state’s Attorney-General, Legal Aid was chronically underfunded by those opposite. They do not care. They come in here and they—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Address your comments through the chair.

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

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause for a moment. We have a point of order.

**Mr de BRENNI:** My point of order is on relevance. The question was about consultation.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** I understand.

**Mr McCallum** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Bundamba, that was highly disorderly and you are warned. I have heard your point of order, Manager of Opposition Business. The question was about consultation. The Attorney-General is giving context to the entire appointment process and being relevant to the question.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Not only were they chronically unsupported; they were chronically underfunded by the former government, along with numerous Indigenous communities across Queensland, including one of my own. One of the first things I had to do was pick up the phone to the

Premier and seek an extra \$142 million so we could unlock federal funding of \$800 million from Canberra because they did not budget for it. They were going to rip off the community legal services—Legal Aid and ATSILs. Where was their advocacy?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Cease the quarrelling across the chamber.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I take the interjection from the member for McConnel. As someone who has worked as a preferred supplier for Legal Aid, I can say this: they were chronically underfunded, chronically unsupported—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. We fully accept your ruling in relation to my last point of order. You indicated that the minister was entitled to provide context. With the time left we would like her to get to the other part of your ruling.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** That is relevance.

**Mr de BRENNI:** The question was about consultation.

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

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Is your point of order on that point of order?

**Dr ROWAN:** My point of order in responding to the Manager of Opposition Business is that the Attorney-General is being responsive to the question as asked in talking about the governance of Legal Aid, and the board is fundamental to that. I submit to you that she is being relevant to the question as asked.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you both for your points of order. I consider the Attorney-General remains relevant and has 38 seconds on the clock.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I also want to inform the House—and I thank Ms Tarrago very much for her time—that she resigned from Legal Aid. I quote—

It has been an honour to serve. The decision was not made lightly, but I remain supportive of the organisation's mission and hope to see it continue to thrive.

I thank that board member. It would do those opposite well to wake up earlier and work harder.

### Victims of Crime

**Mr KEMPTON:** My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. How is the Crisafulli LNP government restoring justice for victims across our state, and is the Attorney aware of any policies from the decade of decline that denied justice to Queenslanders?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I thank the member for Cook—another former lawyer in this place who understands and represents a huge number of people in Far North Queensland. He is also someone who I am quite sure has had many dealings with Legal Aid in the past. I would like to thank the member for Cook for that because it is the extra money that the Crisafulli government is investing in our community legal services, in Legal Aid and in ATSILs, and in supporting the court services that mean that victims get faster and easier access to justice—something that never happened under those opposite. We are restoring Legal Aid, ATSILs and the court system to where it should be, and that is to support communities across the state.

What is Labor's platform for reducing victim numbers in this great state? The Minister for Youth Justice has done a great job pointing all of this out, but I thought I would have a look at the article as well. The member for Murrumba said he is going to approach this with a 'clean slate'. In actual fact, before the Labor Party conference I think it was 'chooks' who reported a source from Labor saying, 'We don't want to touch anything to do with youth justice or really anything controversial. That's the message from Miles.' Let's have a look at the final product of this 'clean slate'. I think this has been missed, members. This is from 29 to 30 November last year—just last year. This is the clean slate.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Do not use it as a prop, Attorney-General.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for McConnel, I do not need your help.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I want to refer to the member for Waterford's flip-flopping. In relation to the age of criminal responsibility, we know that is in this platform because of the Minister for Youth Justice. In 2021 the member for Waterford was in Townsville where she conveniently said there was

no plan to lift the age. Then a year later she supported the development of a proposal to increase it. Then she did not back the bill to raise the age. Now the member for Waterford has written it into Labor's policy in November: 'Labor will increase the age of criminal responsibility from 10 years old to 14 years old ...'.

How clean is that a clean slate? They have learned nothing and they have not changed—same old Labor. There is no clean slate. This is the dirty old slate that was used last time. It is going to be used next time. I would suggest to those opposite: get a new leader.

### **Biloela Hospital, Maternity Services**

**Mrs NIGHTINGALE:** My question is to the Minister for Health. The AMAQ has slammed the minister's decision to commence level 2 birthing services at Biloela Hospital, saying that mothers will be treated like 'guinea pigs'. Will the minister listen to the experts and ensure mothers have obstetric and anaesthetic care during birth?

**Mr Head** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Callide, you are warned.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I have heard a phrase used a few times this morning that I think is an absolutely true phrase in response—and I thank the member for the question—that they have learned nothing and nothing has changed. I have answered the question in relation to birthing services at Biloela. It was asked about three months ago. They are asking the same question again.

It pays to remember what happened to birthing services under Labor after 10 years, and we heard the Minister for Women recount that this morning. More than 32 birthing services were cancelled under those opposite and there was no plan to restore them. The story in Cooktown is that they went over 1,496 days without birthing services, 1,000 days of that under the Labor Party. In Biloela there were 799 days under Labor without birthing services and there was no plan to restore them.

**Mr Butcher** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Gladstone.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** There are dozens of others—

**Mr Butcher** interjected.

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

**Mr NICHOLLS:**—Chinchilla—

**Mr Butcher** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Gladstone, I just warned you and you continued to interject. I am going to ask you to leave the chamber for one hour. I did not even get to write the warning down.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Gladstone withdrew from the chamber at 10.51 am.*

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, you have one minute and 38 seconds.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Talking about Gladstone, the member for Gladstone said he would quit if they did not restore birthing services in the Gladstone Hospital. They did not—and he did not quit either, by the way.

**Mr Crisafulli:** But his votes quit, don't worry.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Exactly. His votes certainly quit on him. We resoundingly reject any suggestion that has been made, as I see has been reported in the media, that patients will in any way, shape or form be treated like guinea pigs. It was a shameful claim that was made and it is a slur on the hardworking staff at Biloela, including the Midwifery Group Practice that is there and that is now providing level 1 birthing services for women who require those services. It is a slur on those people who have invested more than \$750,000 upgrading hospital facilities there. The department and the local HHS will only, and always, act in the best and safest interests of patients. After Labor's decade of decline there was no service left in Biloela. We are actively looking at not just the best and safest way to deliver those services in Biloela but also restoring services in Cooktown and delivering more and better services throughout Queensland. They have learned nothing, they listen to nothing and nothing will change under Labor.

### Road and Rail Infrastructure

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering the roads and rail infrastructure our growing state needs, and is the minister aware of any policies from the decade of decline that forgot to upgrade critical infrastructure?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I thank the member for Theodore for his question. The member is a tireless advocate for people on the northern Gold Coast in relation to fighting for upgrades to roads. Whether it is the Tamborine Oxenford Road or new crossings across the M1—I know that was an election commitment from him at the last election and we will deliver—or whether it is better public transport, the member for Theodore is fighting for his local community.

I am asked about policies from a decade of decline. The Premier asks, 'What is their policy platform?' We have the Queensland Labor State Platform 2025, which was carried by the state conference last year in November. I want to remind members—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members on my left, the minister has quite a loud voice but I was struggling to understand what he was saying due to all of the interjections from your side. Cease them, please.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I just want to remind members that this state platform, which was passed in November last year, is binding on those opposite. I have the ALP's constitution here. Clause 23 states—

Policy at the national and state level shall be determined by the national and state level conferences respectively. Such decisions shall be binding on every member and every section of the Party, or of the relevant state branch.

**Ms Asif** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Sandgate, you are warned.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** This is binding. Let's have a look at page 86. It states—

Labor will begin the process of fast tracking the removal of level crossings in South East Queensland and in high priority locations in Regional Queensland by July 2024 with completion by July 2032.

This is the bit that concerns me the most—

This work will be undertaken in accordance with the Queensland Procurement Policy and Best Practice Principles.

BPIC! They want to go back to BPIC. Not content to blow out the road and transport program by \$6.7 billion, those opposite want to wind back the clock and go back to BPIC. They want to go back to the CFMEU riding roughshod over productivity in Queensland, their bullying, misogyny and protracted industrial action that destroyed taxpayers' value for money on projects like Cross River Rail. They want to go back to the future. They have not learned anything; they have not changed. They want to go back to the bad old days of the CFMEU owning the government and destroying productivity.

I am asked about these policies. If we look at open level crossings, what was their record? They started one. Admittedly, they said it would start in 2021; they got to it in 2024. They did not finish it, mind you. I note that it was in the former minister for transport's own electorate. He never finished it but he finally started it. In contrast, we will finish that one at Beams Road and we will do one at Kuraby, one at Woodridge, one at Bethania, one at Holmview and one at Beenleigh. That is what our record will be. We will not go back to the past and the CFMEU owning the—

*(Time expired)*

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** I will wait for quiet for the member for Noosa.

### Social and Affordable Housing

**Ms BOLTON:** My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth. Given the critical and increasing demand for housing assistance, will the minister confirm additional Immediate Housing Response funding for providers at or nearing capacity to ensure no-one in need is turned away while these providers await renewed contracts and funding in July?

**Mr O'CONNOR:** I thank the member for Noosa for her question, for her advocacy and in particular for the way she has engaged with my office on the 16 homes the member is very passionate about getting out of the ground in Tewantin in her electorate.

Our budget provided \$160 million for the Immediate Housing Response, the hotel and motel crisis accommodation program, which is on top of the \$114 million we had to provide in our first MYFER to fill a funding gap we were left by those opposite. We know that providers in many cases have struggled to get hotels and motels to take part in that program. We are very open to working with them, and if there is a particular provider the member wants to connect with my office we can see what options there are available to help them support more vulnerable people. The funding has covered the demand we have seen and there is funding available to work with those providers that are at capacity.

This has come about because we inherited a system that was in crisis, where the former Labor government bought homes from the private market instead of undertaking new builds. We saw them put people into motels with no rules and no plan for how to get them out of it; it was just a short-term bandaid. The system delivered an average of 509 social homes per year over the decade of decline. The IHR is there to fill the gap while we are getting more homes out of the ground.

Our No. 1 priority is to get families out of those hotels and motels and into long-term housing. I want to acknowledge our Housing Outreach and Mobile Engagement teams who do an outstanding job working with our specialist homelessness services providers to transition people and families who have been in motels for far too long—sometimes for months or years—into long-term housing. From September, when those teams started a dedicated program with those homelessness services to get those individuals out of hotels and motels, they have supported 649 households into public, private and supported housing, which is really outstanding to see. It is a much better outcome for those individuals and families who are struggling.

I want to acknowledge the public servant who established that Housing Outreach and Mobile Engagement team—James O'Brien, one of our public servants from the Sunshine Coast. Actually, he is no longer one of our public servants from the Sunshine Coast because he retired on Friday after four decades of service to the Queensland government, including more than 30 years with our department. James, on behalf of all of us, thank you for your service. You served Queenslanders well and you should be proud of the contribution you made, particularly the priority you put on getting those families out of hotel and motel accommodation.

### Infrastructure

**Mr FIELD:** My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the Deputy Premier update the House on how the Crisafulli LNP government is building the generational infrastructure that Queenslanders deserve, and is he aware of any alternative approaches during a decade of decline that would have put this at risk?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I thank the hardworking member for Capalaba for the question. I look forward to the day when you and I are going to ride the whitewater raft in that beautiful area of Redlands in your electorate. You are going to go through the gate on that whitewater raft and it will be fantastic. I am getting images of you doing it now. I know more about whitewater rafting than I know about cricket, I can assure the member of that.

We are building the infrastructure right across the state, particularly in electorates that were neglected by the former Labor government. I talked earlier about the Queensland Labor Party platform. I do believe that every Queensland democracy needs a good opposition, but there is not a good opposition in this state at the moment because the Leader of the Opposition's 'Daddy Blocker' is not in charge anymore. I think Daddy Blocker's boy is on the way out, anyway.

When I was looking at this document, I could not help but notice that there is not one reference to youth crime in this document. The Labor Party cannot even bring themselves to mention youth crime, other than weakening all the laws we have at the moment. Like Bon Jovi said, 'The more things change, the more they stay the same.' I was looking at this document to see what has actually changed in the Labor Party policy platform over the years. It is a 2025 document—it is dated November 2025—but the Minister for Transport has already said there are things in here that are outdated already. I found the answer and I want to expose it today for all honourable members. When you actually go to the document online, the 2025 Labor Party policy platform, it comes up in the www headline at the top 'Queensland Labor state platform 2021'. I table a copy of that.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, undated, from a web page titled 'Queensland Labor State Platform 2025' [\[412\]](#).

The more things change, the more they stay the same. They have not changed their policy since 2021. The Labor Party policy has essentially got the expletive sandwich, put a bit of old devon on it and turfed it out as new policy. It is not new. They believe in the CFMEU; it is in their DNA. They believe in BPIC; it is in their DNA. They believe in weakening youth crime laws; it is in Labor's DNA. They believe in cost overruns and budget blowouts; it is in Labor's DNA.

*(Time expired)*

### **Crisafulli LNP Government, Fuel Use**

**Ms BOURNE:** My question is to the Minister for Police. Can the minister advise how much fuel the government contracted jet uses on average each month ferrying the Premier and ministers around Queensland?

**Mr Bleijie:** Did someone say birthday cake?

**Mr Crisafulli:** Ipswich West, they set you up!

**Mr PURDIE:** Yes, I fear the member who asked the question was stitched up when she was given this question. Who can forget when the current Leader of the Opposition was premier and he travelled around on two jets—not one, but two charter jets flying over Queensland in tandem.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Two jets.

**Mr PURDIE:** Two jets. It was at estimates and they refused to release the cost of that—

**Mr Bleijie:** What did they deliver on the two jets?

**Mr PURDIE:** That is exactly right. It was not until estimates that we got the cost of that and we also found out that one of those flights was a 15-minute flight to deliver a birthday cake to the member for Bundaberg. I am happy to go back and look because it was Commissioner Gollschewski at estimates that year who gave the cost of those two jets. I think it was about \$180,000 for Maverick and Goose to fly around. I am happy to take that question on notice because I will go back and work out what it cost to deliver that birthday cake to the member for Bundaberg. We have got that through estimates so we can work that out.

Let us not forget that the government jet is supposed to be used. What we have done since coming to government is enforce the policy that the priority is organ donation and retrieval. That is the No. 1 priority for the jet. The second priority is emergency responses for our police and emergency services. That is to stop what those opposite did from happening again because we do value taxpayers' money. To have two charter jets flying around in tandem like Maverick and Goose delivering birthday cakes is no longer a priority when it comes to QGAir and the jets.

Member for Ipswich West, I honestly apologise on behalf of your colleagues for the stitch-up question you were given. I am pretty sure the member was not here at the time. Did the member for Waterford plant this question knowing that the answer would go straight back to the Leader of the Opposition? I cannot help but feel that the member asking the question has been used as a tool in some chaos and crisis happening over there. Maybe the member for Waterford gave the member for Ipswich West the question knowing it was going to come straight back to the Leader of the Opposition.

I can assure the House that organ donation and retrieval and police and emergency responses are the top priorities of QGAir, and we have reinforced that. We make no apologies for representing every member of this great state.

### **Recycling**

**Mr MOLHOEK:** My question is to the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation. How is the Crisafulli LNP government boosting Queensland's recycling rates, and is the minister aware of any approaches that simply did not stack up after Labor's decade of decline?

**Mr POWELL:** I thank the member for Southport for his question. In doing so, I also want to acknowledge his fine chairmanship of the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee and all of the committee members, particularly for their fantastic work on the inquiry into Queensland's container refund scheme. I know that was very lengthy and very involved. In fact, it turned into a more involved inquiry than even we on this side of the House imagined. The committee heard from community groups, industry participants and local organisations. They heard from Queenslanders who care deeply about recycling and waste reduction in this state.

**Mr J Kelly** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Greenslopes.

**Mr POWELL:** What the committee exposed were serious issues that had been allowed to fester under the former Labor government.

**Mr J Kelly** interjected.

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

**Mr POWELL:** It helped to shine a light on problems that those opposite ignored for years. After a decade of Labor mismanagement, Queensland was left with the second worst recycling rate in the country. After 10 years of Labor talking the talk around environmental leadership—they talked about plans, they talked about strategies, they held press conferences—when the results came in what did we see?

**Ms Pease** interjected.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Lytton. Member for Logan.

**Mr POWELL:** The numbers told a completely different story. Recycling was stagnating, waste to landfill was increasing and key programs like the container refund scheme were left without proper oversight. The Leader of the Opposition likes to talk a big game about the environment, but Queenslanders should remember this: the member for Murrumba was the environment minister when the container refund scheme was established.

**Ms Pease** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Lytton.

**Mr POWELL:** He was responsible for the design—

**Ms Pease** interjected.

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

**Mr POWELL:**—of the scheme, yet to this day Queenslanders still do not know why the member for Murrumba chose the government's framework that he did. He has never fronted up to explain it.

**Mr Bleijie:** Because 'Blocker' told him to.

**Mr POWELL:** I assume that it was because Blocker told him to. It took a parliamentary inquiry to finally expose what had been allowed to happen under Labor—an inquiry that uncovered serious governance failures, an inquiry that heard allegations of bullying, intimidation, conflicts of interest and an inquiry that saw matters referred to the CCC. That is the legacy left behind by the Leader of the Opposition and a parade of Labor ministers who oversaw the system. What have they learned from all of this? Absolutely nothing! They have learned nothing. They have not changed.

Queenslanders voted for a fresh start. That is exactly what they are getting under this government. Our goal is clear. That is why we established the—

**Mr Mellish** interjected.

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

**Mr POWELL:**—parliamentary inquiry. That is why today I will table the government's response. It is why today we are introducing legislation to strengthen the container refund scheme, a scheme that this side of government and this side of the chamber backs and a scheme that all Queenslanders back.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There is an immense amount of chatter in the chamber and movement on that side of the House. It is very difficult—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order, members. I am listening to a point of order. Member, I have heard your point of order in relation to noise.

**Dr ROWAN:** I just ask you to consider that matter, Mr Acting Speaker.

### **Paradise Dam**

**Mr SMITH:** My question is to the Minister for Water. In light of flooding in Bundaberg, when will the minister release the overdue detailed business case for the rebuild of Paradise Dam, as committed to at the election?

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Minister, you have one minute to answer the question.

**Ms LEAHY:** I thank the member for the question. There is something else very important about the Labor members opposite. This is the first question in 359 days that they have asked in relation to water. That is nearly a year in which they have not asked a question about water.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms LEAHY:** For the Labor opposition to come in here and ask a question in relation to a dam that they tore down when they were in government—

**Ms Asif** interjected.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Sandgate, you can leave the chamber for one hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Sandgate withdrew from the chamber at 11.14 am.*

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers, you can leave the chamber for one hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Pine Rivers withdrew from the chamber at 11.14 am.*

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** You have 10 seconds remaining, Minister for Water.

**Ms LEAHY:** For the Labor opposition to not ask a single question for 359 days shows that they do not care about water infrastructure in this state.

*(Time expired)*

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

## LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION



**Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (11.14 am): I seek leave to move general notice of motion No. 1 standing in my name.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

**AYES, 34:**

**ALP, 31**—Bourne, Bush, 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, 2**—Bolton, Sullivan.

**NOES, 50:**

**LNP, 50**—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Blejje, Boothman, Camm, Chiesa, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

Pair: Perrett, Bailey.

Resolved in the negative.

## WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING (STRENGTHENING THE CONTAINER REFUND SCHEME) AMENDMENT BILL

### Message from Governor



**Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (11.19 am): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** The message from Her Excellency recommends the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Strengthening the Container Refund Scheme) 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

WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING (STRENGTHENING THE CONTAINER REFUND SCHEME) 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 Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 for particular purposes

## GOVERNOR

Date: 25 March 2026

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 25 March 2026, from Her Excellency the Governor, recommending the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Strengthening the Container Refund Scheme) Amendment Bill 2026 [\[413\]](#).

## Introduction

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (11.20 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Waste Reduction and Recycling (Strengthening the Container Refund Scheme) Amendment Bill 2026 [\[414\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Waste Reduction and Recycling (Strengthening the Container Refund Scheme) Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes [\[415\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Waste Reduction and Recycling (Strengthening the Container Refund Scheme) Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[416\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Strengthening the Container Refund Scheme) Amendment Bill 2026. I also table the final government response to report No. 14 of the 58th Parliament of the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee titled *Improving Queensland's container refund scheme*.

*Tabled paper:* Health, Environment and Innovation Committee: Report No. 14, 58th Parliament—Improving Queensland's Container Refund Scheme, government response [\[417\]](#).

Queensland's container refund scheme is an important environmental initiative. It helps reduce litter, it increases recycling and it delivers real environmental benefits for the state. It is a scheme, as I said earlier, that Queenslanders value and it is a scheme this government, the Crisafulli LNP government, strongly supports, but it is also a scheme that over time has been allowed to drift—drift without the level of governance Queenslanders expect, drift without proper oversight, drift without the transparency and accountability that should accompany a program of this scale.

What the inquiry clearly showed was the scheme was never set up properly in the first place and, as I mentioned earlier, who was responsible for that? None other than the member for Murrumba, the now opposition leader. Why? We still do not know. The member for Murrumba has not fronted up. He certainly has not explained himself, and neither has the conga line of ministers who followed oversight of this scheme in the years following. Queenslanders deserve better than that, which is why this government is determined to deliver what those opposite could not. The parliamentary inquiry into Queensland's container refund scheme made the scale of the problem very clear. Before addressing those findings, I again want to thank the many Queenslanders who contributed to the inquiry—community groups, industry participants, local organisations and those individuals who care deeply about recycling and waste reduction in this state. Their submissions have helped shape the reforms now before the House.

The inquiry represented the first comprehensive examination of the scheme since its establishment in 2017. What the committee uncovered should concern every member of this House. It revealed serious governance shortcomings. It revealed weak oversight. It revealed gaps in transparency and accountability. In short, it revealed a program operating without the level of scrutiny and discipline that Queenslanders would expect of a multibillion dollar public scheme. The committee also heard troubling evidence regarding the culture surrounding the administration of the scheme. Allegations of bullying, intimidation and governance failures were raised and referred to the appropriate authorities, including the CCC. These are not minor matters; they are serious concerns and they demonstrate clearly that reform is required, which is why the Crisafulli LNP government has acted.

The government welcomes the insights provided by the inquiry and supports, either fully or in principle, 20 of the 21 recommendations. Those recommendations provide a clear pathway to strengthen the scheme and restore confidence in how it operates. The recommendations are wide

ranging. They cover governance, transparency, oversight and the infrastructure and settings needed to support recycling into the future and back Queensland's communities and businesses. For example, in relation to recommendation 17, the inquiry proposed referring the issue of relief for small beverage producers to the Queensland Productivity Commission. On this one, the government is taking a different approach. Rather than commissioning another review, we are simply acting. The bill before the House will enable an exemption to be prescribed by regulation for small beverage manufacturers from paying a contribution for a certain number of containers manufactured.

Recommendation 21 also highlighted the need for long-term planning for waste and recycling infrastructure. That is why last week I announced that this government will deliver a Statewide Waste and Recycling Infrastructure Plan. This plan will provide the certainty and coordination industry needs to invest in recycling facilities right across Queensland. It will act as an investment prospectus and it will guide state government, council and private sector investment in infrastructure that supports recycling and resource recovery across the state. However, as I mentioned, the government does not support recommendation 11. That recommendation would open the door to increasing the refund amount. Increasing the refund risks increasing costs for Queenslanders, and this government will not support higher costs at the check-out. We ruled it out before the committee reported; we rule it out again now.

The LNP has always supported the container refund scheme. We support its environmental objectives, we support its role in reducing litter and we support its ability to increase recycling, but supporting the scheme also means being prepared to fix what is not working, and again that is exactly what this government is doing. The government's response to recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 15, 16, 18, 19 and 20 will progress through the legislative reform that I have just tabled. Today we are doing exactly that.

The Waste Reduction and Recycling (Strengthening the Container Refund Scheme) Amendment Bill 2026 delivers the reform that has been missing for too long, it strengthens that governance that was lacking, it improves the transparency that did not exist and it restores accountability. At the centre of these reforms is the Product Responsibility Organisation, or the PRO. This body manages the public funds, it operates the scheme across the state and it plays a central role in delivering the container refund scheme, yet under the previous government and the framework it established it was allowed to operate without sufficient oversight. That must change. The bill introduces a clear performance management framework for the Product Responsibility Organisation. Each year the organisation will be required to prepare a performance management plan for approval by the minister. Its performance will be monitored, results will be reported and Queenslanders will be able to see how the scheme is being run.

The bill also strengthens independent oversight. The board of the Product Responsibility Organisation will undergo an annual evaluation conducted by an independent auditor and additional audit powers will allow further scrutiny where required. In addition, the bill enables the appointment of a special manager in circumstances that warrant intervention under the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011. Under the current framework, an administrator may be appointed when the PRO's appointment is cancelled or suspended. However, there are circumstances where alternative oversight may be required. To address this, the bill introduces the role of a special manager, providing a flexible oversight mechanism to monitor the affairs of the PRO when required.

The bill directly addresses the committee report's finding on unfair contracts and discriminatory behaviour by explicitly prohibiting this conduct by the PRO and it strengthens accountability by clarifying that the PRO is a unit of public administration under the Crime and Corruption Act 2001.

The inquiry also identified serious concerns about the composition of the organisation's board. The committee recommended that stronger ministerial oversight is needed to ensure the board is representative of the entire beverage supply chain and yet operates independently of major beverage companies. To address these concerns, the bill introduces changes to the board's composition, requiring that a majority of directors be independent of the beverage industry. It also broadens the board's representation to include expertise in waste and recycling, local government, and community and social enterprise.

Ministerial oversight of board appointments will also be strengthened. Currently, the minister only approves the chair and one director. The bill requires ministerial approval for all directors, and that approval can be withdrawn if necessary. These measures will ensure the directors possess the appropriate skills, experience and independence required for their roles.

To complement these governance reforms, the bill also introduces measures to ensure regular renewal of the board. All directors will now serve fixed terms of up to three years, with a maximum tenure of 10 years. Additionally, the bill establishes a fixed term of up to seven years for the appointment of the Product Responsibility Organisation itself, along with a clear renewal framework.

The bill also expands the functions of the PRO to support Queenslanders. These will now include supporting environmental and community programs as well as facilitating the development of infrastructure needed for recycling and waste transport across Queensland.

Transparency is another key focus of these reforms. The committee report identified significant concerns about transparency within both the scheme and the PRO. Since its inception the scheme has generated over \$2.5 billion in revenue, yet less than 40 per cent has been returned to Queenslanders through refunds and less than two per cent to charities. This lack of reinvestment is deeply concerning and highlights the need for greater accountability. To address these issues, the bill establishes a framework requiring ministerial approval of a plan for the use of surplus funds from the scheme. This will ensure surplus funds are reinvested into environmental and community initiatives rather than retained by the PRO to only offset costs for large beverage manufacturers. The bill also improves transparency by broadening existing operational and strategic plan requirements to require the PRO to prepare and publish additional corporate documents and plans, with some requiring approval by the minister.

As I mentioned earlier, the bill also recognises the challenges facing small beverage manufacturers. To support them, the bill will support financial relief to all small beverage manufacturers. It will provide an exemption, to be prescribed by a later regulation, for small beverage producers from paying a contribution for a certain amount of containers manufactured.

The bill also addresses a practical recycling issue identified by the inquiry. Lids and caps are frequently separated from containers and end up in landfill. The amendments ensure lids, caps and closures are included in the definition of a container. This will, in turn, allow them to be recycled through the scheme. Together, these reforms strengthen governance, increase transparency and ensure the scheme delivers better outcomes for Queenslanders.

The container refund scheme matters. It matters for our environment. It matters for our communities. It puts money back in the pockets of Queenslanders. Schemes like this must be well run. They must be transparent and they must be accountable. That is where the former Labor government fell short. The parliamentary inquiry laid that bare. It exposed the governance failures. It exposed the lack of oversight. It exposed a scheme that had been allowed to drift for far too long. This bill fixes that. It strengthens governance, it restores transparency and it ensures the scheme operates in the interests of Queenslanders.

Where the former Labor government ignored the warning signs, this LNP Crisafulli government is acting. Where they allowed problems to fester, this government is fixing them. Where they delivered drift, this government is delivering reform. This legislation draws a clear line under those failures. It ensures the container refund scheme is fit for purpose well into the future. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (11.34 am): 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 Health, Environment and Innovation Committee

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee.

I remind the House of those members who are currently on a warning. They are the members for Bundamba, Callide, Gladstone, Sandgate, Greenslopes, Lytton, Aspley and Pine Rivers.

## MOTION

### Revocation of Protected Areas

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (11.35 am): I move—

1. That this House requests the Governor in Council to:
  - (a) revoke by regulation under section 32 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 the dedication of part of one national park;
 

as set out in the Proposal tabled by me in the House today, viz—

#### Description of area to be revoked

Barnard Island Group National Park	An area of about 0.615 hectares, described as lot 3 on plan USL36765, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
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2. That the Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation for submission to the Governor in Council

This proposal concerns the revocation of a small island currently forming part of the Barnard Island Group National Park. The island, known as Bresnahan Island, is about 0.615 hectares in size, and we propose it be returned to its original tenure as allocated state land.

The Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation has considered the interaction between the Queensland Nature Conservation Act 1992 and the requirements of the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993. The size of the national park is insufficient to warrant the cost of negotiating an Indigenous land use agreement with the Mamu people, who are the determined holders of native title for the national park. In November 2013 the Federal Court recognised the Mamu people hold exclusive native title rights over Bresnahan Island and in August 2023, following consultation, the Bresnahan Island was dedicated as part of the Barnard Island Group National Park. Accordingly, given the department is unable to regulate the Mamu people's exercise of their native title rights and interests over the island without an Indigenous land use agreement, the department has decided that the financially appropriate course is to revoke the dedication.

Responsible management of the protected area estate, which exceeds 13 million hectares, sometimes means that necessary actions must be taken to protect balanced outcomes that benefit all Queenslanders. Consideration has duly been given to the small size and limited usability of the island and the native title rights of the Mamu people. Its small size means that Bresnahan Island covers less than two per cent of the total Barnard Island Group National Park, which covers an area of 31.4 hectares. The revocation of Bresnahan Island will enable the reinstatement of its original tenure and will not impact the native title rights of the Mamu people. After careful consideration of the broader objectives of environmental conservation, as well as the effect of the Federal Court's recognition of native title, we consider that this action delivers the best outcome for all.

I propose this is the most efficient and beneficial outcome for the island's traditional owners and for the state, with minimal impacts upon the existing management and use of the Barnard Island Group National Park. The decision to revoke Bresnahan Island from the Barnard Island Group National Park reflects this government's commitment to achieving a balanced and equitable approach to land management. All relevant stakeholders to the revocation have been consulted regarding the proposed revocation. I commend the motion to the House.

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (11.39 am): I rise to speak to the proposed revocation of the dedication of part of Barnard Island Group National Park, known as Bresnahan Island, to facilitate the exercise of exclusive native title rights. The opposition will not be opposing this motion and my comments are fairly brief: merely to acknowledge both the significance of the island to traditional owners and their exclusive rights to the island and also to acknowledge the island as a significant seabird site. Bresnahan Island is part of an island group within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The islands have a high diversity of vegetation and fringing reefs of coral and rocky reef communities. It is an area of significance for seabirds—indeed possibly of Great Barrier Reef-scale significance—although I recognise that that significance is particularly so in the southern islands and we are talking about an island in the northern part of the area.

Records indicate that population levels of about 10,000 bridled terns, which is potentially up to half of the estimated Australian breeding population, 2,000 lesser crested terns, again up to half of the Australian population of this breed, and 2,000 black-naped terns call this area home. Smaller numbers of roseate terns and crested terns as well as one pair of the endangered little tern have also been seen

nesting on the group of islands including Bresnahan Island. Other birds recorded on and around the islands include beach stone-curlews, which are listed as vulnerable, sooty oystercatchers, near threatened, pied oystercatchers, eastern reef egrets, whimbrels, ospreys, grey-tailed tattlers, lesser frigatebirds and white-faced herons. It is an area of significant importance in respect of biodiversity.

The island has significant cultural significance. I acknowledge the Mamu Aboriginal Corporation. I acknowledge their exclusive native title rights. It is of incredible importance. It is something that we on this side of the House value dearly and is recognised as the highest level of traditional ownership under Commonwealth law in respect of their rights and interests to land and waters according to traditional owners' laws and customs. The opposition are not opposing this motion. We respectfully acknowledge the Mamu Aboriginal Corporation's exclusive right to use of the island.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.


## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (SUPPLEMENTARY 2024-2025) BILL

### APPROPRIATION (SUPPLEMENTARY 2024-2025) BILL

#### Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from 25 March (see p. 802), on motion of Mr Janetzki—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (11.43 am), continuing: As I was saying last night, we are in a situation where under the LNP Queensland has the second highest rate of inflation: electricity prices have gone up 43 per cent, rents have gone up 4.9 per cent, housing costs have gone up 7.4 per cent and insurance, as the shadow minister said last night, is up four per cent—double the national average. We have a cost-of-living crisis. It is appropriate that the LNP use the appropriation bill to deliver cost-of-living relief. That is absolutely essential. Labor used these bills to deliver the \$1,000 electricity rebate for households and the \$300 rebate for small businesses. These are absolutely important in delivering cost-of-living relief.

There was genuine relief when we were explaining to people that they will get \$1,000 off their electricity bill. People loved it and they were relieved. It really made a difference in their lives. We are at a point now where those people in home parks especially had built up this lovely big bank of electricity rebates and now that has gone they all of a sudden are having to pay electricity bills again. They are feeling the pinch of the cost of living. Labor's rebates were genuine, heartfelt cost-of-living relief. Last night the member for Coomera said that this was a last-ditch attempt to buy votes.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr WHITING:** I think it shows the prism through which they view this cost-of-living relief.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): The member for Coomera will cease his interjections.

**Mr WHITING:** They only look at it in terms of what is to their political advantage. I emphasise that this delivered genuine relief to those working-class Queensland families who absolutely needed that relief. We delivered it for them. The appropriation bill delivered cost-of-living relief in terms of 50-cent fares. We have heard a bit about that today. There is one 'Mr 50-Cent Fares' in this state and that is the Leader of the Opposition. Everyone knows that. The LNP has jumped on the bandwagon, once again looking at it through the prism of political advantage. When it was first brought out they labelled it a con job and unsustainable. Another bandwagon moment we have seen is the \$200 FairPlay vouchers. That was a real cost-of-living relief measure delivered by Labor through budgets and bills like this. It made a difference.

**Mr Ryan** interjected.

**Mr WHITING:** The member for Morayfield pushed for the expansion of that program. I know it has made a huge difference to working families in our area. The LNP could use these supplementary bills to deliver cost-of-living relief, but we are not going to see that. They will, for example, not use this to deliver any meaningful relief in the provision of affordable housing. Instead they will stick to the cuts they are already making to those large lots of publicly owned land at Mango Hill, South Brisbane and

Northshore Hamilton. They have stripped affordable housing provisions from those developments, as well as the fast-track provisions where a developer could fast-track their development if they gave 15 per cent over to affordable housing. There were around 30,000 homes in projects that were affected by this. There is no meaningful measure to help the provision of affordable housing. There are only cuts.

Where in this bill are those measures that make rents cheaper? Where are the measures that provide more affordable housing? What is contained in the appropriation bill to lower the price of electricity? At the moment, instead of measures to lower the price of electricity, we have measures that kill off renewable energy projects. Renewable energy is the cheapest form of electricity in the market.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr WHITING:** This sets them off every time. They are cancelling wind farms, cancelling battery projects, cancelling public investment in these projects.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Coomera is warned under the standing orders.

**Mr WHITING:** The way they can force up electricity prices is cancel these renewable energy projects. The LNP could use this appropriation bill to further fund crucial services. In my electorate, while Labor was in government the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program delivered 2,159 jobs. That is 2,000 families whose lives were changed because they got training and jobs through this program. What I am hearing is that those community-based organisations in my area are facing a cessation of that funding. Younity, for example, has had six people working on delivering those programs. They are going to have to sack them all because their funding is facing a cliff. Skilling Queenslanders for Work is a rolled-gold program that has been successful in preventing youth crime and family breakdown.

RAYS, Redcliffe Area Youth Scheme, has learned in the last couple of days that funding for their Safe Space project is going to be coming to an end. This is a mental health service. It works after-hours. It is peer led. It keeps people out of the emergency department in the local hospital. It not only changes lives but also saves lives. They are facing a cessation of funding. This is during a week where we have had a suicide prevention breakfast here at Parliament House.

This bill could fund those community services and they are needed more than ever. Instead, we look at what the LNP is actually delivering through this appropriation bill. As we have heard the shadow treasurer say, this is delivering money for consultants. The LNP have said that they will fund their election commitments through the savings they are making by not going down the path of using consultants, but the point is that they are going to miss their cap. They had a \$3 billion cap in the 2025 financial year and they are going to miss it by \$1 billion. Over four years they need to find, I think, \$6.8 billion in savings by not using consultants. They have not made a good start. They have already missed out on reaching the cap. They are failing to find the savings to fund their election commitments. I will not speak too much longer on this bill—

**A government member:** Good.


**Mr WHITING:** I have changed my mind. I was not going to, but I have changed my mind.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members to my right. Member for Bancroft, you have one minute and 52 seconds.

**Mr WHITING:** I know, and I will try to use it all. I emphasise that governments can use supplementary appropriation bills to help Queensland families. More than ever, we need cost-of-living relief for working-class communities and working Queensland families. I emphasise again that under the LNP the state is facing inflation that is the second highest in the nation. Electricity prices have gone up 43 per cent under the LNP. Rents are going up 4.9 per cent. We have a rental crisis and there is very little in this appropriation bill to help fix that. Housing costs are going up 7.4 per cent. Throughout North Queensland and Far North Queensland, insurance costs have gone up four per cent, which is double the national average. We have a cost-of-living crisis unfolding under the LNP. In the area of insurance, the effects of climate change are becoming more and more apparent throughout Queensland, especially in the north of Queensland. Insurance is going up because of the effects of this particular crisis.

I emphasise again that the LNP really does need to view these bills as an opportunity to deliver cost-of-living relief to ordinary working Queenslanders. In this world, more than ever that is what they need. They need someone to back them, as Labor did with our \$1,000 electricity rebates. That is the kind of initiative we need to see in these bills.

 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (11.52 am): Today I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill 2025 and the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill 2025 and to address the amendments currently under consideration. This bill is the latest chapter in the sorry story of Labor's fiscal deception and mismanagement. In the 2024-25 budget, the Miles Labor government hid their project blowouts and underfunded key frontline services. Their last budget was designed to make it through the four months to the October election and not the full 12-month financial year, let alone the four-year budget forward estimates. Across 17 departments, the Legislative Assembly and the Parliamentary Service, the supplementary appropriation required in 2024-25 was \$5.746 billion. Key frontline areas like child safety, social housing, homelessness services and support for victims of Labor's crime crisis were underfunded in the 2024-25 budget.

Also included within the 2024-25 supplementary appropriation is the funding provided by the Crisafulli government to deliver the LNP's permanent 50-cent fares—and that is permanent and not just a pre-election promise, as we all know. Despite all of the significant funding red holes and blowouts left behind by the Miles Labor government, this is down from the 11.6 per cent, or \$9 billion, in supplementary appropriation required for the 2023-24 year. The 6.3 per cent outcome from 2024-25 is still historically high and is the result of Labor's mismanagement and deception.

The Crisafulli government's first budget lay the foundation for a fresh start for Queensland after a decade of decline under Labor. We continue to calmly and methodically work through the fiscal mess left behind by Labor. Queenslanders voted for a fresh start and we are delivering on our commitment to return respect for Queenslanders' money across government.

At every opportunity, Labor ran miles from scrutiny over their fiscal record. When Andrew Fraser was the treasurer—and I know this goes back to 2007-2012—Labor would only introduce the supplementary appropriation bills for the previous year with the following year's appropriation bills. For 2023-24, the massive \$9 billion in supplementary appropriation was split into three bills. They thought that would shield them from their mismanagement. Clearly, Labor members of the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee could not mount any defence or response to the level of supplementary appropriation required in the year of their last budget and in the committee report Labor members did not provide any statement of reservation or a dissenting report.

The same occurred when this parliament considered Labor's record \$9 billion blowout a year earlier, but their budget papers did not own up to this. However, since coming to government we have uncovered their deception, including: multibillion dollar project blowouts because of their mismanagement and dodgy deals with the CFMEU—deals that we are still learning the full extent of: underfunded frontline services like the child safety budget cliff, which funding in this bill is required to address, and a hospital at Springfield that had no money to actually deliver any services—the Crisafulli government has since allocated to that hospital over \$600 million over the next four years.

The *Australian Financial Review* called Labor's last budget a 'clown show'. Treasury's incoming brief to the honourable Treasurer, David Janetzki, warned of a 'strong likelihood of structural deficits', 'surging debt levels', a 'growing debt burden that won't stabilise' and a 'high risk of credit rating downgrades'. Labor's reckless budgetary management had Queensland's debt on track to reach \$252 billion in 2028-29. Under the LNP, that figure has been reduced to \$204.9 billion in the most recent Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review. It is very clear that the Crisafulli LNP government knows how to manage the economy, respect it and deliver for our state.


