



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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Phone (07) 3553 6344

## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

### Wednesday, 22 April 2026

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## WEDNESDAY, 22 APRIL 2026

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The Legislative Assembly met at 2.00 pm.

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

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


### PRIVILEGE

#### Comments by Minister for Education and the Arts, Apology

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (2.01 pm): Mr Speaker, it has been brought to my attention that on 10 February 2026 during my speech on anti-Semitism I inadvertently misled the House. I stated, 'None of those opposite from the Labor Party ... were at Never Again is Now rallies or Kristallnacht and Yom HaShoah commemorations over the past 2½ years until December 2025.' I have been advised that that is incorrect. I unreservedly apologise to the House for the error.

### SPEAKER'S RULING


#### Rule of Anticipation

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 16 October 2025 the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee tabled report No. 14 *Improving Queensland's container refund scheme*. Notice of motion for the House to take note of committee report No. 3 relates to that report. On 26 March 2026 the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation introduced the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Strengthening the Container Refund Scheme) Amendment Bill. That bill implements recommendations of the inquiry and report by the committee.

A bill is a superior form of proceedings to a motion. Thus, any issue of anticipation favours a bill. It is clear that any debate of report No. 14 of the committee is likely to be anticipatory of the bill in terms of standing order 231. Accordingly, I rule that the debate of the committee report will need to be either postponed until after the bill has been dealt with or discharged from the *Notice Paper*.

### PRIVILEGE

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

 **Mr SPEAKER:** On 19 March 2026, the member for McConnel wrote to me alleging that the Deputy Premier deliberately misled the House on 4 March 2026. The matter relates to a statement by the Deputy Premier during ministerial statements when he said that the member for McConnel was happy for rowing to be at Wyaralong. At the time he made the statement, the Deputy Premier tabled a transcript from the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee estimates hearing from 31 July 2025.

I have reviewed the statement made by the Deputy Premier, along with the words spoken by the member. The transcript from the estimates hearing reflects the statement that was attributed to the member. Further, the Deputy Premier tabled the transcript which contains the member's full quote within. I consider the Deputy Premier has made an adequate explanation. I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

Finally, I encourage all members to use the procedures of the House available to them, such as matters of public interest and the adjournment debate, to outline or explain any policy positions or matters that they are of the belief have been misinterpreted. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter. I have circulated a ruling on this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling. Is leave granted?

Leave granted.

#### SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

On 19 March 2026, the member for McConnel wrote to me alleging that the Deputy Premier deliberately misled the House on 4 March 2026.

The matter relates to statement made during Ministerial Statements.

Specifically, the Deputy Premier said:

*'Mr BLEIJIE: Now I see the shadow minister saying, 'Oh no, the Labor Party do support rowing'. The Labor Party support rowing in Rocky, apparently, despite the shadow minister being on the record saying she supported it being at Wyaralong.*

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

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

The member submitted that while she did say she supported rowing at Wyaralong at the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee Estimates Hearing from 31 July 2025, she also said she supported rowing at the Fitzroy River. Her full quote was, 'Can I say that I am happy for rowing to be at Fitzroy and I am happy for rowing to be at Wyaralong, I am just talking about process and governance'.

I sought further information from the Deputy Premier about the allegation that has been made against him, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The Deputy Premier relied on the same quote by the member from the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee Estimates Hearing, focusing on when she said, 'I am happy for rowing to be at Wyaralong'.

Standing Order 269(4) requires that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, that I should take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter.


I have reviewed the statements made by the Deputy Premier, along with the words spoken by the members. The transcript from the Estimates Hearing reflects the statement that was attributed to the member for McConnel. Further, the Deputy Premier tabled the transcript which contains the member's full quote. I find it difficult to see how a person could be misled when reviewing the Record of Proceedings and accompanying tabled paper.

Accordingly, I consider the Deputy Premier has made an adequate explanation and I **will not** be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

Finally, I encourage all members to use the procedures of the House available to them, such as Matters of Public Interest and the Adjournment Debate to outline or explain any policy positions or matters that they are of the belief have been misinterpreted.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations and member for Kawana [\[560\]](#).

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

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 23 March 2026, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition wrote to me alleging that the Deputy Premier deliberately misled the House on 10 February 2026. The matter relates to a statement by the Deputy Premier during questions without notice where he stated that the opposition's housing policy would have resulted in homes costing \$2.3 million each to build.

Both the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Premier used the same statistics, albeit interpreted differently, to support their position. I consider this to be a dispute on the interpretation of a policy. It is both technical and trivial. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter. I have circulated a ruling on this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling. Is leave granted?

Leave granted.

#### SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

On 23 March 2026, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition wrote to me alleging that the Deputy Premier deliberately misled the House on 10 February 2026.

The matter relates to a statement made during Questions without Notice.

Specifically, the Deputy Premier said:

*Under their policy, each home was going to cost \$2.3 million to build... \$2.3 million to build a house.*

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition submitted that this was deliberately misleading because the quoted \$1.7billion project cost was the total project cost to Government over approximately 40 years and not just the cost of the 715 homes that would eventuate.

I sought further information from the Deputy Premier about the allegation that has been made against him, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The Deputy Premier relied on the same figures as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and submitted that his interpretation on the cost of the policy was shared by an article in the Courier Mail from 29 January 2026 in which the journalist said, 'Labor's plan to build homes on state-owned land near existing infrastructure would have cost \$1.7 billion and delivered just 715 dwellings'.

Standing Order 269(4) requires that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, that I should take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter.

This appears to be a matter of the kind originally described by Speaker Simpson on 16 October 2014 and expanded on by Speaker Pitt on 4 April 2022 when he stated: 'The nature of political debate is that members engage in argument by discussing opposing viewpoints or different opinions, oftentimes using different expressions, statistics or methods of calculation'.


The Deputy Leader of the Opposition disputes how the Deputy Premier has interpreted the Opposition's housing policy. In this matter, the members have used the same statistics, albeit interpreted differently.

I consider the matter is both technical and trivial.

Accordingly, I **will not** be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations and member for Kawana [\[561\]](#).


### Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Use of Unparliamentary Language

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, in reference to a point of order about unparliamentary language yesterday during ministerial statements, I have reviewed the *Record of Proceedings*. Unparliamentary language and what constitutes unparliamentary language is a subjective matter determined by the chair. As a result, there will inevitably be variances in rulings.

Whilst there are obvious profanities or other words and phrases that have long been considered unparliamentary, most words themselves are neutral and ruled unparliamentary because of the tone, how directed and the overall context in which they are used. For example, to describe an object as 'grubby' is different to describing another member with that adjective. In yesterday's instance, the Deputy Premier described a deal at the federal level as 'dodgy'. This is different to describing another member in this House by that adjective, which would be clearly unparliamentary.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### Visitors to Public Gallery

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we are visited in the gallery this afternoon by a member of the Victorian parliament: the Hon. David Hodgett MP, member for Croydon.

Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this afternoon by students and teachers from St Edmund's College in the electorate of Ipswich, Amiens State School in the electorate of Southern Downs and Kingston State College in the electorate of Woodridge.

## PETITIONS

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

### Hill Electorate

**Mr Katter**, from 6,466 petitioners, requesting the House to oppose the proposed abolishment of the North Queensland electoral district of Hill; call on the Queensland Redistribution Commission to retain the electorate of Hill and ensure fair representation for North Queensland communities [\[550\]](#) [\[551\]](#).

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

**Period Products**

696 petitioners, requesting the House to have Queensland follow Scotland and make period products free for all [\[552\]](#).

**Cyclist Yield Law**

477 petitioners, requesting the House to advocate for and implement a cyclist yield law, commonly known as the “Idaho Stop” [\[553\]](#).

**Greyhound Racing**

1,216 petitioners, requesting the House to ban greyhound racing in Queensland [\[554\]](#).

**Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Act 2026, Repeal**

1,306 petitioners, requesting the House to repeal the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Act 2026 [\[555\]](#).

**Amblyopia**

229 petitioners, requesting the House to end unfair employment barriers for people with Amblyopia in Queensland [\[556\]](#).

**Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme**

5,800 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures for urgent reform of the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme [\[557\]](#).

Petitions received.

## TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

[558](#) Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal—Remuneration Determination: 2024-25 Review of Allowances—Determination 38/2026, 21 April 2026

MINISTERIAL PAPER

The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth (Hon. O'Connor)—

[559](#) Response from the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth (Hon. O'Connor), to an E-Petition (4355-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 937 petitioners, requesting the House to provide a Department of Housing service that assists waitlist patrons gain housing while waiting for their housing allocation

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Fuel Security



**Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.08 pm): In the face of a national fuel crisis our government has been focused on restoring our ability to drill, refine and store our own fuel locally. We have been developing short-, medium- and long-term solutions, working to secure our fuel security with practical and commonsense actions. In part, our plan is built around actions we took well before the crisis began to revitalise Queensland’s sovereign capabilities and capitalise on our state’s rich resources potential. Last year we opened tenders for a new exploration in the Taroom Trough. We are now working to establish Australia’s first new oilfield in 50 years in this area. It has the potential to become a major producer of domestic fuel right here in Queensland.


Before this crisis began we also created the Sovereign Industry Development Fund. The fund will back our local industries to help get new projects off the ground, attract investment and lock in more jobs for Queenslanders. We identified biofuels as one of three areas of significant potential. This morning I joined the Deputy Premier to announce our government will invest in a renewable diesel facility located at the Lytton refinery. The project will allow renewable fuel to be produced using waste and plant oils right here in Queensland, which means more fuel produced locally. It will be the first

project funded through the Deputy Premier's new fund. Once complete, the project will be the first of its kind in the country. To get construction started as soon as possible we have declared it a prescribed project. That means we are able to remove unnecessary delays and streamline approvals through the Coordinator-General. It shows our commitment to improve our fuel security and forms just one part of our broader plan to improve our fuel sovereignty. We are unlocking more refinery capability. We are exploring opportunities to increase fuel storage.

Finally, this morning I attended another meeting of Queensland's fuel supply taskforce with the Treasurer. I thank those people who have been involved from the beginning. There is great representation from different industries and sectors throughout the state. They have been very generous with their time, and I want to place that on the record.


There remains great uncertainty about future fuel supplies arriving in our country next month. All participants right across the board are calling on Canberra for a national dashboard to clear that up and put the matter beyond doubt. It is timely, it is transparent and it is the only way our state and our nation can properly plan for what lies ahead.

### Fuel Security

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.11 pm): Growing fuel security and sovereign capability in Queensland is a top priority of the Crisafulli government. Our Sovereign Industry Development Fund covers three priorities of the Crisafulli government: biofuel, biomedicine and defence. Today with the Premier down at the Lytton refinery I was pleased to announce that the first contract of \$25 million will be awarded to Ampol for their refinery for the first sustainable renewable diesel product in Queensland. This means that 20 million litres of renewable diesel will be produced from 2028 going to fuel bowsers across Queensland. This is not like 10 per cent ethanol, where you go to the bowser and you know which one is ethanol. This chemical compound of renewable diesel is exactly the same compound as normal diesel. You can put it in the tractor on the farm, you can put it in the ute or you can put in your diesel vehicle and no-one will know the difference. It is shoring up supply and security across the great state of Queensland.

The Sovereign Industry Development Fund is all about shoring this up. Compare and contrast that to Labor's campaign and what they invested in around this sort of technology. They invested \$100,000 of taxpayers' money on a fat dog app. Do you remember that, colleagues? They paid \$100,000 so people could work out how to make their fat dog skinny. That was Labor's priority. Labor's sovereign industry development capacity was making fat dogs skinny; our policy is shoring up fuel supply, fuel security and sovereign capability. That is why we have invested \$25 million. Fuel—liquid gold, renewable diesel—will start flowing from the Ampol refinery at Lytton from 2028. What a great story.

### Home Ownership

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.13 pm): Under the former Labor government home ownership fell to just 63.5 per cent, the lowest in the nation. Approvals went backwards, supply stalled and aspiration was ignored. For so many hardworking Queenslanders the dream of owning a home has felt more like a distant hope than a realistic goal.

Recent data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows green shoots. Queensland is building again. The number of dwellings under construction rose to 48,044 in December 2025, the highest level on record. These are green shoots. The Crisafulli government is delivering a clear plan to build more homes, unlock more land and make it easier for Queenslanders to buy. Through our \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund we are unlocking infrastructure for 98,000 homes, including at least \$1 billion for regional Queensland. Our \$330 million Boost to Buy program is a nation-leading initiative that is grounded in the simple but powerful belief that home ownership should not be reserved for the few but available to many. By enabling first home buyers to enter the market with as little as a two per cent deposit, Boost to Buy is opening doors that were previously closed to so many. Nearly 1,500 appointments have been held in both rounds 1 and 2 of the Boost to Buy program across the south-east and regional Queensland.

Behind every number is a story of perseverance, sacrifice and hope. Mitchell and his wife and two young children got the keys to their new Yarrabilba home. They spent years living with their in-laws, doing everything right by working hard and saving what they could, but the deposit hurdle kept moving

further away. Jonathon, a local shipwright in Cairns, his wife, a teacher aide, and their two sons have spent their entire lives moving from rental to rental. For Jonathon, home ownership felt out of reach—a dream for others but not for him. Boost to Buy changed everything. Today his family now has a place to call home. We have also extended the \$30,000 first home owner's grant, abolished stamp duty for first home buyers and introduced practical reforms so that recipients can rent out a room so they can get ahead.

The Crisafulli government understands that housing is not just about bricks and mortar. It is about dignity; it is about security; it is about giving people the confidence to plan for tomorrow because they have stability today. We are doing this to help lift Queensland from the bottom of the home ownership ladder to the top within a decade so that more Queenslanders can achieve the great Australian dream of home ownership.

### Housing, Youth Foyers



**Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (2.16 pm): For young Queenslanders experiencing or at risk of homelessness, youth foyers offer more than just a roof over their head; they are a pathway to independence. Foyers are a foundation on which they can build whatever life they choose. That is why our Crisafulli government is proud to be expanding this proven model across our state.

Last week during Queensland Youth Week, I announced that Brisbane, Ipswich and the Sunshine Coast will be home to the latest three of the eight youth foyers we committed to deliver. Each foyer provides stable accommodation with 24/7 support onsite to help mentor these young residents and create pathways to education, training and employment. This is not just about housing; it is about what comes next. We know that foyers work. More than 500 young Queenslanders have already been supported through foyers at Logan on the Gold Coast and in Townsville, living there for just 18 months to two years on average.

Last week I met three inspirational young people who have turned their lives around thanks to a youth foyer. Bailey spent almost two years at the Gold Coast Youth Foyer after experiencing homelessness at a young age. With the support she received she is now living independently, working full time and studying. She has even volunteered with a charity in Nepal as she works towards a career in humanitarian aid. That is what happens when young people are given the right support at the right time.


I also met Caitlyn at the Brisbane Youth Service and Property Industry Foundation's Youth Homelessness Matters Day, where they lit the Story Bridge orange to raise awareness. From just 11 years of age her journey has been nothing short of harrowing—homelessness, mental health challenges and addiction; things a child should never have to experience. Caitlyn's contribution was powerful. At 16 she found stability through the Logan Youth Foyer and today she is sustaining her own home. Caitlyn is a youth worker and ambassador who uses her lived experience to support other young Queenslanders who are doing it tough.

Last week I also met Ari, a recent resident of the Logan Youth Foyer, who was helped by Youth Outreach in my community in Arundel and is a graduate of Esuarve in Coomera. Ari now has his own rental and a great job at the Logan Hospital. This year he is the youth member for Woodridge in the YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament. It is nice to have a member for Woodridge whom I can support.

Each one of these young Queenslanders is now living a life where they help others. These are not just stories; they are proof that foyers work. Sadly, only two youth foyers were delivered over the past three terms of the former government. The Crisafulli government is taking a very different approach: construction is underway on our 40-unit foyer in Cairns; design work is well underway on our Chermside, Redcliffe and Hervey Bay foyers; we are close to finalising the site for the Ipswich Youth Foyer I announced last week; and our biggest youth foyer in Queensland, with 50 units, will be in Maroochydore. We are on track to have eight foyers underway in our first term—compared to just two delivered in Labor's three terms. All will have 24/7 support built in and all will be ready to create opportunities for young people who are earning or learning.

We are not here to manage the problem; we are here to break the cycle by delivering more youth foyers than any government has before, by strengthening support and by making sure more young Queenslanders have a safe place to call home and the opportunity to build a future. Every young Queenslanders deserves that chance, and the Crisafulli government is delivering.

## Disability Services, Federal Government Reforms


 **Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (2.20 pm): Just before we walked into the House today, Minister Mark Butler stood up in the National Press Club and outlined the runaway train the NDIS has become under their watch, while also decoupling the carriages and sending them to the states. This is the biggest cost-shift we will see from the federal government to the states with regard to NDIS reform, with little detail and once again little consultation. Design failures by the former Labor government that established the NDIS, combined with the current Labor government's failure to regulate, have allowed dodgy, shonky individuals and companies to take advantage of those with a disability across the state. It will be our state and the other states and territories that will pay for those failures.

The eligibility criteria will be changed under the reforms outlined by Minister Butler, but once again there was no detail. Families who are living with anxiety right now due to their children having autism or developmental delays do not know where their supports will come from in the future. I can say, on the back of Mr Butler's announcement, that that anxiety and uncertainty has now expanded to every adult in the disability sector, as well as their families and carers.

Our message to the federal government is that we want to see reform of the NDIS but we do not want to see cost blowouts. If they do their job of the heavy lifting then the states and territories will conduct ourselves in the interests of people with disabilities. The minister spoke about genuine partnership and goodwill. We have not signed the Thriving Kids agreement because the state holds firm in our belief that there will be a significant disadvantage to participants right across our state, particularly young people in rural, regional, remote and First Nations communities, because of these reforms. Mr Butler outlined that local support systems need to be rebuilt by the states and territories, yet it was the federal government which determined that disability would be their responsibility. Well, here is some news for the federal government: these systems do not exist and there will be a great cost to our state to rebuild them to ensure we are there to support families and children with disabilities.

I want to thank the disability advocates across the state and nation, in particular QDN and others I spoke with just before I entered the House. The federal government have done nothing but increase the level of stress and anxiety to participants without any detail. Our state is committed to working in genuine partnership and we will always do that in the interests of Queenslanders.

## Disability and Aged-Care Services, Federal Government Reforms

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (2.23 pm): The Crisafulli government is delivering easier access to health services. This includes the lowest ramping in five years, more elective surgeries than ever before and fixing Labor's failures through our Hospital Rescue Plan. However, these efforts are being hindered by the Commonwealth government dropping the ball on their areas of responsibility—primary care, aged care and the NDIS.

Today, the federal health minister announced devastating changes to supports for our most vulnerable—those requiring aged-care and disability services. He did this after no consultation with the states and territories but with the expectation that the states and territories take 'greater funding responsibility for the scheme'. This is true to form for the Commonwealth, which did the exact same thing last year—blindsiding parents of children with autism or developmental delay by announcing cuts to their NDIS packages with no warning. These NDIS packages are critical to set children up for a life where they can participate in kindy, school and extracurricular activities—although, through Minister Butler's so-called Thriving Kids, these packages will be reduced, and the Commonwealth remains surprised that Queensland is not blindly signing up.

This reminds me of when the Prime Minister asked us to simply 'moderate demand' to keep the costs of hospitals down, effectively asking us to shut emergency departments or perform fewer surgeries. No way. The Crisafulli LNP government will always stand up for Queenslanders, just as we did when we secured an additional \$5.7 billion for Queensland's hospitals.


Aged care is a significant issue. The Crisafulli LNP government has put stranded Australians on the national agenda. Queensland is ground zero, with 1,425 stranded patients stuck in our hospitals. This is 11.7 per cent of all available beds—think the total capacity of the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. These stranded Australians deserve better care. On top of that, it also costs our health system over \$3 million every day. When the most recent hospitals deal was reached, the Prime Minister took responsibility for aged care. He said that it was the Commonwealth's responsibility to keep aged-care

people out of hospitals. However, last month the Albanese government handed out more than \$100 million to their mates in South Australia, Western Australia and Victoria without even asking Queensland what we would like.

Current projections indicate that Queensland will require an additional 30,000 aged-care places by 2036-37. That is a far cry from the 5,000 beds per year Australia-wide that Minister Butler was talking about in his speech today at the expense of the NDIS. Cuts to private health rebates for older Australians will only heap further pressure on our hospital systems. Older people who have private health insurance and who stay out of the public system are carrying their fair share, and they will be penalised under the cuts that have been announced today.

We remain ready, willing and able to work with the Commonwealth. We will continue to advocate strongly for older Queenslanders and those on the NDIS for practical solutions that ensure Queenslanders receive the right care at the right time in the right place.