Unforeseen expenditure is expenditure from the Consolidated Fund above the amount approved through prior appropriation acts. Payments from the Consolidated Fund, including unforeseen expenditure, must be formally authorised under an act of parliament, in accordance with section 66 of the Constitution of Queensland 2001. The unforeseen expenditure relates to the 2024-25 appropriation not allowed for in the former government's last budget. The parliament is now required to formally approve this unforeseen expenditure. These bills contain unforeseen expenditure of \$5.746 billion as reported in the 2024-25 Consolidated Fund financial report, tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 12 September 2025.

A significant driver of last year's unforeseen expenditure is the finding of red holes left by the former Labor government—red holes which the Crisafulli government has had to fill—billions in housing and homelessness, child safety and health services and projects needed to be funded by the LNP government. Why? Because Labor did not fund them.

Drivers of 2024-25 unforeseen expenditure/supplementary appropriation include: \$135 million to deliver the LNP's permanent 50-cent fares with Labor providing no funding for this to continue beyond February 2025—tick 1; extra funding for the Cross River Rail which Labor said would cost \$5.4 billion, but we know now it will cost over \$19 billion—tick 2; \$118 million for financial assistance to victims of Labor's crime crisis—tick 3; over \$2 billion for Queensland Health, including over \$800 million in capital funding for black holes and cost blowouts in hospital maintenance, refurbishments and infrastructure projects—tick 4; \$100 million for Surgery Connect Surge to help deliver on our commitment to stabilise the elective surgery waitlist—tick 5; \$461 million to fill Labor's child safety funding black hole—tick 6; and over \$200 million for housing, including \$120 million for unfunded housing and homelessness services and \$62.5 million for unfunded essential social housing maintenance—tick 7.

These bills were examined by the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee and their report made one recommendation: that the bills be passed.

The Crisafulli government will continue working very hard fixing the former Labor government's 10 years of false promises, mismanagement and waste. The foundation for a stronger economy and a better Queensland has been laid, thanks to the honourable Treasurer, his team and our government. We hit more ticks than the member for Bulimba mentioned yesterday. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (12.02 pm): There is nothing like timing and getting one back on the member for Bulimba an entire 24 hours later. They are on top, they are relevant and they move in quick! It was very interesting to listen to the contribution from the member for Maryborough. I notice that the member for Maryborough, in the time I was listening, did not mention the large infrastructure projects in his electorate. He did not mention the large infrastructure projects that were started under the former Labor government, started under the great former member for Maryborough, Bruce Saunders, who cares about his community and who, in his time, did more than just drive around the streets to pick up trolleys—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): Member, could you remain relevant to the bill, please. I will ask the rest of the members to be a little less noisy, thank you.

**Mr SMITH:** Those key infrastructure projects—fighting to ensure that they are there, doing more than just going around the streets, picking up trolleys and putting them in the back of the car. Let's talk about the train manufacturing facility at Torbanlea and then, of course, the Downer manufacturing facility in the Maryborough CBD. We know that from last year's budget moving forward—

**Mr BAROUNIS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I was going to take personal offence, so—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Well, you either take personal offence or you do not.

**Mr BAROUNIS:** No, I do not, but I would like to hear the member for Bundaberg continue.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Is your point of order on relevance?

**An honourable member:** That is no point of order.

**Mr BAROUNIS:** Yes, please.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Sorry, I will make the decisions here. Member for Bundaberg, could you proceed, please.

**Mr SMITH:** Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I have never had a point of order for me to continue. That is very new for the LNP. Normally they are trying to sit me down. I am talking about—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, I would ask you to proceed with your dissertation without making comment on my rulings, thank you.

**Mr SMITH:** I am talking about the Maryborough Downer facility which, since last year's budget came out, underwent a need to rescue jobs at that facility. It is disappointing that we are not seeing in the appropriation bills those rescue packages that would ensure jobs manufacturing trains were protected in Maryborough. We do not hear that in the contribution from the member for Maryborough. We do not hear him talk passionately about jobs in the CBD of Maryborough. We do not hear him talk passionately about ensuring those jobs were being protected, that apprentices could have a bright future. We do not hear anything from the member for Maryborough about standing up and fighting for

those hardworking members of the AMWU and the ETU who are just trying to put food on the table. We do not hear anything from the member for Maryborough talking about how the train manufacturing facility at Torbanlea continues to be pushed back, pushed back and pushed back. Why is there no extra funding in this appropriation bill to ensure it actually gets delivered on time? Oh, here we go, he is going to ask me to continue.

**Mr BAROUNIS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take objection and I would like the member for Bundaberg to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You take offence?

**Mr BAROUNIS:** Yes.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Bundaberg, the member has taken offence. Please withdraw.

**Mr SMITH:** I withdraw. What we are not hearing from those opposite is any defence about the jobs in their electorates. We did not hear any defence about ensuring there is a relief package to help those people who are facing cost-of-living pressures—cost-of-living pressures which are now worse under the Crisafulli fuel cost crisis and affordability crisis.

In the past, appropriation bills have been used for a range of different measures to help people facing cost-of-living challenges. One that comes to mind is the energy rebate. They were delivered under the former Labor government to ensure that people right across Queensland—Maryborough, Hervey Bay, Bundaberg and the broader Wide Bay region—could actually have relief on their cost of living, could actually see a bit of a brighter future in terms of bills they were having to pay, but we do not see that here.

I think about the appliance rebates. I may have to check, but I am pretty sure that the appliance rebate scheme would have been caught up in the appropriate bills of that particular budget year as well because it was about responding to the needs of the community. It was about responding to the needs of those who needed to ensure, one, they could drive down their power prices by their appliances internally within their home and, two, have the whitegoods they need to ensure they can get their kids to school and they can clean the high-vis shirt when they go to work at the Downer facility in Maryborough that those opposite want to sack people from and for whom they never stand up and champion. In fact, when they try to say they will stand up for the workers at Downer in Maryborough, they drive to Torbanlea and they say, 'Don't worry, people in Torbanlea will have a job, just not people in the heart of the Maryborough CBD.' That is extremely disappointing.

It is also disappointing to see there is no extra funding in terms of the Bundaberg fire station—and that is the second Bundaberg fire station. The reason I bring that up is the Treasurer assured at budget time that there would be money for a future Bundaberg fire station and the \$20 million upgrades to the Bundaberg police station, but we have not seen that. I thought perhaps they might throw some money here in the appropriation bill, because when we put forward our \$11.5 million promise and commitment to deliver that second fire station that was so badly needed, the member for Burnett wrote to the Speaker saying I misled parliament, that there was never ever \$11.5 million. However, we were able to provide that proof to Mr Speaker, and Mr Speaker agreed that that commitment had indeed been put forward.

As I look through the appropriation bills before us, I have not seen any extra funding to deliver that second fire station that would service the broader part of the Burnett electorate more so than the Bundaberg electorate. We do not hear the champion for Burnett. We do not hear a champion for his community. All we hear are crickets.

What about appropriation funds and looking to put extra money in around buybacks? Bundaberg has just suffered a third flood since 2010—a third flood that has greatly impacted the community in the east and in the south, and it has affected homes over the north and across central Bundaberg as well. There are now people in Bundaberg who are recovering from their third flood.

Why is this government or this Treasurer not talking about a buyback scheme to actually assist people to build back better? We hear there will be no daylight between response and recovery. We are not hearing anything when it comes to actual long-term solutions to ensure people do not have to drag their furniture and their belongings out onto the street on an average of every five to six years.

**Mr Bennett** interjected.

**Mr SMITH:** I hear the member for Burnett trying to chirp away. He does not have the confidence to say anything to me outside of the chamber. He never has any confidence. He is the king of the cowards' castle, that is for sure. Where does the member for Burnett stand on the levee? Why is he not saying, 'Where are the extra funds in the appropriation bills for the Bundaberg East flood levee?' Why is he not standing up for that? He is on the record time and again saying, 'We want a levee,' but now he is backtracking and saying all they need are floodgates.

Maybe he agrees with the mayor. The mayor told me, 'People over east choose to live there and they chose to get flooded.' Do you want to talk about that meeting? That is what the mayor of Bundaberg said to me—they chose to be flooded. When the member for Burnett wants to be a coward in this place, when he does not want to say it outside—he does not support the people. He believes that they choose to live there.

**Mr BENNETT:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the use of the word 'coward' personally offensive and I ask that it be withdrawn.

**Mr SMITH:** I withdraw. Why are we not seeing a response to a major flood disaster that has impacted the broader Wide Bay-Burnett region, specifically the heart of Bundaberg? Why are we not hearing any talk at all about buyback schemes? Why are we not hearing anything about making sure there is no daylight between response and recovery? Why are we not talking about extra funds to respond to an issue that is happening at the moment?

We know that this government are not light on their feet. We know that they cannot pivot. We know that they do not wake up early enough to respond to everyday issues. They do not work harder. All they do is look up Labor Party conference policy documents from 2021. We are in 2026 now. I know that they are a bunch of dinosaurs over there.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is clearly misleading the House. It was the Labor Party document from 2026 that was dated 2021 because they could not catch up.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, you know how to deal with that.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Yes. I will write to you. Thank you.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** To that point of order: that is not a point of order. The member has been here—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have already ruled on that.

**Ms FENTIMAN:**—I understand from a recent Facebook post, for some years now.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Excuse me! Take a seat, please. I have dealt with that point of order.


**Mr SMITH:** If I am incorrect, I apologise to the House for that particular matter raised by the Attorney-General. Instead of being obsessed with helping out the people who have been flood impacted in Bundaberg, instead of being obsessed with trying to find a way to do a buyback scheme, instead of being obsessed with making sure they deliver the levee that until two weeks ago they were all for, they want to talk about the Labor Party.

They do not want to talk about the mums and dads whose homes I visited where the water level destroyed all of their possessions. They do not want to talk about that. They do not want to talk about the families in Sussex Street. They do not want to talk about the families in George Street who are inundated time and again, and they do not want to think about putting some buyback funding into the appropriation bills. They do not want to do it. They are rambling and yelling at the member for Bundaberg instead of helping the people of Bundaberg. They do not want to do it because they are obsessed with Labor members of parliament.

They have not asked me, 'Tom, how was it when you spoke to Mark, who broke down in front of you because he had lost his business? How can we help him?' They have not talked about buybacks, which would help the family of six who had almost nothing to start with and have nothing now. Instead of helping everyday people, they want to yell at me. The LNP do not care about everyday people. Talk about birthday cake! Happy birthday to me!

*(Time expired)*

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): Just before the member for Hinchinbrook starts, I remind the House that I will not have any squabbling across the chamber.

 **Mr CHIESA** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (12.14 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Appropriation (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill and the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill. Supplementary appropriation itself is not unusual; it is part of the proper machinery of government. Where expenditure from the Consolidated Fund exceeds the amount previously approved, parliament must formally authorise that expenditure under section 66 of the Constitution of Queensland 2001. That is exactly what these bills do. They are an important accountability measure and ensure the House properly authorises spending already incurred.

While the process is routine, the scale and pattern of this year's supplementary appropriation tell a much bigger story. These bills are the latest reminder that the former Labor government did not provide enough money in its final budget to meet the real cost of governing Queensland. The former Labor government left behind a budget that looked better on paper than it was in practice. It did not fully confront the true cost of service delivery, the real cost of infrastructure and the real funding pressures building across key portfolios. Put simply, it was a Labor government budget for an election.

In its 2024-25 budget Labor hid project blowouts and underfunded key frontline services. That is why this parliament is now being asked to authorise an additional \$5.746 billion in unforeseen expenditure across 17 departments and the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service. Treasury's briefing to the committee made it clear that this represented 6.3 per cent of the original appropriation. That is not a small adjustment; it is a high clean-up bill.

Allow me to briefly summarise the bills before the House. These bills relate to unforeseen expenditure incurred in 2024-25 that was not allowed for in the former government's final budget. The departmental bill seeks approval for \$5.741 billion, while the parliamentary bill seeks approval for a further \$5.406 million, bringing the total to \$5.746 billion.

Departments can incur unforeseen expenditure for legitimate reasons. It can arise from genuine emergencies, responses to natural disasters, changes in federal funding timing, changes in project delivery or technical adjustments such as depreciation and employee entitlement provisions. The explanatory notes and Treasury briefing make that clear. It is clear that the scale of this year's supplementary appropriation was not only driven by those normal and unavoidable factors; a significant driver was the funding black holes left behind by the former Labor government. This is evident from the major drivers of the 2024-25 unforeseen expenditure.

There was \$135 million to deliver the LNP's permanent 50-cent fares, because Labor provided no funding for that policy to continue beyond February 2025. There was funding for Cross River Rail—a project Labor once said would cost \$5.4 billion—which will now cost the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority \$19 billion to complete with associated works. There was \$118 million for financial assistance to victims. There was more than \$2 billion for Queensland Health, including more than \$800 million in capital funding for black holes and cost blowouts in hospital maintenance, refurbishments and infrastructure projects. There was \$461 million to fill Labor's child safety funding black hole. There was more than \$200 million for housing, including \$120 million for unfunded housing and homelessness services and \$62.5 million for unfunded essential social housing maintenance.

The departmental allocations reinforce the point. Queensland Health required \$2 billion. Treasury required \$1.8 billion. Transport and Main Roads required \$405 million. The Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers required \$304 million. The Queensland Fire Department required \$282 million. The Department of Housing and Public Works required \$231 million. These are not marginal overruns; they are major funding gaps that had to be dealt with.


When we turn to Labor's record, the picture becomes even clearer. In 2023-24 the total unforeseen expenditure was \$9.078 billion, or 11.56 per cent of the original appropriation. That was even worse. What is telling is that Labor did not deal with that blowout in one clean, transparent supplementary appropriation after the end of the financial year. Instead, it was spread across three separate appropriation measures. To me, it looked very much as though Labor hoped they could avoid facing the full scrutiny of their financial mismanagement by splitting it up.

Yes, this year's figure is lower than the previous year's, but let us not pretend that 6.3 per cent is good. It is still historically high and it is a result of Labor's mismanagement and deception. Their budget papers did not own up to the real pressures in the system. Since coming to government we have uncovered what was left behind—multibillion dollar project blowouts, underfunded frontline services and commitments made without money to properly deliver them. That includes the very matters Queenslanders care about most. Child safety was under pressure. Housing and homelessness services were underfunded. Health required a massive top-up.

Even external advisers were sounding the warning bells during the last few months of the Miles government. Standard & Poor's talked of Labor's 'waning fiscal discipline' and 'looser fiscal discipline' which was 'eroding' the buffer in Queensland's rating. That brings me to the contrast. The Crisafulli government's first budget laid the foundation for a fresh start for Queensland after a decade of decline under Labor. It has not pretended the mess does not exist. It has not hidden from the clean-up task. Instead, it has taken a calm and methodical approach to working through the fiscal problems left behind. The 2025-26 budget was framed by the government as restoring respect for Queenslanders' money, and that is something I know my community of Hinchinbrook values. That does not mean the job is done because it is not, but it does mean the repair work is underway.

Queenslanders voted for a fresh start, and that is exactly what the government is delivering: honesty about the state of the books, discipline in expenditure and a willingness to make the hard decisions Labor avoided. These bills are part of that process. They are not comfortable reading but they are necessary reading because they show exactly what was left behind and exactly why the clean-up has been required.

Finally, I note the committee process. These bills were examined by the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee. The committee received a written briefing from Queensland Treasury and an oral briefing from officers. The committee made one recommendation only—that the bills be passed. For that reason, I support the bills. I support them because parliament must properly authorise expenditure. I support them because Queenslanders deserve honesty about the true state of the finances. I support them because these bills, while technical in form, tell a very clear story: Labor did not budget honestly, Labor did not fund adequately and this government has had to step in and clean up the mess and restore respect for Queenslanders' money. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (12.21 pm): I rise to speak in the cognate debate of the appropriation supplementary bills. As a member of the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee, I also want to thank the secretariat for their work in providing support to the committee through this process. The opposition will not be opposing these bills as they fulfil a legislative requirement, but that does not mean that the LNP is off the hook when it comes to scrutiny and ensuring that there is transparency in how they are spending Queenslanders' taxpayer dollars.

When the Crisafulli government took office, they made several promises. Those promises included commitments to Queenslanders that they would be lowering energy bills, they would be helping families with the increasing cost of living and they would be helping household budgets decrease—promises we are yet to see delivered. The Treasurer also made quite a performance in his introduction speech attacking the former Labor government for introducing supplementary appropriation bills. What the Treasurer conveniently left out of his speech was how those appropriation bills actually delivered action for Queenslanders in helping their household budgets. They delivered tangible outcomes. They delivered relief for those who were doing it tough. One of those bills was to deliver universal \$1,000 electricity rebates for every Queensland household and \$300 rebates for small businesses in our communities. It was real tangible support that went directly into the pockets of working Queenslanders.

Where are we now? Affordability has gotten worse under the LNP. Electricity prices have increased by 43.2 per cent. Rents are up 4.9 per cent. Housing costs have risen 7.4 per cent. Insurance costs are up 4.4 per cent. No matter how we look at it, everyday Queenslanders are worse off under this LNP government. They are doing it tough—they are struggling to pay their rents, they are struggling to pay their bills, they are struggling to pay for groceries and put food on the table, and they are struggling with the affordability of fuel. We are not seeing a single action taken by this government. We are not seeing any support offered to those who are struggling out there.

I want to briefly address the nature of the unforeseen expenditure, because there has been deliberate confusion thrown around the chamber by those opposite. As Queensland Treasury made clear at the committee's public hearing, these amounts contribute to unforeseen expenditure but that does not mean that they were not budgeted for. Many of these items were included in budget estimates but were held centrally and not allocated to departments at the time of the original appropriation acts. Enterprise bargaining agreement outcomes are a prime example of this. They are budgeted by agencies but held centrally until new agreements commence. I know there are a few members on the government benches who do not understand the concept of this.

That brings me to the great consultation con. When the Treasurer promised to reduce government spending, he told Queenslanders that an over-reliance on external consultants and contractors was a key priority. The Treasurer was so confident that he promised to deliver \$6.8 billion

in savings over four years, introducing a \$3 billion cap for 2024-25. That was the centrepiece of their fiscal strategy. It was the only reason they could claim that their election costings were balanced. So what happened? They missed that cap by \$1 billion.

**Mr Power:** A billion!

**Ms ASIF:** That is right—\$1 billion. They are failing to deliver those savings. Clearly their savings plan is not going to solve their funding problem. It just means more cuts are on the horizon. They have already gutted Labor's progressive coal royalties, removing a key source of revenue which was going back into the pockets of Queenslanders through cost-of-living relief and through support for families. They did this just so they could please their multinational mining mates.

Hardworking Queenslanders are bearing the financial burden as the LNP cost-cutting measures come to light. Teachers' EBA negotiations are in arbitration—they cannot get a pay rise. Oh and they have also been caught out underpaying them. Over 10,000 teachers in our state were underpaid by this government. Radiation therapists, nuclear medicine scientists and vital health workers who provide cancer care treatment have been told that they will be paid what they are worth—which is, according to this government and this health minister, a 25 per cent pay cut. That is appalling. These health workers work incredibly hard to provide care for those who are doing it tough and in their most vulnerable times. They deserve to be paid appropriately.

Queensland Rail staffing hours are being cut for up to 700 workers across our network. If cutting people's hours of work is not a wage cut, if that is not a job cut, I am not sure what is. Tell that to those 700 Queensland Rail workers who are now saying to us that they will not be able to afford their household bills because this means tens of thousands of dollars out of their pockets, like at Deagon and Shorncliffe stations in my local community. Workers at these stations stand to lose tens of thousands of dollars in wages—700 workers. This is an absolute shame from this government. Those people rely on those shifts every day to pay the bills. Some of these workers are now saying that they might have to go and look for another job because they simply cannot work reduced hours and they will need another source of income. They are under enormous stress due to the decision—a decision which is obviously a cost-cutting exercise by the LNP government.

Let's talk about TMR. They have a hiring freeze. Jobs in the Queensland Fire Department are on the chopping block. Quite frankly, at this rate I am really struggling to find an industry in which they are actually supporting workers. The LNP promised that they would ease pressure on Queenslanders when it comes to the rising cost of living. Under this LNP government we are seeing rego costs increase by 24 per cent and electricity prices have increased by 43.2 per cent. There is no relief in sight for families because now coal royalties, which were used to fund those measures, are now being used to line the pockets of their multinational mining mates.

Under this Treasurer's watch, Queensland's credit rating has also been placed under a negative outlook. When Labor left government, the rating was confirmed at AA+ with a stable outlook. The consultant savings have not been delivered. They have blown it, and Queensland's financial standing is at risk.

The bill also seeks approval for additional and much needed funding for frontline housing and homelessness support services through social housing maintenance and the social housing capital program. I hope to see this funding actually delivered because the only action we have seen when it comes to this government and housing is a lack thereof. They have scrapped the 15 per cent affordable housing mandate from development applications in the state planning scheme which was legislated by the former government to help deliver affordable housing.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Honestly, I'm embarrassed for you.

**Ms ASIF:** I take that interjection. I would also be embarrassed if I were you in a government that is not taking action.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): Member—

**Ms ASIF:** I was responding to an interjection.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Sorry—

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Deputy Speaker—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No. I have already beaten you to the punch. Could you use proper titles, please? What is your point of order?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** It was what you just said.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I ask you to use proper titles.

**Ms ASIF:** I was taking the interjection from the Attorney-General.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I want your ruling on the reflection on your decision just then.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I ask you not to reflect on decisions of the chair. Could you proceed, please?

**Ms ASIF:** Under the LNP's watch the underfunding and under-resourcing of services is occurring. They have blocked affordable housing from being built, so forgive me for being a bit sceptical when it comes to trusting the LNP on delivering housing and jobs. I hope to see this funding delivered to help vulnerable Queenslanders in my community such as Suchika and her partner, a newly married couple who want to buy a home. She is a hardworking social worker who cannot afford a home in Queensland and there is nothing available for her. Bella wants to see action on rent increases, and James is appalled by this government's decision to build on flood plains and poor town planning. We need to take appropriate action to deliver housing for Queenslanders who are in need. The LNP pride themselves on their nation-leading policies, but the only things nation-leading now are the highest house prices and average rents and their inaction on tackling fuel affordability. That is certainly not something those opposite should be proud of.

I would like to see health funding resumed and the projects that are on the LNP government's chopping block delivered to provide the health services that Queenslanders need. The government may hope Queenslanders have forgotten about all of the hospital and health projects that have been either cut or paused, but they are out of luck on that because northsiders have not forgotten about the Redcliffe Hospital or the Prince Charles Hospital Expansion Project. They are still on pause. We hear crickets from the health minister about the work that is being done to deliver those, which were projects funded under a Labor government. While our community looks at an empty site, emergency departments overflow.

I was chatting to a doctor at Redcliffe Hospital recently who told me she is appalled by this government and their lack of concern for her patients. The doctor spoke about the pressure her staff are under every single day: the ramping, the bed shortages, the burnout. At Redcliffe Hospital Labor was expected to deliver 204 beds by 2027. Under this LNP government's hospital-cutting plan, those beds will not be delivered until 2032. I wonder if the member for Redcliffe is being honest about this news with the people she represents. We are told the government is also working out a master plan for the Prince Charles Hospital upgrade, whatever that means. I am not even sure we are going to see those beds delivered. Elective surgery waitlists have grown dramatically since the LNP came to government, so I sure hope to see funding delivered for that because people deserve to get the health care they need.

It is not just in health. We know that this government's cost-cutting crusade knows no bounds. The LNP like to say they are the party of responsible economic management, but it is economic management that lines the pockets of their multinational mates at the cost of working Queenslanders. Whether it is health workers, rail workers, teachers or energy workers, this government is waging war on the wages and conditions of working Queenslanders. They just do not want people to see it. I say to every worker across the state who is being impacted by this LNP's cost cutting: 'We see you. We hear you. We stand with you.' Labor will always stand for working Queenslanders. We will always fight for your wages. We will always fight for your working conditions. We are here with you and we will fight against this LNP's cuts every step of the way.

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (12.32 pm): I rise to speak to the Appropriation (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill 2025 and the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill 2025. The practical effect of the Appropriation (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill is to supplement the annual 2024-25 appropriations.

The Crisafulli government is committed to a transparent, proactive and well-considered budget and appropriations process. The Crisafulli government's proactivity was recently exemplified by Queensland being the first state to call out fuel security issues, calling for national leadership and a national plan. This bill abolishes a decade of Labor's misleading and deceptive fiscal practices.

There is a memorable line in that Australian classic *The Castle*: 'Come on, Dale. Tell 'em. Come on, tell 'em. Dale dug a hole.' Mr Deputy Speaker, I'll tell 'em: the member for Woodridge dug a hole. It is a cavernous black budgetary hole dug out of a litany of unfunded promises. Member for Woodridge, there are two well-established principles when it comes to holes. The first rule of holes is: if you find

yourself in a hole, stop digging. The second rule of holes is: when you stop digging, you are still in a hole. It should come as no surprise to anyone on this side of the House that the *Australian Financial Review* described Labor's June 2024 budget as 'politically shameless and fiscally irresponsible' and a 'populist clown show'. I will come back to Labor's black holes in a few minutes.

I turn to the cognate bill before the House. Firstly, there is an appropriation supplementary bill authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the Consolidated Fund for particular departments in the financial year starting 1 July 2024. Secondly, there is an appropriation parliament supplementary bill authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the Consolidated Fund for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service for the financial year commencing 1 July 2024. Schedule 1 to each of those bills sets out the amounts of unforeseen expenditure for each of the departmental services and, where relevant, amounts for an equity adjustment. A 2025 supplementary appropriation for an unforeseen expenditure amount of \$5.7 billion is appropriated for departmental services. Further details about each of the 15 departments' and two government entities' expenses are set out in schedule 1 to the Appropriation (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill 2025 and the 2025 Consolidated Fund Financial Report. A 2025 supplementary appropriation for an unforeseen expenditure of \$5.41 million is appropriated for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service.

Unforeseen expenditure refers to expenditure authorised by the Governor in Council under section 35 of the Financial Accountability Act 2009 to be made in advance of appropriation. The 2025 \$5.7 billion in unforeseen department supplementary expenditure represents a 6.34 per cent increase on the original appropriation. This is a substantial decrease on the \$9 billion aggregated unforeseen expenditure incurred in the 2023-24 financial year. A single and streamlined set of appropriation bills, where appropriate, is welcomed and will reduce the administrative burden and avoid confusion. Labor's \$9 billion—or 11.6 per cent—increase on the original appropriation in the year prior was so large it had to be broken into three appropriation bills.

The Crisafulli government will continue to take a calm, accountable and methodical approach to the management of the state budget. We respect Queenslanders' money and we roundly reject Labor's decade of debt, deception and deficit. A well-considered fiscal policy and budget process is integral to the success of our economy. Notwithstanding sound budgetary processes, from time to time unforeseen expenditures arise that impact upon the budget. This proposition stands in stark contrast to the law of holes.

Now let's tell 'em about Labor's budgetary holes. It is a matter of public record that Queensland Treasury had to provide \$800 million to the health department to address cash flow challenges across the health system because of Labor's unfunded commitments made through 2023-24. Programs like the Women and Girls' Health Strategy and the Winter Beds Strategy were all made without appropriate allocations. Ultimately, over \$2 billion extra was required for Queensland Health due to the mismanagement of the now shadow treasurer, the member for Waterford. Labor's financial ineptitude resulted in a 2024-25 operating deficit of around \$960 million. The Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership, Hon. David Janetzki, said in his 2025 introductory speech—

Shortly after coming to government last year, we revealed that Labor had left a black hole of \$461 million in Child Safety in 2024-25 alone. There was over \$200 million in net unforeseen expenditure across the housing portfolio in 2024-25. This includes nearly \$120 million for previously unfunded housing and homelessness services and \$62½ million for unfunded essential social housing maintenance. An amount of \$118 million in previously unbudgeted funding was required for financial assistance to victims of crime to help them recover from the physical and psychological effects of violent crime.

Meanwhile, in Hervey Bay Labor's fiscal ineptitude was writ large with the previous Labor member building castles in the sky. The former Labor member's misleading and deceptive claims about a delivered Hervey Bay Fire and Rescue Station are no substitute for a Queensland Fire Department funded line item in the capital budget. There were other spurious and unfunded claims by the former Labor member, such as the \$60 million Hervey Bay Hospital multistorey car park and a River Heads pontoon.


The 2024-25 Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review exposes Labor's \$218 billion debt deception and the unfunded thought bubbles, like free school lunches and state-run servos and medical clinics. That is \$45.8 billion higher than the original estimate. The MYFER also reveals a capital cost blowout from \$22.6 billion to \$129.9 billion. We saw local evidence of this fiscal irresponsibility in the Hervey Bay Hospital expansion, which revealed a \$54 million blowout after years of delay. The deficits projected in MYFER from 2024-25 to 2027-28 total \$30.2 billion. MYFER concluded—

An unprecedented acceleration in borrowing would be required to fund these operating deficits as well as the identified cost overruns across the capital program.

Thankfully, we now have a Crisafulli government that is calmly and methodically fixing Labor's fiscal mess. The Crisafulli government's first budget has laid the foundation for a fresh start for Queensland after a decade of decline. The Crisafulli government is committed to a transparent budget and appropriations process. Queenslanders rightfully eschew Labor's shameful unfunded budget promises.

In closing, the Crisafulli government is calmly and methodically cleaning up Labor's mess after a decade of financial irresponsibility and recklessness and a decade of deceit, including hiding cost blowouts, underfunding essential services and making unfunded representations to my community in Hervey Bay. The Crisafulli government is closing a deceitful decade of populous clown shows and restoring respect for Queenslanders' money across government.

Deputy Speaker, I will tell 'em: the member for Woodridge dug a hole. He dug a hole on the vibe of the thing and I am here to tell him he's dreamin'. I commend the cognate bill to the House.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (12.41 pm): What a contribution from the member for Hervey Bay! He should absolutely take his own advice and stop digging. Beware the law of holes! Calmly and methodically put down the shovel. Stop digging up, member for Hervey Bay.

I would like to begin my contribution by responding to some of the remarks of the Treasurer in his introductory speech when he criticised Labor for bringing forward supplementary appropriation bills during our term in government. I find it interesting that the Treasurer would criticise us for bringing forward funding that delivered real cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders through \$1,000 energy rebates. This is the same Treasurer who cut those rebates. That is what the Crisafulli LNP government did when it came to budget appropriations. The very first thing they did was make everybody's electricity bill \$1,000 more expensive in the middle of an affordability crisis that has only got worse under their watch. That is disgraceful. It was not just the \$1,000 rebate for every Queenslanders; hardworking small businesses had their \$300 small business rebate cut as well.

Under this government's watch, CPI has shown the following: electricity prices have increased by 43.2 per cent; rents have gone up by almost five per cent; household costs across-the-board have generally increased by 7.4 per cent; and insurance costs have increased by 4.4 per cent. This is the legacy of the Crisafulli LNP government and their absolute refusal to take any action that will help Queenslanders with affordability and escalating costs. We are seeing that again with the fuel crisis that has been spoken about a lot this week, as it should be. The government refuse to act on that.

A number of previous speakers in this debate have referenced consultancy spends as part of budget appropriations, and I too am going to talk about that. The Treasurer made a promise to Queenslanders that under his watch there would be a reduction in the spend on consultancies in the Crisafulli LNP government. That has turned out to be a false promise, and we have seen that through the appropriation bills and in recent public reports.

The Treasurer said that the Crisafulli government was going to pay for their election commitments by saving billions of dollars in consultancies, but what we have actually seen is they have exceeded the cap they set for themselves. They have missed their own target by \$1 billion when it comes to the spend on consultants. This is a key government commitment that is lying in tatters under this Treasurer. I note that media reports from earlier this month said that Queensland's consultancy spend had soared to a staggering \$4 billion, which has heaped pressure on the Treasurer to deliver on his promises. Last financial year the Auditor-General revealed that spending on contractors and consultants had increased by \$474 million. This has sparked warnings that the government must now sack consultants, slow spending on public servant wages and find savings to avoid a major economic downgrade. The scene is set for the classic LNP cuts, and we are seeing it being borne out in reality.

**Mrs Frecklington:** You are just speaking rubbish, mate.

**Mr McCALLUM:** Deputy Speaker, the interjections from the member for Nanango—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): Take your seat for a moment please. Member for Nanango, can you use proper parliamentary titles. I do not think 'mate' quite fits the bill.

**Mrs Frecklington:** The member for Bundamba is speaking rubbish. Sorry.

**Mr McCALLUM:** I say through you, Deputy Speaker, to the member for Nanango that people in glass houses should not throw any stones. What a train wreck press conference that was: 'I can't be any more transparent than that.'

**Mrs Frecklington:** How can you be any more transparent than that? I was very clear.

**Mr McCALLUM:** Moving on from the member's interjections and getting back to the LNP cuts—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr McCALLUM:** Come in spinner! There are cuts and sackings among our hardworking public servants. Look at our rail workers. Under this government, train station workers are having their hours cut and they now face earning up to \$30,000 less. This will affect communities like mine because train stations at Ebbw Vale, Riverview and Goodna will be locked on the weekend and the toilets will be locked. Kids will be going home after school on Monday to Friday through unstaffed stations because station staff have had their hours cut and are finishing at 1 pm instead of 7 pm. Passengers with a disability or in a wheelchair will not have station staff there to place ramps between the platform and the train to get them onto the train. This is what the government's cuts will lead to and it is an absolute shame. There are cuts to radiographers. These frontline healthcare workers are having their wages substantially cut. Deputy Speaker, there is plenty of money: look at the supplementary appropriation funding for health—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Ms Asif** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** We will not have quarrelling across the House.

**Mr McCALLUM:** This is the legacy of the Crisafulli government and the cuts. There are the warnings from ratings agencies. We have already seen forecast downgrades under this Treasurer. Now we are seeing more warnings from ratings agencies saying that the government needs to cut spending. That means cutting workers' wages and cutting services, and we have seen that. We have seen that in health care and in transport.

Another thing they are cutting is ribbons on Labor projects. When it comes to health funding we have seen the Ripley satellite health facility, a proud Labor project, and we have seen the Treasurer cutting the ribbon on the Swanbank battery in Bundamba. We have the work continuing on the Ipswich Hospital expansion and the Springfield hospital expansion. What I am worried about is that they are running to the end of the Labor projects that were funded. There will not be any more ribbons for them to cut because they are not going to—


**Mrs Frecklington:** The member for Clayfield is fixing the health system for these girls up here.

**Mr McCALLUM:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I am finding it a little hard to continue over the interjections of the member for Nanango again.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, I can hear you quite well, thank you.

**Mr McCALLUM:** That is good, Mr Deputy Speaker. What we have is a government that is not actually investing in infrastructure, that is not actually investing in expanding services. What they are doing is trading on the legacy of the previous Labor government whilst they are cutting workers' wages and whilst they are reducing services. This is the kind of underhanded and tricky economic management that we have come to expect from a government that is led by a very tricky and clever Premier who likes to go out there and say one thing but do something completely different. That is what we are seeing when it comes to the funding that will come through these bills.

I will finish off with a quick comment regarding the supplementary funding for the parliament, which of course we support. I suspect that the next supplementary bill for parliamentary funding might need a little bit more for the works on the colonnade!

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (12.51 pm): I rise to address the cognate debate on the Appropriation (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill and the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill. These bills provide for the formal authorisation of expenditure beyond what was originally allocated and, as such, they are an important part of ensuring transparency and accountability with respect to the management of Queensland's finances. However, what sits behind these bills is a much broader and more concerning story about the state of Queensland's finances that was inherited by the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government.

Whilst unforeseen expenditure can arise for legitimate reasons, such as responding to emerging pressures or changes in timing, that is not what has driven the outcomes being debated today. A significant driver of the unforeseen expenditure is the funding gaps left by the former Labor state government which the Crisafulli LNP state government has had to address and is continuing to resolve. Indeed, we know that over \$2 billion in additional funding was required for Queensland Health alone—a direct consequence of mismanagement by the former state Labor government. We know that Child Safety required hundreds of millions of additional dollars to address a funding cliff that Labor left behind.

We also know that housing and homelessness services were underfunded at a critical time when Queenslanders needed support the most. We know that major infrastructure projects, including Cross River Rail, were subject to massive cost blowouts that were never honestly disclosed by Labor.

These are not optional areas of expenditure; they are core responsibilities of any state government and yet they were left in a position where additional funding had to be found to ensure services could continue and Queenslanders would be supported. What this reflects is a pattern of poor budgeting by the former Labor state government that deferred problems rather than dealt with them and which ultimately deferred the burden to subsequent governments.

What we also see through these bills is the real-world consequences of those decisions, because when a state government fails to properly fund core services it is not just a line in a budget paper; it has direct implications for Queenslanders. We have seen that in child safety where, without intervention, funding would have dissipated and frontline services supporting some of the most vulnerable children in our state would have been placed at risk. We have seen it in health, which I mentioned, where significant additional investment was required not only to address cost pressures but also to deal with years of underinvestment in maintenance, refurbishment and hospital infrastructure.

These are not abstract issues. These are the services Queenslanders rely on each and every day. The fact that additional funding had to be found to sustain them speaks volumes about the approach that was taken by those opposite. It also reinforces the importance of the work that this state government is now undertaking because, in stepping in to fund these services, we are not only addressing immediate pressures; we are also restoring certainty—certainty for frontline workers, certainty for service providers and, most importantly, certainty for Queenslanders who rely on these services.

There are also clear examples where these bills of the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government are making deliberate choices to fund priorities that matter to Queenslanders, whether it is providing support for victims of crime, ensuring the continuation of cost-of-living measures like the Liberal National Party state government's permanent 50-cent fares or investing in health initiatives such as the Surgery Connect Surge program to stabilise elective surgery waitlists. These are targeted decisions that reflect our focus on delivery and, importantly, they are decisions that are being made transparently and funded properly.

I also note that the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill seeks approval of unforeseen expenditure of just over \$5.4 million for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service. This expenditure primarily reflects additional funding required to support the conduct of the 2024 state election, adjustments to member allowances as determined by the Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal, collective bargaining outcomes and the reimbursement of previously unbudgeted select committee and members' accommodation costs from the prior financial year. These are appropriate and necessary expenditures to ensure the effective functioning of the Queensland parliament and to support members in the discharge of their duties.

The task of the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government has been to work through the pressures left behind in a considered and disciplined way while restoring integrity to the budget process and ensuring spending is aligned with the priorities that matter to Queenslanders. That work is already underway and is being done in a way that reflects careful financial management and a clear focus on delivery.

While these bills relate to the 2024-25 financial year, it is also important to recognise what has been achieved since then, particularly through the Crisafulli Liberal National Party government's first state budget. I am very pleased to say that every election commitment made by the Liberal National Party to residents of the electorate of Moggill has been fully funded and, importantly, planning delivery is actively progressing across our local communities. That is not just about allocating funding on paper. It is about ensuring projects move forward and communities see real outcomes.

Across the electorate of Moggill we are delivering real investments that strengthen local facilities, support community organisations and improve infrastructure. This includes \$150,000 for the Brookfield Show Society, \$110,000 for the Mount Crosby Bowls Club and \$50,000 investments across a range of local sporting organisations including the Moggill Football Club, Kenmore District Junior Australian Football Club, the Moggill Mustangs and our local horse and pony clubs across the electorate of Moggill, not to mention our local Girl Guides and Scout groups. We have also invested \$75,000 in key

environmental organisations including the Moggill Creek Catchment Group, Pullen Pullen Catchments Group, the Kholo Creek Catchment Group, the Hut Environmental & Community Association and the Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network, supporting the vital work they do to preserve and enhance our local environment.

Alongside these important local investments there are also significant forward-looking projects that are being progressed. A \$3 million commitment to deliver a new innovative community and neighbourhood centre for the electorate is moving forward, providing an important collaborative hub for local residents. Work is progressing for the delivery of the integrated road and public transport plan for Brisbane's western suburbs which will play a critical role in improving connectivity, easing congestion and planning for future growth.

The upgrade of the Kenmore roundabout, ensuring safety improvements around Our Lady of the Rosary School, and planning works to Kilkivan Avenue is another key project that will deliver safer outcomes for local families. The delivery of a new footpath to the Moggill District Sports Park will ensure accessibility and support participation in local sport. Importantly, planning is also underway with funding committed to progress the business case for a new high school for the electorate of Moggill, ensuring that future education needs are properly considered. There is also a multimillion dollar investment for our local Kenmore State High School.

I have been actively engaging with ministers across many portfolios to ensure that these commitments and delivery continue to move forward in a timely and effective way. That is what strong local representation should look like: working constructively with government to deliver outcomes for the community.

I also want to address the issue of fuel security, because it speaks directly to economic stability and to broader economic and fiscal impacts. The Crisafulli LNP state government has taken a proactive approach in raising concerns about fuel security and calling for national leadership on this issue. Queensland was the first state to act. Our Premier continues to actively engage with the Prime Minister and all state and territory leaders, including through National Cabinet. The Treasurer has advocated strongly to the federal minister seeking a coordinated national response, and our state government has engaged with the ACCC regarding concerns about potential anticompetitive conduct in fuel markets. We welcome that these matters are now being fully investigated.

Queensland is also playing its role through National Cabinet processes and through practical measures to ensure that information is shared, supply chains are understood and challenges on the ground are addressed. At the same time we are taking a longer term approach by supporting new opportunities for gas and petroleum exploration, recognising the importance of energy security for jobs, industry and economic stability.