### Police Resources

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (2.27 pm): The Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland. We are delivering more police, stronger laws and fewer victims. It is with great pleasure that I rise to update the House on the Crisafulli government's efforts to rebuild the front line following Labor's decade of decline. The Queensland Police Service has hit a historic milestone. For the first time in Queensland's history, we now have more than 13,000 police officers serving our great state. There has never been a better time to be a cop, and I want to thank each and every one of the men and women who put on the blue uniform and do us proud every day. It is not an easy job. Labor's soft-on-crime approach left behind a youth crime crisis, wrapped police in red tape and led to a 193 per cent increase in the number of victims of crime.

The Crisafulli government is doing everything we can to turn that around—with more police, stronger laws and fewer victims. Before the election, we made a commitment to deliver 1,600 recruits in our first term. It was a bold commitment, pledging to match the Queensland Police Union's request to meet the heightened demand on our police. We knew it was a tough commitment, but we got to work immediately and aimed high. We have been focused and we continue to work tirelessly to ensure more police are deployed to the front line right across our communities.


I am proud to announce we have now exceeded our election commitment, delivering 1,686 new recruits in under 18 months.

**Mr O'Connor:** A man who delivers.

**Mr PURDIE:** I take that interjection. By contrast, Labor's track record on police resourcing is appalling. Under those opposite, officers were leaving in droves, disillusioned by Labor's watered down laws that led to the revolving door youth crime crisis. In their last four-year term of government, despite promising 1,450 more police, the Miles Labor government added just 76 additional officers to the thin blue line. We have added almost 10 times that number in just 18 months, with police numbers increasing by 708, and we are not slowing down. Under the Crisafulli government our dedicated officers have seen what it is like to have a government that has their back, a government that will give them the laws and the resources they need to do their job, and these results are starting to show. Unplanned attrition has dropped by 2.6 per cent, well down on Labor's record of 3.3 per cent.

The Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland, we are restoring safety where you live and Queenslanders can see the efforts with the record number of police officers now on the beat.

### Youth Justice, Early Intervention


 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.30 pm): The Crisafulli government went to the election with a plan to restore safety where you live, a plan to reduce the number of victims of crime in this state and a plan that we are working on every single day to deliver for Queenslanders. After a decade of youth crime laws being weakened under the former Labor government, we are delivering the strong laws, more police and new early intervention and rehabilitation programs to fight youth crime. Today I am pleased to update the House that we have delivered 50 new early intervention programs right across the state. These programs are under our Kickstarter grants, and that is 50 new early intervention programs that are right now preventing crime before it starts and we have lots more to come.

We are not taking our foot off the pedal. From Cairns to Currumbin, these new programs are being rolled out. It means more at-risk youth who may be demonstrating the early signs of criminal or antisocial behaviour are now on a path away from crime and heading towards a brighter future. From learning a trade and vocational skills, like carpentry and barbering, to intensive family mentoring and education, to helping repair family relationships, each of these 50 early intervention, community-led programs are designed to meet the unique needs of their community. It means fewer youth committing crimes, fewer youth going on to be serious repeat offenders and, most importantly, fewer victims of crimes.

In fact, under Labor the number of serious repeat offenders skyrocketed—64 per cent in just five years. Under the Crisafulli government that trend is already starting to turn around with a 17 per cent drop in serious repeat offenders. Under Labor's decade of decline car thefts surged, break-ins climbed, robberies rose and victim numbers increased 193 per cent. Under the Crisafulli government victim numbers have fallen 7.2 per cent. Under Labor proven offences committed by youth increased 98 per cent. Under the Crisafulli government we have already seen a 27 per cent drop in proven Adult Crime, Adult Time offences. Under Labor 96 per cent of youth leaving detention reoffended within 12 months. That is what we are committed to turning around with strong laws, more police and the biggest investment in early intervention and rehabilitation that this state has ever seen.

These programs need time to deliver. It cannot happen overnight. While we are starting to turn the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis we have a long way to go and lots more to do—more laws, more programs, more early intervention and more rehabilitation. The Crisafulli government will continue to work every single day to drive down the number of Queenslanders becoming victims of crime in this state to restore safety where you live, just like we promised to do.

### Women's Economic Security

 **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) (2.33 pm): From hands-on car maintenance workshops for women in Rockhampton to programs supporting women from refugee backgrounds to build financial confidence in Logan, the Crisafulli government's Empowering Queensland Women grants are delivering real, positive results across our state. Last week our outstanding member for Rockhampton, Donna Kirkland, spoke with grant recipient Girls Torque, which is providing women the practical skills and confidence to make informed decisions from buying a car to managing maintenance and the long-term costs of owning a vehicle. The member for Rockhampton spoke directly with women who want to bridge that confidence gap. One woman said that after attending these workshops she felt empowered to make decisions about her own vehicle for the first time. Programs like this are changing women's lives. They are building community and creating spaces where women feel supported, capable and confident to step forward.


I want to share the story of Esperance, who founded Women's Power of Inspiration Incorporated in Logan. Through our Empowering Queensland Women grants we supported the Money Matters project. Many of the women involved have come from refugee and migrant backgrounds and understanding money in a new country can feel overwhelming and isolating for them. Through this program Esperance says women who once felt unsure and afraid to make financial decisions are now learning how to manage their money, support their families and plan for a future they can believe in. Esperance said, 'It is planting seeds for long-term change, not just for the women but for their children and their communities.'

I have heard from the hardworking member for Callide, Bryson Head, about the fantastic work the Callide Dawson Chamber of Commerce is doing in his electorate. They received a grant under this program which they are using to run EmpowerHer—Money Management in Business workshops. They held one of these workshops last month with great attendance and there are two more workshops coming up. The secretary of the chamber, Shari, said, 'Financial literacy is critical for business development and the EmpowerHer Program provides a safe and inspiring environment for this development.'

Let's compare the Crisafulli government's 18 months of delivering for women across Queensland with the record of the former Labor government and their decade of decline. Under Labor, 38 maternity wards closed across the state and there is still further evidence of workplace bullying and harassment of women at the hands of Labor's CFMEU mates coming out of the commission of inquiry. Labor did not empower women. The only people they empowered were their mates in the CFMEU.

In contrast, the Crisafulli LNP government is investing in Queensland women, whether it is through the Empowering Queensland Women grants or our landmark \$20 million Women's Career grants, because we believe in women having pathways to achieve financial security with confidence and capability. We are backing Queensland women.

### CFMEU Inquiry, Member for McConnell

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.36 pm): I wish to raise a matter of significant public interest with respect to revelations that have just come to light in the CFMEU commission of inquiry. I can advise the House that the commission has just heard evidence that in 2018 the former industrial relations minister the member for McConnell allegedly made threatening remarks to contractors delivering the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing. It was alleged in an oral submission today that former minister Grace made a direct threat to the contractor, saying words to the effect, '... you have to reach an agreement with CFMEU or we will terminate your contract'. The allegations were made by Mr Jose Sanchez, the former project director, who said that in a February 2018 meeting with both then minister Grace and then transport minister, the member for Miller, the member for McConnell made the threat in the first five minutes of that meeting. In his written statement to the commission he went further, stating that—

She—

then minister Grace—

did not suggest that she could "consider" termination of the contract—rather, she stated directly that the contract would be terminated.

His oral testimony today alleged that former minister Grace was very aggressive and that the circumstances of that threat were not something he had ever expected to experience in Australia. These revelations are absolutely shocking—that a senior minister in the Labor government and now a senior member of the Labor opposition would seek to inappropriately interfere with an independent procurement process personally making threats to contractors on behalf of the CFMEU. The question is: why?

In his oral testimony today, Mr Sanchez advised that the company had taken action against the CFMEU in the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission with respect to right-of-entry breaches only days before the meeting with then minister Grace. It is alleged that approximately three days following the complaint being made to the QIRC the alleged threat by then minister Grace was made in a meeting in the presence of then minister the member for Miller.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!


**Mr BLEIJIE:** I do not know why they are laughing, Mr Speaker.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, you have the call.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The company was so concerned about the alleged threat that it withdrew a QIRC application against the CFMEU with a view that it would placate relations with the Labor government. The people of Queensland deserve answers directly from the member for McConnell with respect to these most serious allegations put on the public record today in the commission of inquiry. Queenslanders would be shocked to hear that the threatening behaviour that was allowed to occur went all the way to the top. I call upon the member for McConnell to front up and answer these most serious allegations today. It is in the public interest for the member for McConnell to respond publicly to these allegations. She is, after all, the shadow minister for industrial relations and a senior member of the Miles opposition. An even better question is: what is the Labor leader going to do about it?

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### Health, Environment and Innovation Committee, Meeting Attendance

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.40 pm): I rise to make a personal explanation. I had an agreement with the chair of the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee—the only committee to not have rescheduled public hearings today—to postpone the previously scheduled private meeting

at approximately 11.30 am. The public committee business schedule at eight o'clock this morning had the private meeting and the public hearing for the recycling bill. At some point after 9 am it was updated to include a public briefing with the Metro North Hospital and Health Service at 11.30 am. I table that for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper.* Schedule of meetings of the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee [\[562\]](#).

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Greenslopes—

**Mr JKELLY:** This new meeting was during the funeral—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Greenslopes—

**Mr JKELLY:**—of the former member for Stafford—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Greenslopes, I have a point of order.

**Dr ROWAN:** I just seek your guidance, Mr Speaker, in relation to whether this is a personal explanation—the content of this—and whether this is the most appropriate forum.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Just hold on one second; I will take a bit of advice. We have not really got to the crux of the matter yet, but I want clarity that you are not talking about a private committee meeting that was held today.

**Mr J Kelly** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Okay. I will just listen a little bit further before I decide. Continue.

**Mr JKELLY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. This new meeting was during the funeral of the former member for Stafford, someone I counted as a friend. I made substitution arrangements to attend the funeral on the basis of the previously scheduled committee business and the agreement with the member for Southport. To spring a public meeting with a HHS during the funeral of a former member of parliament against a previous agreement is not only disingenuous; it is dishonest and disgraceful conduct—

**Mr SPEAKER:** No, no, no, no, no—

**Mr JKELLY:**—one which I believe—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Stop.

**Mr JKELLY:**—has interfered—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Stop.

**Mr JKELLY:**—with my rights—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Stop!

**Mr JKELLY:**—as a member.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Stop and resume your seat! Personal explanations are not a chance for an attack, which is where you were going.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme



**Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.42 pm): I give notice that I will move—

That this House calls on the Crisafulli LNP government to immediately increase the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme, including the overnight allowance and doubling of the private motor vehicle subsidy amount to help Queenslanders struggling under the affordability crisis.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time today will conclude at 3.43 pm.

### Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games

**Mr MILES** (2.43 pm): My question is to the Premier. I table a letter referring the Minister for Sport to the Australian Electoral Commission for investigation. Does the Premier stand by his minister having abided by the Ministerial Code of Conduct and all Commonwealth laws?

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 21 April 2026, from Ben Driscoll, State Secretary, Queensland Labor, to Mr Jeff Pope APM, Electoral Commissioner, Australian Electoral Commission, regarding alleged false declarations by the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Hon. Tim Mander [563].

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I thank the member for the question. As was the case yesterday, the honourable member did a couple of things. First, the moment the Labor Party raised it the member took the opportunity and went and spoke to the media. I thought that was a fair and proper thing. It was raised in the House yesterday. He gave a complete and detailed explanation and now, as the member refers, as part of that process that the member initiated himself, that matter has gone to the AEC, and that is entirely appropriate.

### Crisafulli LNP Government, Ministers

**Mr DICK:** My question is to the Premier. When was the Premier first made aware of the relationship between the member for Everton and the member for Whitsunday?

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order in relation to the question as asked by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition relates to whether this comes under the Premier's portfolio responsibilities and particularly also that there have been detailed explanations provided yesterday in relation—

**Honourable members** interjected.

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

**Dr ROWAN:**—to disclosures that are already on the public record and subject to questions that have already been asked in the House yesterday.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I submit to you that the question is in order and does pertain to the responsibilities of the Premier. I submit to you, Mr Speaker, that the Ministerial Code of Conduct indicates that it is the Premier who will hold ministers to account not only for their performance in delivering the government's agenda but also against the standards of behaviour set out in the code. The code goes to compliance with integrity standards and, therefore, the question is specifically about the Premier's duties in relation to his ministers and their compliance with such and conflicts of interest.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I know it has created a bit of feeling, but the advice I have received is that the question is in order, so I call on the Premier.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. I will just start by saying a couple of things. The first is that I am not someone who wants to discuss personal relationships. The best way I can point to that is by alluding to what I said yesterday: I once sat in a similar seat to those opposite and there was a very similar arrangement and I never sought to raise it because that is not what we do and that is not why we are here. We are here because Queenslanders deserve leadership. We are here because Queenslanders want to see what a vision is for this state. We are here because there are 93 people who have been chosen by their communities, and every one of them is different.

**Ms Pease** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** You are warned, member for Lytton.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Every one of those communities has a different view, but I can say one thing for certain: I do not believe that any members here today will have a whole heap of people in their electorates wanting the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to come in here and ask about a personal matter like that. I just do not believe that that would be the case. There is a real reason behind the

question, and the real reason behind the question was actually in the interjection from the deputy leader when he used the word 'Stafford'. That is what this is about. He used the word 'Stafford' in the interjections, and I will tell members why: keen observers—

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! You will stop quarrelling across the chamber. You have asked your question and I allowed it.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Those who understand politics understand the reality of by-elections and what they mean for governments, but in this case we have an opposition that is not going very well at the moment—it is not travelling all that well—and it has a leader who is hanging by a thread.

**Mr J Kelly** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Greenslopes, I think you have pushed your luck far enough today. You are warned.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Sadly for the Deputy Leader of the Opposition—even though he does not really like the Leader of the Opposition, they are a package deal; they are tied together—he knows full well what is coming.

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

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Premier is being relevant but he was also responding to an interjection from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There was an interjection. This is also around leadership, as I understand it. There is one person who has the call and that is the Premier.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I was referring to the interjection but I am also talking about a relationship—the relationship between the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Opposition. I will continue. The truth is: keen observers of history will know that the last time there was a by-election in Stafford the opposition secured an 18 per cent swing towards it. In the last two by-elections in this state, the opposition secured swings in the order of 19 to 21 per cent, but this Leader of the Opposition is hanging by a thread.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was when he knew.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr Smith** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Bundaberg, you are warned. I was on my feet. I need to lower the temperature a little bit here, or there will be a lot of warnings.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** There is a feeling of great desperation from the opposition—you know it, you can see it, you can feel it—and you know why. They are about to be tested and they know that the prospect of a double-digit swing heading their way is unlikely because Queenslanders do not want to go back to the bad old days. In answer to the question, I will repeat what I said when I started: Queenslanders expect and deserve a whole lot better from the opposition than what they just witnessed. Queenslanders want to see a parliament that represents them. I am not going to return serve and lower myself to the same standard as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

### **Best Practice Industry Conditions**

**Mr HUTTON:** My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. Does the government have any plans to reinstate Best Practice Industry Conditions—BPICs—in Queensland, and is the Premier aware of any plans to bring back BPICs?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I can categorically say that the Queensland government has absolutely no plans to bring BPIC back, has absolutely no plans of rolling out the welcome mat to the CFMEU and has absolutely no plans to allow any of our ministers to bully, harass, intimidate, cajole and be a thug—absolutely none. What we have seen in the inquiry of commission proves why. BPIC was always designed for one reason only—to funnel taxpayers' money into the pockets of their union masters. That is what it was about.

We have heard the names of the guilty parties in recent times—Palaszczuk, Miles, Dick, de Brenni, Grace, Bailey. They have all been mentioned in the commission of inquiry, one after another. It has been mentioned that they were warned about what BPIC would do to the taxpayer dollar. They

were warned and they did not listen. What came out of the commission of inquiry today was a new low: allegations of a former senior minister using her influence. I am going to read some of the statements. The individual alleged that the former minister for industrial relations, now shadow minister, said—

'You have to reach an agreement with CFMEU or we will terminate your contract'.

He then said—

'Grace threatening very difficult for companies' and 'they can't take the contract off us?'

And then—it was 'the sort of thing he expected to happen in a Third World country like Nigeria'.

I ask the question: how did we reach the point in this state where decent democracy made way for Third World thuggery and threats. I will tell members how. They owe their existence to the CFMEU. They have the same leader who welcomed them back after they were banned from meeting, the same deputy leader who wrote the cheques to fund the blowouts, the same factional leader who thanked them in her maiden speech and the same industrial relations spokesperson who bullied, cajoled and was a thug, according to these allegations.

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member has taken personal offence.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I withdraw. Nothing has changed and Queenslanders know that if the government ever changed the welcome mat would be rolled out because the same guilty parties sit there today in the same roles, owing the same existence to the same militant faces. Nothing will change if they ever get a crack again. They were prepared to whittle away Queenslanders' money and funnel it to their mates in the CFMEU, all the while women were bullied, people were stood over and contractors were subjected to thuggery. It is the same faces who led to the same destruction.

*(Time expired)*

### **Crisafulli LNP Government, Ministers**

**Mr RUSSO:** My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier or his office received any requests to investigate the use of taxpayer funded allowances by Minister Mander and/or Minister Camm?

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to the question as asked. I am seeking clarity in relation to the element of portfolio responsibilities and whether this relates to parliamentary precinct matters which would come under the Clerk and the Office of the Speaker as referred to yesterday. I would ask if you could consider that matter and a potential rephrasing of the question as asked.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will have a look at the question. I ask the member for Toohey to repeat the question. I am not clear on the question.

**Mr RUSSO:** My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier or his office received any request to investigate the use of taxpayer funded allowances by Minister Mander and/or Minister Camm?

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will allow the question. It does involve appropriations.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I thank the honourable member for the question. I will make this observation: I am sure that the honourable members that are subject to the question from the member would be doing things according to the law, as I am sure the honourable member would. For example, the honourable member may from time to time rest his weary head here in the Parliamentary Annexe—from time to time. The member for Toohey may on the rare occasion say, 'This evening I may choose to sleep tonight at the Queensland parliament.' There is one thing I know about the member for Toohey and that is if he were to rest his weary head here at the parliament on the odd occasion—from time to time—I am sure he would make the relevant declarations. I am very confident that all members of parliament would conduct themselves in the same way, if they chose from time to time to rest their weary heads here.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Both leaders get a little bit of latitude but, Premier, when I am on my feet you know the rules.

## Housing Supply

**Mr VORSTER:** 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 unlocking new homes for Queenslanders right across the state, including in my electorate of Burleigh, and is he aware of any alternative approaches during a decade of decline?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I thank the honourable member for Burleigh for the question—a wonderful question—because that member knows the priorities of Queensland. Queenslanders are not interested in who in parliament is sleeping with whom. They want a roof over their head. There are so many homeless Queenslanders wondering where they are going to sleep for the night. That is why I announced in Varsity Lakes hundreds of homes on a vacant block of land where Labor sat idly by while kangaroos were pasturing on that land.

We are going to build homes for Queenslanders. They are the priorities Queenslanders want this parliament talking about, not the disgraceful gutter politics of a desperate and dangerous opposition leader in Steven Miles. That is the priority of Queenslanders. Queenslanders want us talking about former ministers threatening abusive behaviour like ripping up contracts because they do not do the CFMEU's bidding. That is the allegation before the CFMEU royal commission today.

Talking about BPIC, we are bringing productivity back to worksites. There will be a 30 per cent reduction in cost to build things in Queensland after removal of the dodgy CFMEU tax that was put in by the former Labor government. Every one of those former ministers sat over here and put in BPIC. Under their 2025 Labor policy platform they are bringing it back. They believe in BPIC. They believe in the CFMEU. The CFMEU funds their campaigns.

Talking about then industrial relations minister Grace, I had a look at this meeting that it was alleged in the royal commission took place. I found a press release that the minister at the time put out referencing that meeting. I will table the press release she put out. There is one obvious thing missing from the press release that then minister Grace put out: the fact that she threatened to tear up the contract. That is not in the press release. Not all of the meeting details are in this press release.

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence and ask that it be withdrawn. It is untrue.

**Mr SPEAKER:** You have taken personal offence?

**Ms GRACE:** Yes, Speaker, I take personal offence and ask that it be withdrawn.

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

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw. I table the press release.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Government Media Statement, dated 23 February 2018, titled 'Statement on Toowoomba Second Range Crossing' [564].

I do not think the member for McConnel understands the difference between the theatrics of this place and a royal commission. There are allegations and testimony that she threatened to rip up a contract in Queensland because they did not do what the CFMEU wanted them to do, days after they took the CFMEU to the Industrial Relations Commission. The Labor Party believes in BPIC. The Labor Party candidate for Stafford will bring BPIC back if he gets a chance.