However, fuel security ultimately requires national coordination and leadership, and it is clear that more needs to be done at the federal level to ensure Australia's supply is resilient and reliable. I certainly understand the sentinel importance of this issue to local residents, whether it be to household budgets, additional cost burdens to businesses or even the broader impacts to our local, state and national economy. With that, I commend the bills to the House.

Debate, on motion of Dr Rowan, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### Crisafulli LNP Government, Fuel Security


 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): For a moment there yesterday, I thought we had all gone to Eagle Farm. The member for Gregory was first out of the gates early and ended up being first past the post for his performance—good enough to win a post in the cabinet—but the truth is it was not a very strong field. The Minister for Child Safety should have been a late scratching. She is no-one's favourite—too much of a handicap—and, predictably in this week's parliamentary stakes, the child safety minister missed the start then tailed off badly down the straight, finishing deadset last. That was the call on this side of the House.

Then there is our bumbling Treasurer and energy minister. The poor bloke could not win a one-horse race, but he is good for a laugh. Then there is the parliament's resident show pony—the member for Kawana. We know that he would really like to go to Royal Ascot to meet all the members

of the House of Windsor. Instead, while Queenslanders were watching diesel and petrol prices smash their household budgets, the member for Kawana hopped on a jet plane with a full tank of avgas and flew straight to Melbourne. As Queenslanders were getting smashed at the bowsers, you could not see the member for Kawana for vapour trails. We all know the member for Kawana would walk over broken glass to meet any queen—'yas diva, yas diva'. That is what you call a right royal rort. What a waste of taxpayers' money.

What about the Premier? You can always spot Premier Crisafulli at the races. He is the nonstarter, certainly when it comes to doing anything to address the worst fuel crisis in Queensland, the worst fuel crisis in living memory. When it comes to fuel, the Premier is the one who does not get out of the gates at all. Premier Crisafulli now stands alone as the only head of government in Australia who has not taken real action to address the fuel crisis. Just yesterday in this parliament we saw the Premier handicap Queensland even more. The Premier voted against a motion that would have enabled the parliament to urgently pass laws that would have capped fuel price increases. The Premier is always odds on to put politics before people, and that is just wrong because Queenslanders are hurting and need help when it comes to the fuel price crisis. Household budgets are being smashed. Diesel has gone well past \$3 a litre. Unleaded petrol has peaked above \$2.50 a litre. The signs are that this fuel price crisis will only get worse before it gets better, yet the Premier does nothing. When it comes to the fuel crisis, the Premier is being a downright diva.

### Redcliffe Hospital


 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (2.03 pm): I rise to set the record straight on Redcliffe Hospital. The Redcliffe Hospital rescue plan is well underway after a decade of decline under those opposite, who left the Redcliffe Hospital expansion plan underfunded and not fit for purpose. Firstly, I want to put on the record again my enormous thanks and respect for all staff working at Redcliffe Hospital—clinicians, doctors, nurses, including my daughter and other members of my family, administrative and ancillary staff—who make this the beating heart of our peninsula to ensure locals and those in surrounding electorates get the best health care possible.

Key features of the Crisafulli government's Hospital Rescue Plan include 210 overnight beds, six more than promised under Labor; expanded services, including maternity, endoscopy and 12 operating theatres; a design focused on safety for doctors and nurses; optimised site use to enhance service delivery; and an additional 530 car parks, with Richard Crookes appointed to deliver. The former Labor government's plans for Redcliffe Hospital did not listen to clinicians. They suffered a budget blowout and faced delays of more than two years. Executive director Cang Dang welcomed the opportunity to get it right. Please join me as I advocate for dedicated mental health beds to be included as a part of the rescue plan.

Just recently I attended Raise it for Redcliffe Hospital Future Forum. From community leaders to healthcare professionals, the room was filled with passionate voices united by one shared goal—raising the standard of care, opportunities and health outcomes for our growing community. These insights shared will help shape a sustainable and transformational future for Redcliffe Hospital. We are not just planning ahead; we are building better, stronger health care for our community closer to home. A date for the diaries is 21 May for our Giving Day for Redcliffe Hospital. Thank you to our incredible community, which has raised a whopping \$1.48 million towards patient care, equipment, staff wellbeing, research and upgrades to the rehab and palliative care units.

I am looking forward to celebrating the refurbished palliative care lounge next week. Having worked there 30 years ago, it has not been updated in all that time. This refurbished lounge will provide a safe and beautiful space for families visiting loved ones and in grief to find refuge and solace. Having recently been in attendance with my daughter giving birth to our first grandchild at Redcliffe Hospital, I want to say a heartfelt thanks to the midwives. From someone's first breath to their last, Redcliffe Hospital is delivering care.

### Crisafulli LNP Government, Integrity


 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerst—ALP) (2.06 pm): 'When governments give up on integrity, they give up on governing for Queenslanders.' That is a quote from the member for Broadwater speaking in this House in early 2024—a time when he talked a big game about integrity and made a lot of promises but, sadly for Queenslanders, all that is left of this Premier's word is a path of broken promises and mounting integrity scandals. Integrity experts have raised the alarm multiple times regarding this LNP government and its approach to governing: from ramming through legislation and overriding committee processes, drawing concerns that the government was governing through the executive, sidestepping the voices

of Queenslanders, and ignoring processes established in response to the Fitzgerald inquiry; through to removing the ban on developer donations and essentially quadrupling the donation cap in Queensland, raising concerns of corruption risks; from the multiple jobs for mates we have seen from this LNP government, including to key positions like the Electoral Commission, that have raised concerns about impartiality and very real integrity concerns; through to a sham public consultation to name QPAC's new theatre after the Premier had already approved his minister's preference.

For a Premier who talked a big game about integrity and crowed about transparency, we are seeing a further disturbing trend. Under the Miles government over a seven-month period, 59 cabinet submission documents were released, with 54 of them full submissions and only five oral submissions. In contrast, under the Crisafulli LNP government over a much longer period of time, 62 documents have been released, but here is the critical difference—only 28 are full submissions. A staggering 34 are either marked as oral submissions or contain no submission at all, just the decision, and it gets worse. There are at least 18 pieces of legislation that have passed this parliament where no cabinet submission has been released at all—major reforms covering crime, planning, energy, electoral laws and more—yet Queenslanders are denied access to the very documents that explain how and why those decisions were made. At the same time, only a select group of bills have had their cabinet submissions released.

There is no consistency and no clear standard, just selective transparency. This is exactly what the Coaldrake report warned against. The review called for a culture of proactive release—a shift towards openness as the default. It made clear that transparency should not be something governments work around but something they actively embrace to build public trust, yet what we are seeing instead is an LNP government finding ways to avoid that intent. In the Premier's own words, when governments give up on integrity they give up on governing for Queenslanders. That is exactly what we are seeing from this Premier and from this LNP government.

### Cutler, Mr KT

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (2.09 pm): I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant, educator and community builder from North Queensland who passed away recently. On Thursday, 12 March 2026, Mr Kevin Thomas Cutler of Kelso, Townsville passed away peacefully at the age of 89. A loving husband to his amazing wife, Gwenyth, a devoted father to Michael, Andrew, Anne-Marie, Helen, Bruce, Douglas, Denis and Richard—eight children—and cherished grandfather and great-grandfather I believe to 30, Kevin leaves behind a rich legacy of service to the people of Thuringowa and Townsville.

Kevin began his working life as a much loved teacher at Aitkenvale State School. For decades he stood in front of classrooms across our region inspiring generations of young North Queenslanders with his patience, encouragement and belief in the potential of every child. Many former students still speak warmly of Mr Cutler and the positive influence he had on their lives.

Beyond the classroom, Kevin answered a call to public service. In 1994 he was elected as a councillor to the Thuringowa shire council. During a period of rapid growth he worked constructively with his fellow councillors to deliver practical outcomes for local families, better infrastructure, stronger neighbourhoods and real opportunities for the next generation.


Kevin's most enduring contributions, however, lie in the two community institutions he helped establish and nurture. He played a leadership role in the creation of the Thuringowa RSL Sub Branch, ensuring veterans of our region would always have a place of honour, support and camaraderie. He also poured his energy into founding the Thuringowa Brass Band, later serving as its president. Through countless rehearsals, Anzac marches, community events and performances, Kevin helped build a band that has brought music, pride and joy to thousands of residents and continues to do so today.

Kevin Cutler embodied the very best of the Queensland spirit: quiet dedication, a little cheeky, practical service and a deep commitment to community. He was a teacher who shaped minds, a councillor who shaped our city, a champion of veterans who honoured our past and a band leader who helped our community sing and march together.

To dear Gwenyth and the entire Cutler family I send my deepest condolences on behalf of the people of Thuringowa and this state. Your husband, father and grandfather was a man who made a genuine difference. His memory will live on every time the Thuringowa Brass Band plays and every time our RSL flag is raised. May Kevin Thomas Cutler rest in eternal peace. Thuringowa and Townsville are a better place because he lived amongst us. Kevvy, I will miss your smile and our cheeky, fun and always informative conversations. Rest in peace, my dear friend.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Thuringowa, and condolences to the family.

### Child Safety System


 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (2.12 pm): A young Queensland, Hayley Malcolm was failed—failed by the very system that was supposed to protect her, failed by those in power, failed by this LNP government. Whistleblowers have come forward with chilling claims. They say Hayley was living in a dangerous environment with a man decades older than her—a man who allegedly abused her. They say authorities were warned. They say the child safety department knew and did nothing.

Hayley had an intellectual impairment. She had already endured trauma. She was in state care. The LNP government had a responsibility and a duty to protect her. Instead, she was left exposed. Concerns were raised months before she turned 18—reports made and warnings given, including to police. Despite this, she remained in a dangerous situation—pregnant, vulnerable and alone.

Just weeks after turning 18, Hayley Malcolm was dead. This happened on the watch of child safety minister Amanda Camm. This is not just a tragic story; it is a catastrophic failure of system leadership. The response of the LNP was to shut down the very inquiry that could uncover the truth—an inquiry they established, an inquiry meant to expose the failures of the child safety system, an inquiry the Premier once said was essential if we are to be serious about protecting children. Now suddenly the timeline has been rushed, the scope narrowed and the scrutiny reduced. Why? It is because the truth is uncomfortable, because this inquiry is getting too close to this LNP government's failures—failures like switching on a broken child safety IT system that put vulnerable children at risk, failures like ignoring repeated warnings about Hayley Malcolm, failures that demand accountability. Whistleblowers have made it clear: we let Hayley down and we let her unborn child down.

Queenslanders deserve a child safety system they can trust. Let me be very clear: when a government is more concerned about protecting itself than about protecting vulnerable children, it has lost its moral authority to govern. This inquiry cannot be shut down. It must continue. It must investigate the failures of this system, including the IT failures, and the handling of Hayley's care, including the decisions made at the highest levels of government. This is about the lives of vulnerable Queenslanders. Right now, children's lives are at risk, not just because of systemic failures but because those in charge are afraid of the truth. Hayley deserved protection. She deserved action. She deserved better. This is not just a failure of leadership; this is a failure of humanity. Queenslanders deserve answers.

### Fuel Security

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (2.15 pm): Federal Labor have done nothing to instil confidence in or provide a plan to regional communities who rely on fuel every day. Farmers, trucking companies, manufacturers, volunteers, tourism operators—

**Opposition members** interjected.

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

**Ms Pease** interjected.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Lytton and member for Logan, you are both warned. I just called for order.

**Ms LEAHY:** Everyone is concerned about Labor's fuel security crisis. The way in which the federal Labor government is mishandling this crisis has reduced confidence in regional communities. Contrast this with the Crisafulli government, who were the first to call out fuel security issues.

**Ms Asif** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Sandgate, you are warned.

**Ms LEAHY:** The Treasurer wrote to the federal minister calling for national leadership and a national plan. I have been in contact with retailers and oil companies in my electorate, and what have we heard from members opposite? Just crickets. My electorate is already home to a diesel refinery at Eromanga and we do the heavy lifting when it comes to oil and gas production. We are well placed near the Taroom Trough, and I note that the member for Burdekin has spoken about the trough's potential in this House. This has the potential to be the first new major oil province in this country since the 1970s. This sort of work is what differentiates the government from the members opposite and it shows that our priorities are the priorities that affect the lives and livelihoods of everyday Queenslanders. What are Labor's priorities? I will consult the 148-page 2025 manifesto.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members. The interjections are not being taken.

**Ms LEAHY:** There are zero mentions of irrigation; water allocations—zero; water trading—zero; cotton—zero; and rural fire volunteers—zero.

**Ms Pease** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** One moment, member for Warrego. Member for Lytton, you were on a warning. You can leave the chamber for an hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Lytton withdrew from the chamber at 2.17 pm.*


**Ms LEAHY:** Dairy—zero mentions; wheat and grain—zero mentions; horticulture—zero mentions; seasonal agricultural workers—zero mentions.

**Mr Healy** interjected.

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

**Ms LEAHY:** Cattle and sheep? No, you are incorrect: Labor did mention them once in relation to ending live cattle and sheep imports. Farming? No, again, you are incorrect: Labor mentioned carbon farming four times. Climate? Can anyone guess how many times climate was mentioned? Over 60 times. Everything about Labor's priorities can be revealed by what they have and have not said. Labor have learned nothing. They have not changed. They have not learned anything from their decade of decline. They continue to show that in their manifesto.

### Schools, Bus Services

 **Ms MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.19 pm): No child left behind—unless they are trying to get on a school bus in Ipswich or Logan. This is what our local students have been encountering since the beginning of term 1. My office has been hit with a barrage of complaints from our local families about the state of local bus services since the beginning of this year. I want to read just a sample of what I have received from concerned parents. Jo writes—

Yesterday my daughter, a year 7 student in her second week at Park Ridge State High School, was told to disembark bus 6304 because it was 'too full' and the driver would not continue until students got off.

Last week she described bus 6304 as extremely overcrowded, with students standing in the aisle and even sitting on the front steps. Her description of being 'crammed in like sardines' raises obvious safety concerns.

Elizabeth writes—

I am a solo parent of four children. I have to work full time in the city to provide for my kids. Therefore I rely on the support from my community and school bus system to get my kids to and from school.

The overcrowding of these buses is disgusting and not safe at all. They are super anxious as some days they don't know if they'll even get on or off a bus ok.


Georgina, a year 11 Ipswich student, told me—

Students are left standing/sitting on the stairs, throughout the walkway, and next to the driver. On our route, in the afternoons, after picking up the high school group, sometimes bus drivers will drive completely past the primary school stop, where students are waiting.

These are the younger and more vulnerable students too. I have a couple of times rung up Translink services to report this. When they do get on the bus however, the students are often left to stand or have to pack in right where the driver is which creates many safety risks.

What is going on with planning for school bus services? How has the Crisafulli LNP government got it so wrong when it comes to understanding and accounting for the growth and capacity in two of the largest growth areas of South-East Queensland—Ipswich and Logan? Parents are understandably frustrated. The bus company is struggling to respond to concerns and the safety of children is being compromised on a daily basis. I wrote to the transport minister one month ago raising these significant and serious concerns from my community and requesting Translink urgently review all Ipswich and Logan school bus services. I have heard nothing from him. I thought the fact that media have reported on this issue twice might have provoked a response, but again crickets from the minister. Parents are understandably frustrated. They are concerned about their kids travelling long distances on these buses. Imagine your child just being left behind at a bus stop late in the afternoon, early into the evening. This is unacceptable. If this were happening on the Sunshine Coast I am sure he would act so why is the minister ignoring the hardworking families of Ipswich and Logan?

## Southport CBD

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (2.22 pm): For some time now I have been calling for a stronger approach to deal with drugs, antisocial behaviour, drunkenness and the challenges we are seeing on the streets of Southport. As a result of Labor's soft-on-crime laws we have seen a significant impact on our CBD and the local community. This is not just about perception. It is the lived reality for people who work, study and run businesses there every day. Southport is the engine room of the Gold Coast. It is home to our courts, professional services, many international colleges, world-class medical facilities and a diverse mix of cafes, restaurants and small businesses. In fact, Southport CBD and the postcode 4215 account for almost 20 per cent of all employment in our city.

It feels like we are at a crossroads. We need to decide what kind of CBD we want Southport to be because the current trajectory is not good enough. I want people to feel safe and I want business owners to have confidence that if they invest in our CBD they will succeed. Since the last sitting week Team Southport has been out on the ground speaking directly with the community. We have visited more than 200 businesses in our CBD, many of the retailers in Australia Fair Shopping Centre, a number of medical facilities around the CBD area, schools and the international colleges, encouraging them to make submissions to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee on the legislation that is before that committee.

We have supported this with strong social media and a direct mail campaign. I am pleased to tell the House that we have had almost 200 submissions from the Southport community calling for a stronger approach on dealing with antisocial behaviour in the CBD.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to anticipation of debate. This matter is clearly outlined on the *Notice Paper*. For the member to be extolling the virtues of the particular approach is clearly anticipation. His comments are out of order.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): Thank you, Manager of Opposition Business. I will take some advice. I have been paying close attention and I understood the member was talking about his community and some of the efforts there, but please ensure, member, that you do not anticipate debate in your contribution.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** Thank you, Deputy Speaker. This issue of antisocial behaviour has been one of the five priorities—

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

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The same point of order?

**Mr de BRENNI:** I draw to your attention that the member has explicitly outlined the title of the bill that is on the *Notice Paper* and then has extolled the virtues of specific reforms in there and continued to talk about that in the context of his community. I understand broad context, but he cannot continue down this path after drawing to the attention of the House that that is the purpose of his speech.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Manager of Opposition Business.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to the first point of order of the Manager of Opposition Business. There was some direction given to the member for Southport in relation to compliance with your ruling in relation to anticipating debate. He was barely into a further contribution of a few seconds—three words in—and I submit to you that he be permitted to continue.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I was going to make a ruling very similar to what you have just outlined. Again, member for Southport, some context is fine, but please do not anticipate debate.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I am sure all members in the House would understand that as the member for Southport I have spoken fondly about my electorate on many occasions. I was actually born in Southport, grew up in Southport, raised my family in Southport and—


**Mr Stevens:** Will be buried in Southport too!

**Mr MOLHOEK:** I take the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. I hope that one day, way off in the distant future—

**Mr Stevens:** Have you got a plot at the Southport cemetery?

**Mr MOLHOEK:** No, I have not pre-purchased a plot. I have told my boys I want my ashes sprinkled in the Broadwater, along with my parents'. I digress, but thank you for that interjection. During the course of the last few weeks talking to local retailers there has been some confusion in the reporting about issues in respect of homelessness and I simply wanted to state that this is not just about dealing with homelessness in the electorate, but rather dealing with antisocial behaviour more broadly.

### South Brisbane, Development Proposals


 **Dr O'SHEA** (South Brisbane—ALP) (2.27 pm): I rise to speak about a petition tabled in parliament earlier this month calling on the Deputy Premier to undertake formal community consultation on the future use of seven hectares of state owned land in my electorate of South Brisbane. Almost 2,000 Queenslanders signed the petition, united in their concern about the future of the last large parcel of publicly owned land in the area. This riverside land, the size of 10 football fields, is on Montague Road in South Brisbane and is currently being used as a recycling and manufacturing facility by Visy Glass, with their lease due to end in March next year.

My community is concerned about this government's plan for this site, as five months ago the Deputy Premier invited private developers to submit proposals for development of the Visy site with no mention of affordable housing and without any community consultation. There was also no community consultation when, 10 days before this announcement, the Deputy Premier quietly changed the planning rules for this area, removing requirements for affordable housing and long-term rentals at the Visy site. These could have been homes for key workers like nurses or teachers or for young renters and families who are being locked out of the private rental market with skyrocketing rents.

There was also no community consultation when last month the government removed normal planning, heritage and environmental laws for the Cross River Rail site at Woolloongabba where the Gabba arena is to be built. These changes mean no development application process, no public notification period and no transparency for this development. Again and again there is a lack of community consultation and transparency by this government, with major development and infrastructure projects in South Brisbane now occurring with no consultation, no transparency and no provision for affordable housing.

It is imperative that my community has a say in the redevelopment of the Visy site as decisions made by this government now will impact our community for generations. The little green space our community has is full of rough sleepers who are living in tents and are desperate for affordable housing. Our public housing system is gridlocked with a shortage of both emergency and long-term housing and our local schools are at or near capacity. Community consultation is essential to ensure that this state owned land meets the needs of our community. Therefore, the petitioners call on the Deputy Premier to undertake a formal community consultation process on the future use of the Visy site.

### Traction for Young People

 **Mr FIELD** (Capalaba—LNP) (2.30 pm): Last week I was proud to join the Minister for Youth Justice, alongside fellow Redlands colleagues, for a visit to Traction for Young People in Alexandra Hills. As their local member, over the past 18 months I have worked closely with Sandy Murdoch and the team. They are creating real opportunities for at-risk and disengaged young people in our community. It was particularly great to be able to show the minister what a big impact Traction is already making on young lives and how their programs help towards preventing the cycle of crime before it can begin.

Traction's NextGEN Build Redlands program is focused on building strong social connections to improve school engagement while mentoring youth and teaching them practical, hands-on skills through bike building. We know that often young people just need the confidence to recognise that somebody is backing them and will support them all the way to create a better future for themselves. That is exactly what Traction offers.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): Member for Pine Rivers, you are warned. You are not even in the right seat.

**Mr FIELD:** One of Traction's participants, Ryder, was kind enough to act as our tour guide for the visit. It was wonderful to hear the passion with which he spoke about his project. It really is a space where young people can work towards creating something tangible to be proud of and it teaches them useful skills along the way. I look forward to seeing what the future holds for Ryder and the rest of the participants at Traction, in whichever career path they choose to take.

As part of the Crisafulli government's \$115 million investment into early intervention, Traction has been awarded a \$250,000 Kickstarter grant to bolster their vital work in the community. I know that this money will go a long way towards improving and expanding their operations to ensure that even more young people, right across the region, can participate. Kickstarter grants are being delivered across the state to support programs such as this, which are designed to empower and support youth and give them the resources they need to flourish.

Something I will always advocate strongly for is that consequences for criminal offences must be enforced and are absolutely necessary. Gold standard early intervention such as this seeks to tackle the other side of this issue and prevent at-risk youth from offending in the first place. Along with stronger laws, more police on the beat and effective rehabilitation programs, this is part of the Crisafulli government's comprehensive plan to make Queensland a safer place after a decade of neglect, weak laws and decline under Labor. I wish Sandy and his team all the best and I am happy to support Traction well into the future.

### Fuel Security

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.33 pm): Nowhere else in the nation is the fuel crisis hitting harder than here in Queensland, and that is because the Crisafulli LNP government is sitting on its hands and doing nothing. That is why we have the highest fuel prices in the nation. Queenslanders are getting smashed and this government is doing nothing.

Yesterday, the incompetent energy minister was found out. Labor tabled in the House legislation that clearly outlines the powers that are available to the energy minister and the government to get fuel moving, to take action on fuel reserves and fuel supply, and to declare a fuel emergency. One would think that the minister, who clearly is not across his brief, would have looked at that legislation, got up this morning and acted. I thought I was going to wake up to the news that the Queensland government had actually started to use their powers under the fuel supply act. However, they have done nothing. Another day has gone by during which this minister has sat on his hands.

I can tell members what else this government could do. They could stand up a dedicated fuel security taskforce to help keep Queensland moving. They could bring together all the key players from across government, industry, business and all the different sectors. Why don't they establish an industry operational group and start managing our domestic fuel supply? Best of all, why don't they vote for Labor's transport affordability bill? Yesterday every single government member voted against the motion for that bill to be declared urgent. Those same people voted for 22 other bills, in this parliament alone, to be declared urgent such as the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill; the Trusts Bill, which is probably urgent for the member for Pumicestone; the Defamation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill—very urgent; and electoral laws—very urgent. However, when it comes to capping fuel prices for Queenslanders, no, that is not urgent. They do not want to take any action whatsoever.

About 10 minutes ago, the member for Warrego stood up and continued to blame the federal government. I tell you what, member for Warrego: why don't you knock on the door of the energy minister and say, 'Use the powers that you have under Queensland laws'? Get up. Do something. Do some work. Yesterday, the members for Barron River, Hinchinbrook and Mirani were talking about how urgent and how bad it is in their communities. I say to the member for Mirani: why don't you get Gloria the chicken to put on your to-do list talking to the energy minister?

### Townsville Electorate, Olympic and Paralympic Games; Cost of Living

 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (2.36 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): One moment, member for Townsville. Order, members! Respect has been given when members on this side of the House have been speaking and I would expect the same level of respect when others are speaking.

**Mr BAILLIE:** It has been one year since the Crisafulli government announced our 2032 Delivery Plan, a plan that took the Brisbane 2032 games and saw them become the Queensland 2032 games, with events planned right across our great state. In Townsville we are looking forward to hosting sailing at the Strand as well as football in the stadium. Preparations are already underway, with anticipation building across my community.


The Townsville Sailing Club recently held an Olympic preview to give locals a glimpse of what they might expect in 2032. About 30 vessels joined in for the preview in favourable sailing conditions that catered for everyone from novices right through to experienced sailors. I thank the Townsville Sailing Club for putting on the event. I acknowledge the efforts of everyone at the club, the support they received from their dedicated volunteers and all those who contributed to making the day possible, including the member for Hinchinbrook, who helped spectators keep up to date as he assisted with commentary from the shore.

I am pleased to report that, despite the wet end to the event, the rain did not dampen anyone's spirits. Participants went back to the club and reflected on the day of racing. I have to say that if their enthusiasm is anything to go by then we can be assured that in 2032, when the eyes of the world are tuning in to see our beautiful part of Queensland on full display, the games will be something truly special.

While I am on my feet, I want to address something else that is very important to my community. A topic that is being raised at every kitchen table in the Townsville electorate at the moment is the cost of living. We are all feeling the pinch as fuel prices spike due to supply uncertainty. Today, I take this opportunity to place on the record and add my voice to the call for the federal government to do more to ensure we have fuel supply for all of Queensland. In North Queensland we know how critical fuel is to our daily lives. Without fuel, our farmers cannot harvest, our miners cannot mine, our tradies cannot fix things for our great community and our trucks cannot transport and deliver vital supplies. Without fuel, North Queensland grinds to a halt.

When there is uncertainty, or if you do not have enough fuel to satisfy demand, prices are driven up, and that is what we are seeing. The federal government must step up, secure reliable supply, deliver a clear plan to establish fuel security, and do the right thing for the whole country, including the great electorate of Townsville.

### Fuel Security, Beerwah Co-op

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.39 pm): LNP MPs last night voted down our motion that would have helped deliver lower fuel prices to people right across the state. The parliament last night witnessed the extraordinary sight of LNP MPs lining up to vote against a motion that would have delivered lower fuel prices for their electorates.

We know the Treasurer and the transport minister are worried about the political impacts of their inaction on fuel because they admitted they spent yesterday morning watching me at the committee hearing, instead of doing their job. I would not watch me if you paid me! Talk about being obsessed with the opposition and the politics! This Premier has consistently refused to take any action to help Queenslanders through the fuel price crisis. He said in January 2025, he owed it to Queenslanders to look at this measure, but he has refused to stand up.

Not only is the LNP letting down the state, they are letting down their local communities. At a time when global instability is putting pressure on local fuel supply, why is the LNP evicting one of Beerwah's two existing fuel stations? The Beerwah Co-op operates the only local fuel station that can support the refuelling of heavy vehicles, the very trucks keeping supply chains moving. Rather than supporting the Beerwah Co-op, the government is pushing forward with their plans to tear it down, not to support local industry but to build a four-storey commuter car park to complement the actual rail portion of the Wave.


Beerwah Co-op's 400 members are made up of primary producers and small business owners. They have done all the right things. They have tried to engage with their local MP, the member for Caloundra, and they have contacted a number of ministers. After months of silence from the transport minister's office, they finally got a 12-minute meeting with him—12 minutes before they got the boot! Despite their best efforts, this government is still refusing to reverse their decision. The co-op's members are feeling anxiety over their future.

You can be sure that if this proposal was for a multistorey car park next to Aroona station on the same project, it would not be going ahead because, of course, that is where the Deputy Premier owns property. So, Aroona is fine, but Beerwah has to fend for itself. The co-op have set up petitions. They experienced real disappointment when the Clerk informed them that the member for Caloundra had declined their request to sponsor their parliamentary petition. The LNP's approach to rush through the destruction is just another case of an LNP MP declaring their allegiance to the Premier and not to the people.

The last time I spoke on this in the House, the member for Glass House was loudly yelling across the chamber that it was not his problem as it was not in his electorate. Well, as I am sure the member is well aware, thanks to John Sosso and the Deputy Premier, it now is, going off the draft boundaries. So, here he comes! Maybe the member will now take an interest in the Beerwah Co-op. As Paul Keating once said, in a horse race, always back the horse called Self-Interest; at least you know it is trying.

The people of Beerwah will remember who failed to show up for them. The LNP claims to support small businesses. They do not. They claim to care about Beerwah. They do not. They claim to stand up for farmers and producers. They do not. They stand for nothing and they are willing to let the destruction of a local community go by unwatched.

## Weather Events, Recovery

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (2.42 pm): Some may have missed the debate last night, but for anyone who happens to be flicking through the *Hansard* today, I encourage them to look back at the debate last night and maybe find where those opposites are talking about the supply of fuel and the need to actually address the supply issues, rather than just playing politics. Nonetheless, I rise today to talk about the flooding impacts that have recently occurred across the electorate of Callide and all corners of the electorate of Callide in different respects, from Calliope to Chinchilla, from Bilo to Gayndah and a lot of places in between.


The community of Chinchilla had significant water come down Charleys Creek and flood a lot of businesses and a number of homes as well. One of the business owners I was talking to told me it was the sixth flood he has faced whilst doing business in that area, and he did make the comment that maybe it is a sign he needs to find a new spot to run his workshop. Nonetheless, as Queenslanders do, they get in, clean up and get on with business and do what they do best, and in these small businesses it is providing goods and services. In this instance, he is a local cabinet-maker with a kitchen supply business. He does great work in the community. I know they were already getting back into operation very quickly after that.

There were also inundations in Gayndah and Mundubbera, too, and roads cut off through the Banana Shire as well. I want to say thanks to TMR for the great work they did in getting those roads opened as soon as they could.

I have already passed on my thanks to the minister from both industry and council in that part of the world who have shared that it was the quickest response from TMR they have seen. That is a great reflection of the work that the Crisafulli LNP government is doing in ensuring our departments are working with us in prioritising things appropriately. I have also had three different ministers visit the electorate since the floods—local government and disaster recovery minister Leahy, transport minister Mickelberg and primary industries minister Perrett.

In the time I have left, with regard to flood and fuel impacts, I received a text earlier from melon grower Terry O'Leary of Chinchilla with regard to his concerns around fuel. He is a small-scale horticulture grower. His business normally has 10,000 litres of fuel in storage, always topped up, and never allowed to shrink to 4,000 litres. They ordered fuel four weeks ago, but due to the floods they could not get that fuel in. Now they cannot find any diesel for delivery. They should be doing clean-up picks in between harvest for the last two crops. They have lost 350 tonnes of watermelon. I have my watermelon tie on, too, being a Chinchilla boy. They will see another 150 tonnes lost on clean-up picks as they do not have enough fuel to do that, as well as dealing with other impacts going forward. It is clear that the federal government needs to do more to fix the fuel supply crisis in Queensland.

## Environmental Management


 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.45 pm): I rise to speak today about a deeply troubling pattern that is emerging under this Crisafulli LNP government, and that is a culture of disrespect to traditional owners in the management of country in this state—a pattern of shutting out traditional owners in decisions that affect them and their country, of sidelining cultural authority by making decisions about country first and then refusing to answer questions later.

Reports regarding the decision-making process that led to the removal of Old Faithful from the cape and the destruction of wongari on K'gari are both symptomatic of this culture. They expose a government that talks about respect when it suits them, but abandons it the moment it becomes inconvenient. Old Faithful is not just any crocodile. Old Faithful is a recognised, iconic animal in Cape York and under the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan because, for traditional owners, Old Faithful is a totemic species, carrying deep cultural significance, responsibility and connection to country.

Before such decisions are made, there are clear obligations to consult. Under the Nature Conservation Act, under the Human Rights Act, under the Rinyirru Joint Management Agreement and under the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan itself, traditional owners should be engaged before decisions like this are made about their country—before, not after, not once the media is asking questions, not once the damage is done. Instead, traditional owners say they have been silenced and ignored. They tell me that the environment minister will not meet with them and his office does not respond to questions. Traditional owners have not been properly consulted about Old Faithful's removal. Their questions about the process that was followed or his rehoming have not been answered. They cannot even get confirmation from this government whether he is still alive. These are the reasonable questions this government feels is appropriate to evade, and to that I say, 'Shame!'

This is not an isolated failure. From the handling of Old Faithful in the cape to the euthanising of wongari on K'gari without proper consultation, this government is showing Queenslanders exactly who they are, and that is a government that treats legal obligations and cultural respect as optional when they get in the way of political expediency. When traditional owners are ignored, it undermines trust and it risks decisions being made for political purposes, rather than based on accepted practice. Respecting traditional owners should not depend on the ideology of the government of the day or whether it is convenient to them in a given situation, and it should not require a legal obligation to consult—although it is a legal obligation, just one that this government is happy to run roughshod over—because it is also an ethical one, an ethical obligation to consult with those who are most affected and hold the deepest knowledge in these areas. We will all be the poorer for it. Our environmental stewardship will be the poorer for it.

### Rural Fire Service, Awards


 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (2.48 pm): I had the pleasure of representing Minister Ann Leahy last Sunday. I was joined by John Welke, Deputy Chief Officer, South Eastern Region, Rural Fire Service, to present a range of medals to our heroes, our rural fires. We were also joined by their families in that event with around 80 people in the room. It was great to see everyone there. The various medals were the Diligent and Ethical Service Medal, National Emergency Medal, the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Medal, Queensland Fire Medal and, believe it or not, the Australian Capital Territory Emergency Medal, to boot.

The list of recipients of those medals is too long for me to go through, so I will focus on those from the Coomera electorate. They were: Karen Brierley, VCE at Cedar Creek Wolffdene; Peter Brierley, firefighter at Cedar Creek Wolffdene; Sharron Eaves, Second Officer at Wasp Creek; Joseph Gough, crew leader at Wasp Creek; Timothy Heald, Second Officer at Rocky Point; Nicholas Samson, firefighter at Ormeau Rural Fire Brigade; Paul Schaffer, Second Officer at Cedar Creek Wolffdene; Christopher Sheehan, firefighter at Cedar Creek Wolffdene and Rocky Point; Bradley Speirs, firefighter at Rocky Point; and Liam Thorpe, firefighter at Wasp Creek.

We then went on to present three fire trucks to three worthy recipients: the Wasp Creek Rural Fire Brigade, the Ormeau Rural Fire Brigade and the Logan Village Rural Fire Brigade. The Wasp Creek Rural Fire Brigade received an Isuzu dual-cab medium attack. The Ormeau Rural Fire Brigade received an Isuzu single-cab medium attack. Those two vehicles cost approximately \$340,000. The Logan Village Rural Fire Brigade received an Isuzu single-cab medium attack. It was a real pleasure to be there on the day.

We are doing more with the rural fires. I had the pleasure on 17 March to represent the minister again when the Rotary Club of Ormeau-Pimpama handed over a command vehicle to the Rocky Point Rural Fire Brigade. Thank you for your service, all of you. You do a wonderful job 24 hours a day, seven days a week.


### State Schools, Teachers

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (2.51 pm): Earlier this week a teacher—I will call him Michael, not his real name—contacted me after the minister announced he had underpaid almost 11,000 teachers. Michael is one of them. He is in his third year of teaching and is married with two kids. They pay \$925 a week in rent because they cannot afford to buy. They have seen their energy costs go up 43 per cent under the LNP government. They pay for child care because they cannot afford to not work and are out of pocket \$450 each week, after factoring in Labor's free kindy. His school is a half-hour drive away. He is currently paying \$2.52 a litre for petrol. Michael's situation is similar to many, including that he loves his job. We have given him, as we have given all teachers, the responsibility of making sure our kids have the best chance to grow up to live happy and productive lives. They are working hard to achieve that.

He is also one of the around 52,000 Queensland state school teachers who went out on strike in the last 12 months. It was the first time any state school teacher had gone on strike in 16 years and nearly 30 years since they had gone on strike twice in a period of six months—both times under LNP governments. They did that because they were so insulted by the government's EB offer—almost 70 per cent of them voted to reject it. This government were so incensed, so mean and so disrespectful of teachers that they decided not to negotiate and instead sent teachers to arbitration. That means that, as the cost of living continues to go up, it could be up to two years before teachers know whether they will get a pay rise. It is very stressful, and they do not feel valued as they do their incredibly important job every day.

The Queensland Teachers' Union has now applied to the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission for an interim wage increase, citing cost-of-living pressures as the basis for that interim application. Now there is an opportunity for this minister and this Premier to do the right thing by teachers—to recognise that the cost of living is becoming almost unsustainable. They have a chance to show teachers that they value them. They could do it right now. They have already put the money aside. We know that the money was put aside in the budget for a wage increase, so they have the money. I say to this minister and this Premier: think of those teachers who have our kids' futures in their hands, show them that they are valued, show them that they are appreciated and give them that interim wage increase.

### **Tinana Football Club, Infrastructure**


 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (2.54 pm): I rise today to speak on the concerns of the Tinana Football Club. This club is located within the ever-growing suburb of Tinana and attracts players from across Maryborough and the surrounding areas. It plays a vital role in bringing people together and encouraging participation in sport within the community. Currently, the Tinana Football Club shares its facilities with the Moonaboola Sea Scouts. While this arrangement has worked for the past 20 years, the reality is that the club has outgrown the current space. With increasing numbers of players, teams and volunteers, the club now requires upgraded facilities—facilities that include proper change rooms, larger playing fields to host interclub tournaments and adequate lighting so players can train safely in the evenings.

The club's executive should be commended. They are proactive, dedicated and committed to fundraising, and they consistently meet their basic operational needs; however, larger infrastructure requirements such as the installation of two new power poles are simply beyond their financial capacity. I am actively advocating to secure these poles so the club can continue to train and host games in the evenings.

There is another serious concern. As the clubhouse and grounds are located on council land, the area is not protected. This has led to inappropriate and, at times, unsafe use of the facilities. We are seeing hooning activity causing damage to the fields and individuals sleeping under shed awnings, refusing to move on while young children are training. Fencing is urgently needed to protect the grounds and the facilities and, most importantly, those who use them.

I am aware that the club was previously given verbal assurances of funding by the former member for Maryborough; however, I will not stand here and make promises that I cannot guarantee. Instead, I am working proactively and honestly to develop a clear and achievable plan to ensure this club receives the support and protection it needs moving forward. As their representative, I believe in planning ahead, ensuring infrastructure keeps pace with growth and support is delivered in a transparent and responsible way. I will not make promises to the people of my electorate unless I know that they can be delivered. I am proud to be part of a government that does what it says it will do and delivers for our communities.

### **Parliament, Behaviour**

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (2.57 pm): During my maiden speech in 2018 I asked everyone to close their eyes and visualise my electorate of Noosa. Today I ask you to close your eyes again and imagine this chamber as one where the people of Queensland and the issues they face are the priority—not the next election, not who is funding you or not getting a win over the other side. Imagine it is just about our fellow Queenslanders. Imagine a chamber free of bullying, denigration and endless blame, a space where respectful, credible and evidence-based debate is held on matters our communities want answers to. Imagine a chamber that understands the only way to remedy the significant issues we confront, whether devastating fuel or house prices, the cost of living or health care, is through collaboration, bipartisan agreements and truth versus politicking. It is about the health and wellbeing of all and decreasing that widening gap where the wealthiest are getting wealthier and our workers are getting poorer. What has been happening is disgraceful.

Just think what that would be like. How proud every single person in this House would feel, where school students can sit in the gallery being inspired instead of confused and embarrassed. Mr Deputy Speaker, can you imagine being an MP who promotes working together versus waging war, where Queenslanders see watching Parliament TV as inspirational and educational versus a joke. This is not a game. It should not be a theatre. Every time we come into this chamber we are dealing with people's lives, their livelihoods and that of our next generations.

The old worn-out strategy of dragging the other side down with slogans that divide, incite and disempower Queenslanders has no place here anymore. No-one wants to hear the endless abuse hurled and the smoke and mirrors used to deflect focus from what is real and important. It is an insult to all we represent. The waste of money and lack of transparency, accountability and representation have become unsustainable and unpalatable, even to traditionally wedded voters as seen in the recent South Australian election.

Just think about what we could do versus what we have become. The French Revolution saw the cutting off of heads as a way to deal with being ignored. Thankfully this era is different. Instead of heads, votes will roll regardless of the words used to justify. Time is ticking. More and more Queenslanders are rejecting what we have become, enabled by a flawed committee system and a political duopoly. They will look to an alternative. What or who will that be? Please now open your eyes. Demonstrate why an alternative is not needed by supporting an independent review of our parliament. Both sides have nothing to lose and everything to gain including bringing integrity back into this House.