*(Time expired)*

## Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games

**Ms FENTIMAN:** My question is to the Premier. As the appropriate minister under the Financial Accountability Act and the Parliament of Queensland Act, when was the Premier first made aware that Minister Mander was permanently residing in the Parliamentary Annexe, potentially exposing Queensland taxpayers to an FBT liability?

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to the question as asked. There are elements of the question that need authentication and I would ask that they be authenticated in relation to elements of the question as put forward.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** To that point, I am happy to table media reports in the *Australian* that outline that the minister was residing in the parliament.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Australian* online, undated, titled 'Olympics Minister's electorate imbroglio' [565].

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Waterford, you have produced a media article, but I am going to ask that you rephrase the question because you did actually state it like it was a fact.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** My question is to the Premier. As the appropriate minister under the Financial Accountability Act and the Parliament of Queensland Act, when was the Premier first made aware that Minister Mander was reportedly residing in the Parliamentary Annexe, potentially exposing Queensland taxpayers to an FBT liability?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I thank the honourable member for the question. I am certain that all members would comply with FBT. That is part of the process for every single member of this parliament. No doubt the Leader of the Opposition would take the same responsibility and would be asking his members—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** To the honourable member, who is a great supporter of the member for Murrumba—a massive supporter, at least until mid May—I say: I am sure the honourable member for Murrumba would also be taking great interest in all of his members, because no doubt they are all also complying with the law.

### Best Practice Industry Conditions

**Mr BENNETT:** My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth. Is the minister aware of any impacts that reinstating BPICs would have on the delivery of housing in Queensland, and is the minister aware of any plans to bring back BPICs?

**Mr O'CONNOR:** 'No' is the answer to the end of that question, but I do want to thank the member for that question. He knows a thing or two about the building and construction industry.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to standing order 115(b)(v) that questions should not relate to hypothetical matters. The question as asked is clearly about a hypothetical matter. The question contained the word 'if'.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will just have a look at the question. I will accept the question as it is. There is no point of order.

**Mr O'CONNOR:** BPIC coming back is certainly not hypothetical if the member for Springwood ever gets in charge of government procurement again. It is in Labor's policy platform. It is in their 2025 state policy platform that they will bring back BPIC.

As I was saying, the member for Burnett, as a licensed builder, knows a thing or two about the construction industry. He knows better than anyone the impacts that BPIC had on our construction industry. It has cost us 77,000 fewer homes across our state since 2018. We had the least productive job sites in the nation under those opposite and under the stewardship of the member for Springwood and the member for McConnel. If it stayed in place we would have lost a further 26½ thousand homes, which would have impacted rents by another 8.3 per cent. That was unacceptable to us here in the Crisafulli government.

BPIC was drafted by the CFMEU so sloppily that they left their watermark on it when they submitted it to the member for Springwood to put together our procurement policies. We have heard allegations through the commission of inquiry that the CFMEU, via the member for Springwood, was personally vetting which subbies got work on government projects.

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

**Mr O'CONNOR:** I withdraw. Hopefully he gets his opportunity to answer those allegations. We saw today extraordinary allegations that the Premier has run through around the member for McConnel. They were not content to choose which subbies could get on government projects; for those who were on government projects the member for McConnel allegedly said, 'You have to reach an agreement with the CFMEU or we will terminate your contract.'

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Speaker, I take offence and I ask that it be withdrawn.

**Mr O'CONNOR:** I withdraw. The inquiry heard that Mr Sanchez further wrote in his meeting notes—and I quote—'Grace threatening very difficult for companies' and asked the question 'They can't take the contract off us?' That was so extraordinary for Nexus that they then withdrew their application, to smooth the relationship with the government of the day. It is extraordinary that that is what is happening in Queensland.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Speaker, I take offence at the Premier's interjection just then about bullying, directed towards me. I take personal offence and I ask that it be withdrawn.

**Mr Crisafulli:** I did not name anyone.

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am sitting next to the Premier and he certainly did not name the member for McConnell in relation to his interjections.

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Speaker, the minister was actually referring to me. The Premier looked at me and said the word 'bully'. I take personal offence and I ask that it be withdrawn.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I did not hear. It has to be a direct personal reflection. I am not going to take it as a point of order. I say to everybody in the House: dial down the quarrelling across the chamber. We have seen the result of this before. If you do not want to go to the Ethics Committee, stop the quarrelling across the chamber.

**Mr O'CONNOR:** If those allegations are not bullying then I do not know what is. They are extraordinary allegations. I look forward to hearing the member for McConnell's explanation for those extraordinary claims.

We are not accepting BPIC anymore. At the first opportunity, we hit pause on BPIC. We have scrapped BPIC. It will never come back under the Crisafulli LNP government. The results of our changes are working. We have had a 14 per cent increase in dwelling approvals, a 16 per cent increase in commencements and a 21 per cent increase in dwellings under construction. Queensland cannot afford to go back to Labor.

*(Time expired)*

### **Child Safety Commission of Inquiry**

**Ms McMILLAN:** My question is to the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. The Child Safety Commission of Inquiry Commissioner has confirmed that it will not investigate the minister's bungled Unify system launch because of the 'expedited timeframe of the inquiry'. Did the minister ask the Attorney-General to shorten the COI timeframe to ensure it could not investigate her decision to launch Unify before it was ready?

**Mr SPEAKER:** That was a very lengthy question.

**Ms CAMM:** I thank the member for the question. To update the House, the remediation plan for Unify is well on track. I look forward to delivering data, which is really important—those opposite had no plan to deliver lost data—and also to share with the House our plan to drive down the number of children in residential care, which exploded under those opposite. For the past two weeks, we have heard from the commission of inquiry hearings. In contrast, it is interesting to hear from the CFMEU inquiry that is underway because a former government and former ministers—those former cabinet ministers who made decisions in CBRC—decided to funnel taxpayers' money to the CFMEU. In the same period, the former minister, the member for Nudgee, explained to the commission of inquiry that under her watch as the minister—and under those same ministers, that same cabinet and that same CBRC—money was not provided to vulnerable children and money was not provided to foster carers because of both a COVID epidemic and an ice epidemic.

**A government member:** Methamphetamine.

**Ms CAMM:** A methamphetamine epidemic; I take that interjection. However, those opposite found billions and billions of dollars to line the pockets of the CFMEU. That speaks about the standards and the priorities of the former Labor government. After 10 years, what did we see? We saw billions of dollars of taxpayers' money funnelled into the CFMEU. There was bullying, harassment, blowouts, misogyny and women were mistreated and bullied—overseen by those opposite. What did we see then? We saw a decade of decline. We saw residential care blowouts under those opposite. That is why we had to call a commission of inquiry.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was about timeframes for the inquiry and directions given.

**Mr SPEAKER:** It was a very long question, which makes it very hard.

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms CAMM:** I take that interjection. On this side of the House, we will not delay in protecting children.

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

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

**Ms CAMM:** Neither will we delay in delivering the reforms that are needed to ensure the safety of children in the broken residential care system overseen by the former minister, the former government and the former cabinet, which would prefer to fund the CFMEU than fund vulnerable children. They left nearly 2,000 children floundering in residential care to be raped, abused and subjected to the failures of their system, which was built and designed to fail them instead of protect them.

### **Best Practice Industry Conditions**

**Mrs KIRKLAND:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Does the government have any plans to reinstate Best Practice Industry Conditions, BPICs, on road and rail projects in Queensland, and is the minister aware of any plans to bring back BPICs?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I thank the member for Rockhampton for her question. How good is it to have a hardworking LNP member for Rockhampton delivering for the people of Central Queensland? She is part of a strong team with the member for Keppel and the member for Mirani, hunting together as a pack to deliver, which is something that Labor never could do.

When we came to office, we axed hundreds of pages of BPIC provisions. There is a sweet irony in a Labor government telling construction companies how to run their businesses when they could not even do their job as a government. In the transport and main roads portfolio, a number of projects had BPIC applied. For Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3, what was the result? It was a \$709 million to \$1.2 billion blowout under Labor. For Coomera Connector stage 1: \$1.5 million to \$3 billion under Labor. For the Boundary Road level crossing project: \$186 million to more than \$400 million under Labor. We all know what happened at Centenary Bridge with the CFMEU thugs bullying and intimidating workers on site. There was silence from those opposite about that. There was silence from the member for McConnel; condoning that sort of behaviour. For that project it was \$244 million to \$353 million.

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence and ask that it be withdrawn.

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

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I withdraw. Do you know who else takes personal offence, Mr Speaker? The workers on the Centenary Bridge upgrade project! They tell me that they take offence at a former Labor government that aided and abetted the CFMEU. Former Labor ministers went out of their way to open the door to government and railroad Queenslanders' interests. That is their record.

Let us continue. For the Pacific Motorway Daisy Hill to Logan Motorway upgrade: \$1 billion to \$4½ billion. That is their record because of BPIC. For the Rocky ring road in the electorate of the member for Rockhampton: \$1.065 billion to \$1.98 billion because of BPIC. For Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail: \$2.6 billion to \$5.75 billion. Labor called it Best Practice Industry Conditions, BPIC. The Queensland Productivity Commission called it a \$20 billion mistake. We know they want to bring it back. We know it is in their state policy platform. It is in their most recent federal policy platform as well. If we look at clause 51, they are committed to the Secure Australian Jobs Code, which has all the hallmarks of BPIC. BPIC was optional until it was not, and in the Secure Australian Jobs Code the federal government want to bring it in again.

*(Time expired)*

### **Child Safety Commission of Inquiry**

**Ms PUGH:** My question is to the Attorney-General. Will the Attorney-General reverse the decision to truncate the Child Safety Commission of Inquiry timeframe to allow a full and proper examination of the Unify IT system?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I am so pleased to get this question because I can say this: the Crisafulli government will not delay. We will not delay the protection of children in this state. The answer to the honourable member's question is no. I will tell members why. Under all of the failed ministers that we knew overseeing the child protection system—

**Mr Mellish** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Aspley, you have had a fair go. You are warned.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:**—in Queensland, they failed, failed, failed, failed child safety. What we are doing is working hard to restore the system that was left by those opposite. I am looking forward to the final report on 22 May so that final recommendations can be made and considered alongside the *In plain sight* report—

**Mr Power** interjected.

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

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:**—which looked into the most horrific paedophile and child sexual abuse in this state. The member for Mount Ommaney wants us to delay? I say no. I say that the member for Mount Ommaney should be standing up for the children who are in care, the children who are in spots who require more help.