### **Gordonvale RSL, Cenotaph**



**Mr JAMES** (Mulgrave—LNP) (3.00 pm): Small things can make a big difference.

**Mr Stevens:** That's you, Terry.

**Mr JAMES:** Absolutely. I was recently approached by the Gordonvale RSL Sub Branch seeking assistance to reinstate the power supply to the cenotaph located at Norman Park. The cenotaph is owned by the Cairns Regional Council and jointly maintained by council and the RSL sub branch. While the monument previously had an operational power supply, it was removed some time ago. Although the original electrical pit remains, the power supply has never been restored. The council has granted permission to the RSL sub branch to reconnect the power and has indicated that it may consider contributing to future budgets. However, no funding is currently allocated. The estimated cost to reinstate the power supply—including safety switches and a lockable box—is around \$10,000.

The Gordonvale RSL Sub Branch conducts Anzac Day, Remembrance Day, Vietnam Veterans' Day and several other commemorative services at this cenotaph each year. These ceremonies are deeply significant community events that provide an opportunity for residents to come together, reflect and honour the service and sacrifice of those who have served our nation.

In 2025, Anzac Day services at Gordonvale attracted more than 5,000 attendees across two ceremonies. This strong and growing attendance reflects increasing community engagement, driven in part by rapid population growth in our patch, and highlights the need for appropriate infrastructure to support these community events. Currently the RSL is forced to run a long extension lead across a busy road to power essential equipment during services. This practice represents a serious safety risk to volunteers, attendees and passing traffic and is simply unacceptable for an event of this importance.

The Gordonvale RSL Sub Branch is also undertaking a major refurbishment of its building, with around 80 per cent of the labour provided by members themselves—many of whom are over 70 years of age. The sub branch works tirelessly to raise funds through various means. Despite these efforts, they do not have the capacity to fund the power reinstatement. Restoring permanent power to the cenotaph is essential to ensure public safety, support dignified commemorative services and protect the long-term functionality of this important community asset. I am working closely with the RSL to advocate for funds for this important project.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE**

### **Report, Motion to Take Note**

Resumed from 5 March (see p. 564), on motion of Mr Lister—

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




**Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (3.03 pm), continuing: In continuance of my no doubt stirring contribution from last sitting week, once again it appears the government's solution is simply to establish another panel. One can only hope the ministerial advisory panel does not become yet another talkfest.

Throughout the inquiry the committee heard many thoughtful and practical suggestions to increase volunteer participation, support students and provide financial incentives. Despite these opportunities, very few have been acted upon. We also learnt that in the past year no improvement has been made to the blue card system under this LNP government.

The committee's recommendations more broadly were framed in cautious language—'investigate', 'consider', 'review'. The government needs to do more. We need to see real actions because it is our volunteers who are paying the cost. These are significant issues.

To close, again, I thank all of our fantastic volunteers across the north side and across the state. It is important that we address the factors impacting our volunteer recruitment and retention and it is important we have a government that puts forward tangible changes.

 **Mrs YOUNG** (Redlands—LNP) (3.04 pm): I rise today to acknowledge the findings of the inquiry into volunteering in Queensland and the government's response to strengthen and support the volunteer sector. I want to take this opportunity to thank the committee for their work in this inquiry and all the very many stakeholders who I know contributed to the inquiry.


Volunteers are the backbone of communities right across Queensland, and that is certainly true in the Redlands. Data shows that around 13.5 per cent of residents in Redland City formally volunteer, representing more than 21,000 people giving their time to help others, support local clubs and build stronger communities. However, we know the real number is even higher when we consider the countless hours given informally through coaching junior sport, helping at P&Cs, supporting community events or simply lending a hand to neighbours. In the Redlands we see this spirit of volunteering everywhere—at organisations like the Redlands Netball Association, the Redland Bay Tennis Club, Night Ninjas, our local SES units, rural fire brigades, Lions Clubs and all the very many environmental groups caring for our beautiful bay and island communities.

Many of these organisations simply could not function without volunteers—people like Michael Huram from Redland City FC, who is also one of our local police officers, who dedicates countless hours to supporting the football club—for those who do not know it is a soccer club, but I am told by Malcolm it is football—and Mathew Wynne, captain of the Redland Bay Amateur Fishing Club. Fishing has become a much loved pastime for many teenage boys in the Redlands. Matt and his club run an outstanding junior competition—one that my own son has joined—which is helping build confidence, friendships and life skills for young people in our community.

These are the people who quietly hold our communities together. That is why this inquiry is so important. It recognises that, while volunteering is deeply rewarding, volunteers and organisations are facing growing challenges—rising insurance costs, regulatory burdens, complex onboarding procedures and the reality that people's time is stretched more than ever.

The government's response focuses on practical action. A 10-year volunteering plan will guide the sector into the future, particularly as Queensland prepares for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games where volunteers will play a vital role. A ministerial advisory panel will ensure volunteers have a voice in decision-making. The government will also investigate volunteering hubs, improved training systems and the concept of a volunteer passport to recognise skills across all organisations. Importantly, the response also commits to improving the volunteer experience within services such as the State Emergency Service and the rural fire brigades, which many communities, including mine, rely on during disasters.

In the Redlands, volunteering is about more than giving time. It is about belonging, it is about connection and it is about the pride people feel in contributing something bigger than themselves. To every volunteer in the Redlands—from the eight sporting codes at Victoria Point Sharks to our 30-plus bushcare groups, to our MRQ units, to the Redlands Modern Country Music Club and especially to our P&C volunteers: thank you. Your contribution does not go unnoticed, and this work will help ensure volunteering continues to thrive for generations to come.

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (3.08 pm): I know that the LNP love to hand in Labor's homework, but this inquiry really does take the cake. We have seen the fantastic work being done by the transport minister as he keeps a straight face while he claims the 50-cent fares. We have seen him over there poring over Labor's platform, clearly looking for new policy ideas. The only other thing I can assume he is doing is weighing up Labor's policies because he might be voting for us at the next election. That is the only thing I can think he is doing.

This inquiry has taken it to a whole new level. The LNP did hand in our homework, but not before wasting taxpayers' money to draw the exact same conclusions as were contained in the Queensland Volunteering Strategy 2024-2032 and the Queensland Volunteering Strategy Action Plan 2024-2026.

For a government that said they were going to respect Queenslanders' money, they certainly showed zero respect by holding this inquiry. Amazingly, as we point out in the excellent statement of reservation, it seems they did not even read the strategy or action plan before taking a submission to cabinet to hold the inquiry. Perhaps if they had read those documents they would have found that the work had already been done. Imagine the confusion of stakeholders who had participated in the development of the strategy and action plan when they were suddenly asked to do it all over again.


Nothing much new has come out of this process. The only thing that has come out of it is 18 months of delay—18 more months of volunteer organisations having to wait for any real action. My understanding is that apparently some funding has been announced or is flowing for these volunteer hubs—that seems like a good idea; that is why they were in the original volunteer strategy and action plan—but it seems like the money is nowhere near enough to run these hubs. Anyone can write a plan, but if you want it to be effective and implemented you have to fund it properly or it is just a complete waste of time.

When I say that anyone can write a plan, I should qualify that. When you look at the recommendations in this report—let's be honest—they seem like some sort of surrealist stream-of-consciousness novel. When you compare that to the previously developed Labor strategy and action plan, you can see that these recommendations were just poured out, poorly thought through and not that well understood. The Labor members probably tried to improve these but, as happens so often, the government used its numbers to ram through the changes, not caring whether they made sense or made a difference. They were not trying to solve a problem; they were just trying to be seen to be doing something.

Sadly, all of this means that community organisations and their volunteers in my electorate will have to keep waiting for any meaningful actions or outcomes, including our great P&C and P&F volunteers like Don Mackintosh from Greenslopes State School P&C, Vanessa Ientile from Marshall Road State School P&C, Peter Kavadis from Mount Carmel P&C and Alicia Weiderman from Cavendish Road P&C. There are hundreds of volunteers who keep our sporting, scouting and guiding groups going, like Sharon Flannery from the Holland Park Hawks, Andy Stow from Victor Scouts, our very famous 60-year-plus veteran Dixie from Wynola Girl Guides, Kev Hannan from Annerley Football Club, Jon Green from the Easts Juniors and Darren Sonter from the Holland Park Junior Cricket Club. They are all just going to have to keep waiting for anything meaningful to come out of this, whereas we could have been 18 months ahead of where we are.

I think about Reverend Garry from the Greenslopes Baptist Church and Reverend Andy from City South Baptist Church who work tirelessly every week to provide meals, coffee, comfort and, if requested, spiritual solace to people doing it really tough in our community. They are going to have to keep waiting. I think about our legendary volunteers like Sonja and Alan Hellier, supported by Michael Weibler, who run the Holland Park RSL, or Merv Cuylenberg and his team who support vets at the Coorparoo RSL. These people are going to have to wait, as are Tony, Alex and Neil, who have spent literally decades supporting nashos right across Queensland.

There is an army of volunteers who have cleaned up and restored the Norman Creek Catchment, including people like Leanne Peries, Stephanie Ford and Terry Fitzpatrick. I would like to acknowledge the Holland Park Lions, including Jeff Croll, Margie Milgate and many others, who work tirelessly to support so many great causes in our community. I also have to acknowledge all of the volunteers who are working so hard to save the Coorparoo Bowls Club. All of these groups could have used the help that was in the original strategy and action plan, but instead all they have had are delays and wasted money from the LNP.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (3.13 pm): I firstly want to place on the record my thanks to one of my constituents who was part of this volunteering inquiry, Eric Turner of Thangool, who is a volunteer for both the SES and the rural fire brigade. He puts in a lot of time and effort. He is a passionate volunteer who appeared at the Rockhampton hearing, and I want to place on the record my thanks to Eric and all of the other volunteers who contributed to this important inquiry.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of rural Queensland. They put in a lot of effort and are part of the community fabric in a way that you really cannot overstate. Even during the recent floods I was talking about moments ago we had the rural fires and SES out in force, and many other people across the board gave their time as a community to help one another out. It is great to interact with those volunteers. Some of them travelled from far and wide. I understand some came from as far north as Cairns as well as South-East Queensland to dedicate their time to support Queenslanders in need.

Beyond those important services like our rural fires and SES we have our community groups. Across Callide, from what we can count we have over 300 community groups.

**A government member:** You should have a few more after the redistribution, too.

**Mr HEAD:** I take that interjection. There might be a few more post the redistribution. Further to that, there are 156 rural fire brigades in the electorate of Callide and over 3,000 rural fire brigade volunteers. That is a significant contribution to our state in terms of the effort they put in.


As far as community events go, you cannot go past a local show. As the member who has the most shires of any MP in this House, I spend a lot of time at them and maybe eat a few too many dagwood dogs along the way, but that is all part of the fun! So far we have already had the Bell, Miles and Jandowae shows, and they were all fantastic events. Miles was impacted by the floods and had a reduced show. Nonetheless, it was a fantastic affair. Coming up we have Wandoan, and I understand we will even have a visit from the Attorney-General as that is her hometown. It is great to have a couple of people in this chamber who are from the Western Downs. The Mount Perry show has unfortunately had to cancel.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr HEAD:** I take that interjection from the minister. There has been a significant uplift in funding to our local shows by the Crisafulli government—over \$3,000 each, from memory. That uplift has been very much welcomed by all of my 19 agricultural shows across the electorate. Unfortunately, it was not quite enough to help Mount Perry out. They had to cancel their show due to uncertainty around fuel and how much they would need to truck equipment and different things in. We have Monto, Eidsvold, Taroom, Mundubbera, Baralaba, Theodore, the Callide Valley show at Biloela, Biggenden, Chinchilla, Gin Gin, Moura and Wowan, and of course to finish the year off we always have the Brigalow Bush Carnival in the electorate of Callide, my hometown. It is a fantastic affair.

None of these events happen without volunteers, who put in a lot of their time. I was talking to Alan Nauschutz at the Jandowae show the other day. He is a life member of the show and a big part of the fabric of the Jandowae community. He spent a full week at the show in the lead-up to it as well as most of the week before that, I understand. He did say that pack-down is normally a lot easier because you can just load it up and put it away and forget about it until next year. Nonetheless, they are still at it many days after the show as well. It is not only in the actual set-up of the facility. That does not factor in the months of effort in terms of seeking sponsorship, setting up competition portals so people can enter and all the rest.

The Jandowae show committee has done a fantastic job. The pavilion looked fabulous this year. They have received a lot of funding and put in a lot of work, and it has really come up a picture. That is off the back of the efforts of our volunteers across our communities. I am looking forward to seeing the fruits of the efforts of all of our great volunteers, especially at our shows. We have plenty of other opportunities to volunteer in the electorate and plenty of other volunteers who participate through the likes of Kup of Kindness and of course Vinnies. Across the board they are an important part of our state.

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (3.19 pm): From weekend sports to supporting homeless people in our community, festivals, schools, P&Cs and helping after floods, volunteers do it all and they are an integral part of our community. They jump into action to help others and they provide support so people can stay resilient in times of need. For volunteers, their work is more than just an exercise in generosity; it is community building. They ensure that our communities are a better place to live. Volunteers understand that community is stronger when people work together.

Volunteer organisations build social connections, tackle loneliness and remind us of the importance of supporting one another. Most importantly, when people step forward to give their time, energy and compassion, they do it in exchange for nothing—not even recognition. They do it because they care. However, volunteers do deserve recognition. Whether they are keeping our local sports clubs operating, or providing food, clothes and support to those in need, or supporting our emergency services, they all play a critical role in our community that too often goes unnoticed. I would like to take this time to acknowledge some of the volunteers in my electorate of Sandgate.

Firstly, I want to talk about the team at Sandbag. Sandbag is a community-based organisation which helps create opportunities for connection, participation and support. They do vital work in the Sandgate and Bracken Ridge area to support victim-survivors of family and domestic violence. The passion and care they have for people is astounding. I am in awe of the work they do to provide that support. I would also like to talk about Share the Dignity, an organisation which provides menstrual products to females when they are escaping family and domestic violence or facing homelessness. Their work is incredibly important to tackle period poverty.

I would like to talk about the Sandgate Art Society and the work they do in supporting our local artists. They have their famous Easter Art Show coming up where they showcase art pieces from local artists. I encourage everyone to attend that at St Patrick's College. I would like to talk about the volunteers at our Sandgate & District Senior Citizens Centre. Many of them have spent a lot of years supporting elderly people in our community. People like Jan and Julie spend a lot of time working with our elderly community to ensure they have a place where they can find community connection.

I mention Meals on Wheels, where I met John who has volunteered for Meals on Wheels for over 25 years. He is still delivering meals to our local community. He says his favourite part is getting to meet all of the local residents.


I mention the volunteers at our sporting clubs who do a wonderful job. Our parents and volunteers help put together fetes and sports carnivals. They spend a lot of time in the kitchen behind hot frying pans making meals for the kids, and the work they do deserves recognition.

I would like to acknowledge Elaine who has been a volunteer in policing for over 20 years. Her service in assisting our northside police is remarkable. Last year she helped out at many of my seniors morning teas, putting together some great kits that went a long way to help support our seniors. Thank you, Elaine, for that work and for your 20 years of volunteering service.

I would like to recognise all of our P&Cs which help support our local kids and schools. Volunteers in P&Cs are the backbone of our schools. Their dedication to fundraising, event organising and advocacy makes an enormous difference for the students in our community. I have attended many school fetes and festivals where I have seen the work they do behind the scenes.

I would like to recognise our RSLs which provide incredible support behind the scenes to ensure our veterans have a place where they can meet other people like them who have served and receive that support. That work is incredible. Our sporting clubs do a lot of work, and I especially mention the Brighton Roosters volunteers who put on a cracker of a day on Australia Day at their annual crab races. If anyone has not been to them, I encourage you to go and have a look because it is a great day out. An enormous amount of volunteering goes into organising that day, so well done to them.

Deputy Speaker, with the time I have left and with the indulgence of the House, I would like to say that, as we approach Anzac Day I want to take a moment to acknowledge the extraordinary men and women who have served and continue to serve our great nation. Anzac Day is a time to reflect on the courage, sacrifice and mateship of those who have served. To our veterans and members of the Sandgate RSL Sub Branch, we honour and remember your sacrifice. Lest we forget.

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (3.23 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the committee's inquiry into volunteering in Queensland. At the outset, I want to reflect on a personal story from 12 years ago when I attended, very sadly, the funeral of my father. At the wake after his funeral, I was made aware of many remarkable stories of when he volunteered years earlier as a coach for the under-17s at Easts Carina. He obviously did that as a volunteer as a coach and manager, and I will get to many voluntary groups within the Chatsworth electorate.

**Mr Mander:** He was a very good player, too.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** He was a reasonable fullback in his day as well. I take that interjection from the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

When I met many of the grown men at the wake, they were moved to tears as they told me stories about the impact he had as a volunteer on their lives. In the 1970s Carina had its challenges socio-economically. I did not realise this as a kid at the time but when my dad was coaching the under-17s he would fill up the car and would go around and pick up all of the young blokes and take them to training. He would then take them back home because he knew many of them did not have dads of their own and the mums could not get them to training. He knew that if he did not do that they simply would not be able to play in a team. I also found out that a lot of them did not have the money for their registration so he covered that out of his own pocket. I am saying this because he was not alone in doing that. I am very proud of him and miss him to this day. In his time, he would not have been alone.


We simply cannot put a price on what volunteers do. We use that saying, 'They're worth their weight in gold,' and just one man can have a profound impact on kids. This was shown in these grown men, as they were when I saw them at the wake. They had tears streaming down their faces as they told me that they had travelled far and wide to attend his funeral. He had an impact, and he is not alone. That journey at that Clem Jones Centre in Carina continues. There are a multitude of clubs there—rugby league, swimming, water polo, track and field, and cricket. All of them at some stage need a

coach and a manager, and the impact those volunteers can have on young people's lives cannot be measured. That is why I believe it was absolutely imperative that both sides of this chamber tried to work out what we can do to raise the profile of the impact of volunteers in this state.

Many of the contributions today have rightfully listed the different volunteer groups throughout their electorates, but I want to reflect on some things I found of particular interest in the report. The report stated that in 2022-23 economic figures Queensland's gross state product, GSP—that is, our total economic production for the state economy—was about \$505 billion, and the actual amount of volunteer work that was assessed was \$117.8 billion. That figure of \$117.8 billion worth of labour costs through volunteers, when our GSP at that time was \$500 billion, absolutely says it all. They are indeed worth their weight in gold.

I have far too many volunteer groups to name in the 90 seconds I have left. I give a special shout-out to all of the men and women who continually give their time to train or manage the sports teams or work with the P&Cs in my mighty Chatsworth electorate. The Quota Club comes to mind. Quota is a small group of elderly ladies who are doing great things in the local community. I give them a huge shout-out because they get involved in fundraising for things that are often left behind. I want to acknowledge the great work of Quota, our Lions clubs, our Rotary clubs et cetera.

I also want to acknowledge, as others in this chamber have, the mighty men and women who volunteer for Meals on Wheels. It is unfair to single one group out, but when it comes to the spirit of what volunteerism is all about, I think it is encapsulated in the essence of Meals on Wheels. They provide life-essential food; that goes without saying. I have done the famous Green Meals on Wheels with the Carina Meals on Wheels. When you go there, you are not just giving people a hot cooked meal; you are giving them a connection and many of those elderly people are desperate for connection. I want to take these last few seconds to praise every volunteer in Queensland.

 **Ms BOURNE** (Ipswich West—ALP) (3.28 pm): Volunteers are the backbone of every community, and in Ipswich West that is something we see play out every single day through the people—the unsung heroes—who step up to support others, often without recognition or praise. Whether it is responding to disasters, running local sporting clubs, supporting community events or providing outreach to those doing it tough, volunteers are the glue that holds our communities together. I had the privilege of meeting many of these individuals and organisations in my role as the member for Ipswich West through my own work as a volunteer in the community including at Rosies.

On this side of the House we would like to thank every volunteer and organisation that contributed to this inquiry. The depth of engagement shows just how critical the sector is. However, it is important to reflect honestly on the outcome of this process, and that is why Queensland Labor has issued a statement of reservation. This inquiry presented a genuine opportunity to deliver meaningful reform and, while the report captures the challenges facing the sector, many of the recommendations stop at asking the government to investigate or consider rather than commit to taking tangible action or making the necessary investment.

This is a sector under real pressure, and that must be met with a sense of urgency. Across Queensland, and particularly in growing communities like mine, people are feeling the impact of cost-of-living increases in a very real way. Families are dealing with rising grocery prices, rent and fuel costs that make everyday activities even more expensive. As such, more and more people are finding themselves in difficult circumstances and are turning to community organisations for support. This increased demand is falling directly on the shoulders of our volunteers at the very same time as those volunteers are dealing with their own financial pressures and time constraints. We know, too, that when these organisations cannot keep up it means even more pressure on our service systems. The evidence presented to the inquiry reflects this reality, with declining volunteer participation and increasing barriers to engagement.


As our statement of reservation highlights, these are not new challenges and, importantly, they were already well understood and being addressed. The strategy recognised both the social and economic importance of volunteering, including its estimated contribution of \$117 billion to the Queensland economy, and set out a clear pathway to address the challenges facing the sector.

Under Labor and the work of my good friend and colleague the member for Algeester, we delivered the Volunteering Strategy 2024-2032 alongside a detailed action plan. I think about my work with Rosies and I see the growing demand for services supporting people experiencing homelessness, isolation and hardship in my area. I think about all of the amazing community events that are held in Ipswich West that are only made possible because of our volunteers. In a couple of weeks I will attend the Rosewood Little Athletics end-of-season presentation. Rosewood Little Athletics requires around 70 devoted volunteers to operate effectively and run successful meets.

Volunteering is one of the most valuable assets in our communities, but it is not something that we can take for granted. It requires active support and strong policy leadership. Labor understood that, which is why the strategy and action plan were developed to grow and sustain the sector. This inquiry should have built on that work. Instead, it has largely confirmed what we already know without delivering the level of action required, particularly in the context of rising cost-of-living pressures and increasing demand for community support.

In communities like Ipswich West, volunteers are essential. Our amazing volunteers deserve a government that recognises not only their value but also the urgency of the challenges they face. It has to be one of the greatest privileges of this role to meet the many amazing volunteers who quietly go about supporting people in my community, whether it is the Leichhardt community centre; seniors groups; Meals on Wheels, who celebrate their 70th anniversary this year; Lions Club; Rosies; show societies and emergency services volunteers. The list is so long there are too many to mention.

I implore this government to back our volunteers with real support and investment. In finishing, I would like to thank the committee and all those who contributed to this inquiry.

 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (3.33 pm): Winston Churchill said it best: we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give. To the thousands of Redcliffe locals who volunteer to give back and make a difference in our community, I say thank you. The committee's comprehensive report provides a timely and necessary road map for revitalising volunteering across our state and in communities such as mine in Redcliffe. Everywhere I go in Redcliffe, from sporting clubs to P&Cs and community organisations, people report how difficult it is now to get people to volunteer for committee positions or to help with events or fundraising. The executive of this report states—

... volunteering contributes immense civic, social, and economic value—estimated at over \$117 billion annually—some would say priceless—

participation rates have declined significantly ...

This is not just a statewide challenge; it is also a local one. In Redcliffe we are very fortunate to have deeply committed volunteer organisations such as the Redcliffe SES, the Redcliffe Coast Guard, the Peninsula Animal Aid, the Breakfast Club, Encircle Redcliffe Neighbourhood Centre, the Redcliffe Hospital Auxiliary, countless sporting clubs, faith-based organisations and churches, Redcliffe Art Society, Redcliffe RSL, Meals on Wheels, all of our service clubs—Rotary, Lions, Quota, Zonta—the Redcliffe Show Society and Redcliffe Man Walk. There are probably many others I have forgotten but they are all priceless. They are the backbone of our community life on the peninsula, but they are feeling the strain.


In December I joined the Redcliffe Hospital volunteers Christmas event to help serve them lunch alongside the hospital executive director, Cang Dang, and other board members. From offering a warm, friendly smile at front reception to escorting visitors to find the palliative care unit or the outpatient clinics, these volunteers, the chaplains and the wonderful ladies of the hospital auxiliary have provided a staggering 15,870 hours of volunteering—just extraordinary. That is why the eight recommendations of this inquiry are so important. They give us a framework to reset and strengthen the volunteer experience.

The committee calls for a whole-of-government approach to recognising, investing in and supporting our volunteers. That is a critical step towards ensuring that volunteers in my community of Redcliffe feel valued, resourced and respected. These recommendations also focus on reducing barriers. This includes reviewing onboarding processes, because when residents in Redcliffe want to step up we should not be making it unnecessarily difficult with excessive paperwork or inconsistent requirements. Streamlining processes will make it easier for sporting groups like the Dolphins, P&Cs across my schools and community groups like the Breakfast Club to recruit and retain volunteers.

Several recommendations speak directly to our frontline emergency volunteers in relation to improving their experience, especially the State Emergency Service. I was pleased to join the Rural Fire Service Queensland at Moreton Island in my electorate of Redcliffe. They have tirelessly fought two large fires in the past few years, keeping homes, property and national parks protected. It was an honour to present many of them with national service medals. In Redcliffe, where the SES plays a crucial role in storm response and community resilience, these reforms will make a real difference.

This report also emphasises improving operating conditions for volunteer resource centres and furthering engagement between government and volunteer organisations. This is especially relevant for Redcliffe, where local hubs such as Encircle Redcliffe Neighbourhood Centre and our newly opened Peninsula Support Hub act as connectors, linking volunteers with opportunities to support our vulnerable residents.

The overarching message of this report is clear: volunteering is vital to Queensland's economy, society and disaster resilience. We want to reset so that the experience is a positive one. For Redcliffe, adopting these recommendations means building a stronger, more connected and more resilient community. By implementing these reforms we have the opportunity to reinvigorate our volunteer sector. It is the cornerstone of our community. I commend the report No. 4 of the Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee, *Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland*.

 **Ms MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (3.38 pm): I feel for our incredible volunteers. They give the limited time they have to make an important contribution to our communities and this LNP government rewards them through the establishment of what can only be described as a meh inquiry. How embarrassing to initiate an inquiry into volunteering a mere two months after the release of the comprehensive Queensland Volunteering Strategy 2024-2032.

Volunteering Queensland, community organisations and the volunteer sector played a pivotal role in the development of the strategy, which acknowledged the important role that volunteers play in Queensland. It also set an ambitious but actionable road map to respond to the significant challenges and opportunities that the sector had already described to government. Indeed, in 2024 Volunteering Queensland released the second state of volunteering in Queensland report. Data for this report was collected from the biggest survey of volunteers and volunteer managers in Queensland. The data already identified the key barriers to volunteering but, no, we better ask them again because the government needed something to do in its first year, and it was not like it had a lot of policies to implement!

I certainly recognised that volunteers in my electorate were busy and would not have time to put a submission in to another volunteering inquiry, so I devised a quick and simple qualitative survey to help them. Here is what they told me. Lack of time was raised consistently by many respondents as a barrier to volunteering, with family and work commitments making volunteering less attractive or not achievable. There is also a general perception that volunteering will also mean a lot more work, which is making people reluctant to volunteer in the first place. As one respondent commented, the 'many hands make light work' has been lost. A number of respondents raised cost-of-living impacts, indicating it can be expensive to give back when you are struggling financially or times are tough. The cost of transport and fuel was highlighted by a number of volunteers as an additional burden for volunteering opportunities at this time.

A number of respondents indicated that the workload now required in some volunteering roles—for example, in executive positions—is very high or holds too much responsibility. An increase in the requirements with rules and regulations is, as they noted, making it feel like a full-time job. A number of respondents also raised concerns that there is not enough information or advertising of volunteering opportunities, especially in local areas. This is particularly difficult for older Queenslanders who may not have access to online websites or social media platforms. As one respondent indicated, the opportunity to volunteer is not reaching the people who are interested.

Targeted outreach was also suggested to actively engage under-represented groups in volunteering opportunities through outreach programs in schools, community centres and culturally diverse organisations. As one person recommended, offering bilingual materials or culturally relevant opportunities can also help. Many culturally and linguistically diverse communities will actively volunteer their time for cultural events and community festivals, yet they are not supported or encouraged to use those honed skills for further volunteering opportunities and especially in natural disaster situations, where language and cultural understanding could be better utilised and considered an asset. Volunteer training was raised consistently by respondents, with a recognition that more structured support, including better training and clearer role definitions, could help to encourage volunteers and retain them.


I am deeply grateful to the many local volunteers in my electorate, the Jordan electorate, who provided their views and ideas to me and which I diligently provided to the parliamentary inquiry into volunteering in Queensland. I really thought that we would see meaningful support for volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations, but really all we have seen is the same concerns raised in 2024 rearticulated. It is disappointing to see that almost every recommendation delivered by the inquiry was qualified by this government, accepting all of the recommendations in principle and/or subject to further investigation. Enough already!

The government has wasted time, energy and taxpayers' money on a lacklustre response that brings us no closer to resolving the issues already identified by our communities in 2024. This inquiry could have made meaningful progress on the recommendations that were already called for in Labor's 2024-2032 volunteering strategy, but it did not. I am sorry to the volunteers in my electorate who gave

me their feedback because I thought this government may have actually done something with it, but it did not. I recognise that my electorate is enhanced deeply by the incredible volunteers who each and every day give their time freely to make our communities better and I wish to thank each and every individual for their contribution. As one respondent so eloquently and simply observed—

Everybody that sticks their hand up to volunteer does so because they want to give back to the community, offering professional skills and life experience that couldn't be bought.

If only the Crisafulli LNP government had actually recognised this.

 **Mr HUTTON** (Keppel—LNP) (3.43 pm): Dr Seuss tells us, 'Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.' Our volunteers are the lifeblood of our communities, yet they are time poor, they fear the AGM that comes and they are conscious of the fact that when it comes time to pay those annual fees for their membership and for the insurance they need the hand of government to step in and help make some change. We know our volunteers are few and far between and that the nature of volunteering is changing. Just last night I was reminded of a dear friend, 'Mr Livingstone'—Brian Dorey OAM. Brian was a member of the Yeppoon Lions Club for over 60 years. At one point in time he served on 25 committees in our community—from the Cooee Bay progress association to the Advancement League for Keppel Sands. Of those 25 committees, he was chair of 19 and his beloved wife, Olive, was either secretary or treasurer on about 10 of those committees at the time. It is one way to have date night! Brian taught of the value of lifelong volunteering, but they do not make them like Brian anymore. As I said, volunteers are time poor and we are working harder than we ever have before to earn a dollar for our family, and that means that there is a need for reform in this space.


Psychologist Andrew Fuller says that when we surround our young people with opportunities to serve and to give then in life they become young people who serve and give to our community. When I reflect on the work of the Capricorn Conservation Council and the work of the Capricorn Coast landcare group, both of which give young people in our schools during school time, weekends and after school the chance to serve in the environmental space in our community, they make such a difference. When we look to our young people for volunteering it is important that we do not mind the gap—that is, we do not forget that so many of the volunteers that we need for today and for tomorrow are not going to be the 18-year-olds of today who are going to head off to university or have the heaviest period of their time when their obligations in the workforce and when their obligations to young families start to grow; it is going to be those of us who get to an age of maturity and of retirement and have the capacity to make choices as to how we invest and spend our time.

I reflect on my own Yeppoon Lions Club and my friends at the Caves and District Lions Club, along with the Emu Park Lions Club and Mount Archer in Rockhampton. Each and every day these clubs bring together groups of people for a common cause, but because members of volunteer organisations are time poor they rely on people like Glen Alexander—a great member of the Lions Club and Citizen of the Year in Livingstone—who step up and give above and beyond.

Volunteering is never wasted, yet this report clearly states that there are fewer volunteers than there were a decade ago and fewer volunteers than there were 20 years before. We need to be conscious of the fact that our SES and others are seeing a downturn in their memberships. The Crisafulli government is committed to not only giving them the resources but also working with them to ensure that we are giving them the qualifications that they can take out into the real world while also giving them an experience that does not seem overly bureaucratic and that does not leave them thinking, 'Why AM I giving up my time?' As the member for Chatsworth said, if these people give up their time to attend training and if they give up their time to attend disasters, we need to ensure that the experience for them is a positive one. We have to remember that, even though we have seen such a downturn in the number of SES and rural volunteers in our community, those skills remain in our community forever. In my own community I know that there are over 200 people who have previously been members of the SES. They might not be going to training on a Monday night, yet they still can help tarp a roof. When a disaster hits the ground, they will be there for sure.

Volunteers pay for the privilege and this report very clearly states the costs that volunteers are facing, and I think of Keppel Coast Arts, with Leanne Smith, with over 800 activations a year. They have been serving our community for 25 years and they do it for the love of our town. None of the Crocs, the Seagulls, the Swans, the Emus or the Bluebirds sign up because they want to pay or they want to attend the AGM; they do it for our kids and for our community. Each month when I look at Capricorn Coast Food Relief, Meals on Wheels and ICare, they are giving dignity and service to our communities

in such an important way. The committee heard from Queenslanders across the state and from volunteers and I ask that this parliament takes careful consideration of the words of our volunteers and makes a difference for their future.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (3.49 pm): I, too, would like to speak to this report. I want to talk about a couple of issues before I pay tribute to my volunteer groups. One of those issues was covered by the member for Greenslopes. He pointed out that the conclusions contained in this strategy and the action plan were the same conclusions that had been made under the previous government. That means that, obviously, this government has handed in someone else's homework. The work has already been done. The stakeholders were asked to repeat themselves and go back and do the same work again. That has basically meant the same result but with 18 months delay before the good work to help out the process of volunteering could commence.


The other issue I want to briefly talk about is what we are seeing in my area—community organisations faced with cuts to their already successful programs. I believe they are cuts to fund some of the newer or favoured priorities from the government. Community organisations are being asked: can you keep running this program with volunteers? Volunteers are great, but you cannot really ask them to replace paid professional workers who are doing quite complicated and intense work. They are working with the complicated cases and complicated lives or residents. To ask them to fill the gap left after the withdrawal of funding, working with vulnerable people, is not okay. It is professional work. Community organisations need to be supported and funded to keep on doing that work.

I pay tribute to some of the community organisations that run outstanding programs—they do rely on volunteers but they supplement the professional work that is already being done in these organisations—working with kids who are disengaged, kids at risk in education services and kids at risk of homelessness. These are organisations in my area such as the Deception Bay Neighbourhood Centre, Unity and Raise. The YMCA also deals with many different kids and their cases.

I also pay tribute to the Deception Bay SES group, which has won awards for being the most highly organised and best group in the state; the Lions Club of Deception Bay; the North Lakes Lions Club; the Mango Hill Progress Association, with Laurence, Mark, Guy and Dave Norman—he also does Bushcare—a very intense and very focused community organisation that runs outstanding programs in the Mango Hill area; and, obviously, Meals on Wheels. Meals on Wheels is amazing. Every day volunteers go out providing not only meals but also essential daily contact for so many of our residents. I mention Des, Michelle, Colin, Lyn and many others. I pay tribute to the work they do every day.

We have also heard about the P&Cs and sporting groups. P&Cs and sporting groups can be the first experience of volunteering for many parents. They are the first places we recruit volunteers. I pay tribute to some of our sports clubs: North Lakes United Football Club; the Lakes Knights—they are an outstanding cricket club; Little Athletics; Moreton Bay Raiders; Moreton Bay Raptors; the fishing and boating club; and Deception Bay football. I also mention the Redcliffe Hockey Club because I myself am a volunteer there—manager, fundraiser and vice-president. In that position I see the intense amount of time that can be taken up by the needs of these young people. I pay tribute to our president, Paul; our treasurer, Lynne; and our secretary, Anthony. There are so many more people. I see firsthand the enormous amount of time that is needed by organisations to run these sports and to run these assets as well.

I want to finish by thanking the Soroptimists of North Moreton, the Business and Professional Women Moreton Bay club and the North Lakes Chamber of Commerce. Not only those who volunteer for sports groups and P&Cs but also those who provide support services for our small business community are absolutely crucial. I hope that we can recognise through our Bancroft Business Awards many of those small businesses that go above and beyond. The North Lakes Chamber of Commerce will be helping me out with that. There are so many more volunteer groups I could mention, but, as I said, the amount of time and effort that is put in by volunteers is absolutely outstanding, and it is absolutely crucial for our communities to survive.


 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (3.54 pm): Volunteering is an act of willingly giving time, skills and effort for the common good without financial gain. It encompasses formal roles within organisations or informal acts helping others, aimed at supporting communities whilst providing personal growth. It is freely given and unpaid. The word 'volunteering' originates from the Latin word 'voluntaries', meaning 'of one's free will' or 'willing', derived from 'voluntas'. It is a word very much in common and everyday use; however, the importance of volunteers is often overlooked.

The role of volunteers is critical to the orderly function of every community in our great state and in many cases supplements or replaces essential services. Nowhere is this more the case than in my electorate of Cook. When we talk about 'regional and remote' we are describing Cook, the furthestmost electorate in Queensland from this House. How does this play out? From parents and citizens associations and friends of hospitals foundations to Rotary, Lions, Meals on Wheels, rodeos, numerous sporting and community groups, beach protection, turtle recovery, school crossings, heritage centres, rural fire brigades and so on, volunteers drive our communities.

Mrs Irene Roy is a volunteer and tireless advocate for the Mareeba and district junior cricket club. Irene is aware of Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie's knowledge and love of the game and remains hopeful that he will be able to present the awards later this year. The Narcotic Creek volunteer rural fire brigade from Narcotic Creek near Mareeba comprises mainly farmers. In January this year, when unprecedented flooding occurred in Einasleigh in the Far North, the Narcotic Creek boys loaded up and drove the four hours from Mareeba to Einasleigh to assist with the clean-up effort. Just last week, in the days before Cyclone Narelle was due to make landfall at Coen, with predicted disastrous results, the boys once again had loaded their utes, fuelled up and were keen to go north to help out. I was impressed by their generosity of spirit, which I unfortunately had to dampen by telling them there was no immediate road access to Coen. As fortune would have it, Coen came out relatively unscathed.

I could go on with numerous examples throughout the north of the generosity and community connection that pervades my electorate, especially when the chips are down. Unfortunately, in my electorate of Cook the younger generation are engaging in volunteering less and less, and the same faces appear time and time again, year in and year out.

The inquiry into volunteering in Queensland was established in December 2024, when the Legislative Assembly agreed to a motion to refer the matter to the Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee. Numerous stakeholders attended the inquiry and provided great insights into volunteering. Many and varied accounts were given from groups sharing their experience and viewpoints with the committee through written submissions and public hearings. These public hearings were held far and wide across the state. The committee made eight recommendations, which the government will work through with the volunteering sector on a 10-year volunteering plan. The plan will consider all forms of volunteering including formal, spontaneous and organic volunteering. I commend the report to the House.

 **Ms McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (3.57 pm): I rise to make my contribution in relation to the report currently before the House. As many people have indicated over this week and last week, it feels like we have been here before. I know the great body of work that was done in the last term in the inquiry in relation to volunteering. The fact is that the strategy and the plan were released in September 2024. I note that some people made reference to handing in someone else's homework. Given that there is limited reference to the inquiry and to the plan and strategy that were produced, I would say that no-one was even aware that homework was already done.


It is ironic that in this report we consider how few volunteers we have and how time-poor people are to volunteer, while we asked these volunteers to again make a submission and appear before the inquiry. What could have been a plan that was in action for the last 18 months is now back to the drawing board waiting for yet another plan. That could have been 18 months of action, not 18 months to sit around and come up with another plan. We have seen lots of correspondence and sitting around and talking to each other and no action. That has been the government's response to many things so far this term.

I am very grateful to the volunteers who work in my area. In Beenleigh, a former country town, I have just about all of the voluntary organisations: Rotary, Quota, Lions, Soroptimists, the Masons, Probus, P&Cs, Girl Guides and Scouts. We also have cadets and TS Walrus volunteers who are doing great work in shaping young minds. In the brief time I have left, I want to touch on P&Cs. The schools in my area are really important to me. We have a big problem in our area with P&Cs folding. Over half of my schools do not have a functioning P&C.

Debate, on motion of Ms McMahan, adjourned.

## COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY


### Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates; Referral of Auditor-General's Reports

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (4.00 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, that the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee

report on the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Strengthening the Container Refund Scheme) Amendment Bill by 15 May 2026; that the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee report on the Transport and Other Legislation (Managing E-mobility Use and Protecting Our Communities) Amendment Bill by 8 May 2026; and that the Primary Industries and Resources Committee report on the Regional Planning Interests (Condamine Alluvium) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 8 May 2026.

The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B that the Auditor-General's *Report 11: 2025-26—State entities 2025* be referred to the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee; Auditor-General's *Report 12: 2025-26—Local government 2025*; and Auditor-General's *Report 13: 2025-26—Managing third-party cyber security risks* be referred to the Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee.

## LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (4.01 pm): I seek leave to move general notice of motion No. 2 standing in my name.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

**AYES, 38:**

**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.

**KAP, 1**—Knuth.

**Ind, 2**—Bolton, Sullivan.

**NOES, 49:**

**LNP, 49**—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Blejje, Boothman, Camm, Chiesa, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

Pair: Perrett, Bailey.

Resolved in the negative.


## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (SUPPLEMENTARY 2024-2025) BILL

### APPROPRIATION (SUPPLEMENTARY 2024-2025) BILL

#### Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from p. 850, on motion of Mr Janetzki—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (4.07 pm): I rise to speak on the Appropriation (Supplementary 2024-2024) Bill in this cognate debate. The opposition will be supporting these bills as they fulfil the legislative requirement for parliamentary approval of expenditure. As members know, amounts can only be paid from the Consolidated Fund under an act, so this process is necessary to formalise expenditure already incurred. Whilst the mechanism is routine, what sits behind it is not.

The supplementary appropriation authorises \$5.7 billion in additional expenditure across departments. That is a significant midyear adjustment. When we look at how that \$5.7 billion is structured, the largest component to that is administered items to the tune of \$2.67 billion. Administered items are payments; they are rebates, concessions and transfers. What they do is reflect the demand in the community, not a system expansion. This is a budget adjustment driven primarily by pressures on households and services, which is entirely justifiable if those concessions were targeted cost-of-living measures aimed at easing pressures on Queensland families and small businesses, but they are not.

This government has scrapped Labor's \$1,000 energy rebate, relief that so many people in my community said made a tangible difference to their lives. This rebate meant that families did not have to go without air conditioning during a hot summer in Queensland and it meant that households had more disposable income to spend in their local economy. The LNP has scrapped Labor's car registration concessions which were making it easier for people to get around to volunteer at clubs that rely on a volunteer workforce.

The government refers to its budget blowouts as unforeseen expenditure. Treasury is clear that that does not mean that spending was unexpected in an ordinary sense, it simply means expenditure above what was originally appropriated. It could include enterprise bargaining agreements, centrally held funds and, notably, election commitments. In fact, I will draw the attention of the House to a statement made by the Treasurer in his introductory speech to this bill when he said that unforeseen expenditure largely relates to costs associated with the 2024 state election.

There are Queenslanders who right now are just holding on, Queenslanders who this morning paid over \$3 a litre for diesel, Queenslanders who are paying over \$1,200 a week in rent for a modest family home, and Queenslanders who are paying over \$400 a week for basic weekly groceries. I wonder what those Queenslanders think of the Treasurer's decision that the state should accrue additional expenditure to deliver election commitments in LNP-held seats.

When we look at the broader economic context, the drivers on demand are clear. ABS data shows us that Queensland has the second highest inflation rate in the country. Electricity prices have increased by over 43 per cent, housing costs are up over seven per cent, rent is up over five per cent and insurance in Queensland is nearly double the national average. So when we see large increases in administered spending, particularly through Treasury and Transport, it does show that those costs are rising. This government is simply reacting. There is no vision, either in the budget or this bill, to structurally reduce those pressures. There is a fairly well-understood economic distinction for budgets: relief helps people manage costs but reform reduces them. This supplementary bill is heavily weighted towards relief, some of which is understandable, but without structural changes, particularly in housing and in energy, those pressures are not going to just go away.

This government is putting ideology ahead of evidence. They are cancelling large-scale solar and wind projects in a state that could lead the way in renewable energy exports while delivering cheaper, more reliable energy. They are not investing enough in housing. The supplementary allocation is \$231 million. That includes operational funding, some capital investment and administered support, but when you set that against rising rents, increasing housing costs and constrained supply, it is difficult to categorise this as a system-level shift.

At the same time, the Crisafulli government has cancelled housing projects and scrapped affordable housing targets. Housing remains the key structural driver of cost-of-living pressures. Instead, this government's focus is on approving projects for the top end of town, including the Trump tower on the Gold Coast.

When applying a gendered lens to the government's budget and the supplementary bill, it is clear that the government has an allergic reaction to anything that would structurally support women's equity. In this bill for youth justice and victim support we see increased administrative funding to the tune of \$118 million, which again reflects increased demand, but demand does not automatically translate to access. When women cannot access safe housing, their ability to participate in the workforce is directly affected. It should be noted that this government effectively provided more financial relief to Adani through its sweetheart deal in enabling them to dodge royalty payments than it has invested in emergency housing for women escaping domestic and family violence. That is absolutely obscene. This government has the wrong priorities.

The government could use this appropriation bill to test innovative models of supported accommodation for vulnerable Queenslanders. They could invest in a dedicated centre of excellence for our para-athletes like they promised and to date still have not delivered. They could purchase empty buildings and transform them into accommodation for essential workers. They could help ease the rising cost of fuel by increasing public transport services. However, they have delivered nothing of the sort. It is a lacklustre economic strategy from a lacklustre government and a Treasurer who is entirely out of his depth.

I turn briefly to the government's fiscal strategy. The Treasurer's election costings relied heavily on savings from consultants—a \$3 billion cap in 2024-25 contributing to \$6.8 billion in savings over four years. That assumption was central to the claim that the costings were balanced, but the Queensland Audit Office has found that cap was exceeded by \$1 billion and economists have already described the


commitment as 'not credible'. Queensland's credit rating has now been placed on a negative outlook and ratings agencies have been explicit. S&P noted that delivering those consultancy savings would be crucial to maintaining the AA+ rating. That has not occurred. If a downgrade follows, the impact is straightforward: higher borrowing costs and less capacity to invest in schools, hospitals and transport. Where will the funding come from for the thousands of additional police who will be required to oversee the government's incoming e-mobility reforms? Will there be additional funding for that or will police be pulled from investigating core crimes like domestic and family violence to chase around 13-year-olds on bicycles?

I want to talk about some of the needs of my electorate—real needs that I fear will not attract the investment they need while the government reprioritises its budget to pay off LNP election commitments. We have an incredible unmet demand for specialised education in the inner city. I put forward a proposal to transform a soon-to-be-vacant school in Red Hill into a dedicated school for autistic children. That would be a game changer. It would help children with high needs stay at school. It would enable parents to work longer hours, contributing not just to their own financial security but also to the local economy. To date, the education minister has refused to commit to that project. Instead, we know now that there are developers sniffing around that site. The education minister needs to clearly state that that state asset will remain in public hands and will be retained as an education facility for our local children.

There are pressures on local sporting infrastructure. Children and adults are being turned away from sport at the very time we are trying to develop a pipeline of talent leading into the 2032 Olympics. The sports minister has stated that details of this government's investment in sports will be outlined in the sports strategy, which we all know is months overdue.

Cooper is one of the electorates with no dedicated community centre or neighbourhood centre. We are just kilometres from the CBD, yet we have no integrated active transport strategy and we have an aging population that is crying out for better access. These are not isolated electorate concerns; they reflect broader system pressures felt by many across Queensland, and this bill addresses none of those issues.

The opposition supports these bills, but the supplementary appropriation provides a clear insight into the state of the budget. It shows rising demand across key services, increasing cost-of-living pressures and a reliance on administrative relief rather than structural reform. It also raises legitimate questions about fiscal assumptions, particularly around savings that have not yet materialised. Queenslanders are relying on this government to recognise the pressures they are facing and to not just react to but also reduce those pressures. There is no sign in this bill that the government is doing enough.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (4.16 pm): It is a privilege for me to speak on the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill and the Appropriation (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill. While it is a pleasure to do so, it is quite frightful that our government has had to fix so many messes made by the former government. This is one such mess. It goes to show why Queenslanders voted for a fresh start. The former government made many unfunded announcements prior to and during the election that have resulted in the need for a \$5.746 billion adjustment in this appropriation bill. I want to highlight a number of them.

The Springfield hospital was underfunded in the Labor budget. Thanks to the health minister, Minister Nicholls, and his Hospital Rescue Plan, the hospital will receive funding to the tune of \$600 million over the next four years. That hospital is adjacent to my community and, importantly, will take some pressure off the Ipswich Hospital and the whole health system, which I know, Deputy Speaker, you are very fond of mentioning. As I stand in this place and talk about these problems, I must say how proud I am to be part of a government that is making calm and methodical adjustments to the budget.

**Mr O'Connor:** And considered.

**Mr McDONALD:** And considered; I take the interjection from the Minister for Housing, who is delivering supply in partnership with the Minister for Local Government and the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development. They are working together to deliver supply right across our great state. In terms of housing, in its budget the former government's commitment to housing and housing supply meant a number of projects were woefully delivered or were not delivered at all. Certainly there was not the level of supply that we are focused on. It is great to be part of a government that is calmly and methodically adjusting the budget in that regard.

I also give a shout-out to the Treasurer, who—again using those words—has acted calmly, methodically and with a true finance mind. He has appointed into his portfolio some outstanding people who are getting the Queensland budget back on track. I remember seeing a PowerPoint presentation during the budget that showed the debt trajectory heading towards \$220-odd billion. Fortunately, the Treasurer and his team have been able to adjust that and now the trajectory is heading towards \$213.6 billion. That is a great effort in our first term of government.

Importantly, all of those scare campaigns of the past and during the election where people were talking about sacking, cutting and selling, were based on fear. The program that we are delivering, again calmly and methodically, is seeing services returned in many areas.

I mentioned health services. I know that for my colleague the member for Callide there is not a week goes by where he is not talking in this space to the House or our colleagues about the issue of maternity services for his great electorate, and he will continue to do that.

Getting into a bit of detail, though, with regard to the budget, I am pleased for my community that finally we are seeing some delivery on the Brisbane Valley Highway. There was a \$20 million commitment in the budget for that. Under the former government there was a commitment of \$40 million in the City Deal, but then that was removed. The mayor of Somerset Regional Council at the time, Graeme Lehmann, and the current mayor, Jason Wendt, as well as my colleague the member for Nanango, Deb Frecklington, and I were very proud to announce on 1 October a commitment of \$20 million, and that is in future budgets in this four-year term.

It is also great that there is funding for the projects on the Warrego Highway. In my community of the Lockyer, the Gatton-Helidon Road was terribly unfunded for many years, and we have seen a \$60 million plus set of works occur there. A lot of grief was caused to our community when there were a number of projects on at the one time which caused a lot of delays, but that project now has been delivered, fortunately under this government, through the changes we have made.

I also want to give a shout-out to all of our great schools. I have 38 schools in my community, and they do a wonderful job in raising the next lot of leaders for our community. I am very proud to call friends a number of principals and teachers in our area. They keep us well-informed of what is going on and they are certainly very appreciative of the projects being delivered for them. Of course, some of those projects were actually necessary in this appropriation bill because again there were projects previously not funded. I welcome the adjustments that have been made and outlined by the Treasurer for my community.


I also want to express my absolute honour to be the chair of the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee which is assisting with the delivery of legislation and the program for the Olympics under our portfolio, alongside the Deputy Premier. With regard to all of the work that has been done through that, it has been an absolute professional honour to witness the political landing that we have been able to make through the development plan, and the work that GIICA has done in that space is second to none. We did what we said we were going to do. By putting in place an independent board during the first 100 days, we have seen that development plan delivered for Queenslanders.

I must say that everywhere I go to speak with Queenslanders now, they are very pleased with the progress and the recent announcement of the architects, COX Architecture and Hassell and their partners, to see the Victoria Park stadium delivered. It is a great honour for me to be able to see a number of changes put through this parliament and through our committee. Of course, our committee has also just delivered the report on e-mobility safety across Queensland.

The other big issue which has been talked about this week, and as this appropriation bill reveals, is the true nature of Labor's deceit. In fact, at page 179 of Budget Paper 4 of the 2024-25 budget, it clearly shows there the former government had 'public transport—temporary fare reduction', \$150 million in one column of 2024-25, and then the Crisafulli government's 2025-26 budget outlines the full costing across the full-year program. That has been quite well ventilated this week. When people are speaking about affordability and cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders, that commitment by our government to maintain those fares, which was announced before the election that we would deliver on for our community, is something that is greatly appreciated. I talk to commuters from my community regularly who come in on the Warrego Highway and drop off their car at whichever train station they can get a park at and then get the train into the city. They are saving upwards of between \$75 and \$100 per week as they do not have to pay the larger fares on the train or bus if they have that connection. Again, it is very pleasing for me to be able to be part of a government that is delivering that.

I also want to place on record my appreciation of the work of the Premier and Deputy Premier in calling out the problems we are facing with the fuel shortages. That is something that my community is very aware of. Our whole country needs and runs on fuel. I was pleased to be able to reach out to the Premier very early in the piece. He took my call, got back to me and gave me some very satisfying answers as to what was happening. I congratulate Mr Bob Gee for being appointed our representative on the national body to ensure we get the best outcomes for Queenslanders. As you know, Deputy Speaker, without our fuel, our community just stops. Our whole economy relies on it. But I can tell you that if our farmers cannot plant then harvest the crops, we will be a very hungry nation. I thank the Premier, Deputy Premier and Treasurer for working so hard to ensure the federal government does get the supply issue sorted so that our whole community can benefit. I am pleased to support the bill.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr J Kelly): Before I call the next speaker, I want to provide some general guidance to the House. The previous speaker referred to me in the Deputy Speaker role and referenced things I may have said in a debate. While I am or any other member is in this chair as a temporary Speaker, we have no role to play in the debate. You are very welcome to refer to the 'member for Greenslopes' in this particular instance, or any other member, but we cannot participate or respond to any points of debate, so I remind the House of that.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (4.26 pm): I rise to make a contribution in the cognate debate of the supplementary appropriation bills. It would be remiss of me not to initially commence with some of the deliberations and comments by the current Treasurer. I know the Treasurer is new to that particular role, but I was quite bewildered in terms of some of the comments he made towards Labor with regard to introducing supplementary appropriation bills. He should know by now that the purpose of the bills is to provide for unforeseen circumstances that apply as a result of following a budget bill. Those scurrilous attacks upon Labor were uncalled for, and I think he should think twice in the future about commenting on that aspect of appropriation bills.

As you and other members in this House would know, Deputy Speaker, one of those appropriation bills was to deliver universal \$1,000 electricity rebates for householders as well as \$300 rebates for small businesses. I recall in conversations at the time, whether it be in my coffee catch-ups, at the markets or even over the phone engaging with my constituents, the appreciation of those people. Whether they be constituents or small businesses, they were extremely appreciative of what the Labor government had done in terms of ensuring that, in difficult times, they were provided with those sorts of rebates. If you recall, they were done in conjunction with the federal Albanese government to assist not only households but also small businesses get through tough times.

On the subject of tough times, we know that during tough times, Queenslanders and Australians turn to their governments for help. It is only Labor governments that shoulder the burden when times are tough. You only need to look historically where that has occurred. I will start with the global financial crisis. I felt very privileged to be part of the then Labor Rudd government where we contributed funding to keep Australia out of recession. In fact, ours was the only country in the world during the GFC that was kept out of recession because of the good stewardship and foresight of a Labor government. One example was the \$42 billion National Building and Jobs Plan. Part of that plan was \$16.7 billion for the Building the Education Revolution.

I recall opening many of those school halls and science centres. It kept jobs in place. It benefited schools. I will never forget some of the comments from then Queensland senator Barnaby Joyce. He is now a One Nation member, and I am sure some of the people on that side will end up joining him because they will be threatened by that particular party's success. He spoke about shiny tin sheds. Notwithstanding that, in all of the electorates in Queensland one can see what Labor did in terms of establishing school halls, science centres and so on.

During COVID, when the Palaszczuk government was in power, we protected Queenslanders. We were the first government in this nation to identify that as being an issue. What did we do? We made sure we had the measures and the levers to protect Queenslanders. We also put in incentives. We put in appropriation bills to make sure we provided not only for small businesses but also for people across the whole sector. I remember that QRIDA—one of the organisations I was responsible for at the time as the agriculture minister—provided up to \$2 billion worth of loans to small businesses to keep them afloat. Some of those businesses would have gone to the wall had it not been for the then Labor government's assistance at that time.

I have spoken about the \$1,000 energy rebate. These are good incentives that only Labor governments have provided. Now, as we know, affordability has become worse. I listened last week to the Steve Austin program on the ABC and the Treasurer was speaking about 'doing our bit'. He said,

'I've done our bit. I've made investments in cost-of-living relief.' Where? Where has that relief been provided? We had a motion in this House yesterday with regard to providing relief for fuel prices. Fuel prices are out of control. We have a Crisafulli crisis. We have a fuel crisis. The previous speaker, in his capacity as chair of the committee, referred to our objectives of trying to bring down fuel prices as a political stunt.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr J Kelly): Pause the clock. I will take some advice. Member, I remind you that there is a private member's bill before the House. I appreciate that you are referring to what I consider to be a procedural motion in relation to that bill yesterday. While you can talk to some of the general principles that relate to that bill, you need to be very clear about not anticipating debate by speaking directly to the bill.

**Mr FURNER**: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. Unsurprisingly, when it comes to the Liberals and the Nationals, very little relief is provided when it comes to fuel. I was in the Senate after the second reading of the national FuelWatch bill, which was defeated on the voices of the Nationals—

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

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Pause the clock. Acting Leader of the House, what is your point of order?

**Mr NICHOLLS**: I know that these are appropriation bills and that wide latitude is given, but I would suggest that a history lesson of what occurred five years ago, or longer, in the Senate is not relevant to the bills in this instance.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: I will take some advice on that, noting your great interest in history in your own contributions. Debate on appropriation bills is generally given a very broad scope. I will listen carefully. If I think we are getting too far away, I will bring him back. I have heard many speeches in relation to these appropriation bills and many have strayed much further than the member has now. I ask the member to be somewhat relevant to the current debate.

**Mr FURNER**: Thank you for your protection, Deputy Speaker. We are discussing appropriation bills, and hopefully there will be an opportunity in the not-too-distant future for this government to consider some assistance with regard to bringing down the cost of fuel. I was using that as a colloquial example of what the Liberals and the Nationals stand for when it comes to reducing fuel prices. Ironically, the Western Australian FuelWatch bill was introduced by the Liberals in 2001. It is an example of how forward thinking Liberal Party governments can be when considering what should be done to address fuel prices.

I turn now to the ABS consumer price index. We know that electricity prices have increased by 43.2 per cent, rents have increased by 4.9 per cent, housing costs have increased by 7.4 per cent and insurance costs have increased by 4.4 per cent. It is a typical example of where this government can do better with regard to cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders.

I want to use my last couple of minutes to talk about one component of the committee report and an appropriation in my previous department, which is now called the Department of Primary Industries. Just over \$81 million has been provided for primary industries. The report indicates that funding is for the fire ant suppression program. I note that during estimates last year the minister and the government never made any mention of the spread of fire ants. When we were in government, we used to have it controlled in the south-east. For the record, it is now the case that fire ants have spread to North Coal Mine in Moranbah; Plumtree North mine, north of Moranbah; Carborough mine near Coppabella; German Creek Coal Mine near Middlemount in Central Queensland; and an unidentified site north of Emerald. Closer to home, they have been seen in the Eumundi Conservation Park and the Bellthorpe National Park.


When we spoke about the program, we used to say how good it was at protecting Queensland and the nation from fire ants and that had we not taken action it would have spread as far as Bowen and Longreach. Now it has spread under this LNP government. Despite the fact that they have put \$81 million towards the national program, fire ants have spread beyond the boundaries of what we used to control. The member for Callide used to heckle me all the time about fire ants, but now we hear nothing from him on the fire ant program—it is just crickets. They know that they have completely lost control of this program, despite the fact that they are putting in \$81 million of funding. It is astonishing that they crow about particular aspects of a program when they are in opposition, but when they are in government they are completely silent. It is amazing. The clown from Callide can say what he likes, but when it comes to—

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

**Mr FURNER:** I withdraw.

**Mr O'Connor:** Fire ant's friend.

**Mr FURNER:** Thank you. There is a blast from the past. Once again, it is so important when we are introducing appropriation bills that they are appropriate for what Queenslanders need. They have to be appropriate in terms of cost-of-living relief and addressing expenditure, like the blown-out costs of fuel. We hear from this government that they are doing things. Writing letters is a good thing, but addressing the problem at its core is what they should be doing. There is one way for them to do that. As we heard from the member for Bundamba today and yesterday, they need to use the special powers they have to address those particular problems. They need to use the levers to bring down the price of petrol and make sure the supply is there to flow from the refineries into Queenslanders' tanks in these tough times.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (4.39 pm): I rise on behalf of my electorate of Southern Downs to contribute to the cognate debate on the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill 2025 and the Appropriation (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill 2025.

**Mr Ryan** interjected.

**Mr LISTER:** I take the interjection about Emu Swamp Dam. I am going to respond to that interjection, but I will get to that, member for Morayfield.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr J Kelly): The member for Morayfield will cease his quarrelling across the chamber.

**Mr O'Connor** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That goes for you too, member for Bonney.

**Mr LISTER:** I heard the member who spoke before me, the honourable member for Ferny Grove, talk about fuel. I suspect that those on the other side of this House have very little understanding about what country electorates such as mine have faced with this fuel crisis that we are suffering at the moment. It was not just a question of high prices or the odd service station going without or having to ration fuel. The big 4 oil importers—Mobil, BP, Caltex/Ampol and Viva—through the Australian Institute of Petroleum colluded to say unilaterally that they will not be supplying the mum-and-dad small businesses who work as fuel distributors in electorates like mine, which is Southern Downs, and in electorates like Callide. My honourable friend the member for Callide, I know, has talked about these things. There are other members here whose electorates have suffered that same fuel shortage.

We had farmers who had no fuel at all and they were told, 'You will not be getting any more fuel.' I take exception to what the member for Ferny Grove said, because it was the persistent and vociferous advocacy by the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership and the Premier and Minister for Veterans in this state which saw fuel supplies restored in my electorate. If farmers are in the middle of harvesting tomatoes or capsicums, they wait for no-one. They have to be harvested, they have to be watered and you need diesel to do those things. Thousands of jobs were going to end if somebody did not put some pepper on their gloves and embarrass the big 4 into doing something about that.

I am very proud to have played my part in that in writing an excoriating letter to the CEO of the Australian Institute of Petroleum, pointing out that their actions were an unmitigated violation of their social licence and an attack on rural Australia. I would say to the honourable member for Ferny Grove that we do have an understanding of these things on our side of the House. I particularly wanted to talk about the one which faces my electorate of Southern Downs.

I thought about how I would construct my contribution today and it was simply to look through the list of departments that had unforeseen expenditures. Some of them immediately stood out to me as glaring examples of Labor departing office having left prawns in the curtain rails and having left no money in the budget to keep the wheels of government turning. I remember talking with the Minister for Child Safety, the Hon. Amanda Camm, shortly after we came to government. She was aghast that she had to go and seek an additional appropriation of hundreds of millions of dollars just to keep children in residential care. It strains credulity that the former government were unaware that the day after election there needed to be funds there to continue the operations of those services. Perhaps they thought a budget only goes for six months after an election. They were wrong and we had to do something about that.

There is a dire housing shortage in Southern Downs. There is \$231 million for the Department of Housing and Public Works. I bet a penny to a pound that some of that money was to deal with the dire housing shortage in my electorate of Southern Downs. I want to acknowledge the minister and the Q-CHIP program, the Queensland Community Housing Investment Pipeline, which is enabling small independent organisations such as churches, RSLs or benevolent societies to create housing that meets the needs of the community as they understand it. I am extremely pleased to see their participation in my electorate in applying for that scheme.

I see the allocation to the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development. The Hon. Dale Last is in the chamber here. I wonder what additional costs flowed from having to suddenly deal with that backlog. How many was it, Minister? Was it about 200 or a thousand mining licence renewals that were sitting on your desk because the former minister could not face the nail-biting responsibility of renewing those licences? We got back on the case and we put mining back in business in this state. I think that is a wonderful thing.

There is \$81,297,000 for the Department of Primary Industries. I know that some of that money has gone towards exclusion fencing under the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative. In an electorate like Southern Downs that is no small thing because we have wild dogs, deer, rabbits and pigs, and boxthorn, harissa cactus, mother-of-millions and Johnson grass—I could go on and on. Supporting the eradication or at least the containment of those species, not to mention fire ants of course, is very important to the economy and the society of my electorate.

I see the allocation to the Department of Trade, Employment and Training. That department is now under Minister Ros Bates. I want to thank her and the Queensland government for saving the Queensland College of Wine Tourism. When we came to government, in spite of assurances which had been made by the department prior to the election that there would be an orderly transition of the Queensland College of Wine Tourism to a new operator once the University of Southern Queensland departed the partnership after suffering many years of not being able to have that partnership renewed and renegotiated with the government, the place was about to be switched off. Twenty-two jobs were going to be lost. The Queensland College of Wine Tourism, which is a valuable icon for tourism, as a destination and for providing training and research in the things that are important to us on the Granite Belt, was going to be no more.


I want to thank the government, within weeks of coming to power, for grasping the nettle and finding the funds to say to those people, 'No. You are not going to be cut, sacked and sold by Labor. We are going to step in. We are going to keep this college going. We are going to pay your wages, and we are going to embark on the course which Labor should always have done, and that is to find a new operator for that college.' I am very pleased to say that a consortium based exclusively in the Granite Belt itself—consisting of the Stanthorpe and Granite Belt Chamber of Commerce, Granite Belt Wine and Tourism and the schools in the electorate—came together to operate that college. It is going from strength to strength. I want to thank the Crisafulli government for doing that, because it would have been an outrageous tragedy if the Queensland College of Wine Tourism had closed. It was yet another ticking time bomb that Labor knowingly left. They left those jobs to go and that was quite disgraceful.

There is \$400 million for the Department of Transport and Main Roads. Some of that is definitely going to be spent in my electorate dealing with the decade of underinvestment and neglect of the roads. I am sure that every country MP in this House—and they are all on this side—would agree with me in saying that our roads went to rack and ruin. It was costing business. It was costing families. It was a massive brake on progress and on economic prosperity for my electorate. Something is being done about that. Contracts are being done properly. All the nonsense has been screened out. Contractors are happy. The department is happy because they are actually getting some ownership and getting to run things properly for a change. Now we are seeing roadworks which have been long needed in my electorate of Southern Downs.

What about the Queensland Fire Department? I want to thank the minister, Ann Leahy, and the Queensland government for finally delivering the Whetstone Rural Fire Brigade. That building cost \$1 million and took three years to build. Even at today's inflated prices I have seen rural fire brigades get together over a few working weekends at mates rates and with working bees to put together a two- or three-bay shed for under \$200,000. This took three years to deliver. It was managed as though it was the world's tallest building project. It was typical of Labor focusing exclusively on process and never on outcomes.

While the Whetstone Rural Fire Brigade did not have a shed, they had nowhere to keep their trucks. In fact, they had to suffer the indignity of having the most recent trucks delivered to them at an oval in Inglewood because they did not have a shed to put them in. That was not lost on any of us there. I want to thank the Crisafulli government for stamping out that kind of waste and incompetence that we saw. Presumably the Fire Department was acting on instructions from Labor that was about everything other than delivering the project. We all know what I am talking about.

We have seen a number of extremely important improvements in my electorate of Southern Downs. The Crisafulli government is getting on with the job in a business-like fashion. It is dispensing with extraneous considerations such as what the union bosses say. I suppose the Labor Party does not have to worry about what 'Blocker' says anymore, but there is another faceless union boss there to placate. We are getting on with the job for the good of the people of Queensland. I am very proud to support the government that actions that way.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (4.49 pm): I rise to speak on the supplementary appropriation bills for 2024-25, and I want to acknowledge that the Labor opposition supports providing supply to the government.

This bill comes at a time when petrol prices are now around \$2.50 a litre and the price of diesel is over \$3 a litre. It is going up daily. It has gone up since we started debating this bill and there are warnings that it is going to go even higher, so not only will Queenslanders have to pay more at the bowser but also rising fuel prices are going to make the cost of groceries and other goods more expensive. This is on top of the already spiralling inflation that is making it harder for Queenslanders to make ends meet.

Queensland now ranks second for inflation. Electricity prices have gone up by 43.2 per cent and rents have increased by 4.9 per cent. In my area, 90 per cent of renters are considered to be in rental distress, which means that by the time they pay their rent they do not have enough money to live comfortably. Housing costs have risen by 7.4 per cent and insurance costs have increased by 4.4 per cent, which is double the national average. The Crisafulli LNP government made assurances to Queenslanders that they would fix the cost-of-living crisis. Instead, affordability has gotten worse. What is the Premier doing about it? Nothing.

While other state leaders across the country have taken action on the fuel crisis, David Crisafulli sits on his hands. When the Treasurer introduced the supplementary appropriation bills last year, he attacked Labor for introducing multiple supplementary appropriation bills when we were in government; however, one of those bills was used to deliver the \$1,000 electricity rebates for households and \$300 rebates for small businesses. I bet there are a lot of Queensland households and small businesses that could use those rebates right now.

The LNP said they would restore respect for Queenslanders' money, but under David Janetzki's watch the credit rating for Queensland has been put on a negative outlook. Under Labor, Queensland's credit rating was AA+ with a neutral outlook, and that was in September 2024. Now S&P Global says that maintaining our AA+ credit rating was dependent on the LNP's promise to reduce its spending on consultants. The LNP said they would put a \$3 billion spending cap on consultants for 2024-25. Instead, they missed that cap by \$1 billion, as confirmed by the Queensland Audit Office. David Janetzki budgeted \$3 billion for outsourcing on consultants and spent \$4 billion.

The LNP said that they would fund all of their election commitments from the money they saved on consultants—a saving that was meant to deliver \$6.8 billion over four years. How can the LNP fund those commitments now that they have blown out their budget on consultants by a billion dollars and are on track to miss the next cap by even more? How is this restoring respect for Queenslanders' money? While Queenslanders are doing it tough right now, the Crisafulli government is recklessly spending our money on outsourced consultants while their in-house government consulting service can barely get off the ground. The LNP seem to have selective vision. They cannot seem to find any savings when it comes to consultancy services, but when it comes to Queensland government jobs and services on the front line they seem to find them pretty quickly.

Just last week we learned that 700 Queensland railway station workers will lose their jobs and that shifts at suburban train stations will be cut back, with many stations removing weekend shifts. I have had numerous constituents contact me about this. They are in distress. They live with a disability; they do not know what they are going to do on weekends. They certainly cannot afford to put petrol in their cars anymore. They rely on Labor's 50-cent fares to get around, and now they will not be able to. If you have a disability, you cannot get on there. Two stations in my electorate, Booval and East Ipswich, will have no station staff on after 1 pm on weekdays and they will not have any staff on weekends.

This week we have learned there is a hiring freeze in place at the Department of Transport and Main Roads. According to sources in a *Brisbane Times* article, TMR staff are struggling to keep up with daily tasks as vacancies deliberately go unfilled. As the Treasurer tries to maintain Queensland's AA+ credit rating, you can be sure that the LNP government will first look to cutting Public Service jobs and services before cutting spending on their mates at the big consultancy firms. That is what really sticks in my craw and the craw of many of my constituents.

When the Treasurer introduced the supplementary appropriation bills last year he used a fairly routine supply bill to play politics and attack the Labor opposition for a supposed \$9 billion blowout. The Treasurer has been in this job for over a year and he is still blaming Labor, even though the LNP have been the ones in government for most of the 2024-25 financial year. We all know—and the Treasurer even said it himself in his speech—that unforeseen expenditure and the need for supplementary appropriation is a normal function of government and can be required for many reasons, yet they still blame Labor.


Take, for example, the Treasurer's claims that supplementary expenditure was required after Labor left a \$461 million black hole in child safety in 2024-25. Firstly, that \$461 million figure has not been verified by an independent authority such as the Auditor-General or Treasury. It is standard budget profiling, across-the-board estimates—something every government manages and adjusts over time. Queensland's child safety system has always required ongoing investment to meet demand, and under Labor that investment reached record levels to protect vulnerable children.

Secondly, Treasury stated in its brief to the committee that the unforeseen expenditure was primarily due to a child safety placement funding boost—a program announced by the Crisafulli government in January 2025—and funding for frontline staff in response to increased demand in the child protection system. Throwing around big, misleading numbers and blaming Labor might make for a good political scare campaign, but it does not keep a single child safer. As much as the LNP would have you believe that this unforeseen expenditure is a result of Labor's supposed reckless spending, much of it is due to the department's need for responses to emergent issues—and we have heard a lot about that from members on this side of the House—like funding for natural disasters, implementing government policy, election commitments, collective bargaining outcomes, or a change in the timing of Commonwealth payments or project delivery. We need to be flexible.

It is also important to clarify what is meant by so-called unforeseen expenditure. Treasury's own advice makes it clear that this does not simply mean unbudgeted spending. It includes necessary adjustments across the financial year, from enterprise bargaining outcomes to centrally held funds and even the government's own election commitments. What is more concerning is the government's failure to deliver on the promised savings. The LNP committed to a \$3 billion cap on consultants, as I said, just for this financial year alone, yet they are already set to miss that by a billion dollars. These savings were central to their claim of responsible fiscal management—\$6.8 billion over four years—and they are not materialising. At the same time, Queensland's credit rating outlook has shifted to negative under this Treasurer after being affirmed at AA+ with a neutral outlook under Labor just months earlier. Even Standard & Poor's made it clear that delivering on those consultancy savings would be critical to maintaining that rating, and that warning should not be taken lightly.

These bills are, of course, a necessary part of the parliamentary process, ensuring proper approval of appropriations, but it is worth addressing some of the commentary we have heard from the Treasurer. The criticism of Labor's use of supplementary appropriation ignores the reality that these measures were used to respond to real pressures facing Queenslanders, such as the bill I talked about earlier that delivered universal \$1,000 electricity rebates for households and \$300 for small businesses. This was practical cost-of-living relief at a time when it was urgently needed. Despite that support, affordability pressures have only intensified, with electricity going up by 43.2 per cent, housing costs rising, rents increasing and those insurance premiums that we all have to pay continuing to climb.

One thing is for certain: there are no direct cost-of-living measures for Queenslanders in this bill. Queenslanders who are looking for some relief from rising fuel costs will not find it from the LNP—they will not find any energy rebates for rising power prices or a discount on their vehicle registration—but the LNP does have billions of dollars for its mates in the big consultancy firms, and this tells you everything you need to know about its priorities.

 **Hon. AJ STOKER** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (4.58 pm): It has been a long time since I have taken my kids to a circus, but it has not been long since this chamber saw a clown show. Those are not my words; it was the *Australian Financial Review* that described Labor's last budget as a clown show—because it was all showmanship and no substance; it was absurd and ridiculous; it was devoid of depth and responsibility.

Roll out the clowns. Out of the clown car tumbles the member for Woodridge, who as Treasurer thought he could hide how big his deficits were if he split them into three bills with three smaller deficits—a magic act that says ‘nothing to see here’. Then out of the clown car rolls the member for Waterford whose time as the health minister saw announcement after announcement of hospital capital works projects without the dough to fund them—even as existing infrastructure crumbled for lack of maintenance, ramping rates exploded and elective surgery waitlists grew. This left a massive gap of over \$2 billion, yet they still have the nerve to come in here and lecture Queenslanders about compassion. I guess a clown show is meant to be a comedy act, but the health care of Queenslanders should never be treated like a joke.

We cannot forget the member for Aspley, who in transport oversaw budget blowout after budget blowout on their projects—with the perfect example being the Cross River Rail project. Queenslanders were told it would cost \$5.4 billion—already a huge sum—but then after they handed over the reins for this state to the CFMEU it pretty quickly blew out to over \$19 billion.

I wish it ended there, but like a good clown car it is remarkable how many shocking examples fit in that team: a gap in funding to fix Labor’s DNA debacle; a gap in funding to compensate victims of crime, the number of which grew wildly under Labor’s crime crisis, leaving a \$118 million gap; and a horrific \$461 million shortfall in funding for child safety. They not only left Queensland with more children in out-of-home care than all other states combined; they failed to fund the services and staff needed to ensure they are safe. There was also a hospital in Springfield with no money to open and deliver its services, and it cost an extra \$600 million over four years to fix that one. They left a \$120 million gap for unfunded housing and homelessness services, and a gap of \$62.5 million in unfunded but essential social housing maintenance. I could keep going on for hours. While Queensland Labor are no longer in government, the hangover from their time at the helm sadly continues to hurt the people of this state and their pockets deeply.

The fact is that this bill is a direct response to the farce that was Labor’s 2024-25 budget—which was supposed to last a year but in fact only provided enough for Labor to get through the four months to the election. They were blowing cash big in that small window and leaving the cupboard bare for the remaining months of the year. Do not even get me started about the spending that should have been programmed over the four-year budget forward estimates; it simply was not there.

When it comes to Queensland Labor, never before has a Queensland government spent more, borrowed more or taxed more yet left Queensland with less to show for it. This is no joke. I sometimes think people do not realise the phenomenal scale of the waste. Labor raked in record revenues because of the hard work of Queenslanders in the mining industry. They were left with a surplus of \$12 billion in the 2022-23 year—this was huge; a record amount reaped from higher taxes on industry—yet, in their enthusiasm for spending and their belief that they could buy another election win, they managed to turn those rivers of gold into not just an empty wallet but an overspend. To top it all off, they left Queensland on track for a \$252 billion debt by the end of the forward estimates.

In a little over a year of work, the Treasurer has shaved that trajectory over the forward estimates down by \$47.1 billion, but that is still too much debt. It accumulated because of poor discipline and misplaced priorities over a decade. It is going to take a while to pay it off, but we are determined to do it while maintaining the services that Queenslanders—and, in particular, Redlanders—rely on.

The nuts and bolts of the bill are that when departments and government agencies do not run to budget and spend more than was set out in their budget, an appropriation is needed to cover the gap. Sometimes that happens for understandable reasons, like an unforeseen natural disaster. Sometimes it happens because funding for major projects that is expected to come from the federal government at one time gets rescheduled in the timeline for delivery and there needs to be an adjustment. The member for Ipswich would have us believe that is the real reason behind the bill we have today, but that is not the reason for this bill.


This bill is almost entirely about filling the funding black holes left by Labor—promises they made with no plans to fund them. If a promise cannot be delivered, no matter which way you look at it, it is as good as a lie. There is one measure that is funded in this bill though that is something of an exception; it is in a slightly different category. When Labor announced 50-cent fares ahead of the election, it all sounded good but they did not fund it past February 2025. They had no plan and no dollars, and that would have meant an end to this cost-of-living relief that is helping so many people, particularly given the problems with fuel supply and consequently the high prices we are all experiencing.

My hats off to the Treasurer and the Premier for being the first in the nation to get onto this issue, pushing the Prime Minister and the federal energy minister to take it seriously—even if Mr Bowen responded with mockery before jetting off to a climate change conference. Honestly, you could not make this stuff up; it is so out of touch, but I guess we know where his priorities lay.

Fuel security is so important to our national security and our economic resilience. This team understands that importance. It is why the Treasurer had the ACCC on the job of examining collusion pronto, and it is why this government was getting the projects that underpin local production—like the Taroom Trough—on their way long before events in Iran caused a pinch. It has the potential to be the first new major oil province in this nation since the 1970s. That is something to celebrate.

These 50-cent fares were due to end because Labor had not funded them. Our LNP-backed, permanent 50-cent fares are funded by this bill. It is like the other matters in the big old Labor black hole—because they were not funded—but it is different because we in the LNP have taken it, made it better and made it permanent and something that Redlanders can rely on. So much of what this government is doing to make a difference for the cost of living is not actually about spending more of your taxpayer dollars en masse. For example, making our community safer is not necessarily about throwing more cash at an issue; it is about ensuring what we have is directed to the right diversionary programs and having laws that align consequences to actions. When crime goes down, so do household insurance premiums.

The Energy Roadmap and the energy maintenance guarantee aim to save Queenslanders money by focusing on the right priorities. The result has been the first reduction in the wholesale power price for Redlanders and all in the south-east corner in a long time. It is down 10.1 per cent for households and nearly 13 per cent for small businesses. In contrast, prices went up 19.9 per cent in Labor's last year of government. Doing the basics right, calmly and carefully, goes an awfully long way. It is a whole lot more sustainable than the so-called relief that Labor claims to support—which is little more than taxing you more, putting a Labor brand on it and handing it back to you. I guess that is just old Labor habits dying hard. It is their old mantra: if it walks, tax it; if it talks, tax it; if it eats, tax it. This bill is a much needed reminder of how much Queensland has needed this fresh start.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (5.07 pm): It is amazing that the previous speaker was talking about a clown show, because when she was on Sky News that is exactly what the member for Oodgeroo was. She joined fire eaters, trapeze artists and others in a complete clown show. I am not the one to say that; the Liberals in South Australia are the ones who identified the member for Oodgeroo—and all of her ilk on Sky News—as a clown show. We all know that she wants to be the ringmaster of the LNP clown show. Like any good circus, when the member for Oodgeroo was on screen they would start with a little juggling and the compere would ask about the latest piece of ineptitude from Morrison or Dutton: 'What did you think?' Then there would be the juggling, with lots of unusual items coming around and being kept in the air, before they would quickly move on because they could not keep that up. They would then go on to create a little drama—like when the Sky News clowns would put out the burning house and then come in the clown cars and hose it out.

We all knew it was a clown act. All of the kids, who knew it was a clown act, would then dutifully applaud despite the thin logic, despite the pantomime, but no-one in real Australia was fooled. Again, that is the difference with being on Sky News: those clowns opposite do not have anyone to answer them back, but in this place they will be held accountable.

I saw another thing recently that perhaps resembled a circus act, but it was much more serious. Outside on the Speaker's Green, there was a very serious event going on with getting young people involved in jobs. However, when I looked down I could see so many blue banners. I counted 19 blue branded banners, tablecloths and tents, and that is not counting the thousands of—

**Mr KEMPTON:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Could this be relevant?

**Mr POWER:** It certainly could and I am willing to identify why.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Marr): Member for Logan, could you take a seat for a moment, please?

**Ms Bates:** It's got nothing to do with the appropriations bill.

**Mr POWER:** It is appropriations, Madam Deputy Speaker.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, take a seat, please. Member for Logan, I do understand that you were responding to some comments made earlier, but I would appreciate it if you would—

**Mr POWER:** I am not, in this case, responding to any comments made earlier.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Please let me finish.