We have heard that the member for Nudgee had been warned about the resi-care system. What did she do? She said, 'Oh, no, there is no point going to the government for more money because that is just all a bit too hard.' Don't worry about the children of Queensland! That is the disgraceful action we are putting a stop to. We heard about one child—

**Ms Farmer** interjected.

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

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** We heard about a child who, under those opposite, should have been visited 55 times over a 4½-year period. In fact, they were visited only eight times. That is their legacy. That is the legacy they want us to continue and to let it go.

We say no to the delay. We say that urgent reform is required. We should consider this very important commission of inquiry. I thank the commissioner for his hard work and I thank the minister for her hard work because it will be considered alongside the landmark *In plain sight* report that is all about the protection of children. The Reportable Conduct Scheme and Daniel's Law are just the start of some of the reforms we are doing in Queensland. No, we will not delay!

*(Time expired)*

### Hospital Infrastructure

**Mr CRANDON:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister detail the Crisafulli LNP government's plan to deliver hospital infrastructure right across the state, and is the minister aware of any plans that might risk delivery of critical hospital expansions?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I thank the member for Coomera for his question, and what a great question it is from a great, hardworking local member who has represented that rapidly expanding part of the northern Gold Coast so well and will continue to do so. The member for Coomera and the member for Theodore both joined me today onsite while the work is going on at the new Coomera Hospital, being delivered by the Crisafulli LNP government. It has been 12 months.

The member asked what we are doing to save and deliver infrastructure. As everyone will know, we have the Hospital Rescue Plan—our fully funded plan to deliver 2,600 new beds across the state, including at Coomera. The project team has been working tirelessly at Coomera to rescue Labor's failure. We have replanned and redesigned the hospital to meet the community's needs. This morning we announced the concept design for it. I know that those on the northern Gold Coast will be particularly happy to see the concept design plan that has been put forward that actually delivers 200 more beds than those opposite were unable to deliver in their failed plan—all that time, all that money and still no plan to deliver the beds.

What did they do? They ignored the need for 600 beds that was made by the hospital and health service—no pharmacy, no pathology or outpatients department, a billion dollar cost blowout and an inability to deliver on time. That is the legacy of those opposite and those failed health ministers. Their plan, as the Sangster report showed, was completely and simply undeliverable. The new plan now delivers a 12-storey clinical services building, a seven-storey ambulatory building, 2,500 car parks across two buildings linking into the train station and across the road, as well as better connections to public transport.

While the member for Gaven and the Leader of the Opposition have been peddling mistruths about the Coomera site, 60 workers were onsite today carrying out works, trucks were rolling, soil was moving and geotech was underway. That is because we got rid of Labor's BPICs. We got rid of BPICs

and we have productivity up on all of our sites. From productivity that was 20 per cent lower than Victoria's, we now have productivity rising across the sites. Is it any wonder when we read what happened in the commission of inquiry today? There were allegations that the member for McConnel and the member for Miller, her ever-loyal but somewhat silent sidekick, were up there threatening construction companies that their contracts would be torn up. What are we doing? We are keeping those contracts and delivering the services they need. We know what would happen if the Labor Party got back in: the BPICs would come back because it is in their policy document. We are delivering. Labor will only cost Queenslanders more.

### **CopperString**

**Mr KATTER:** My question is to the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership. Has the Queensland government formally requested any funding for CopperString from the federal government?

**Mr JANETZKI:** I thank the honourable member for the question. We have been determined to deliver CopperString from Townsville to Mount Isa, and that is exactly what we have been working on the last 18 months, after the former government left a project that was undeliverable. We have seen that through the cost blowouts, from \$1.8 billion to \$5 billion to \$6.2 billion to \$9 billion to \$13.9 billion—an undeliverable project from those opposite that we were left.

We have been determined, since coming to government, to deliver this project because it is vital. As the Premier said yesterday, it will be built from Townsville to Mount Isa. All the way along that corridor there stand communities ready to advance from that project, not just economically but socially as well. I know that the member for Traeger is a proud advocate of those communities. Yes, I have asked the federal government for a contribution to fund it, and I have made that abundantly clear publicly on many occasions now. I believe that there are funds the federal government has that could easily be put towards CopperString because we know how important it is. Federal government initiatives and priorities align specifically with ours. I am thinking most importantly of critical minerals. There is \$700 billion worth of critical minerals between Hughenden and Mount Isa. There is a clear opportunity for the federal government to step in and help fund CopperString in that regard as well.

We saw our \$2.4 billion commitment in last year's budget to CopperString. We know that the private sector is interested. The North West Energy Fund, which I announced in the Energy Roadmap last year, is a \$200 million fund that has been market sounding for energy solutions out there. More than 20 participants have been part of that to help build that north-west energy system while we build from the eastern limb first, from Hughenden to Townsville—that important limb to connect CopperString to the NEM sooner, to get energy moving sooner, and those opportunities that are available there for renewable energy—

**Mr KATTER:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I appreciate that the Treasurer has made a good effort in trying to answer the question. I ask that he reflect on an element of the question that said 'formally requested'—

**Mr SPEAKER:** So on relevance?

**Mr KATTER:** On relevance, yes.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Treasurer, it is a pretty simple question.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Yes, member for Traeger, I have asked the federal government to support this project. It is a nation-building project, and it is clear that they have a range of funding opportunities and funds that are available. It is very clear that this is a nation-building project, and I want to see the federal government making a contribution to it. We put \$2.4 billion on the table in our last budget, and we know that there is private sector investment. It is important that the federal government make a contribution towards it. Next month we will see a federal budget. I am looking forward to the federal government committing to making a contribution to CopperString at that time.

### **Townsville, Public Transport**

**Mr BAILLIE:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Residents, workers and tourists cannot currently access the Townsville Airport using public transport. Following my local survey and grassroots campaign to highlight our need for a fair share of public transport, can the minister advise what steps the Crisafulli LNP government is taking to make an airport bus service a reality in Townsville?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I thank the member for Townsville for his strong advocacy for the people of Townsville on a range of issues, whether it is more housing, a better Bruce Highway—something that those opposite rolled over on and said they could not get 80-20 funding for but which we have delivered—or better public transport services for his community in North Queensland. Our government is committed to frequent, affordable and reliable public transport for all Queenslanders. I thank the member for Townsville for his advocacy and for engaging with his community over the last six months to assess the community's desire for a bus service between the airport and the CBD and a number of key locations across the city.

Earlier this week I met with the member for Townsville and he walked me through the results of that survey: 98 per cent of respondents supported an investment in that service. They want to be able to connect not just with the CBD and the airport but also with places like The Strand and the Breakwater Terminal. I really appreciate members, like the member for Townsville, who advocate on behalf of their community.

Let's look at the results for bus patronage across the state, particularly in regional Queensland. Since we made the LNP's 50-cent fares permanent in February last year, we have seen a significant increase in patronage on bus services in regional Queensland. Some 12.2 million trips have been taken in regional Queensland under the LNP's permanent 50-cent fares. That is a rise of 19 per cent in Townsville alone. We want to do more. We want to boost services and boost routes, and advocacy from members like the member for Townsville will deliver just that.

I want to inform the House of the next steps following the member for Townsville's advocacy. As a result of his advocacy and his engagement with the community, my department will now be speaking to the Townsville City Council and important stakeholders, like the Townsville Airport, to design a service and listen to them about how we can best deliver on that need in his community. That will inform our planning and our discussions. I commend the member for Townsville for his strong advocacy.

It is great to have a member for Townsville delivering a fresh start for Townsville. He is a member of a strong LNP team in North Queensland, and that was reflected five or six months ago when one more member was added to that team—the member for Hinchinbrook, Wayde Chiesa. It is tremendous to have a strong and united LNP team hunting as a pack in North Queensland. As a consequence, the people of Townsville will see the results. They will see the results in better public transport services and better infrastructure for their community. I look forward to working with him to deliver more for the people of Townsville.

### **Small and Family Business**

**Mr MILES:** My question is to the Treasurer. When will the Crisafulli LNP government provide small and family businesses with cost-of-living relief during the fuel affordability crisis?

**Mr JANETZKI:** I will make a couple of comments with regard to the question. Firstly, for cost-of-living relief, Queensland has done its bit in the national affordability crisis. In our budget last year, as we were looking forward to the challenges that households and communities face, we were very clear about targeted, timely and responsible cost-of-living relief. That was important work that was undertaken in the budget last year, which included: Boost to Buy for home ownership, as I have already talked about today; the Back to School Boost, administered by the education minister; and a range of other measures, including the unfreezing of the vulnerable households energy rebate that those opposite froze.

We are always looking to do our bit in the national affordability crisis, and we are continuing to do it. We made great strides towards developing our cost-of-living package in that first budget. I would contrast that with what those opposite did. Time and again they make allegations, but we know that the truth was very different in their last budget. It is worth remembering that in their last budget they put more into the forwards for advertising cost-of-living relief than actually delivering cost-of-living relief for Queensland. That is literally their record.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I appreciate the Treasurer's response looking back. We are asking about the current situation. The point of order is on relevance.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Treasurer, the point of order was on relevance.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I was looking in the forwards in their last budget. What was in there for cost-of-living relief? Nothing. I was looking in the forwards for your last budget and I saw nothing for cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders. Do you know what we on this side of the House funded? We funded the Crisafulli government's permanent 50-cent fares. That is what we funded. That is what we funded permanently. Those opposite were cutting it all. They did not care about cost-of-living relief. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads fully funded—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I am not really sure which side of the House was making the most noise, but the only person who has the call is the Treasurer.

**Mr JANETZKI:** That is just the tip of the iceberg. They talk about car registration. How much did they put in the forwards for the discount? Nothing. How much was in the forwards for the Play On! vouchers for the young kids who want to play sport? Nothing. They put nothing in the forwards for cost-of-living relief.

We on this side of the House have delivered that permanent and responsible cost-of-living relief. We have put the money into the forwards. We have made it permanent. We continue to work very carefully on the budget process because we know that households are important. They are struggling and we want to ensure they are properly supported. It is up to Canberra to do some heavy lifting in their budget. It is important that their budget is handed down first, and we will continue to do the hard work to support hardworking Queenslanders.

*(Time expired)*

### **Rural Queensland, School Infrastructure**

**Mr HEAD:** My question is to the Minister for Education and the Arts. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering on its plan for Queensland's future by investing in school infrastructure for rural schools, and can the minister outline the substantial maintenance backlog and associated issues across Callide after a decade of decline?

**Mr LANGBROEK:** We have all been made very aware of the hardworking nature of the member for Callide. Minister Simpson has already mentioned that today, and I attest to the hardworking nature of the member for Callide. I thank him for the question.

Hopefully we all know that we have a record \$21.9 billion education budget. Importantly, given that we inherited an infrastructure backlog, we have allocated over \$2.6 million for maintenance and minor works across schools in the member's electorate of Callide. Across the Banana, Western Downs and North Burnett local government areas, we are delivering over \$31 million in investment across 41 projects at 29 schools. Sixteen of those projects have now been completed and 25 projects have either had contracts awarded or are under active construction.

I also want to mention our investments in our regional special schools across the state. In Gympie, Mount Isa, Rockhampton and Townsville, we have over \$20 million to invest across 11 projects at four special schools. Seven of those projects have been completed and four projects have had contracts awarded and are under active construction.

When it comes to the renewal backlog—and we have heard today from ministers, whether it is in transport, infrastructure or construction—BPIC and the cost of it has meant that our schools have suffered, whether it is new, renewal or maintenance. That is why my department inherited a \$441 million infrastructure backlog. I can advise the House of some of the repair bills for schools in the Callide electorate: Theodore State School, \$1,147,935; Miles State School, \$576,000; Bell State School, \$441,569; and Biloela State High School, \$316,572. That is the bill those opposite left while they were feathering the nests of their union mates.

Most importantly, with the tone of what we have heard today in parliament, I want to refer to what the member for Waterford said last week. Given the nature of the day that we have seen today and given what those opposite have referred to today, this is what the member for Waterford said last week in a press conference: 'I think so much of the tone of the parliament is set by the leaders of the parliament.' Those opposite should look at themselves today. They should look at the tone of the questions we have been asked—the improper nature of the questions, the disgraceful questions—from

their leaders, all of whom were there in the last parliament and who are all laughing now. The member for Miller is laughing. They should consider the tone of this parliament and lift their game. This reflects on all of us but it mostly reflects on all of those opposite.

*(Time expired)*

### **Crisafulli LNP Government, Respect at Work Laws**

**Ms SCANLON:** My question is to the Attorney-General. The Attorney-General revoked Labor's respect at work laws, stating that they required more consultation. Has the Attorney consulted with experts, including in her own department, on the importance of implementing Labor's respect at work laws?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I thank the shadow attorney-general for the question. While I did not hear the entirety of the question, I understand that it was about Labor's failed respect at work laws. We know that there was a rushed commencement date which did not provide sufficient time to address the issues and other unintended consequences, principally putting guns into the hands of DV perpetrators. For the shadow attorney-general's benefit, I look forward to the meeting with Jacqueline King, who is from the Council of Unions. I understand that I am meeting with her in early May.

### **Youth Crime**

**Mrs POOLE:** My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering justice for victims of crime, including in North Queensland, and is the minister aware of any policies that allowed repeat offenders to continue to harass victims during a decade of decline?

**Mr SPEAKER:** You have one minute, Minister.

**Mrs GERBER:** The member for Mundingburra is a fierce advocate for victims of crime in her electorate. That is in stark contrast to what we see from those opposite. In fact, those opposite have a state policy platform document that does not even mention youth crime once. We will not go back to Labor's weak laws. We will not go back to a Labor Party that does not support victims of crime.


In fact, if we look at their policy platform, their document, they also plan to take funding away from detention centres. It is on page 109 of their state policy platform. That is in addition to raising the age of criminal responsibility so youth offenders will no longer face consequences under the Youth Justice Act. That is what the Labor Party will take us back to. We will not go back. We will continue to introduce strong laws and to stand with victims of crime in this state.

*(Time expired)*

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

## **PRIVILEGE**

### **Notice of Motion, Compliance with Standing Orders**

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (3.43 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising in relation to the motion as foreshadowed by the Leader of the Opposition and tabled immediately before question time. I have had an opportunity to look at the motion. I submit that there are appropriation and budgetary implications in relation to that. If we look at the standing orders under part 6, 'Financial Procedures', and chapter 30, standing order 174, 'Appropriation proposal to be recommended', states in subsection (1)—


No proposal (including a Bill or a motion) for an appropriation that falls within the meaning of s.68 of the *Constitution of Queensland 2001* shall be introduced unless first recommended by a message of the Governor as required by that section.

Mr Speaker, I submit to you that the motion as tabled by the Leader of the Opposition offends standing order 174. I ask you to rule it out of order.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will take some advice. We will come back to you on that, Leader of the House.

## CIVIL LIABILITY (HOLDING INSTITUTIONS ACCOUNTABLE FOR CHILD ABUSE) AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (3.44 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Civil Liability Act 2003 to allow institutions to potentially be held vicariously liable for claims for the abuse of children under their care, supervision, control or authority if the abuse is perpetrated by persons not employed by the institutions but in relationships akin to employment by the institutions, and for other particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Civil Liability (Holding Institutions Accountable for Child Abuse) Amendment Bill 2026 [\[566\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Civil Liability (Holding Institutions Accountable for Child Abuse) Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes [\[567\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Civil Liability (Holding Institutions Accountable for Child Abuse) Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility [\[568\]](#).

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Member for Gaven, before you start your speech, I will ask members leaving the chamber to do so quietly and quickly. I also remind the members for Lytton, Greenslopes, Bundaberg, Waterford, Aspley, Logan and Bulimba that they are on warnings.

**Ms SCANLON:** There are moments in this parliament that transcend politics. There are moments when the noise of the chamber—the pointscore, the press releases, the partisan theatre—has to fall away and we have to look each other in the eye, as elected representatives, and ask ourselves a very simple question: are we doing right by the people who sent us here? Today is one of those moments. Today I am introducing the civil liability amendment bill and I want every member of this House, on both sides, to truly understand what this bill means, not as a legal mechanism but as a statement of values, as a declaration of whose side we are on.

Right now in Queensland there are hundreds of survivors of child sexual abuse who have been told by the law, the cold operation of the law, that they cannot pursue justice through one of the key legal pathways once available to them, not because of what happened to them—that it was not real—not because they were not devastated and not because they do not deserve accountability but because of a technicality, a legal distinction so clinical, so removed from the lived reality of trauma, that it would be almost incomprehensible to most Queenslanders if they understood and knew that this existed. It is our job to fix it.

Let me be absolutely unambiguous about something from the outset: a victim of child abuse is a victim regardless of who the perpetrator is, regardless of whether the perpetrator was employed by an organisation or volunteered for one, regardless of whether they received a wage, a stipend or nothing at all. The violation is the same. The trauma is the same. The shattering of trust, of safety, of childhood itself is the same.

When a child is abused, they do not experience it through the lens of employment law. They do not lie awake at night wondering whether their abuser was technically an employee or an independent contractor. When our legal system creates a distinction that says, ‘You can pursue this pathway if your abuser was employed but not if they were a volunteer,’ we are not just creating a legal anomaly; we are sending a message to survivors—a demoralising, deeply unjust message that says, ‘The institution that enabled your abuse, that placed your abuser in a position of power, gets to walk away.’ That is not justice. That is not what Queensland stands for and it is precisely why this bill exists.

In November 2024 the High Court handed down its decision in *Bird v DP*. The case centred on child sexual abuse by a Catholic priest. The victim sought to hold the diocese vicariously liable. The High Court found it could not because priests receive a stipend, not a wage, and are therefore not employees. Without an employment relationship, vicarious liability could not attach. I respect the High Court. The justices were interpreting the law as it existed, but here is what matters most: the High Court itself said, in its own judgement, that reformulation of the law of vicarious liability is ‘properly the province of the legislature’. They handed it to us. The highest court in this land said, ‘We cannot fix this, but you can. You, the elected representatives of Queensland, have the power and responsibility to act.’ Mr Deputy Speaker, 525 days later the Crisafulli LNP government has done nothing. I will also directly address the suggestion—

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Order! Member for Waterford, you are on a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Waterford withdrew from the chamber at 3.49 pm.*

**Ms SCANLON:** I will also address the suggestion from those opposite that the recent AA decision dealing with non-delegable duties has somehow been resolved. It has not. As lawyers in this field have made very clear, AA and Bird addressed fundamentally different legal doctrines. A development in one does not cure the deficiencies in the other. Claiming otherwise gives survivors false hope and gives this government an excuse to keep doing nothing. Queensland does not exist in isolation. When a landmark High Court decision affects survivors across this country and other jurisdictions look at their laws, assess the gap and act. That is what a responsible government does. Victoria acted and the ACT acted. Both jurisdictions—

**Mrs Frecklington:** New South Wales.

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the interjection from the Attorney-General. She notes other jurisdictions and yet does nothing. Both jurisdictions recognised that the Bird decision—

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

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock, please.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

**Ms SCANLON:** I withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Gaven, thank you for withdrawing. Could you please also address your comments through the chair.

**Ms SCANLON:** I withdraw. Both jurisdictions recognised that the Bird decision had created an unacceptable barrier for survivors and moved to legislate to ensure their laws reflected the values of their communities and the clear signal from the High Court that parliament needed to step in. Other states are actively working on solutions right now. Queensland is watching from the sidelines. That is not good enough for a state of our size, our population and our responsibility. We are not leading on this; we are not even keeping up. We are falling behind, and the people paying the price are not politicians, they are survivors.

I will walk this House through exactly what the Crisafulli LNP government has and has not done since November 2024. In the immediate aftermath of the Bird decision the government said it was monitoring the situation, as if watching survivors who had been denied justice was an appropriate response to a High Court decision that explicitly called for legislative action. Then came the AA decision, and rather than acknowledging that two separate legal issues existed and that Bird still needed a legislative fix, the government pivoted. Suddenly AA had changed the picture. Suddenly things might be all okay. That framing was not just legally wrong; it was designed to manufacture a justification for continued inaction.

In November 2025, a full year after the Bird decision, the Leader of the Opposition asked the Attorney-General directly, 'Will the Attorney introduce laws by the end of this year regarding vicarious liability to support victims of child sexual abuse?' It was a clear question. It deserved a clear answer and it did not receive one. The end of 2025 came and went without legislation, without a draft, without even a firm commitment to act.

Dianne, whom I have had the privilege of meeting on a number of occasions, was in the gallery that day. She told media on the weekend—

I was a bit disappointed, the day in parliament, that Mr Crisafulli is sitting there texting on his phone and not acknowledging us. Again he is not here for an important piece of law reform.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member knows the conventions of the parliament. It is inappropriate for the member to refer to people just because they are not physically in the House at this time. It is completely against convention.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Maroochydore. I appreciate that point of order being raised. Whilst I did not hear directly what was said, it is a longstanding convention that you do not refer to a member's absence from the chamber.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Coomera, you know better than that. Member for Gaven, please refrain from that in the future.