**Mr POWER:** I am not responding to any comments made earlier.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Please let me finish. You were responding to some comments made earlier. I have given you enough time. Please get back to the bill.

**Mr POWER:** I want to assure the House—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have taken advice and I am asking you to go back to the bill without having to question the chair.

**Mr POWER:** I just want to make clear that I am not in this section responding to any comments made earlier.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, please do not push the boundary any further. Please get back to the bill.

**Mr POWER:** We saw the blue banners outside on the Speaker's Green and the thousands of blue branded brochures. I want to assure honourable members that this was not the New South Wales parliament taking back our colonial or state status. This invasion is much more insidious even than New South Wales. This insecure Premier of this state has forced every department, every commission and every supplier of government, like some of those in the parliament today, to throw away their Queensland colours and embrace his party political colours. He said there would be no cost to this. He misled this parliament when he came in here and said that using party political blue was just for email footers and there would be no cost. Of course, we found out that a big part of this appropriation would be due to the fact that he has forced them to throw out all of the Queensland maroon banners—even if they were just months old, even if that was a complete waste—and to get new ones in the Premier's colours. That is an enormous waste in this budget.

Supplementary appropriations should show the millions of dollars that cost, but they do not. I am demanding the Treasurer be honest enough—and I will ask him during consideration in detail—to reveal how many tens of millions or hundreds of millions has been spent in changing Queensland's colours to the New South Wales colours, to the Premier's preferred political colours. We do not know the answer to that. Whenever Queenslanders from Logan see these blue banners, they are reminded of just one thing: this Premier's political interests matter more to him than Queenslanders' interests. He is prepared to waste millions that could have been spent on growing areas in Logan. He is prepared to waste that and spend it on his personal political propaganda. Give us a break. We do not want his New South Wales political banners. We want services; we want investment in Logan.

Let's see how some of those taxpayer funds that have been wasted on their political interests could have been better spent on services that have been cut in Logan. We see their real priorities—not just the ones they wanted to display. It is also clear what they will not do, what choices they do not make. All I want to do in this speech is make clear to the residents of Logan that Logan's priorities that have been expressed to me have been ignored. Those opposite have cut the cost-of-living concessions. Electricity bills are still high but they cut those concessions. They increased rego.

**A government member:** No, we didn't. We didn't increase rego.

**Mr POWER:** You did increase rego. You are so ignorant that you do not even know you increased rego.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, your comments will go through the chair, thank you. I would also like to—

**Mr POWER:** I was responding to an interjection.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, I also remind you please that you are currently on a warning, so please direct your comments through the chair.

**Mr POWER:** They cancelled the Yarrabilba satellite hospital. They saw that on the agenda and they said, 'This is the fastest growing area of Queensland. It does not need a satellite hospital. It doesn't need any health care.' Instead they will spend money on their blue banners. They delayed the Yarrabilba second exit despite promising with their banners that they would do it immediately. Now it has been delayed. They delayed the DRT in Yarrabilba. There are years of delay on Dollarbird Drive, there is nothing for Waterford-Tamborine Road in the sections between Hotz Road and Camp Cable Road and there is nothing for the dangerous intersection at Stegemann Road.

There is no new funding for Yarrabilba clubs. In fact, they looked at what we promised for the skate club and they cut that. This is shameful. They promised to fix Park Ridge Road. In fact, they put up big signs on the road saying they would fix it. Of course, there is no new funding in either the existing budget or this appropriation for Park Ridge Road. They have broken their promises.

They have delayed the bus service from Loganlea to Park Ridge Road and Grand Plaza. They have delayed the bus service for Logan Village and Logan Reserve. They delayed the Andrew Road Park Ridge bus. I have also been advocating for a bus from Yarrabilba and Jimboomba on East Street and Cusack Lane through Flagstone, but we cannot even get the buses that have already been budgeted which the government refuse to deliver. I have spoken already to Emmaus College about this vital service. They are struggling, as the member for Jordan said, to get bus services through their school bus service. Those opposite do not seem to care that they have delayed these things.


In Jimboomba there is no additional funding for the four-laning that is soon to be completed—a Labor project from Johanna Street to South Street. However, I am not certain that they are actually delivering it in full. Are there going to be four lanes through to Johanna Street? Recently a resident came to me and asked if there are going to be two full turning lanes going through to Johanna Street.

We know that last time they were in government they cut back projects on the Mount Lindesay Highway. They stopped the construction of the project Green Road to Stoney Camp Road, leaving just a jumble of construction signs. I will fight to stop that. Speaking of Green Road, the LNP candidate promised there would be a plan for the Green Road overpass to eliminate the lights at the Green Road, Fedrick Street and Mount Lindesay Highway intersection in the first quarter of 2025, but they have broken that promise. There are no funds in the appropriation to fund that project. In fact, at Stoney Camp Road and Granger Road they cannot even fix the lights. I was speaking at the Greenbank rural fire station and the guy said to me, 'You come off there and it suddenly goes black. It is the most dangerous intersection as you are coming home.' This government cannot even get the lights to run on Mount Lindesay Highway, much less actually provide vital funding for overpasses or more four-laning.

Last time under the LNP there was no new funding for the Mount Lindesay Highway; so far there is nothing new here, either. Last time the LNP members on the Mount Lindesay—all three of them—were absolutely silent about the cuts to the Mount Lindesay Highway. I want to tell honourable members that I will not be. I will hold this minister and this government to account because they have failed the Mount Lindesay Highway time after time. While I am here, I will not let them get away with it.

We have not seen the investment in schools that we need in the fastest growing area in the state. The member for Coomera now understands that we have grown in our area even faster than Coomera, the second fastest growing area in the state. There is so much we need, whether it is buses, school services, better and increased ambulance services or a new fire station in the Greenbank area. We need more schools to be built. We need the Everleigh school to be built—the very one for which they were not going to secure the land until we embarrassed them, until we got the petition together and they finally did it. The education minister came into this parliament and said we had got it wrong, that he would not be purchasing the land. We had to get a petition before he understood it was a case of 'buy it or lose it' before finally he could extract the money. I will continue to fight for Logan and I will continue to fight against the waste and misdirection of appropriation funds by this government.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr VORSTER** (Burlough—LNP) (5.19 pm): It is always entertaining to sit on this side of the chamber because I get to see up close just what could have happened to Queensland had those opposite been re-elected. Not only does it make my blood boil; it motivates me to work even harder because the singular purpose of my time in this parliament will be to keep those opposite off the government benches because I know just how bad they are for Queensland. I know this because as a city councillor I got to see Queensland slide into decline. I find it a bit rich listening to the member for Logan talk about what could be delivered, what could have been delayed, this, that and the other when the member for Logan failed to achieve any of that in his 10 years sitting on the government benches. One of the reasons that government failed to deliver is it was completely and utterly incapable of planning. One of the ways in which I know that it was incapable of planning to match population growth is because during its time in government it failed to deliver a South-East Queensland regional plan. When the housing crisis got so bad that good Queenslanders were sleeping in their cars, sleeping in informal accommodation and sleeping in our dunes and parks and that government was forced to act, it rushed through a draft South East Queensland Regional Plan—a regional plan that was so awful that the Gold Coast City council could not find a way to support it in the form that that government wanted it to.

The galling thing was that that regional plan—a plan that is supposed to provide a vision of how population growth will be accommodated and the services and infrastructure that need to be delivered to support that population growth—did not even have a regional infrastructure planning document. Instead, we got a supplement that was not worth the PDF that was generated. I hope those opposite did not spend money printing the document, because it would not have been worth anything. Our government—a government that is calm, a government that is methodical, a government that will reset the partnership with local government—will deliver a proper regional infrastructure plan so that Queenslanders can see beyond the planning horizon of a planning scheme what intersections, what hospitals, what police stations and what services will be delivered to cope with population growth and to escape Labor's practice of making hollow commitments during an election to fund projects that simply do not stack up.

While the member for Logan might complain that, yes, the LNP Crisafulli government might have these fantastic documents that are printed blue with the blue banners, one thing I want to point out is that, although the background might be blue, there is one important word that these documents and banners carry, and that is 'delivering'. We are a government that is in the business of delivering. Every time we print one of those brochures, every time a website goes live, every time a banner gets planted in the ground and every time there is some fence scrim around a construction site we are making a commitment to the Queensland people that we will deliver. Not only that, we are showing them precisely what we are doing: we are delivering. For no other reason than this, those banners should be blue to mark a break—a complete change—and to acknowledge the circuit breaker that has come from Queensland removing the true structural flaw in our finances, and that is the former Labor government.

It was that government which in the chaotic journey towards the election defeat announced the Burdekin pumped hydro scam project—a project which would have permanently introduced costs for Queensland businesses and Queensland households by pushing up power prices. It is so galling that those opposite talk about power rebates when they were prepared to put a permanent impost around the necks of every Queensland household and every Queensland small business. With regard to this government being calm and methodical and favouring sense and policy, our government favouring sense and sensibility has delivered an Energy Roadmap that is delivering relief to South-East Queensland households and small businesses. I want to closely associate myself with the contribution of the member for Oodgeroo, who pointed out that as a consequence of our Energy Roadmap we have now seen power prices reduce 10 per cent for households and 13 per cent for small and family businesses.

One of the other things that I have found very galling during this debate is the claim by those opposite that they are the champions, the owners, the custodians of 50-cent fares when in actual fact, just like that pumped hydro scam, all they were doing was playing politics ahead of an election and they would never, ever have made it permanent because by pursuing wasteful policies like BPIC and other scam projects like that pumped hydro scam they would never, ever have been able to afford it. However, a government that is calm and methodical and a government that respects the taxpayer can focus on the right priorities, and that is precisely what we are doing.


The thing that really tips me over the edge when those opposite talk about 50-cent fares is that long before I was elected as a city councillor I saw the structural issues in the way public transport fares were calculated in South-East Queensland. I was at a community cabinet meeting on the Gold Coast where I met with the former member for Sandgate and I made a pitch for reform. I said that Gold Coast commuters were being penalised on public transport because the fare zones were simply not fair. I pushed for change through the media and I secured partial reform, but it was reform that did not go far enough. After I was elected I could see that the Labor government was absolutely addicted to penalising Gold Coast commuters because the Varsity Lakes heavy rail station and the coming terminus station of the light rail would be two stops in their own fare zone, meaning that under Labor it would have been more expensive to catch the Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3 from Burleigh to North Burleigh than North Burleigh to Helensvale. When those opposite get up and talk about the cost of living and their work around public transport, they are not serious. They have never been serious and they have always put the Gold Coast last, so I am delighted to be part of a Crisafulli LNP government that is not about fake, hollow election commitments but about delivery, and we delivered what Queensland asked us to do, which is permanent 50-cent fares.

**A government member:** Car parks.

**Mr VORSTER:** Talking about car parks, I want to put on record that during the Commonwealth Games the former Labor government installed a temporary overlay to provide 1,500 car parks at the Varsity Lakes station, but guess what it did after the Commonwealth Games? Guess what it did? It tore

it up! It tore up a 1,500-space car park at Varsity Lakes—the train station that carries commuters from the Northern Rivers to the central Gold Coast. Absolute madness! Mercifully as a local councillor, I put pressure on the former former former transport minister and I delivered more car parking at that station.

In drawing my contribution to a close, I say that elections matter. We are a government that will honour our election commitments and restore faith in this institution. For a party that does not believe in gas exploration, those opposite certainly believe in gaslighting Queenslanders. I hope my spirited contribution this afternoon resets the conversation, sets the record straight and gives Burleigh confidence that it is well represented by this fantastic government.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (5.29 pm): I rise to speak to the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill and the Appropriation (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill. At the start I note that these bills fulfil the legislative requirement for parliamentary approval of all appropriations from the Consolidated Fund. The opposition supports their passage to ensure that expenditure already incurred is properly authorised; however, that support does not remove the responsibility of this parliament to scrutinise how and why this additional expenditure has occurred.

Under the Queensland Constitution, all payments from the Consolidated Fund must be authorised by an act of parliament. These bills seek approval for unforeseen expenditure incurred during the 2024-25 financial year totalling \$5.746 billion. This represents a significant increase compared to \$1.13 billion in 2023-24. According to the Report on State Finances, net debt has risen from \$5.7 billion in 2023-24 to \$16.7 billion in 2024-25—an increase of more than \$11 billion in a single year. This is substantial and warrants careful examination, particularly when considered alongside service delivery outcomes across the state.

While the Treasurer criticised previous governments for their use of supplementary appropriations, it is important to recognise that such mechanisms have been used to deliver cost-of-living relief, including electricity rebates for households and small business. Despite this, affordability pressures have intensified. Recent ABS data shows electricity prices increasing by 43.2 per cent, rents by 4.9 per cent, housing by 7.4 per cent and insurance by 4.4 per cent. These are real pressures affecting Queenslanders daily and they provide an important context for the scale of expenditure before the House.

For Queenslanders, the focus is not on how expenditure is classified but on the outcomes it delivers. Treasury advice makes clear that unforeseen expenditure is not necessarily unbudgeted—it can arise from centrally held funding, enterprise bargaining outcomes or new allocations during the financial year including election commitments. These bills authorise substantial additional spending, and it is appropriate that the parliament considers how this translates into outcomes. Queenslanders are entitled to understand what this investment is delivering in terms of service, access and performance. When people experience delay in accessing specialist care, pressure in emergency departments or overcrowding in custodial facilities, their assessment of government performance is shaped by lived experience. Outcomes matter. The figures before the House reflect real pressures across Queensland. I will focus on three areas: youth justice, health and broader service delivery pressures.

The Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support received an additional \$144 million. This is a significant allocation and warrants close consideration. Recent reforms have coincided with increased pressure on watch houses and detention facilities. Watch houses, not designed for extended detention, are holding more young people for longer periods, placing strain on police resources. At the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre, operational constraints have required the use of 'night mode', involving extended confinement due to staffing shortages. These conditions highlight workforce and capacity challenges and underscore the importance of aligning legislative settings, staffing and infrastructure. The additional expenditure reflects the cost of managing these pressures. The key question is how resources can be used more effectively to reduce system strain, improve conditions and support rehabilitation while maintaining community safety.

Turning to Queensland Health, the sector accounts for \$2.02 billion of unforeseen expenditure—the largest component of these bills. Funding supports elective surgery, mental health services and hospital operations. While investment is necessary, outcomes must be assessed alongside inputs. Since 2024, outpatient waiting lists have grown and ambulance ramping remains a concern across major hospitals. For patients, this means longer waits and delayed treatment. For the system, it reflects ongoing challenges related to demand, workforce shortages and capacity in a growing state.


Beyond youth justice and health, these bills reflect broader pressures across government driven by population growth, workforce constraints and increasing demand. Departments responsible for housing, transport and community services are operating in environments where demand is outpacing capacity. In housing, pressure on emergency accommodation and social housing waitlists continues to affect vulnerable Queenslanders. In my electorate alone, many thousands of people remain on waiting lists, placing strain on frontline services and non-government providers.

In transport, population growth and infrastructure lag contribute to congestion and reliability challenges. Workforce shortages are also evident across sectors including health care, corrective services, child safety and emergency response. Additional funding is increasingly directed towards overtime and agency staffing to maintain services. While necessary in the short term, these measures are costly and highlight the need for long-term workforce planning and retention strategies.

There are also broader fiscal considerations. The government committed to funding election commitments through savings on consultants including a \$3 billion cap for 2024-25; however, this cap is expected to be exceeded by around \$1 billion. These savings were projected to deliver \$6.8 billion over four years and were central to claims that commitments were fully funded. Failure to achieve these savings raises questions about fiscal discipline and budget credibility. This is particularly relevant in the context of Queensland's credit rating, which has been placed on a negative outlook. This contrasts to September 2024, when the state held its AA+ rating with a stable outlook. S&P Global has indicated that achieving savings targets, including those related to consultants, will be critical to maintaining the rating. This is not an abstract issue. Changes to the credit outlook affect borrowing costs and long-term fiscal sustainability. Unforeseen expenditure can reflect genuine external pressures but it may also indicate areas where forecasting, system design or policy settings need adjustment. Parliament must examine not only why additional funding was required but also how the reliance on supplementary appropriations can be reduced in the future.

Sustainable service delivery depends not only on funding levels but also on effective planning, workforce stability and resilient systems. The purpose of highlighting these figures is not a question of the need for funding but to ensure investment delivers measurable improvements in access and performance. Similar considerations apply in other areas. The Queensland Police Service has received additional funding, and there are expectations regarding the timely delivery of equipment and resources to support officer safety. Ensuring funded initiatives are implemented effectively is essential.

The Governance, Energy and Finance Committee has recommended that the bills be passed and supporting them ensures expenditure is properly authorised; however, approval should be accompanied by ongoing scrutiny of how public funds are used, how systems are performing and where improvements are needed. These bills provide an opportunity not only to authorise expenditure but also to reflect on the pressures facing key services and the importance of aligning funding, policy and delivery. Queenslanders expect public services that are accessible, effective and sustainable, and it is the responsibility of this parliament to ensure public expenditure supports those outcomes.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (5.39 pm): I rise to speak on the cognate appropriation bills and to examine the unforeseen expenditures that were unforeseen and unbudgeted for in the 2024-25 season. Whilst we note that at \$5.7 billion there is a gross overspend, if you like, in terms of budgetary moneys, quite clearly a lot of that expenditure was over the period Labor was in government. They had not budgeted for a large part of that \$5.7 billion when the LNP took over in 2025. It is not quite as bad as the \$9 billion in the previous year. It is a very expensive outcome for the Queensland taxpayer—to put another \$5.7 billion on the longer term borrowings and add to the financial crisis of Queensland. However, it was due, in large part, to bad budgeting.

I allude in particular to Light Rail stage 3 on the Gold Coast and the budgeting for that process. Holland is the construction agent on Light Rail stage 3. A carryover from the then treasurer Jackie Trad's BPICs left them with a bill of \$250 million on top of what they had won the quote for. They said they would not pay it. They said they had won the tender; if the government wants them to pay that \$250 million they should recall tenders. Obviously the government was not keen to embarrass itself and recall tenders so they let Holland continue and the taxpayers of Queensland paid that extra \$250 million. Further on Light Rail stage 3, six weeks out from the election in 2024 Holland put their hand up for \$300 million to continue the Light Rail stage 3 project, as all of the costs had overrun, and the then government, which was almost in caretaker mode, granted a \$300 million addition to the budget of Light Rail stage 3. That is another \$550 million that Labor put in as a result of their bad budgeting. That is part of this extra appropriation of \$5.7 billion.


I would also like to allude to the Gold Coast City council in terms of an analogous situation of financial responsibility. There is a new real estate company operating on the Gold Coast and it is called the Gold Coast City council. It seems that any publicly owned park or council facility that can be sold for high-rise development is in the sights of the council. I and the residents abutting Frank Murray Park in Miami—a beautiful park with lovely old trees, a kiddies playground and a childcare facility right next door—awoke to find Gold Coast City council signs all over it announcing it will be turned into a council depot site for heavy trucks and machinery. This was to facilitate the sale of the current council depot site less than 500 metres away for an entertainment precinct and a purported high-rise development. After frantic calls to the mayor's office and local councillor Nick Marshall by my good self, the decision has been reversed and the park will stay, thank goodness.

This comes on top of the mooted sale of the state owned Main Beach Tourist Park, the state owned Carey Park in Southport being transformed into an entertainment venue without state government financial assistance and, of course, coming up is the sale of the former mighty Albert shire council chambers in Nerang for supposedly affordable housing, with council buying the Corporate Centre at Bundall for administrative purposes. I understand the evolving demand for public land caused by industry changes and generational expectations. However, the thousands of new Gold Coast residents who move here every year bring with them thousands of new kids who need more playing fields and parks for football, netball, AFL, rugby league, hockey and every other sport that keeps them off their computer devices. I have the Cats, the Bears, the Roos and every other animal namesake looking for more and expanded facilities so councillors need to take back control of the seemingly endless bureaucratic decision-making processes that deem council public lands and facilities are for sale. Even the Arundel golf course was designated private open space as per the original developer's contribution to open space as part of their urban development of the suburb of Arundel. That too seems to be on the path of extinction, which disappoints the many residents who built their houses around the golf course for the beautiful open space ambience.

It is incumbent on present-day councillors to preserve and protect public lands and facilities provided by previous city forefathers whose foresight and vision made the Gold Coast the enviable destination that it is today. Financial expediency should not be the total consideration when exploring opportunities for council metamorphosis and certainly council officers should not be the sole arbiters of what community sentiment requires of its council. Elected councillors are best placed to deliver those decisions. I do hope my community of Mermaid Beach does not awaken to more unfavourable proposals such as the demolition of the beautiful Frank Murray Park.

There is one other area in terms of the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill that I would like to move to and that is the surprising \$11 million contribution, without consultation prior to the election, towards a third staff member in parliamentary offices. It came out of the blue. No-one knew about it. It was just deemed, very close to an election, to be a good thing to happen. I would like to know how many former Labor members of parliament and former members of the Labor apparatchik are working in those offices. It seems that desperate need for a third parliamentary officer was made in expectation of several members being without a parliamentary job after the upcoming election. It was done just before the election without consultation. It tells me that there are a lot of former members from that side and staff in Labor offices who are now working in the Parliamentary Service, which cost another \$11 million in the supplementary appropriation that we have here before us today. It came out of the blue. There was no consultation. There were no requests of the CLA to consider what was going to happen. It just said, 'Bang, we need spots for our out-of-a-job employees and parliamentary staffers.' That is the sort of bad budgetary considerations that the former Labor government took upon itself to put in place.

There is only one reason the Labor members want to be in government and that is to get hold of the Treasury chequebook. It has always been that way. Their mates get jobs out of it. They do not think of the best interests of Queenslanders, otherwise they would not have run up the \$170 billion of debt we have. This extra \$5.74 billion goes straight on the credit card. The member for Toohey has the hide to say we are the ones who have to worry about a downgrade of fiscal responsibility. Quite clearly any downgrades are wholly and solely due to 10 years of Labor spending like drunken sailors and unfunded commitments. We have to fix up hospitals and youth crime—all the things that the member for Toohey mentioned—after 10 years of irresponsible planning and budgeting. We hope not to see another \$5 billion overspend appearing in next year's appropriation bills.

 **Mr JKELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (5.49 pm): Where do I start with that contribution? What weird hole in the universe have I stepped through that we have a Gold Coast Nat opposing development? And not just one; we have a heap of them. Your entire party was built on development on the Gold Coast, for goodness sake!

On the scurrilous and false accusations about Labor employing former staffers into positions, let me explain to the member for Mermaid Beach that, if you do not like those positions, you are in government so you can get all your mates together and get rid of them. I am sure they would all vote for that. It takes a lot of hide to come in here and falsely accuse us of these completely scurrilous things when you have given Julian Simmonds and Trevor Evans jobs. It is probably easy in your office because you spend half your week on the golf course and the other half at the racetrack. Your staff probably have it easy, but I can tell you that on this side of the House our members work extremely hard.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Marr): Member for Greenslopes, please put your comments through the chair.

**Mr J KELLY:** I will come back to the debate on the 'unders and overs' bills, as they are colloquially known. However, it seems to me that whenever we do an LNP 'unders and overs' bill, really it will just be an 'overs and overs' bill. This week the member for Buderim has put on a stellar performance. He is no stranger to putting on a stellar performance. The member has been busy. He has invented the theory of relativity and nuclear fusion. He came up with Facebook and the human papillomavirus vaccination.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I ask that you bring the member back to the bill before the House.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will get some advice. Member for Greenslopes, I would like you to give an explanation as to how your comments are relevant to the bill.

**Mr J KELLY:** I am trying to demonstrate that the member did none of those things and he certainly did not come up with 50-cent fares. He lives in an land of absolute fantasy. I do not know how he keeps a straight face. You would not want to play poker with him with those skills, that is for sure, because he would be good at beating you.

Earth, Wind & Fire wrote a great song called *Fantasy*. If we want to talk about fantasy, let's look at some of the things behind these appropriation bills and things that the government took to the election. There was the nonsense about how they were going to get rid of all the consultants and save money. How did that work out for them? Apparently, they were going to save \$3 billion but, really, did they? No, they did not! What do we get? We have them coming in here and blaming Labor for all of these problems and all of these challenges. They are in government. If they do not want to fund things, they do not have to fund them. They can make decisions. However, they cannot just come in here and blame other people. If the budget is in a mess, they are responsible.

I want to talk about the contribution that the member for Coomera made last night. Wasn't that a cracker? Only the member for Coomera could make cutting the number of hospital beds in his local hospital seem like a win for the people of Coomera: 'Here we are. Vote for the LNP. We're delivering you fewer beds in your local hospital!' No wonder they had to change the name of the seat when they did the redistribution because nobody would vote for the member for Coomera again.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Coomera!

**Mr J KELLY:** Deputy Speaker, thank you for your protection. They do not like it when we point out the truth. The member for Lockyer also mentioned cutting hospital beds at his local hospital. Speaker after speaker has made a virtue of it. What are they being rescued from? They are being rescued from having more beds and dealing with hospital ramping because Labor had already done all the heavy lifting on the ambulance side of things. I have a little bit of insight into this. We did all the heavy lifting on the ambulance side of things with the virtual EDs and with the co-responder teams in falls, in DV and in mental health. There is all the work we did as a result of the mental health inquiry around alternative entry pathways and all the efficiencies we gained for the Ambulance Service. The reality is if that you are going to fix ambulance ramping then you have to build hospital beds, and that is what we were doing. Guess what they are doing? They are building a lot less. Only members on that side of the House—speaker after speaker after speaker—could come in here and make a virtue of cutting the number of hospital beds.

When I go around my electorate I witness the results of a decade of Labor investing in my electorate. Every school, including many of the private schools, received funding when we were in government. Every single sporting club received funding for infrastructure investment. Public transport

and active transport were invested in, as was public housing. Twice in the past two weeks the housing minister was supposed to cut the ribbon on a Labor funded project but he has not shown up yet. He wanted to come out and claim it as his own.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr J KELLY:** Don't worry: I don't want to cut the ribbon with you, that's for sure, pal.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Greenslopes, put your comments through the chair, thank you.

**Mr J KELLY:** Apologies, Deputy Speaker. I lost my way because the member was interjecting directly at me and not through the chair. I apologise.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Greenslopes, I do not need you to give me a running commentary on my request, thank you.

**Mr J KELLY:** I see the cost-of-living relief that we invested in when we were in government. I see the mental health services that were expanded in my electorate through great organisations such as Stepping Stone Clubhouse and Grow, which are now providing even more services. Just on the border of the electorate of the member for Aspley, Stepping Stone North is now operational thanks to some of that funding. I see the increased domestic and family violence prevention services in our area that came during that time. Of course, I see many examples of the investments we made to try to tackle climate change. To give two examples, we helped the Ukrainian Club and the Coorparoo Bowls Club install solar panels and batteries to deal with climate change as part of our climate action plan.

I compare that to what is going on with the other side. Why are we getting 'overs and overs' when there are no investments in our electorates? That is the question I will be trying to answer for people. The only things being built in my schools, like Wolff Park at Coorparoo State School, were started and funded by the Labor government. Beyond that, I see no other investments. I see nothing happening in our sporting clubs. Easts Rugby League, Easts Rugby Union, Metro District Netball Association, Easts Junior Rugby League, Annerley Football Club, Holland Park Hawks Football Club, Brisbane Metro Touch Association, Coorparoo Bowls Club and Holland Park Bowls Club all received funding from our government, but what do they have from those opposite? Zip! Nada! Nothing!

I have already covered off on public housing. We have built significant amounts of public housing in my electorate—so much so that the minister wants to come and cut the ribbon on it. He would be welcome at any time, but I will not be there with him. At the end of the day, there is nothing new in the pipeline. What about cost-of-living relief? We see nothing there. We see no expansion in relation to mental health services or DV services. Because most of the members on that side do not believe that we need to take action on climate change, we are certainly not going to be seeing much in relation to clean energy.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to question No. 282 on the *Notice Paper*. While my primary focus is on my electorate, I do want to know—and I am sure all members on this side of the House want to know—when the work is commencing on Emu Swamp dam, because that is something that I think is very important.


**Mr Smith** interjected.

**Mr J KELLY:** When, member for Bundaberg? I will conclude my contribution. The reality is that those on that side of the House like to rail and they like to talk a lot, but they do not make a lot of sense to me. They have invested nothing in my electorate, whereas we spent 10 years investing in my electorate and electorates right across this state. They can walk in here and try to take the easy road by blaming someone else for the problems that they have—

**Mr Smith** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am sorry, member for Greenslopes, but I need to stop you for a moment. Member for Bundaberg, you are not in your seat. Stop talking across the chamber.

**Mr J KELLY:** You do not get to walk in here and blame Labor. You are in government. You are responsible. It is your job now. The failings are yours and I see them every day in my community. They are yours.

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (5.58 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the housing and public works portion of this Appropriation (Supplementary 2024-25) Bill, which is an important piece of legislation that does something very necessary: it fills the gaps that Labor left behind in their last budget. For the benefit of the member for Greenslopes, our housing pipeline is now at over 6,000 social and community homes,

and 4,200 of those alone have been contracted in the relatively short period that we have been in government. I am being generous by just counting the contracted ones. We should be counting all the ones that are under construction, given all the feedback we hear from those opposite about projects that apparently are not underway. However, contracted alone, since the Crisafulli government was elected, we are delivering over 4,000 social and community homes, or two-thirds of the pipeline. We will very happily compare that number of over 6,000 to the average of 509 that were delivered each year over the last decade of decline. We will compare those numbers any day of the week. It is part of our plan to increase our housing delivery to four times the number of homes per year that Labor delivered.

The update we have here shows that the Labor Party were very good at making announcements, but they were not very good at ensuring those announcements were actually funded or delivered. What we inherited was a whole series of shortfalls—big funding gaps that put a lot of pressure on frontline services, on housing and on the very Queenslanders who rely most on that support. This bill ensures those budget black holes left behind by Labor are fixed.

Within my portfolio, it delivers an additional \$120 million for homelessness services, \$114 million of which was to plug a really big hole left in Labor's Immediate Housing Response program. This was the hotel and motel crisis accommodation program. Without the funding that we provided, these services that support some of our most vulnerable Queenslanders would have been forced to close and we would have seen people out on the street. It really meant that on top of failing to deliver enough social homes—social housing grew at barely a third of the rate that our population grew over the last decade—Labor did not even properly manage the hotel and motel accommodation that they had people in in the meantime. If we had not provided this funding, those Queenslanders would not have had the support they needed.

The IHR program is there to provide urgent short-term crisis accommodation and help for people who genuinely have nowhere else to go. However, under Labor it was a complete mess. There were no rules around that program. There was no policy framework. We had numerous reports of existing social housing tenants who were abusing that program to have a free holiday. There was one case I remember where someone who lived a couple of hours inland in a social home had gone to the coast and told the people in the housing services that they were homeless, and they were given a taxpayer-funded hotel while their taxpayer-funded house sat empty. It was extraordinary!

In another case I remember, the individual was clever enough to call my electoral office to ask for the case to be looked into, and that alerted us to it. They claimed they were homeless, and when we looked into the details of the case we found that their mate had been housed in the hotel program in a location that had some great waves on the southern end of the Gold Coast. They said that their mate had got a free hotel room and the waves were really good, so they wanted to get one courtesy of the taxpayer as well. It was absolutely extraordinary!

Just over 12 months ago we sat down with the services which run the IHR program and looked at some of the parameters that a few of them had in place—there was no state policy in place—and we adapted that to make a policy that they all could get behind. We have seen some really good numbers. Before this, we were seeing numbers of hotel and motel operators who were pulling out of the program. Damage, of course, was out of control as there was no framework and there were no consequences for the small number of people who were doing the wrong thing. It meant that motel operators, particularly in regional Queensland, were pulling out of the program; we were losing a lot of them. So, we put a clear framework in place.

As I outlined in question time this morning, since September our housing teams have been working with our specialist homelessness services, and we have seen 649 households go out of that hotel and motel accommodation program and into long-term housing. That is our priority as a government. This funding was to step in to ensure the homelessness services could keep their doors open so that Queenslanders were not turned away in the housing crisis created by Labor.

This bill also delivers \$62.5 million for social housing maintenance—maintenance that under those opposite in far too many cases was allowed to deteriorate. There was a backlog that was allowed to grow year after year without proper funding being in place. They were constantly playing catch-up. This was not just about missed budgets; it was about a system that was no longer being properly managed. Labor made the decision to stop rent and tenancy eligibility checks over five years ago and to not restart them with the election coming up. They did not want to make that hard decision, but that meant that the housing fund was no longer being properly replenished to support that maintenance. There was less revenue coming in, less maintenance being done and public assets—people's homes—were being left to fall into disrepair. We are turning that around.


I want to commend QBuild for the efficiencies they are driving. They are ensuring every dollar counts. They are bringing a commonsense approach to how they are programming these jobs and they are batching them together, particularly for regional communities.

Our housing investment in this bill is about restoring the dignity that all public housing tenants should have and ensuring that people who live in the homes we manage have safe and well-maintained homes. Again, it really is about playing catch-up. We are dealing with the consequences of years of underinvestment and years of neglect and mismanagement.

We inherited a significant maintenance backlog and a funding shortfall in the housing fund which was frankly structurally broken, but we are restoring the proper checks and proper settings to make our housing system sustainable. That means reinstating those appropriate checks, which occurred on 1 July last year, rebuilding the funding base for the housing fund and systematically working through the backlog that was allowed to grow under those opposite.

We had a system where nearly half of our tenants had not had a rent or tenancy review in over five years. Our teams have now initiated 36,333 of those reviews to ensure our tenants are still eligible to be in the social homes they are living in and to ensure they are actually paying the correct rent. We even had examples of tenants who were paying too much rent because they had not been checked in years. So far, we have found well over 200 tenants who were living in households with incomes of over \$100,000 while other Queenslanders were sleeping rough on the streets. It is not right and that is why we had to change it.

These items we are funding in this update are not optional extras; they are the core responsibilities of any government, ensuring critical services are properly maintained and public assets are responsibly managed. Those opposite talk a lot about housing and homelessness, but when it came to their budgeting they did not do the hard work of making the numbers add up. We are. We are ensuring our homelessness services have the funding they need for the first time over multiple years. We have taken that funding out to 2028-29. We are ensuring public housing is maintained and that the backlog of works is better managed and will ultimately reduce over time, and we are ensuring that Queenslanders can have the confidence that their government will deliver, not just make announcements.

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (6.07 pm): I rise to address the cognate debate in relation to the supplementary appropriation bills, and I will endeavour to make a brief contribution tonight unless those opposite interject too much, and I am not taking interjections from my colleague on my right. I will focus on those elements as they relate to my portfolio responsibilities as Minister for Transport and Main Roads.

Before I begin, I want to acknowledge the hard work of the many thousands of public servants who work within the Department of Transport and Main Roads: those RoadTek workers who have been on the ground in the Cook electorate, restoring road access after the most recent natural disasters; the planners who are working through the pipeline of delivering the infrastructure that we need here in a growing state; and our Queensland Rail workers who deliver the passenger services here or the freight services on the Mount Isa line, for example. Their work does not go unnoticed. On behalf of the government, I say thank you to them as we increasingly do more. We will continue to deliver for Queenslanders. This bill is about providing the government, the Public Service, with the tools they need to get on with the job of delivering for Queenslanders.

Some of the \$405-odd million that has been allocated to the Department of Transport and Main Roads in this supplementary appropriations is to fund the permanent implementation of the LNP's 50-cent fares. It is a tremendous LNP initiative and something we are very proud to champion. As I said earlier in the week, 230 million trips have been taken since the introduction of the LNP's permanent 50-cent fares in February last year. That means more than \$497 million has been saved by Queenslanders when compared to Labor's previous fare structure. That is almost half a billion dollars in the pockets of Queensland commuters, compared to what they would have paid under Labor.

We are very pleased to see the response of Queenslanders after we made 50-cent fares permanent. Patronage on our network has increased by 22.2 per cent over the same period compared to the pre-50-cent-fare period. That is real evidence that our permanent 50-cent fares are making a real difference, providing real cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders. Rather than just talking about it, rather than just thinking about it and having an ambition—the former minister, the member for Aspley, said he was talking about it on the first day he was sworn in as the transport minister, but he just did not get around to making it permanent in the whole time he was the transport minister.

**Mr MELLISH:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister is clearly misleading the House. I am happy to write to you, but I also take offence and ask that he withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Marr): The member has taken offence, so I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I withdraw. I make the observation that only the LNP has made 50-cent fares permanent. Labor had an opportunity to do it. They were in power for 10 years, but they did not do it. They funded a six-month trial on the eve of an election. It is very clear that they were never committed to making 50-cent fares permanent. If they were, the evidence would have been there before the election because they had 10 years to make it permanent.

It is all well and good to sit there and say, 'I thought it was a good idea. I had an opportunity to make it permanent, but I did not.' That is their record. The numbers do not lie. There is a line item in the 2024-25 budget that says 'public transport temporary fare reduction'. That is how it was described. They are not my words. It was their budget. How much do you think was in the forward years?

**A government member:** Zero.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Zero. That is their record. Let's be very clear: it is only an LNP government, the Crisafulli government, that has made 50-cent fares permanent. They can hyperventilate all they want. The reality is that they could have done it but they did not, and Queenslanders know it. Queenslanders know that it is the Crisafulli LNP government that has delivered real cost-of-living relief by making 50-cent fares permanent.

This supplementary appropriation has an allocation to help support an additional rollout of the South-East Queensland and regional urban bus network. Improvements to the bus network are being funded by the LNP Crisafulli government and will ensure more and better bus services. We are changing how we support services to schools. We have opened a new station at Pimpama. The first new station in 10 years has been delivered by an LNP government, not a Labor government—the first station in 10 years. They could not build a station in 10 years. We built one in the first year.

**Mr Stevens:** Light rail blowout.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I take that interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3—a project in the member for Mermaid Beach's electorate—was originally priced at \$709 million. That is what they said it was going to cost. In their 2024 budget it had blown out to \$1.219 billion—a 72 per cent increase. That is their record.

They did not stop there. The former Labor government hid another \$330 million blowout. They signed off on it literally in the week before they went into caretaker mode. They did not tell anyone, mind you. We found out when we came into office that they wanted to hide that from Queenslanders. They were a bit embarrassed about their record, as they should be. They signed off on another \$330 million cost blowout on Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3. Why did they have that blowout?

**A government member:** BPIC.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I take that interjection—BPIC. Thuggery, bullying, lawlessness and the destruction of productivity on job sites from the CFMEU were writ large on Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3. By contrast, our government is getting on with the job of delivering Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3. In fact, as the member for Mermaid Beach knows, the first tram was on the tracks at the end of last year, testing between Miami North and Broadbeach. We are getting on with the job and delivering the project in a calm, considered and methodical way. We are restoring productivity. We are doing everything that those opposite failed to do. Queenslanders can see it. Queenslanders can see that our government is focused on delivery and that we are getting on with the job. If we look at Cross River Rail, it is another abject failure of the former Labor government—\$19.4 billion. Labor said it would cost \$5.4—

**Mr Stevens** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** You are all over your brief, member for Mermaid Beach. I take that interjection. They said it would cost \$5.4 billion, but they got to \$19 billion. They said it would be open in 2024, but we now know it will be 2029. That is their record. Why? Productivity was destroyed and there was CFMEU thuggery and bullying. We saw over 140 days of protected industrial action in a single year under the former Labor government. Compare that to our record. How many days did we lose in protected industrial action on Cross River Rail in calendar year 2025? Any bids? How many days did we lose? Under the member for Aspley, 148 days were lost. How many did we lose last year?

**Mr McDonald:** Zero.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Zero—that is right, member for Lockyer. That is what restoring productivity looks like. That is how we will end the abject failures of the member for Aspley. There was \$6.7 billion in project blowouts in QTRIP alone. That ignores Cross River Rail. In QTRIP alone—\$6.7 billion. Is there any wonder the budget is under pressure after Labor managed the transport portfolio so poorly?

**Mr McDonald:** What about level crossings?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I have to get to my own electorate, member for Lockyer. We have seen why, and we have seen it writ large at the commission of inquiry—the direct line to Jackie Trad. We have seen it writ large. The evidence is there. Queenslanders can see we are getting on with the job and delivering Cross River Rail.


I want to turn to my own electorate of Buderim. We have seen some tremendous progress on some transport projects, including the Mooloolah River Interchange. One of the first acts of the member for Aspley was to roll over when the federal government cut funding for the MRI, but we are getting on with the job. Construction has started.

**Ms Simpson** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I can hear the member for Maroochydore interjecting. We are getting on with the job, delivering the full scope of the Mooloolah River Interchange. The member for Aspley saw fit to kick Queenslanders out of their homes and knock down their homes in the middle of a housing crisis. It would have been all right if he was going to build the thing, but then he did not want to build it. We are getting on with the job of delivering it.

The Sugar Road and Mooloolaba Road upgrade is another project. In fact, I had a former minister for transport and main roads visit there, and he said, 'That's a dangerous intersection. We need to fund it.' In fact, he put money in the budget for it. Do you reckon he built it? He cut the funding. He said he was going to fund it. He did fund it, but then he cut it. They never built it. We are getting on with the job and works are happening there already.

I have the Minister for Education here. We have upgrades for Mountain Creek State School in my electorate. What a tremendous school it is, but it has been underfunded by the Labor Party for far too long. Only the LNP Crisafulli government is delivering for Buderim and for all Queenslanders. That is why I support this legislation.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (6.18 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the cognate debate on the appropriation bills. When I think about the appropriation bills, I reflect on my constituents and the wonderful northern Gold Coast. The Theodore electorate is the green behind the gold. It is the green behind the golden beaches—one could say the best beaches in the world. My electorate encompasses the hinterland, where we have beautiful rainforest covered hills. It is a majestic place, a place of true tranquillity.

One of the things I enjoy doing is getting out there amongst my constituents, talking to them and discussing their issues—whether it is letterbox dropping and talking to people in their front yards or doorknocking or doing my regular roadsides—to understand exactly what concerns are coming up for them. One of the issues that a lot of residents talk about is energy security—ensuring that we have the energy for our needs. In saying that, the recent issues in the Persian Gulf and the war in Iran have certainly highlighted that. I say this because so many residents want to know why we are not energy self-sufficient and why there has been a void to get the energy that we need to power our economy.

A lovely gentleman named Gary who stops at my roadsides was talking about this only a week ago. His conversation with me went something like this: 'Mr Boothman, what is happening about protecting our oil supplies?' It was a really good question. It just so happened that in the last sitting of parliament our Minister for Mines stood up in this place to make a very important announcement, to say that we are investing in and promoting the exploration of gas and petroleum oil. When I told Gary that, his face lit up. He was like, 'Wow! This government is actually getting on with the job and protecting the needs of this state going forward to ensure our energy needs are met.' It is critically important. The announcement by the minister about Taroom Trough in the Bowen-Surat Basin was on 12 February. How important is it that they have actually found good light crude oil! How good is that! That is a new government coming into this place and looking at a plan to protect the future energy needs of our state.

It is not just energy that we need; we also need plastics. The member for Southern Downs was saying earlier that you have to place plastics over the strawberry crops to prevent birds and other creatures from damaging the strawberry crops. It is not just plastics that we need; we also need ag

pipe—pipes to ensure that water can be distributed around your property. We also need fertiliser. It is so crucial that we invest in these areas and also ensure that there is development to bring the necessary resources to the surface for us to use to protect our economy. Gary was not the only one. Kerry, who regularly stops, also spoke about this.

When I was doorknocking and talking to a few residents, I spoke to Michael. He is a tradie who is obviously worried about fuel costs, but the first thing he said was, 'What are we doing about fuel security?' When I told him about this announcement his eyes lit up and he said, 'Finally, a government that is willing to take the necessary steps to protect our fuel security.' That is crucial in an uncertain world. In uncertain times that is what we need to do. The Crisafulli government is certainly getting on with the job of delivering our energy needs but also protecting us and working out pathways to protect us from unforeseen developments that happen around the world. It is critically important. Whilst these are initial finds—and it is looking very promising—it is very important that the Crisafulli government is looking at developing these areas.

I turn to the wonderful electorate of Theodore and all of the wonderful projects that we announced during the election campaign. They are coming to fruition. The LNP has committed \$1 million towards the Oxenford Men's Shed. It is a council project to build a men's shed that is second to none. The individuals at the men's shed have been waiting many years to get this project up and running. The LNP is now delivering. The LNP is giving the necessary funds to council to get this project up and running. The committee has been working closely with council on designs, ensuring that the designs are exactly what they need to facilitate the perfect men's shed for our local community. It is fantastic news. We are hoping in the near future, in the next few months, that we will be turning the first sod to get this new men's shed underway and built. That will certainly light up the eyes of a lot of men and also ladies who attend ladies day at the shed. This is something they have also been crying out for. It is a wonderful initiative and the Crisafulli government is delivering it.

When it comes to cenotaph upgrades, we are also looking at doing some work at Tallowwood Park and at Cliff Bird Park. A year and a bit ago we moved the old cenotaph on the corner of Charlies Crossing Road North and Tamborine Oxenford Road to Tallowwood Park. Main Roads has done a very nice job of putting pathways in and moving the cenotaph. They have been very respectful. The cenotaph faces east so the soldier sees the sun on his face every morning. It has come up really well. We also need to build a cenotaph at Maudsland. This is something that the Maudsland community have been pleading for ever since they were not allowed to use their cenotaph at the CWA hall any longer. The project is progressing. The money is ready to go. We are looking at progressing this with council. The preliminary designs are done. Geoff Benson, who has been the emcee for that event for the last 17 years, is certainly excited that this new cenotaph is well and truly on its way.

It does not end there. We have so many sporting facilities getting upgrades in the Theodore electorate. We have the Coomera Cubs Baseball Club. They are looking at getting lights—something they have been asking for for a long time. They are really excited that they are going to get some lights there. We are also getting lights for the Coomera Hope Island Cricket Club. Hopefully we can get the full light display for them. Hopefully we can get the first-class lights—fingers crossed—because you could literally play professional international matches on that oval with those types of lights. Fingers crossed that the council can facilitate that.

It does not stop there. The Coomera Colts Soccer Club are getting some new facilities. They are getting a new canteen building. They are going to call it 'The Stables'. They thought the connection between the Colts and 'The Stables' was a good idea and a good name for it. The Pacific Pines AFL Club are getting money to do some retro fits for their hall. It is another big bonus for that club, which is a growing club. There are a number of Victorians moving up to Queensland because they have seen the light. They have seen the beautiful weather up here. They are coming to the Gold Coast, and I do not blame them. We have had a flood of Victorians and they are bringing their love of AFL with them. That is something that we are catering for.

**Mr Stevens:** Go the Suns!

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** Yes, go the Suns! We are catering for that population boom from Victoria. The Helensvale Pacific Pines Hawks Cricket Club are getting money too. There is also Upper Coomera State College—the list goes on. I could go on all night about how wonderful the last budget was for Theodore. It just goes to show how much the LNP cares for our area.

Debate, on motion of Mr Boothman, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 6.28 pm to 7.30 pm.

## COMMITTEES

### Membership



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (7.30 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That:

1. the members for Gladstone and Mount Ommaney be discharged from, and the members for Waterford and Nudgee be appointed to, the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee; and
2. the member for Springwood be discharged from, and the member for Mount Ommaney be appointed to, the Education, Arts and Communities Committee.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (SUPPLEMENTARY 2024-2025) BILL

### APPROPRIATION (SUPPLEMENTARY 2024-2025) BILL

#### Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from p. 897, on motion of Mr Janetzki—

That the bills be now read a second time.



**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) (7.31 pm): It is a pleasure to speak in this cognate debate because there is some great news for the electorate of Maroochydore and Queensland. I want to take this opportunity to talk about how we are delivering for my electorate on the Sunshine Coast.

One of the greatest delights was to see some of those transport items that had not been funded by Labor—in fact, they had been defunded by Labor—put back into the budget. We not only have planning happening; we have shovels in the ground and projects such as the Mooloolah River Interchange, the MRI, are happening. The other week some members of the Labor opposition had the audacity to visit the Sunshine Coast and question whether the MRI would happen. They must have had their night-vision-without-any-vision goggles on, because there has been a whole lot of clearing and work has begun. It is underway. This project alone is one of the best things to happen in many years to the road network to unlock congestion and address safety issues. This will be a benefit to the whole of the Sunshine Coast, particularly the corridor from Caloundra through to Maroochydore and north, where you have the intersection with the Sunshine Motorway and Nicklin Way. It is a critical juncture not only for traffic, not only for those who are trying to get their kids to school on time or to get home after a busy day; it is also critical to the public transport network.

It was Labor that defunded this project. Federal Labor was going to contribute and the state was going to contribute, but what did state Labor do? They pulled it off the plans. They just pulled the plug on this plan, which did create a significant issue. There had already been about 80 houses knocked over to enable the work to take place and then the project was defunded by Labor. Not only did we have 80 houses or more knocked over and people had to leave those houses to make way; there was no benefit because there was no plan under Labor to deliver. We are getting on with it. It is being delivered. This is a great project that we are making happen. It is underway. I do not know what they were looking at when they came up. It was a bit embarrassing. They are so out of touch that they did not even look at the landscape to realise it is underway.

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Ms SIMPSON:** You got it! Take a drive along the Sunshine Motorway, as the member for Glass House says. It is a great project.

I also acknowledge some of the other projects we are getting underway with such as the Wave. Labor did not have a plan to get public transport not only to Maroochydore but on to the Sunshine Coast Airport. It has been 12 months since the Crisafulli government released the plan to deliver the Olympic and Paralympic legacy infrastructure that will serve not only the games but also the people of our region and the people of our state. It is a great plan for all of Queensland, with regional Queensland also getting a great guernsey, as we know. On the Sunshine Coast we have seen some great work that is unlocking the public transport network where it will be built. It will go through to the Sunshine Coast Airport.

I want to talk a little bit more about public transport and the cost of living, because it is only an LNP government that made 50-cent fares for public transport permanent. It is literally saving hundreds—in fact, thousands—for those who commute and have a commitment to travel a few kilometres for work. It is great. I always appreciated this, but I particularly appreciated it when I got to do a bit of a mobile office over the first few months of this year. My mobile office was a bit different: yes, it was on a bus. I was fortunate that staff helped drive me when my hand was broken and I was not allowed to drive for six weeks, but you cannot use your staff for private purposes so I took the bus. I could not drive; I had to park the car. One of the beauties of that was the engagement I got to have with people who have to use buses regularly to get to work or to get to the shops and so on. I took pleasure in seeing what it meant for them and how it had unlocked the opportunity for them to save on the hit to their hip pocket, but it is part of the cost-of-living commitment we made to Queenslanders. As the transport minister outlined earlier in the debate, there are more services being added, and so they must. It is vitally important.

We are not forgetting about regional Queensland and the Bruce Highway and getting that agreement again for an 80-20 split with federal-state funding for the Bruce Highway which the previous Labor government did not deliver. But we are delivering it. It is about all of Queensland having a road map.

Talking about road maps, I will not forget about our Energy Roadmap. This is significant because we now know the AER is talking about draft pricing to come in in July. As was outlined this morning, we want to see movement with regard to putting downward pressure on energy prices for all of Queensland. I want to acknowledge my colleague Dale Last, the Minister for Natural Resources, and how this government is acknowledging that we need sovereign capability with energy. When you have international disruption and concerns about the impact of war in the Middle East, we as a nation are a long way away but we are most impacted because of that distance. The lack of sovereign capability to look after our energy needs is extremely concerning. We need that national response to the fuel crisis. We do need transparency and to watch out for gouging, but we also need sovereign capability.


What our Minister for Natural Resources outlined in early March—and even in February—around some of the explorations that are being unlocked is extraordinary. A few weeks ago he announced there will be 12 petroleum and gas areas totalling more than 7,000 square kilometres in the Bowen-Surat and Cooper-Eromanga basins. Four of the petroleum and gas areas will be released subject to Australian market supply conditions, ensuring—as he outlined—that the gas produced from these tenures is for the domestic market. There are a number of other projects as well. The fact that Australia's first major new oil province since the 1970s, as has been outlined by the Premier and natural resources minister, could potentially be unlocked in the Cooper Basin is just a wonderful announcement. We need that investment. We want it to happen as soon as possible. It should have happened years ago, but a decade of decline and ignoring the need for sovereign capability in energy under Labor is the price everyone is paying today.

There is more great news for the Sunshine Coast. The Mudjimba Island reef project will get \$1 million, and I thank my colleague the minister for the environment. This is a wonderful project which will provide new safe moorings that will protect the reef for those visiting this beautiful area of the Sunshine Coast. There is also a project for the next generation of marine scientists where we are partnering with the education department to give them the ability to use real-time monitoring in their project work. This is exciting, practical environmentalism and it is great for tourism as well.

It is great that the Maroochydore Rugby Union Club will get a lighting upgrade thanks to this government. That is also underway. Local sports matter, and that is why we will focus on delivering for our local areas.

In the housing sector, we saw Labor's decade of decline where they failed to unlock the bottleneck, they did not deal with red tape and the thuggery of the CFMEU flowed into the construction area. We are committed to unlocking more housing and working with the private sector to deliver that because it is vitally important. The Productivity Commission estimates that 77,000 fewer homes were built under Labor's BPIC and the thuggery tax of the Labor government and CFMEU alliance.

We need more housing and that is why we are investing in the Residential Activation Fund to help councils get on with it and build the civil infrastructure that is necessary for housing. There is about \$80 million going into those projects in Maroochydore. Even if someone says, 'I'm not going to live in that unit,' we still see that the person who is downsizing and moving into that unit is freeing up a house—so it is like water in a bathtub and everyone is going to rise with it. When somebody's home is sold and unlocked, there is a knock-on effect with supply because it is all about supply. We are delivering for Queensland in safety, housing and critical infrastructure.

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (7.41 pm): I rise to contribute to the cognate debate on the Appropriation (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill and the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill. These bills deal with unforeseen expenditure above the amount approved through previous appropriation acts. As members would be aware, such expenditure can occur for many different reasons. We see unforeseen expenditure in the form of responding to natural disasters. Queensland has seen more than its fair share of disasters, with the vast majority of our local governments activated for DRFA assistance. I want to thank Queensland's councils—the mayors, councillors and staff—for their tireless work to keep Queenslanders safe during these disaster events.

This bill outlines funding for the Queensland Reconstruction Authority to address additional administered funding due to the 2023-24 disaster season. I take the opportunity to place on record my appreciation for the work the QRA does with our local governments and communities in leading recovery from natural disasters.

However, what has become all too typical in these bills are the blowouts caused by the members opposite. In their 2024-25 budget the Miles Labor government hid their project blowouts and underfunded key frontline services. Much of the unforeseen expenditure in this bill is because of Labor's fiscal vandalism during their decade of decline. Unfortunately, what I discovered when coming into government was that Labor had riddled Queensland's finances with this budget deception. In my portfolios alone, billions and billions in blowouts have been found which the former Labor government refused to budget for: Paradise Dam, up by \$3.2 billion; Wivenhoe Dam, up by \$673 million; Lake Macdonald, up by \$138 million; Burdekin Falls, up by \$623 million; and Somerset Dam, up by \$950 million. The list goes on and on.

Even essential work cover for our frontline fires was hit by Labor's budget trickery. Queensland has the most comprehensive workers compensation scheme for firefighters in Australia. As we know, paid and volunteer firefighters are some of the most exposed professionals to cancer due to the nature of their service. This program is there to help those who help our communities. However, when we came to government we uncovered that the Labor members opposite who had announced this program with such fanfare had not allocated one red cent to support it—not one cent. They had left our frontline firefighters—paid and volunteer alike—high and dry. In our first budget, we allocated these essential funds—\$15.7 million in total—to fix Labor's budget trickery, and this bill reflects that commitment to our frontline fires.

Unfortunately, Queenslanders found out the hard way that a Labor announcement came with no funding attached. Take, for example, Labor's volunteer strategy. We saw Labor media releases, Labor TikToks and taxpayer funded glossy brochures, but there was not one dollar attached to it. Despite having overseen the loss of thousands of rural firefighters and a 20 per cent decline in formal volunteering, not one dollar was attached. This was the trend, and our communities have suffered because of it.

The issue with all of this continued deception and denial was that Labor never set up our state to deal with hard times and they never went in to bat for Queenslanders—for Queensland mums and dads. Queenslanders are facing those difficult times now. The Labor fuel crisis that is biting now threatens businesses, not-for-profits and families alike. Every day, Queenslanders are asking themselves questions they should not need to ask. Can I afford the trip to take the kids to school? Can

I afford to go and volunteer like I have been doing? Can I afford to harvest my crop? Can I afford to get my cattle and sheep to market, and will I make a profit? Everyone who moves will be impacted by Labor's fuel security crisis.

The members opposite had a decade to do that long-term planning, but they squandered that time. They spent their time with BPIC and looking after their friends in the CFMEU. We on this side of the House know that Queenslanders need action in dealing with this Labor crisis—not just for now, but to ensure we are ready for the future. We were the first state to call out Labor's fuel security issues. We are giving the federal government the information they need to ensure flow of supply, and we are convening suppliers and retailers to hear from them directly. We are opening new areas for gas and petroleum exploration—

**Mr Lister:** Hear, hear!

**Ms LEAHY:** I take that interjection from the member for Southern Downs, even though the Taroom Trough is not very close to his electorate; it is closer to mine.

**Mrs Stoker:** It's still good.

**Ms LEAHY:** I take that interjection as well. We are opening up new areas for gas and petroleum exploration, like the Taroom Trough which goes into my electorate. As the Premier said this morning, this is a national crisis, Labor's crisis, that requires a national response, and we need the national Labor government to act. If there was ever a time for the members opposite to pick up the phone to their mates in Canberra and pressure them to act, it is now. If there was ever a time to stand up for Queenslanders, it is now. We are standing up for Queenslanders because we know that our businesses, volunteers, families and communities need a strong voice backed by action, which is what our government is delivering.


This bill also delivers some things that my electorate has campaigned for over a very long time. One of them is the CT scanner in Charleville which will mean people do not have to drive three hours to get a CT scan. It is very easy to access CT scans in metropolitan areas.

There are also things like helping our farmers with more funding for the wild dog barrier fence, which is a very important biosecurity barrier. There is also investment in important road upgrades, for instance, the crossroads at The Gums which has unfortunately had many a near miss and is a very dangerous intersection and does need those upgrades. They have been waiting for years and now our government, the Crisafulli government, is delivering on that project.

It is also things like the over-96-year-old Eulo bridge, which goes underwater for up to six weeks at a time. We have seen that during these disaster seasons. We will be replacing that bridge. That is a huge boost to an area in the far south-west corner of the state that is larger than the state of Tasmania that actually gets cut off. Those people have been petitioning and wanting to get that bridge raised and replaced. I am very pleased to say that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads has been out there to see that bridge. That is really important to people in the communities of Yowah and Thargomindah. It will help drive down the cost of living for them.

There are other important projects as well—for instance, raising the approaches at the Loudoun bridge near Dalby. Often we see that the approaches are flooded but the bridge is dry. That work on the business case to raise those approaches is particularly important.

I also want to shout out to the housing minister. Previously in my electorate we did not see much happening from state government in relation to housing. He is out there. There are houses going up in so many of our communities. We do have housing shortages and homelessness issues. It is so good to see that building happening. People are ringing my office not about being homeless; they are ringing my office saying, 'What's being developed next door to us? There are houses going up.' I think that is a really positive thing to have happen in our community. We are delivering. We are delivering for Queenslanders in the Warrego electorate.

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (7.51 pm): It is with great pleasure that I rise tonight to speak on the appropriation bills. They are very important bills, of course, because they provide all the money that we require to serve the people of Queensland and provide them—

**Mr Watts:** Is there money to get those lights up in Toowoomba?

**Mr MANDER:** I will come to that. Let's just wait. This is an important bill and it is one that I am very grateful for, of course, because my electorate and my ministerial responsibilities will benefit from this bill. I congratulate the Treasurer on a great task in trying to manage the mess that he inherited. My thoughts are with him at the moment because he has a bit of a back injury. I have no doubt that trying to carry the debt of the previous Labor government would have been a contributing factor. We wish him well and we wish him a full recovery.

I want to start with my electorate with regard to what we will get out of the budget. I have a very busy intersection outside my office. For those members who do not know my office, it is the one with the very big billboard of a photo that is probably a little bit dated. Just as a little aside, we are moving across the road and I believe the sign is going to be even bigger. I am looking forward to that. There is an intersection outside my office—sorry, I digressed—the intersection of South Pine Road and Stafford Road. It is a notorious bottleneck. I remember many years ago my predecessor—and I will give him credit for this—the now Senator Murray Watt, got some plans drawn up for that intersection, but that was it; nothing has happened since. It has taken an LNP government to invest some funds there. We have some major changes happening there. We are going to have more turning lanes, we are going to have fewer turning lanes—I will explain that later—we are going to have a slip-road and we are going to get that traffic flowing a little bit better than it is at the moment. Traffic congestion is the biggest issue for anybody who lives in the Brisbane metropolitan area and we are determined to get that flowing smoother so people can get home quicker to their families to enjoy that time. The preliminary works are going to begin at the end of this year and I am very hopeful that will be done before the end of this term.

A couple of my sporting clubs have benefited from some great programs. Honourable members might have heard of a program called Games On! It is a great program, a \$250 million community sporting infrastructure program which is basically oversubscribed. I will talk about the \$30 million one in a moment. Members might be a little discouraged when they hear. It shows the heavy demand for better sporting infrastructure at our local community level. We have said time and time again that the Olympics and Paralympics are not about four weeks in 6½ years time; they are about the legacy that will be left behind. One of those legacies is better sporting facilities at our local clubs.

My local Mitchie Football Club—soccer for those who do not know what football is—will be getting some major upgrades to their clubhouse including more dressing rooms. Mitchie is a very old club with a long tradition. They are grateful for that and work will be starting on that very shortly. I have the Roosters rugby union club. It is a small club; it is very much a community-based club. They all come together on Friday nights for training and parents have a bit of a drink and a barbecue in that great little community. We are going to improve their grounds and their terraces and provide better seating. There is \$750,000 to help that happen and they are very grateful for that. They are two of my sporting clubs that are benefiting.

Then there is McDowall State School. There is \$2 million going towards improving their car park. Again, one of the banes of suburban life in Brisbane—I do not know if it is like that on the Gold Coast—is school drop-off and pick-up time. The pick-up is 15, 20 or 25 minutes of mayhem. We want to try to improve that at McDowall, so we are going to make some changes to the car park so there is less queuing which will be better for our kids.

The other one I am really excited about is a group called Stationery Aid, which helps those families and kids who might be struggling a little bit by providing stationery that has been recycled. It is a great circular economy initiative and one that is very practical.

**Mr Powell:** Very good.

**Mr MANDER:** It is; I take that interjection from the environment minister. I am lucky enough that their base is in my electorate. They are set up at the moment—

**Ms Simpson:** I collect for them, too.

**Mr MANDER:** Thank you; I take that interjection from the member for Maroochydore. They are bursting at the seams. They have been so successful that they really need more space. One of our promises is to build them more space. We are going to do that at James Drysdale Reserve, which is a Moreton Bay City Council sporting precinct. At the other end of that shed will be the Dickson Men's Shed, which has been looking for a home for a long time.

I have been very grateful for what is going to happen in my electorate. I have mentioned some of those things that are also relevant to my ministerial role in Games On! and we have just had the latest addition of Games On!—a supplementary round of \$30 million. There were about 760 applications for \$30 million. I will not tell honourable members what it amounts to; it will really scare them. It is great to see there is huge demand and we want to try to meet that. That has been a very popular program.

**Mr Baillie:** Such a popular scheme.


**Mr MANDER:** Thank you. I take the interjection from the member for Townsville. The program that complements that is obviously the Play On! vouchers. The Play On! voucher is \$200 to help kids and their families so that they can afford to play sport. We know how expensive everything is in terms of the cost of living. If you have a couple of kids, sport is even more expensive. Some of the newer members may not realise that this program was originally a program by the LNP in 2012 called Get in the Game. It was one of the most successful programs and the previous government carried on that work because it was so good. We have now tweaked it a little bit and we have more money. It is locked in for four years and we are committed to ensuring that the money is proportionally distributed across the state as well, so the south-east corner—

**Mrs Kirkland:** Summer and winter.

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection from the member for Rockhampton—not just proportionally across the state but proportionally across the seasons of sport. We particularly want to have an emphasis on kids with a disability. Our commitment is that any child with a disability will get a Play On! voucher no matter the circumstances. We are very keen that one of the legacies for the Paralympic Games is that we have more people with disability playing organised sport at both the community level and at the elite level. In talking about those Play On! vouchers, I want to acknowledge how families are doing it tough at the moment with the fuel crisis that we have. I have received feedback in my electorate. We understand that.

**Mrs Poole:** If only someone would pick up the phone.

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection from the member for Mundingburra. All we are asking for is some leadership at the federal level, because that is where this issue lies. We all hope and pray that this incursion is going to stop as quickly as possible, but in the meantime we need national leadership. It is only through that that we will get through this crisis, but we are very mindful of the challenges that poses for families at the moment and we are all watching this with bated breath hoping that this crisis will end very quickly. In summary, I congratulate the Treasurer and thank him for the money that I am getting for my electorate and thank him for the money that I am getting in my ministry. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mrs KIRKLAND** (Rockhampton—LNP) (8.01 pm): Tonight I rise to speak on the cognate debate of the Appropriation (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill and the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill. The supplementary appropriation bills themselves are nothing new. What is unusual is what we simply cannot ignore—that is, what these bills reveal. They shine a very clear light on the financial management—or, more accurately, the lack of financial management—under the former Miles Labor government, because let us be absolutely clear: when a government repeatedly returns to this House seeking approval for billions of dollars in additional expenditure, it raises serious questions—questions about budgeting accuracy, questions about fiscal discipline and questions about whether Queenslanders were ever given a transparent and honest picture of the state's finances in the first place. In fact, under the previous Labor government multiple supplementary appropriation bills were required, taking its total budget overruns to \$9 billion. This represents an 11.6 per cent increase on the 2023-24 budget. That is not a rounding error; that is a pattern.

The 2024-25 budget handed down by the former government was never designed to responsibly fund a full financial year; it was designed to limp through the four months to the October election. Key frontline services were left underfunded from day one; child safety, social housing, homelessness services, support for victims of Labor's crime crisis were all short-changed. Queensland Health alone required more than \$2 billion in additional funding due to the gross mismanagement of the previous Labor government and now through these bills we see the consequences of that approach laid bare. The unforeseen expenditure for 2024-25 totals \$5.746 billion. This was reported in the Consolidated Fund financial report that was tabled on 12 September 2025 and this is the amount now sought in the

cognate appropriation supplementary bills. As I mentioned, one of the largest increases was Queensland Health, with an additional \$2.02 billion required. In Rockhampton an additional \$8.5 million was needed just to finally deliver the cardiac hybrid theatre, something the previous Labor government had announced in words only—no plans drafted, no funds allocated, yet another unfunded promise. The LNP, on the other hand, actually delivers on what it commits to.

This bill is the tail end of the previous Labor government's established pattern of overspending. Additional funding was required for costs related to the 2024 state election, member allowances determined by the Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal, collective bargaining outcomes and reimbursements for select committee and members' accommodation costs from 2023 and 2024. Again, the question is the same: was Labor's budgeting process ever robust enough to reflect reality, or were Queenslanders simply presented with optimistic figures designed to get Labor through an election? These bills confirm what many Queenslanders already suspected—departments and agencies spending more than was planned, costs blew out and blew out again—and now this parliament is being asked to retrospectively approve decisions that should have been properly accounted for in the first instance.

Queenslanders expect better than this. They expect a government that budgets responsibly, that plans carefully and that manages public money with the same discipline that households and small businesses must apply every single day. Instead, what we saw from the former Labor government was a pattern of underestimation, reactive spending and a refusal to plan for and confront the true cost of delivering essential services. The previous Labor government failed Queenslanders by inadequately addressing the real pressures—whether they were inflation and cost of living, population growth, the youth crime crisis, housing shortages, statewide health crisis or unexpected events—but good governance is not about pretending those pressures do not exist; it is about anticipating them and planning for them and being up-front with the public about them, and that is where the previous Labor government fell short, and that is where the Crisafulli LNP government is stepping up, with real investment, real delivery and real outcomes for Central Queensland and Queensland as a whole.

In our region of Rockhampton alone we are delivering a new high school for Gracemere with \$100 million and grades 7 and 8 by 2028, and this is something for which our community has called out for decades. We are delivering a CQU TAFE excellence precinct which will deliver eight hectares at Canning Street for the hospital to expand, as well as 300 to 400 additional trade training spaces. We are also going to be delivering 200 new homes on that same precinct. We are delivering a multisport precinct valued at \$42 million, a health services academy, a youth mental health step-up step-down facility, Gracemere Junior Rugby League and Gracemere Netball clubhouse, Glenmore Bulls female change facilities, Bluebirds United change facilities and master plan, and a Regional Reset early intervention program and investment into local crime prevention schools that ensure Gold Standard Early Intervention for the Central Queensland region. I cannot forget the Capricorn startup hub, which is growing businesses and the economy.

We are also delivering a neuro-wellness hub as well as delivering money for Walk 'n' Talk to construct a space for men's mental health recovery and treatment. We have also had to tip in an extra \$3.4 million to help with the Browne Park upgrades to deliver this facility after it was not considered that grass, scoreboards or even lights were things that were necessary for a football field. We are also delivering \$4.5 million for Beef Week 2027, and that is going to be a hoo-ha. I want to ensure that everyone is heading to Rockhampton for Beef 2027.


We have seen the award-winning Residential Activation Fund open up for the development of 5,600 homes, with a \$56.88 million investment across the Keppel and Rockhampton electorates. That work is in full swing, delivering for Queenslanders.

I cannot close without mentioning that as part of the 2032 Delivery Plan for the Olympic and Paralympic Games there will be rowing and canoeing for Rockhampton and Central Queensland, delivering legacy infrastructure, an economic and tourism injection and a heap of community spirit. These are not unfunded promises like the previous Labor government; these are real commitments backed by real dollars delivering real outcomes.

These bills finalise the financial position for the year but they also serve as a lesson—a lesson in accountability, a lesson in transparency and a lesson in why this House must always scrutinise how public money is spent. The unforeseen expenditure before us today relates entirely to 2024-25—the appropriation that was not allowed for in Labor's last budget. Parliament is now required to formally

approve it. The Governance, Energy and Finance Committee examined these bills and made one simple recommendation: that they be passed. I point out that Labor members did not provide any statement of reservation or a dissenting report. They did not even ask any questions. They just sat there with their heads down. They knew this was something of their making.

I would like to take the last few moments to talk about the fuel crisis that is impacting our entire community. I have had people from my community speak about the price of the PVC piping used in plumbing going up some 40 per cent and shops charging an extra 40 per cent and concern from business owners right across our community about the impacts of this fuel crisis. This is solely the responsibility of our federal government, and we are calling on the federal government to step up and to do the same as the Crisafulli government: deliver.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (8.12 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the Appropriation (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill. Recently I was speaking to some parents in Toowoomba who are busy trying to balance work, the rising cost of living and family life. They are actually not reading budget papers and they are not tracking appropriation bills—strangely enough, for everybody here; they are simply asking some practical questions: will the hospital be there if my family needs it; will support services be there if I make the call; can I afford to get to work tomorrow? These are pretty simple questions and, because of Labor's decade of decline, too many Queenslanders know what happens when those answers are uncertain. This bill is about making sure those systems hold and hold strong right now—making sure they are there when people need them.

Today we learned that Labor have, in fact, learnt nothing. We saw their manifesto and nothing has changed for Labor. They are still looking at the same old bad policies they had that led us through a terrible decade of decline. Queenslanders can see the difference. When I speak to my people they can see the difference. They know that the Crisafulli government is listening, they know that the Crisafulli government is acting and they know that the Crisafulli government is delivering.

At its core, this bill comes down to three things: fixing what was not funded by Labor, stabilising essential services and restoring discipline to government spending. There are real known costs in health, housing and child safety that were, in fact, not properly funded. That is a real shame on the previous government—or at least it should be—because to not properly fund health, housing and child safety is a disgrace. Anybody who analyses the budget papers will see that that disgrace is Labor's. These costs did not disappear; they landed right here in this budget.

Because the Crisafulli government listens, acts and delivers, we are now looking to make some changes. Certainly in child safety, we find that hundreds of millions of dollars were required to simply keep the system functioning—hundreds of millions of dollars not provided by Labor. That risks fewer carers on the front line; it risks vulnerable children being left exposed. The reason this appropriation bill is required is to make sure those services can still be delivered for the community of Queensland and ensure carers remain in place, frontline workers are supported and vulnerable children are not left without care.

In housing, pressures continue to grow across the regions and the provincial centres like Toowoomba and certainly in the south-west. Funding was required for homeless services, social housing, maintenance and victim support—all of which were fundamentally important in this area and, again, all of which were left languishing under Labor, who have learnt nothing and have changed nothing. They are still thinking exactly the same. They left vulnerable, homeless people exposed through their lack of budget discipline and allocation.

In health, it does not get any better for Labor. We know that elective surgery backlogs, workforce shortages and infrastructure strain have placed real pressure on services that the people of Queensland expect to be delivered by their government. These were known pressures by the Labor government, but in a decade of decline they left them to grow. They left these problems to grow and these pressures to increase. Again, we find today that Labor have learnt nothing and they have changed nothing in their thinking.

The Crisafulli government is taking responsibility—funding properly, stabilising the system and delivering outcomes—because the Crisafulli government listens, acts and delivers. This bill fixes what was not funded, protects essential services and restores discipline. That is fundamentally important. Around \$5.7 billion in unforeseen expenditure is what we are looking at here. That is, in fact, down from \$9 billion in the previous year. We are funding child safety, we are supporting housing and addressing homelessness, we are stabilising the health system and we are delivering cost-of-living relief with 50-cent fares, which at the moment I know are pretty popular across the state.

It is not about announcements but delivery. In my electorate you can see the social housing being built. You can see the hospital being built. We know that child safety is being funded after it was left desperately short. People are starting to use the 50-cent fares. Toowoomba has always struggled a bit with public transport, but the council is to be commended for putting a charge in. I know that the state government will be working with them to make sure we have more 50-cent fares available across the region so that people can get that real cost-of-living saving by leaving the car at home and catching the bus.

The reason we know that is a good idea and the reason we wanted to permanently fund that—unlike the previous government, who made a lot of announcements but did not put the money in the budget; one of the reasons we are here is to make sure the money is there—is that the Crisafulli government listens, acts and delivers—unlike the Labor government, who we know have learnt nothing from their decade of decline. We know that they have changed nothing in their plans going forward.


This bill is about restoring trust—trust that commitments are funded and that services are being and will be delivered. Queenslanders voted for a change. They voted for honesty, they voted for discipline and they voted for delivery, and that is exactly what the Crisafulli government is doing.

In my part of the world we see delivery with funding for a new hospital with 538 overnight beds and 84 acute mental health beds. This will meet the clinical needs of our community going forward. We have received ambulance upgrades. As the town is growing and further suburbs are being built on the outskirts, ensuring we have an ambulance fleet that is modern, capable and has the appropriate numbers is important so that when Queenslanders, parents, mums and dads pick up the phone and make the call they know that the service they expect their government to provide will be delivered. When it gets delivered they know that they will be ramping for less time because we have a health minister who is addressing the ambulance ramping that we inherited from Labor who have learnt nothing and changed nothing about their approach.

In Toowoomba we have just upgraded our sporting facilities. Social infrastructure is important to the fabric of the community so that people can enjoy being part of our community. I would like to thank the minister for ensuring that we have a nice TifTuf surface now, which I know the Clydesdales and the South West Thunder have been enjoying playing on. The lighting upgrade has meant that we will, at twilight, be able to attract some more serious games. In the future I hope we can upgrade the lighting a little more so that we can hold full night fixtures with TV-standard lighting. The stadium can be a little pocket rocket over a period of time. If a government applies a sensible budget and does it appropriately and in a methodical way it can be a little pocket rocket stadium with investment over time.

We need an additional road to the north from Wilsonton to Highfields because a lot of commuters are trying to make it into town and the New England is overcrowded. We will investigate that. Again we will understand the costs and we will put together a sensible budget and we will address that bottleneck over a period of time. In Toowoomba, especially with the Olympics coming, an athletics track would be wonderful to have. By partnering with the university and getting the local council involved, and maybe even some federal money, we will be able to solve that.

This budget is about ensuring that we are dealing with the expectations that the Queensland community has. We are here to serve and represent them and we will deliver for them. That is exactly what the Crisafulli government does, because it listens, acts and delivers.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (8.22 pm): This is yet another Labor budget debacle in this state. It is debacle after debacle when it comes to the former Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government and, in particular, former treasurer Cameron Dick. He is someone who apparently struggles with economics based on some of the fuel arguments he has been making this week. His record as treasurer in Queensland is blowout after blowout and unforeseen expenditures after unforeseen expenditures coming back to this parliament in the form of supplementary appropriations. I suspect they were not so unforeseen, but maybe they just wanted them to be unseen by Queenslanders. If they had enabled the truth in the budget year on year, and in the first appropriation bill when they released it year on year, then Queenslanders would have been able to see in one plain line the legacy of failures of those opposite.

Many Queenslanders do not know what we have inherited. A lot of Queenslanders might not realise there is a bit of a problem with Labor's budget bucket. It has a big hole in the bottom of it. That is what we inherited. I thought I would put it on display so my constituents can see what we are dealing

with when we are trying to fix the financial situation here in Queensland. I will not trouble the Table Office with that. Maybe it can be saved for another day. Hopefully it does not get to see the light of the Treasury coffers for a very long time because there are many things across my electorate I would love to see properly funded. That is challenging for us all, because we are a government of financial responsibility.

One thing that gets lost is that every dollar we spend, like the \$5.7 billion in this appropriation, is money we have borrowed from the next generation. I am the youngest regional MP. I am not the youngest MP; the member for Pumicestone now has that title. I am the youngest regional MP and it concerns me that those opposite have a legacy of budget overruns and borrowing more from the next generation. In his tenure, former treasurer Cameron Dick received \$70 billion more in revenue than was originally forecast and we do not have a single thing to show for it. What across Callide exists because of that \$70 billion? A lot of that \$70 billion came from royalties and the boom we had on the back of COVID in the energy space. We have no legacy infrastructure to show for it. That is a travesty for our state.

We now have a government that has the right focus and through the right discipline we can build legacy and get Queensland back on track. Some of those legacies that we are trying to rebuild are simple things like maternity services in rural communities. I have spoken regularly about the need to return maternity services across my electorate. We have a commitment and we will be returning maternity services to Biloela. I keep ensuring that Chinchilla is on the agenda, as well as other rural communities that have missed out for a very long time. I see those opposite come in here and ask questions about the delivery of care. I can reassure the Biloela community that I have been working with CQHHS and I have been clear that the consumers of the Biloela community have to be part of that journey and they have to be comfortable with the models of care that we provide and they have to be safe. I am happy to put that on the record because I know that is the expectation of the minister and Queensland Health. What we get is fearmongering from those opposite who thought that it was completely okay to see women give birth on the side of the highway because they could not deliver maternity services in rural Queensland.

It was great last year to finally see the start of construction of the Moura aged-care expansion. This is a project that had sat in limbo for many years because those opposite once again, even though they had an extra \$70 billion over many years to get some legacy projects going, did not get projects like the Moura aged-care expansion going. Through the Crisafulli LNP government we did. I called in there the other day. We now have a structure up and a lot of work happening to ensure that facility is fitted out and can be utilised by the Moura community.

The legacy of a lack of maintenance by those opposite is something else that we have inherited. It is not only the extra money they spent that we now no longer have, that we borrowed from the next generation, but the money they should have spent but did not which is now our mess to clean up. I spoke a couple of years ago in this House—and there was some media around it—about one of my schools at Monto with the paint flaking off the walls because those opposite could not even get a building painted at a school. I have been talking with the education team about the significant maintenance backlog at my local schools. It is simply atrocious to have that problem in rural communities. As the member who has the most schools of any MP, I think we need to ensure that we fund maintenance programs properly. That will be more challenging because of the fact that those opposite never did. I walk around my schools and many of them need a lot of work to get them up to current standards. That is more money that should have been spent that was not that we are now going to have to find.

Until we get the budget back to surplus that is money we are borrowing from the next generation, something that gets forgotten by those opposite when they come in here and splash cash around. Their solution is always to splash cash around. The real solution is to not splash cash around; it is fixing the legacy problems of the state and getting industry going, like an oil industry on the Western Downs by advancing the Taroom Trough development. Last night I mentioned how great a refinery would be on the Western Downs. I would love to see that get legs. I have had conversations this week, and I will certainly continue to have conversations, to encourage that. I know there is private industry that is eager to continue those conversations. I will certainly be pursuing them.


We know that the frustrating fuel situation is because of the inaction of the federal government, especially when we consider their political agenda. Last year, rather than securing fuel supply, Chris Bowen was running around trying to become president of COP31, because apparently you deliver fuel security to a nation by becoming president of an international body on climate change. I do not quite understand how that would help Australia's fuel security.

Across the electorate, the housing shortage is a big problem that faces not only our departments but also our health services, schools and private business. It was incredible to learn in meetings this week that, under Labor's housing plan, each house they were planning to build would have cost about \$2.4 million. I know a lot of local builders who could build a lot of houses for a lot less than that.

**A government member:** 'Gavenomics'.

**Mr HEAD:** 'Gavenomics'; I take the interjection. We know that those opposite do not quite understand economics—maybe even year 8 economics. Maybe 'Gavenomics' is about their level of economic knowledge. That might be fitting for the Labor Party. Nonetheless, the \$5.7 billion in this appropriation as well as the \$9 billion from the previous financial year is a lot of money that we will never get to spend on local facilities because those opposite blew it.

Throughout the debate we have heard about some of the programs that we were bewildered were not funded, including some very important child safety programs that the Labor Party forgot about. They funded them through to the election and then that was the end of it. Many of their commitments and other things that they championed were never funded into the forwards. They have been talking about energy rebates and 50-cent fares et cetera. Once again, we came to government and found there was no funding to carry any of those initiatives forward. For us to do things means we have to find more money. With the situation we inherited, the money that we have had to find has had to be borrowed from the next generation.

 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (8.32 pm): Tonight I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill and the Appropriation (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill. These cognate bills are technical in nature but their importance cannot be overstated. They go to the very heart of responsible government, ensuring that public money already spent from the Consolidated Fund is properly authorised by this parliament as required under section 66 of the Constitution of Queensland. This debate is about accountability, transparency and restoring integrity to the state's finances after years of fiscal mismanagement and a decade of decline under Labor.

These bills seek approval for the unforeseen expenditure of approximately \$5.746 billion incurred during the 2024-25 financial year across 17 departments, the Legislative Assembly and the Parliamentary Service. While unforeseen expenditure can occur for legitimate reasons such as natural disasters, timing changes in federal funding or emergent community needs, the scale of this supplementary appropriation reflects something far more concerning. Much of this expenditure was required because key services were left underfunded in the previous Labor government's final budget, leaving what can only be described as significant funding black holes.

Queenslanders deserve budgets that are honest, sustainable and focused on delivering services, not budgets designed to merely limp through to the next election. A major driver of this supplementary appropriation is the need to properly fund our frontline services that were left glaringly underfunded by those on the left after a decade of decline. More than \$2 billion in additional funding was required for Queensland Health alone, including substantial capital funding for hospital maintenance and infrastructure projects.

For residents in Redcliffe, this matters enormously. Our community relies heavily on the Redcliffe Hospital and the high-quality health care it provides. It serves not only locals but also the broader Moreton Bay region and its demand continues to grow as population expands. When health services are underfunded, waiting lists grow, staff are stretched and patients suffer. This funding will see an additional 210 beds delivered through the Redcliffe Hospital rescue plan. This supplementary funding also helps stabilise services, supports infrastructure upgrades and reduces surgical backlogs, including through initiatives such as Surgery Connect. That means fewer delays for procedures, less anxiety for families and better health outcomes for our community.

This bill also includes significant funding to address shortfalls in child safety services, with more than \$461 million to fill what has been described as a child safety funding black hole. In Redcliffe, as in many parts of Queensland, frontline child protection workers and community organisations do extraordinary work supporting vulnerable children and families, but they cannot do that work effectively without adequate resources. This funding helps ensure children at risk receive timely intervention, families receive support earlier and foster and kinship care systems are strengthened. Ultimately, it is about protecting the most vulnerable of our society, which is something that every member of this House should support. In this contribution, I want to give a shout-out to the new manager of Redcliffe child safety, Mr Peter Oxley: you and your team do amazing work. I also give a shout-out to UnitingCare and their foster and kinship program on the peninsula.

Housing affordability and homelessness are escalating concerns in my electorate of Redcliffe. The bill includes over \$200 million in additional housing funding, including money for homelessness services and the essential maintenance of social housing that was not funded previously. In Redcliffe, we see firsthand the impact of housing stress, from families struggling to find rentals to seniors worried about long-term security. Community organisations, churches and volunteers are doing their very best but they cannot replace properly funded government programs. This supplementary appropriation helps keep roofs over heads, maintains existing housing stock and supports those at risk of homelessness.

I thank the Minister for Housing, Sam O'Connor, for committing to building a youth foyer in Redcliffe and the Treasurer for funding it. That will create a home and a place to belong for 40 young people. It will create stability for them in times of crisis. To add to that, there is \$2 million for Redcliffe Area Youth Space to build classrooms for Gold-Standard Early Intervention, to keep our youth on track and provide a bright new future.

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms DOOLEY:** I take that interjection. One of the most tangible benefits for Redcliffe residents is funding to deliver the permanent 50-cent fares, with \$135 million allocated to ensure relief continues. Public transport is vital for commuters travelling from the peninsula to Brisbane for work, education and medical appointments. Having lower fares puts real money back in household budgets at a time when cost-of-living pressures remain high. With the current fuel crisis, the LNP's permanent 50-cent fares are one way to help families. For families juggling mortgages, groceries and fuel prices, cheaper transport is not just convenient; it is essential. It improves access to employment, reduces traffic congestion and supports local economic activity.

This bill also provides funding for financial assistance to victims of crime. Community safety is of top concern for my Redcliffe residents. Additional support for victims helps them to rebuild their lives and ensures the justice system is not just punitive but also compassionate. I am very proud to say that we have delivered on our election commitment to fund the Miracle Mums Movement in Redcliffe. Those funds will deliver peer-led wellness workshops for women to help them get their lives back on track after family and domestic violence.


Likewise, we are funding across police, corrective services and youth justice. For Redcliffe, \$44 million has been committed to build a new police station. After more than a decade of decline under Labor, they have a building that is no longer fit for purpose. We need to look after our frontline police who look after us with a fit-for-purpose building that keeps them safe.

Queensland is a state prone to natural disasters, and Redcliffe is no exception. Storms, flooding and severe weather events have caused significant damage to homes, businesses and infrastructure, so additional funding for emergency management and fire services helps ensure our frontline responders are equipped, trained and ready when disaster strikes, and that preparedness saves lives and reduces long-term recovery costs.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads has also received substantial additional funding under this bill. For Redcliffe residents, transport infrastructure is a constant issue, from congestion on key routes to maintaining safe roads and bridges. Investment in this area supports both safe and economic productivity. We have seen recent upgrades to Elizabeth Avenue and Anzac Avenue, making commuters' drive home safer and smoother. Reliable infrastructure connects Redcliffe residents to jobs, education, health care and tourism opportunities.

Queenslanders expect governments to treat taxpayer funds with respect. Every dollar spent is a dollar earned by hardworking families and businesses. We have also had delivered \$1 million towards the Bramble Bay Bowls Club for shade cloths and greens. Thanks to the Games On! funding, we have had lighting upgrades to Peninsula Power and Redcliffe Dolphins soccer clubs and some funding towards Redcliffe Tigers' female changing rooms.

In conclusion, the role of this parliament is to scrutinise spending, authorise necessary expenditure and ensure that public money is used responsibly. These bills do exactly that. They acknowledge the reality of costs incurred and help restore stability to Queensland's finances. It is a win, win for my community of Redcliffe.

 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (8.42 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the supplementary appropriation bills cognate debate this evening. This bill is the latest sorry chapter in the story of Labor's fiscal deception and mismanagement. Of course, it rounds out the 2024-25 budget. What we have seen

across the 17 departments, the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service is supplementary appropriations close to \$6 billion. It is significantly less than the \$9 billion of Labor's last supplementary bill, but it is still a significant amount. That amount comes about because there were a lot of black holes left in the budget by Labor.

One of the things that I heard a lot in the election leading up to being elected as the member for Townsville from my community was an acceptance that when they think about government, there is a lot of spending, but it does not necessarily result in delivery. In addition to that, when that spending was occurring, it was not occurring in the regions.

One of the hallmarks we have seen so far under the Crisafulli-led government is I am getting a lot of feedback—very positive feedback—on the investment we are making in the regions. I would like to thank the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer for their focus on that. In addition, all of our ministers are so accommodating with requests from the region. They come up to visit us regularly and that really does make a difference. Every time they come up, they have an announcement to invest in regional Queensland, and that is a big signal to regional Queensland not just, 'Your government cares for you, your government is investing in you,' but it also drives private investment, and we are seeing that now in Townsville. We are seeing projects and buildings that have sat idle for years now all of a sudden showing stirrings of life. There are investors investing money and that development is beginning to happen. It is a very exciting time in Townsville at the moment to see that.

I am reminded that earlier the member for Logan in his contribution spoke about seeing the 'Delivering for Queensland' bunting everywhere. That is a good thing. That means we are not just, as a government, making an announcement and getting a headline; that means we are actually delivering for Queensland. That announcement has turned into action which is turning into delivery which is what Queenslanders want to see. It builds confidence, like I said, not just from the public in their elected members but also it is a signal to the private sector that there is investment happening, and particularly in regional areas, and they gain the confidence to invest their money after seeing those signals themselves.

If we look at housing, for example, and the efforts we are making to make up the shortfall in housing that we have seen over these many years, the Residential Activation Fund is a \$2 billion program with at least half of that money—\$1 billion—to be invested in the regions. That is transformational for so many of our regional areas across Queensland.

In the northern suburbs of Townsville alone, \$44.2 million has been invested into two intersections to unlock traffic bottlenecks that were limiting the developments and the unlocking of land. One development in particular in Cosgrove needs a signalised intersection. That development was maxed out. They were not allowed to release any more lots based on the traffic implications and the flow that would add. By investing in this intersection, it means over 1,000 new blocks are unlocked and available to be released to the public. We are looking forward, in the very near future, to making more exciting announcements in the region, and I know the council and other landholders are looking forward to applying to see more housing delivered in regional Queensland.

Looking to more investments we are making in regional Queensland and how we are trying to address community safety, there will be more police, boots on the ground, but in particular the Flying Squad. The Flying Squad is a permanent resource that we can utilise to surge resources to where and when they are needed. That resource has been readily received by our local law enforcement officers, but the community sees it as well. Getting more boots on the ground and having a team that can fly in to hotspots as required and carry out specialist operations is a tremendous step forward in our law enforcement capability. We are also giving police the resources they need, such as an extra Polair helicopter in Townsville, to ensure we can have 24/7 coverage, and also the simple things that help protect our brave frontline officers like tasers and a whole lot of other tools they require for their safety.

It is this investment that we are making not just in the regions on infrastructure but into our people and frontline service officers which really sends a signal. Again, I will say it sends a signal to our community that we care about them, we care about our frontline workers and we care about their safety. When we are talking about early intervention and rehabilitation, I know Minister Gerber is investing an enormous amount in those programs to ensure we do not see the reoffending. The reoffending costs more than just money; it costs people the feeling of freedom of safety, the freedom of safety in their homes. I do not know that you can put a dollar figure on that, but investment in early intervention and rehabilitation is cutting down on that offending. When you have reoffending rates of over 90 per cent in

the youth justice system, you know something is not right and you know we need more resources and more training in that space. That is what we are doing: we are investing in those resources, we are investing in our young people, even if they have had a troubled background and made the wrong choices—


**Mrs Gerber:** Crime prevention school.

**Mr BALLIE:** I take that interjection from Minister Gerber; we are hoping to announce the crime prevention school in Townsville in the very near future. It is about these kids turning their lives around, making better choices and not disrupting law-abiding citizens or making them feel unsafe in their homes. They have to go through the challenges that we all face. We talk about losing a car. It is more than losing the vehicle and having to search for a replacement; it is a disruption to life, to getting to work and to getting kids to school. These investments do pay off in the long run, and it is important that we do make them.

I turn now to the cost of living. The cost of living, as I said earlier today, is a big discussion point around the dining room table at the moment. We have done a body of work to ensure families are getting that cost-of-living relief through our Back to School Boost and Play On! vouchers. These will help to keep kids active and provide some relief for parents when sending their kids to school. We are giving them that support. We know that if kids stay in school they will stay engaged and, ultimately, are more likely to stay out of trouble.

We talk about respect for taxpayers' money. We have been able to secure an 80-20 deal with the federal government for the Bruce Highway. In the last school holidays I drove the Bruce Highway from Townsville to Brisbane with the family. It was obvious how much work was being undertaken on the Bruce Highway, particularly the northern section of the Bruce Highway. That is where I saw the biggest stretches of recently sealed road, and line marking was still underway. That new investment is only occurring because we could secure that deal, and we secured that deal because the federal government had confidence in the Crisafulli government to deliver these projects on time and on budget. That is what we are about as a government: delivering projects on time and on budget and ensuring we are delivering for our community.

In Townsville, like I said earlier, people are noticing that we are delivering. I even saw a recent Facebook post from the member for Cairns, a fellow regional member—he spends a lot of time on Facebook—which mentioned that Townsville has received millions of dollars for new concerts and events, along with new infrastructure. I thank the member for Cairns for that acknowledgement. Yes, we have. We have been successful in getting that investment. We will continue to fight for our community to ensure those of us in the regional areas get the fair share we deserve after years of neglect under Labor.

 **Ms JAMES** (Barron River—LNP) (8.52 pm): Let's call this for what it is: this bill is not just a line item; it is the receipt for a decade of Labor mismanagement. Needing to come back to parliament to ask for an extra \$5.7 billion is not a rounding error or bad luck; that is the result of a former government that simply could not manage a budget. Queenslanders are the ones left paying the price.

Let's break it down. Labor's last budget was not built to last a year; it was built to limp through an election, like something limp, lifeless and ready for retirement. It was full of sugar hits and brain farts, with ideas of state owned fuel stations—nothing says cost-of-living relief quite like putting the same people who blew out the budget in charge of petrol prices. Can you imagine the prices right now? My other favourite was the free school lunches. That was another headline grabber followed by a soggy sandwich series on socials to jam it home—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Member for Barron River, I did not hear it myself, but I understand that you used a phrase which was unparliamentary. I ask you to withdraw.

**Ms JAMES:** I withdraw. My other favourite was free school lunches—another headline grabber followed by a soggy sandwich series on socials by the former Labor premier to jam it home.

**Mr O'Connor:** They would have been soggy, too.

**Ms JAMES:** Yes, it takes a certain kind of genius to think making sandwiches online the night before school counts as leadership. That is pretty stale, for sure. Free school lunches sounded good until we asked who was paying and how they were planning to deliver them, with a major shortage of volunteers and commercial kitchens in schools. Again, it was another sugar hit idea that was uncoded and unbudgeted in a hope to get re-elected.

That was just their election campaign. Let's talk about what they did as a government. The Labor Party underfunded frontline services knowingly. They buried cost blowouts deliberately. They left behind a trail of budget black holes that we are now cleaning up. We need over \$2 billion extra for Queensland Health alone and hundreds of millions more for child safety, housing and victim support. There was a so-called budget that did not even fund the services that people rely on every single day. What does that tell us? It tells us that Labor were not managing the books; they were managing headlines.

Even independent observers saw it. There were warnings about a waning fiscal discipline, rising debt, structural deficits and a credit rating under pressure. Let's not forget the big ones—the projects that blew out billions. Cross River Rail has ballooned far beyond what Queenslanders were told, and a hospital was announced but there was no funding to run it. Promises were made, headlines were secured and reality was ignored. When the truth caught up, they split their own blowouts across multiple bills hoping that no-one would notice, but Queenslanders notice. They notice when services are not there. They notice when infrastructure stalls. They notice when governments promise more than they can deliver. Most importantly, they voted for change.

Queenslanders do not want spin; they want stability, honesty and a government that respects their money. They want a government that manages a budget like we manage our own budgets in our own homes and our own businesses—like real, responsible and normal human beings who have not been on the government gravy train their whole professional life. That is exactly what we on this side of the House are delivering.

Let me talk about what it looks like on the ground, because this is where it matters—not in budget papers and not in press releases but in real outcomes for real communities. In my community of Far North Queensland we are getting on with the job. We are investing in health because people deserve access to care when they need it, not months or years down the track. We are investing a record \$1 billion, and it is underway. We are stabilising elective surgery waitlists. We are investing in hospital infrastructure. We are making sure that when we announce a hospital we have the funds to operate it. That is the difference.

**A government member:** What a novel idea.

**Ms JAMES:** I know—it is novel. We are investing in roads and transport because in Far North Queensland distance matters. Better roads mean safer travel. The Western Arterial Road, the Bruce Highway and the brand new Barron River bridge mean stronger connections between communities and economic opportunity, because when goods and people can move regions grow.

Importantly, we are delivering permanent 50-cent fares, which is real cost-of-living relief for families, workers and students. It is not a trial. It is not a short-term fix. It is permanent. We are also investing in housing and community safety because every Queenslander deserves a safe place to live. We are filling the funding gaps Labor left behind in housing and homelessness services. We are backing victim support. We are addressing the pressures that were ignored for too long.

We are investing in something that matters deeply to Far North Queensland: tourism and lifestyle. This is not just about visitors; it is about jobs, local pride and building communities where people want to live, work and stay. Under the former tourism minister and member for Cairns, tourism was set to have a 95 per cent budget cut, dropping from \$160 million to \$8 million. They were going to halve the budget of Queensland's premier tourism marketing body—TEQ—in the lead-up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Can you imagine what that would have meant for Far North Queensland and tourism, with one in seven people employed by tourism in Far North Queensland? They had nothing for events in Cairns, nothing for aviation and nothing for product development. It is absolutely shameful.

We will be investing \$1 billion in tourism over the next four years. Let's not forget to remind everyone about the Wangetti Trail fail—Australia's most expensive footpath with a budget blowout costing \$22.5 million for 7.8 kilometres of trail because the member for Cairns wanted stage 1 delivered before the election, no matter the cost. There was no Barlow Park upgrade in the budget and no Smithfield Mountain Bike Trail, but our government have committed to both projects. The member for Cairns never thought mountain biking was something to invest in, and this project fell on deaf ears for a decade. We have committed \$15½ million to the Smithfield Mountain Bike Park, and the project is well and truly on track. This will bring approximately \$100 million annually into the local economy when it is complete—a great investment for tourism. This is world-class infrastructure right on our doorstep and it attracts international visitors, supports local businesses and gives our community something to be proud of. It is exactly the kind of smart and strategic investment that delivers long-term results.

When I look across at what we have delivered locally, it is not one project. It is not one announcement. It is a pipeline of outcomes—upgrades to community infrastructure, support for local organisations, investment in safer roads and stronger services. Representation is not about turning up when it is easy; it is about persistence, it is about doing the work day in and day out—listening, persisting, delivering—and that is what I have always believed.

It is all about trust—that, when a government announces something, it will be delivered; trust that budgets are honest; trust that decisions are made with the long term in mind, not just the next election, because once trust is lost it is hard to rebuild. After a decade of Labor, Queenslanders have lost that trust and we are brick by brick rebuilding it calmly, methodically and responsibly.

Let me be clear: this is not about going backwards; this is about moving forward stronger, with better infrastructure, with stronger services and with a government that understands the responsibility it has to every Queenslander. Every dollar we spend is not government money; it is Queensland's money and it deserves respect. Yes, this bill reflects the mess we inherited, but it also reflects something else. It reflects the government willing to step up, take responsibility and fix it.

Debate, on motion of Ms James, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT



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

That the House do now adjourn.

### Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail



**Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (9.00 pm): I rise in the House tonight to speak about yet another cut by the Crisafulli LNP government. Though this issue is about the Woodridge electorate, it is much bigger than Woodridge alone. It strikes at the heart of this sneaky, mean and tricky Crisafulli LNP government. Put simply, the LNP has cut a future walkway and bikeway that would connect the suburb of Kuraby to Beenleigh—all the way through the Woodridge electorate. If Premier Crisafulli bothered to drive to his proxy electorate of Broadwater he would know two things: Logan is doing the heavy lifting when it comes to providing new homes for Queenslanders, but congestion on our roads is reaching breaking point. Instead of getting more people off our roads and onto this bikeway, the LNP is condemning everyone to hours of gridlock every single day.


The Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail project is a vital upgrade to the Queensland Rail network which was funded, designed and delivered by Labor. By getting rid of level crossings and upgrading stations in the Woodridge electorate, the project promised more reliable services for commuters. But the project upgrade is about more than just trains. From the outset, the Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail project included a continuous active transport corridor—a safe, accessible cycling and walking route connecting communities along the project rail line from Kuraby all the way through to Beenleigh. This corridor was not an optional extra; it was central to creating a modern, integrated transport network that would reduce congestion and keep cyclists safe and off our roads. Yet, without warning or any community consultation, two key sections of this bikeway, including a section from Woodridge train station to Kingston train station, have been dumped from the project design. The minister confirmed these cuts publicly when concerned stakeholders discovered this sneaky and secret design change. Our community was not even worth a media release from the LNP.

Groups like Bicycle Queensland have rightly sounded the alarm. I joined Matt Burke, the Bicycle Queensland CEO, at Woodridge train station this morning. Matt said—

This project was meant to deliver a continuous cycling corridor from Kuraby to Beenleigh, around three times longer than Ipswich Road in Brisbane, creating a safe and direct route, keeping cyclists off our roads.

A broken corridor is no corridor at all. It is a missed opportunity. This bikeway would have provided the Woodridge community with a real alternative to driving, getting more cars off our roads. Tonight, on behalf of the residents in the Woodridge electorate, I call on the Crisafulli LNP government to do two things: first, provide an explanation for why these sections were cut without any notice whatsoever; and, second, reinstate the continuous active transport corridor in full immediately. The people of Woodridge deserve better than this. They deserve safe and connected transport options now and into the future, not another broken promise from the Crisafulli LNP government.

## Fuel Security


 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.03 pm): I rise to share the story of Jack, a local small business owner who runs a landscaping business in my electorate and is feeling the crushing impact of rising fuel costs. Like many trades, his business depends on fuel as a fundamental part of his day-to-day operations, and the current price at the pump is making it increasingly difficult for him to operate. He has two options: absorb these increases or pass them on, risking losing work and making it more expensive for consumers. Jack is not alone. He is just one of many local families and businesses struggling with affordability and access and worrying how much longer they can weather this crisis.

On my way to Brisbane yesterday I passed the BP at Tugun, where unleaded fuel was priced at \$2.70 and diesel was \$3.17. These are extraordinary prices and they are placing significant strain on families, tradies and small businesses who rely on their vehicles every day. It is about supply, which the federal government needs to tackle. Comments from Canberra suggesting there is more fuel today than two months ago fly in the face of the reality that Queenslanders are currently facing. They are paying more. It is harder to find fuel. They are worried about whether future shipments will arrive. We are a cross-border community. We need to act in unison. That is why we need to have a national approach. We need the federal government to get cracking on it. They must start giving us information about fuel prices and supply levels. We are asking Canberra for a national dashboard, for clear and consistent information on the flow of fuel across the country, because without that information uncertainty and anxiety grow. I have not seen it like this in my border community since COVID.

For our part, at the state level, we were the first state government to raise concerns and call on the federal government to urgently deal with fuel supply issues. We are doing our bit, including convening suppliers and retailers. We were the first state to announce our point of contact on the national taskforce, Mr Bob Gee, our very own Cross-Border Commissioner, and I thank him for the vital work he is currently doing. We are removing planning barriers to unlock new supply and secure fuel after the opening of new areas for gas and petroleum exploration like the Taroom Trough—a decision our government took even before this fuel crisis.

Our Crisafulli government has been clear: we want fuel to flow to Queenslanders, but this is a national issue that requires a national response. We will continue to call on Canberra to secure supply because Queenslanders like Jack in my electorate deserve certainty and deserve information. They do not deserve to suffer the anxiety they are currently suffering, not knowing what is going to happen day to day and worrying about whether we have enough supply. A national dashboard would ensure information flows not just to my border community but also across states. This is a national issue and we will continue to stand up for Queenslanders and back them on rising fuel costs.

## Queensland Sport and Recreation

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (9.06 pm): Four days ago Queensland Sport and Recreation announced on its Facebook page that it would be renamed the Department of Sport, and I table that post.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, dated 21 March 2026, from the Facebook page of Queensland Sport and Recreation, in relation to the page's renaming to 'Queensland Department of Sport' [\[418\]](#).

Their rationale is that sport in Queensland is bigger than ever, and they are right: sport is worth celebrating. This rebrand raises serious questions for me about what and who gets left behind in the pursuit of high-performance sport. The umbrella term 'recreation' refers to non-competitive activity. It includes walking groups, cycling, bushwalking, trail running, paddling, and mountain biking. It includes the work of organisations like Girl Guides, Scouts Queensland, Queensland Walks, Outdoors Queensland and Bicycle Queensland—groups that quietly, consistently keep people active every day. Recreation is where participation begins. It is where confidence builds. It is where people who might never see themselves as athletes find movement and find community and belonging, and it is the pipeline for many into formal sport.

I have questions for the sports minister. What focus does recreation now have in your department? What does the future hold for recreation organisations currently in receipt of state government funding, many of which are approaching renewal? Will their funding be renewed? Will organisations like Scouts and Girl Guides continue to be eligible for Play On! vouchers? What about

emerging activities like trail running, which is currently seeking Olympic recognition ahead of Brisbane 2032? Who is backing them under this new divisional model? Was this decision to erase a business unit that is responsible for keeping thousands of Queensland women and girls active driven by the minister? Whistleblowers tell me that the draft sports strategy, which is now four months overdue, has already dropped references to recreation altogether, so I ask: what consultation was undertaken with the sector on this?

Queensland should absolutely celebrate elite sport, but we cannot achieve high performance without high participation, and recreation sits at the base of the participation pyramid. This House deserves clarity on whether the government understands that or is prepared to lose it at the very time we are preparing our state for the international sporting stage.


I also want to give a shout-out to the great folk of Rockhampton and Mount Morgan. I had the opportunity to travel there with the shadow treasurer recently. We had a women's lunch with professional women talking about issues around energy, health and community safety. It was a fantastic lunch. I thank the sports groups who met with us to talk about their growing infrastructure investment and coordination.

**Mr G Kelly** interjected.

**Ms BUSH:** Yes, we also got a mention from local influencer Gloria Kelly the Chook, who did not like two Labor women supporting their local coffee shop in Mount Morgan, which was odd because all the locals had really welcomed us there. On further inspection, it seems that Gloria Kelly the Chook appears to be no other than the member for Mirani himself, who is posting under a second profile using his chicken's name and then sharing the chicken's content onto his MP account. It is amazing what some people will do for engagement. To paraphrase another esteemed social media user: 'Fantastic. Well done. Great move, Glen.'

*(Time expired)*

### Chatsworth Electorate, Update

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (9.09 pm): I am honoured to stand here tonight and share how we are delivering real outcomes for my community in Chatsworth. I am particularly focused on advancing our government's vision to give all children the best start and invest in our local school communities. I am delivering on my election commitments to key local schools, including Belmont State School, Carina State School which is my old alumni, Gumdale State School and Mayfield State School. Of the five education infrastructure election commitments relating to schools in the Chatsworth electorate, four have been delivered and work is well underway on the remaining commitment.


In particular, Mayfield State School has benefited from a \$550,000 investment in the Mayfield activity covered court area, known as the MACCA Centre. I am delighted to share that the MACCA Centre's new acoustic wall is now complete. Featuring artwork that represents the school's sporting houses, this addition not only enhances the space visually but also significantly improves noise management, creating a more comfortable and functional environment for students, staff and the wider community.

Additionally, I have delivered a \$10 million investment towards the construction of a new block at Belmont State School. After having the opportunity to meet the principal to review the draft concept for a new building that will include four modern classrooms, it is exciting to see an overpass to the adjacent building. This project will retain the existing A block whilst introducing a centrally located classroom facility. This will improve accessibility and convenience for both students and staff. Further, an additional \$40,000 has been delivered for facility upgrades, ensuring improved infrastructure and creating a positive and supportive learning environment for our future generations.

As a former student of Carina State School, it is incredibly meaningful to now stand here as a minister and deliver some facility upgrades, including the installation of an automated gate to ensure safety for students and staff. In addition, Gumdale State School has received \$661,000 to upgrade its facilities, delivering four modular classrooms. This significant investment provides fully accessible, multipurpose learning spaces and a Grow Well Hub that benefits students, staff and the Gumdale community. In addition to school enhancements, I am also delivering for the Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee, known as B4C, which is a Landcare and environmental organisation. Their rehabilitation and weed control projects are well and truly underway.

The Queensland Koala Society is another vital organisation providing a 24/7 rescue service to protect one of Australia's most iconic species, the koala. To support this, I am working with Transport and Main Roads to deliver a fauna crossing on Old Cleveland Road. I will continue to consult with local stakeholders. After 14 years representing Chatsworth, it is my absolute joy to provide this House with an update.

### **Paterson, Ms K; Paterson, Miss A; Macalister Electorate, Road Infrastructure**

 **Ms McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (9.12 pm): I stand here because I have waited all week for any acknowledgement from the government, from the Premier, from any minister or from anyone at all in government of the domestic and violence tragedy that impacted my community just two weeks ago. I stand here tonight to make sure the names of Kate Paterson and April Paterson are acknowledged in this House.

Kate was a teacher at Windaroo State School and this tragedy has had an immeasurable impact on the school community. She had only just returned to work from maternity leave, and there are hundreds of kids who are for the first time in their lives dealing with an unexpected and sudden tragedy involving someone who was so important to them. I also acknowledge her previous work at Kimberley Park State School where she taught my kids. It shows how many lives a teacher's work touches. My thoughts are with her family, her friends and the wider school and teacher community. In Logan it is so connected and so supportive and this one tragedy has affected so many.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Member for Macalister, can I ask you please to assure the House that you have considered the sub judice rule? Can you provide an assurance that none of this is before the courts at all?

**Ms McMAHON:** Certainly. I have considered sub judice and there is no content with reference to a current matter before the court.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** On the basis of that assurance, you have the call.


**Ms McMAHON:** It makes no sense for there to be such a tragedy at such a young age. None of it makes any sense. Baby April was not even one year old—forever a baby. Two lives were cut short and we have gone this week without even acknowledging it. Maybe if they had lived in Brisbane rather than the outskirts of Logan—we are often bypassed in Logan, being halfway between Brisbane and the Gold Coast but the people in Logan matter. They matter to us as their elected representatives and they matter to Queensland. It would have been really nice just to be acknowledged—

**Ms CAMM:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This matter is before the court. I would seek your ruling because I have concerns as the minister for domestic and family violence that the member in her contribution is walking a fine line with regard to the matters that are before the court and the sub judice rules.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Wait one moment. I will take some advice. Member for Macalister, I understand you are probably moving on from the sensitive matter of contention here. I ask that you be mindful of the sub judice rule in the remainder of your contribution. I acknowledge your input, Minister.

**Ms McMAHON:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I will not be speaking about this tragedy any further because, unfortunately, not two days later my community was subject to another tragedy, which has also not been acknowledged in this House. I stood here three weeks ago and spoke about lighting issues at exit 34, that it was a dangerous roundabout and that people would die. Who would know that less than 10 days later we would have a fatality at exit 34? Maybe if this exit was in the minister's backyard we would have got some lighting. The question will be: what is the value of putting in some lighting or repairing it? Will there be money in this year's budget to finally get some lighting, because Logan lives do matter? We stand up for our people in this House and we want that acknowledged.

### **Youth Homelessness**


 **Mrs YOUNG** (Redlands—LNP) (9.17 pm): It is the commitment of the Crisafulli LNP government to give more Queenslanders a place to call home. On Wednesday I was again reminded why that commitment matters. I had the opportunity to speak at the Property Industry Foundation's Youth Homelessness Matters Day Breakfast Forum ahead of Youth Homelessness Matters Day on 15 April. The event was a powerful reminder that while we often talk about housing in terms of supply and policy, at its core this is about people: young Queenslanders trying to find stability, safety and a future.

Across Australia nearly 46,000 young people aged 15 to 24 seek help from homelessness services each year. Behind that number are young people facing serious issues like domestic and family violence, family breakdowns and housing instability. Without a stable place to live, everything else becomes harder—education, employment, health and a connection to community. That is why Youth Homelessness Matters Day matters. It ensures these stories are heard and keeps the focus where we need it to be.

At that forum we spoke about the work underway, from frontline homelessness services to youth foyers that provide not just accommodation but also the support young people need to rebuild their lives, because a roof alone is not enough. Young people need pathways out of crisis into stability, but we must also ensure more young people never reach crisis point. That is where this connects directly to what I am hearing in the Redlands.

At my recent first home buyers round table young locals told me that what should be an exciting milestone has become overwhelming. Rising costs, confusion and uncertainty are leaving some feeling that home ownership is out of their reach. Whether it is a young person at risk of homelessness or trying to buy their first home, the issue is the same—access to housing and clear pathways forward. That is why we are acting, supporting those who need help now and creating opportunity through increased supply and practical pathways into home ownership. Through Boost to Buy, Queenslanders can purchase a home with as little as two per cent deposit. We have abolished stamp duty for first home owners and we are increasing supply in communities like the Redlands so people can stay close to what matters most. Housing is more than just a roof over your head, it is the foundation for everything else in life, and that is exactly why we are focused on delivering real pathways into safe, stable housing for more Queenslanders, because every young person deserves a place to build their future, and that is what we are delivering.

### **Epilepsy, Purple Day**

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (9.20 pm): Today is Purple Day, which is held each year on 26 March, and I recognise the extraordinary work of Epilepsy Queensland. Purple Day is an important opportunity to raise awareness of epilepsy, to challenge stigma and to stand with the many Queenslanders and families whose lives are affected by epilepsy. Epilepsy is one of the most common but most complex neurological conditions. It affects people of all ages and stages of life. One in 25 people will be diagnosed with epilepsy at some point in their lifetime and, despite its prevalence, it remains widely misunderstood.

Many of us think of epilepsy only in terms of seizures, but we are not aware of how it can affect people's independence, education, employment, social participation and mental wellbeing; how it can bring fear, uncertainty and isolation; and how for many people those challenges are made even harder by misunderstanding and stigma. That is why awareness matters and why the work of Epilepsy Queensland is so very important. For more than 50 years, Epilepsy Queensland has helped bridge the gap between clinical care and everyday life for Queenslanders with epilepsy. Through education, information, peer support and community awareness, it has helped reduce isolation, improve safety and build confidence. Epilepsy Queensland provides practical, day-to-day support that makes a real difference to the lives of people. It helps individuals and families better understand epilepsy, navigate the challenges that come with a diagnosis and connect with others who have lived experience. It delivers education and training in the community, helps raise awareness in schools and workplaces, and provides peer support that reduces isolation and reminds people that they are not alone with this condition.


This month Epilepsy Queensland has once again led Make March Purple for epilepsy—a national awareness and fundraising campaign that brings together families, schools, workplaces, businesses and communities to shine a light on epilepsy and essential support services. Families like the member for Springwood's family gathered together to have the bowling for Millie day, and well done on that.

I want to acknowledge Epilepsy Queensland's patron, Wally Lewis, and the Queensland volunteers involved in the national peer support program: Carol Barrett, Paul Barry, Roslyn Hackett, Thi Le, Maximillian Luca, Tipene Mosese, Olivia Rowswell, Sapphira Toh and Natalie Wright. I also want to acknowledge the many volunteers and supporters who stand with Epilepsy Queensland and have done so for many years, including the Walsh family, Greg and Vicky Smith, Bridget Franettovich, and Susan and Craig Smith. Their support has helped sustain this work and strengthen our communities.

Today is also a chance to recognise the courage and resilience of people living with epilepsy and of the families and carers who love and support them. I want to particularly acknowledge Ivy—someone who I have known since she was in prep before she developed epilepsy. I have watched her on her journey. I have seen her family work together. I have seen Ivy become an ambassador for Epilepsy Queensland and I am so pleased that she is now in her second year of social work dedicated to helping disengaged young kids. This Purple Day let's do more to raise awareness, let's listen, let's learn and let's recommit to building an informed, compassionate and inclusive Queensland for people living with epilepsy.

*(Time expired)*

### Rockhampton Electorate, Volunteering

 **Mrs KIRKLAND** (Rockhampton—LNP) (9.23 pm): Just this week I addressed the Australian Men's Shed Association where we spoke about the incredible mental health benefits and the great work that happens when community comes together for a cause. In light of today's contributions on the volunteering inquiry, I want to highlight some of the incredible work of our local volunteer organisations that do incredible work in our community. We can never say thank you enough to the likes of our volunteer rural firefighting teams.


**Mr G Kelly** interjected.

**Mrs KIRKLAND:** I take the cheer-on interjection from the member for Mirani. Those teams, along with our local SES teams, sign up and so do their families. I want to say thank you to not only the volunteers of these two particular organisations but their families as well for showing up and for always supporting our community. In Rockhampton we have this year experienced two minor flood events in which we saw those local volunteer SES groups activated and out in force—connecting with community in the lead-up, ensuring emergency essentials were delivered to those who were isolated and then out there again in the clean-up.

There are more incredible volunteers across Rockhampton and Gracemere such as the Gracemere Progress Association, who have been delivering outstanding free family events and bringing a very real sense of community at the same time as increasing their events calendar. I would like to do a shout-out to the Rockhampton Food Bank. Mal and Lisa Holmes are always there every Thursday and Friday providing relief to people in need. They have a group of volunteers, who I give a big thank you to as well, who assist with the sorting and the distribution. I would also like to give a huge shout-out to Girls Time Out. The leader there is Shea Taylor. His family is an amazing team that focuses on supporting young women and girls through mentoring and programs. It is a great outreach.

I would also like to thank all of our sporting organisations, where mums, dads, grandparents, carers and previous players all show up just to keep things going. I say a huge thank you to all of those sporting organisations like our local Fitzroy Rowing Club. Sarah Black, Todd Wells and an army of incredible people in the rowing community who have worked especially hard over the last 16 months in their advocacy for Rockhampton to host the Olympic and Paralympic rowing and canoeing—a fantastic achievement that will now see world-class rowing facilities supporting regional Queensland. Volunteers are the lifeblood that flows through the veins of our communities.


### Prince Charles Hospital, The Common Good

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—Ind) (9.27 pm): I rise tonight to congratulate and celebrate a wonderful charity and research foundation: the Common Good. They are the charitable and research partners of the mighty Prince Charles Hospital, one of Australia's leading cardiology hospitals that also offers significant emergency department and general health services. This year the foundation celebrates 40 years. Congratulations and thanks to CEO Steve Francia, his hardworking team and indeed those who went before them to build the organisation. I think there are two secrets to their achievements. Firstly, they are not inward focused. Rather, they deliberately engage with the broader community. Secondly, they are not just a fundraising machine for the sake of it; they have tremendous integration with the real-time treatment of patients. They provide important research on heart disease, lung disease, mental health and aging.

I would like to expand on the establishment of the Tradie Hub. I am sure many members will remember that a few years ago there was a very concerning spike in occupational lung disease including silicosis. Many cases were linked to the manufacture of benchtops along with other construction work, indeed agricultural work. With their history as specialists in this field the hospital

stepped up, backed all the way by the Common Good. I recognise the tireless work of former CEO Michael Hornby in establishing Australia's first health Tradie Hub. It saved lives. It created a safe place for workers who, let's be honest, would not necessarily always go to their GP. I thank the medical staff, along with the scientists who give their incredible skills to this pursuit. I saw the remnants and, having seen the size and shape of those shards, I do not know how they survived, but the Prince Charles Hospital and The Common Good's Tradie Hub found a way. While I take great pride that it is based in my electorate, I understand that they serve the broader north side and, indeed, the state. I thank them again.

### **Bribie Island, Erosion; Caloundra Arts Centre**


 **Ms MORTON** (Caloundra—LNP) (9.30 pm): I rise tonight to acknowledge the incredible work of some local Caloundra organisations. Firstly, we have all watched the incredible work of the Coordinator-General and the entire department, the Hall Contracting team, Bluey's Photography—with his tens of millions of views—and multiple locals in addressing the decade-long concern about the breakthrough and thinning of our beloved Bribie Island. As a result of a committed LNP government listening to the people of Caloundra, over 1.1 million cubic metres of sand has been moved back to widen and preserve our barrier island.

Last week we reached a huge milestone in the project: our hardworking, dedicated Volunteer Coast Guard were able to return home. That is right; our very own Caloundra Coast Guard has not been able to use their home base headquarters due to the changing Pumicestone Passage conditions as a result of the breakthroughs. For years now the coast guard has had to relocate in order to be able to get their boats out. Our coast guard works day and night to rescue those stranded, in distress or just to keep our waterways safe. With the dredging of the old channel, the team, led by Roger, is now able to make safe passage through the waterways to and from their home base. With 106 dedicated volunteers and 52 years operating as the Coast Guard Caloundra, they are truly an icon of and a valuable asset to our community.

I would also like to acknowledge another gem of the Caloundra community, the Caloundra Arts Centre. We all know how beneficial creative spaces and opportunities are to a community. The arts centre takes this to a whole new level. This year our gorgeous Caloundra Arts Centre turns 50. With 500 members and a strong committee of Mike, Amanda, Maureen, Susan and a wider operational committee, it continues to go from strength to strength. People go to the arts centre for art and creative outlets, but also for connection to each other. They offer quilting, painting, crochet, pottery and drawing, just to name a few of the 23 different classes they offer across seven days a week at multiple times a day. There is even a five-year waitlist for the pottery class. They are an amazing organisation. I would also like to highlight that the Caloundra Arts Centre, despite 50 years of history, are a hidden gem in our community. They have a fantastic master plan they are working towards in order to give Caloundra locals an opportunity to participate in and engage with art, as well as visitors to our town. I am just so impressed and grateful for the time that they have taken to engage with me. Both of these organisations represent what is near and dear to us in Caloundra, both our natural and created beauty. I thank these two fantastic organisations for everything they do for our community.

## **ACTING SPEAKER'S STATEMENT**

### **Chamber Broadcast**

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, before adjourning I would like to remind all members about their obligations to the rules of this House in relation to using the broadcasting material from the House in accordance with the conditions of use set by the House and also in relation to misrepresenting the proceedings of this House or disrespecting or reflecting on the chair. Members need to think about their obligations before putting material up on social media. Social media is a forum where people sometimes get away with misrepresentations of the truth. We cannot allow a situation where the proceedings of this House are misrepresented, particularly by its own members. We have reached a stage where serious action will need to be taken by the House to reinforce these matters to all members and others.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.34 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, Kelly G, Kelly J, Kempton, King, Kirkland, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Linard, Lister, Mander, Marr, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahan, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Mullen, Nicholls, Nightingale, O'Connor, O'Shea, Pease, Poole, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stoker, Sullivan, Vorster, Watts, Whiting, Young