**Ms SCANLON:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Survivors travelled to this parliament—

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Just one moment, member for Gaven. Who was it who said, 'Why don't you warn him?'

**Mr Russo:** It was me, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Toohey. You are warned under the standing orders for reflecting on the chair.

**Ms SCANLON:** Survivors travelled to this parliament, they sat in the gallery with hope and the Premier of Queensland was on his phone. That is not standing with victims; that is using victims as a political backdrop while failing them in practice.

I have met many extraordinary Queenslanders in my time in public life, but the meetings I have had over the last months with survivor advocates have been among the most profound in my career. These are people who have taken the most unimaginable trauma and transformed it into decades of advocacy—not just for themselves but for every survivor who comes after them. They are the true heroes of this bill. Val is in the gallery today. On the weekend she said—

I am here as an adult. I'm safe ... as a child I was not ... I did not get my childhood, because trauma took it, before I even understood what was happening. I carried fear, sadness, and responsibilities that were never meant for a child ... so when legislation [or a decision] comes along and says no—it just kills you inside. It just kills you inside again.

That is what a failure to act, not an abstract policy failure, does to real people. A real human being who survived something horrific and who found the courage to seek justice has been told no—again. I also acknowledge Emily, Dianne, Colin, Joan, Darcy and Joan from Micah Projects, the ALA, Maurice Blackburn, Slater and Gordon and all of the powerful advocates who have been lobbying for change for a year now. To those survivor advocates who shared their stories with me and my office: your courage and refusal to give up is what brings us here today.

This bill amends the Civil Liability Act to extend vicarious liability beyond the traditional employment relationship, ensuring institutions can be held responsible for abuse committed by those acting under their authority, including volunteers. It closes the gap that Bird revealed. It does not guarantee outcomes. Survivors will still go through the courts, but it opens the door. It gives survivors another legitimate pathway to seek the justice they need, the justice they want and the justice they deserve.

After this speech I will move to bring this bill back from committee within seven weeks, not the standard nine months, because the people in this gallery have already waited long enough. I call on the Crisafulli LNP government to support that motion because Val, Dianne and every survivor watching today deserves to know this parliament takes their pain seriously. If those opposite vote against this motion, if they choose to send this to the back of the queue, I want them to be clear about what they are doing. They are choosing process over people. They are choosing institutional comfort over survivor justice. If they block this, if they delay this, they are not standing on the side of victims; they are standing on the side of offenders. They are standing on the side of abusers, on the side of paedophiles and the organisations that harbour them. That might be uncomfortable to hear, but it is the truth. The survivors in this gallery, who have waited decades for a parliament willing to say it plainly, deserve us to call it out for what it is. For those who carried the weight of what was done to them and could not find a way through, this is for them too. There is a clear choice and every member of this House will have to make it. The Labor opposition have made theirs. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (3.57 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee

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

## LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION



**Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (3.57 pm): I seek leave to move a motion without notice.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

### AYES, 36:

**ALP, 33**—Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, 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, 2**—Katter, Knuth.

### NOES, 52:

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

Resolved in the negative.

## SUMMARY OFFENCES (PROTECTION OF THE AUSTRALIAN FLAG) AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction



**Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (4.02 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Summary Offences Act 2005 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Summary Offences (Protection of the Australian Flag) Amendment Bill 2026 [\[569\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Summary Offences (Protection of the Australian Flag) Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes [\[570\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Summary Offences (Protection of the Australian Flag) Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility [\[571\]](#).

This bill is about the protection of the Australian flag. On Australia Day the media asked the Premier, 'Do you think it is right to burn the flag?' I am sure he said that he did not agree and said that it was wrong, but when he was asked if he would do anything about it he said no. The same question was put to our party and we said that we should because it is our responsibility if we disagree with that. If the majority of Queenslanders think it should be done we are obligated to put it into parliament, so here we are.

Most Queenslanders would share the view that the flag is sacrosanct. It is a sign of unity. It is the opposite of divisive; it promotes that cohesion that we should all agree on and be aspiring to. It provides guardrails to protest activity, some of which has become more aggressive over the last 12 to 18 months in Queensland. I think it is really important that Queenslanders have the right to protest, but there must be some guardrails. Some things push the boundaries, but you do not sacrifice animals at protests, you do not go over the top with things and you do not burn the Australian flag. Sadly, we have seen that with increasing frequency in recent times. I hope none of us wants to put more legislation into this place around that—we should be trying to keep it away—but, unfortunately, situations require us to act and I think a situation has arisen around this. Here are some events where flag burning has been recorded: in Brisbane on Australia Day this year; on 4 July 2020, which I believe was a Black Lives Matter protest; at the G20 on the world stage in 2014, which was a nice little demonstration of disunity in Queensland; and in other parts of the country, including the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Tent Embassy in Canberra.

This proposition was put in Canberra by a Liberal MP but it was voted down in that parliament. I am quite often told in this place that if it can be done in Canberra we should leave it to them. That is a deflection technique that has been developed here in the Queensland parliament—to leave it to the feds—but they have already rejected this so I can tell you now that it is not going to happen in Canberra. If members agree with the sentiment that we in the state parliament have the capacity to do it here, then I find it hard to understand how they could oppose this bill.

For me, it goes without saying that the flag is more than cloth. It is a symbol of unity. There are elements of the flag that I question sometimes in terms of where we are going with it and where it should be, but it is our flag. We are celebrating Anzac Day this weekend, and many Queenslanders fought and died for that flag, to provide us with the freedoms we enjoy today, and we need to respect that. Having people desecrate it is quite the opposite, so we need to send a signal that that will not be tolerated.

The bill achieves its policy objectives by inserting a new division 1C into the Summary Offences Act. We need to define the flag as part of this, and it goes a bit wider in terms of variations in colours, sizes and styles. Quite simply, if it represents an Australian flag it cannot be burnt. The objective of the bill is to protect the national flag as a symbol of unity and shared significance and stop agitators disrespecting the flag and destroying something that is sacrosanct in this country to create public disorder, intimidate people or cause significant offence to the community.

The bill recommends 40 penalty units, or up to six months in prison, for burning the flag. Some people say that a simple fine would be enough, but fines nowadays are not an effective deterrent. It cannot be that they pass the hat around at a protest and say, 'We'll cover the fine. Let's just do it anyway.' There needs to be a serious consequence for someone. We also do not believe that we should be locking them up and throwing away the key, so we feel that six months is the right penalty for the offence. The offence is also informed if the flag is stolen, if the flag is defaced, if the burning is filmed, if images and video are posted to social media or if someone helps with any of the above.

This is quite a simple piece of legislation. It is regrettable that we see this as necessary in the state now. Someone needs to make a stand on this. It is a guardrail against the aggressive and radical protesting that seems to be growing in Queensland, and it sends a signal from the government that we are serious about this. It is not just stern words in the media or making some aspirational comment and saying, 'We've got to clamp down on this'; this is legislation to put penalties into law. With that, I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (4.10 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee


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

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

### Second Reading

Resumed from 21 April (see p. 1028), on motion of Mrs Gerber—

That the bill be now read a second time.


 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (4.11 pm), continuing: During the time from 2015 to 2024 Mareeba and the Cook electorate were represented by Labor members of parliament, members who literally dropped the ball when it came to law and order and in particular youth crime. Nothing could be more telling on the subject of abandoning a community than the former member for Cook's cynical step of relocating the electorate office out of Mareeba and out of the electorate. Not only did the Labor member for Cook show contempt for the people who elected her; she failed at every turn to stand up for the people of Mareeba when it came to law and order. Under Labor, victims of crime increased by 193 per cent. Under Labor, there was an unacceptable escalation in stolen vehicles, break-ins, assaults, robberies and so on across the state.

The LNP government went to the 2024 election on a promise to take strong action to reduce the number of victims of youth crime. The first step we took was to enact the Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. We reversed the decline in the number of serving police officers and, in fact, every police station in my

vast electorate is now fully manned. This bill will strengthen our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws with the addition of 12 new offences. It will scrap Labor's failed three-strikes, soft-on-drugs policy. It will restore consequences for actions under a new framework. Importantly, it recognises the impacts of antisocial behaviour and promotes community safety by creating a new designated business and community precinct to bring law and order to shopping centres, community hubs and business districts. We can add these additions to the strong actions taken by this government in the Making Queensland Safer Laws introduced in 2024.

I am confident we are seeing gains in reducing the number of victims of crime in Queensland with a seven per cent reduction across the board in victim numbers. Not only have I returned as the elected member for Cook and reopened the electorate office in Mareeba; I will stand up for my town and my electorate and fight against youth crime. Many in my electorate have been impacted by crime. Many are scared and many feel more can be done. Our government has done a lot in a short time to reduce the number of victims of youth crime. I believe there is work to be done in my electorate in relation to youth crime, especially in light of recent events where young criminals taunted police with the knowledge that the police could not pursue them.

I will stand up for the people of Mareeba and continue to advocate for: providing support for better home security measures; encouraging the fitting of immobilising and tracking devices in cars; making parents take more responsibility for the actions of children; giving police more pursuit powers; creating a youth holding centre near Lotus Glen; providing pre-court assessments; installing special children's magistrates to deal with all Childrens Court matters, including bail; establishing a serious and repeat offender register; and limiting bail options. Above all, I want to see serious and repeat offenders taken off our streets so residents are once again safe in their homes, on the street and in their workplaces. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr JKELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (4.14 pm): I have lost count of how many times I have stood in this chamber advocating for health responses to drugs of addiction, whether it be tobacco, vaping, alcohol, nitrous oxide or other drugs. It is not because our Labor team is soft on drugs. It is because I am part of a Labor team that wants to keep Queenslanders safe whether they are addicted to drugs or impacted by people who are. It is because I am part of a Labor team that listens to and respects experts. It is because I am part of a Labor team that wants to rid our society of the drugs of addiction. It is why I was proud to lead the inquiry into improving the lives of people with mental health issues and addiction issues, which led to increased addiction services that those opposite were happy to cut the ribbons of while cutting back on health services. It is why I have supported Labor's calls to reinstate pill-testing services after the LNP cut them. It is why I have worked with Labor members to get action on nitrous oxide addiction, and there is still a long way to go on that. All Labor members have seen the damage these substances do in our community.

We know that with access to better health care and health-based early interventions people can get on a better path, including those found with small amounts of drugs for personal use. Labor invests in services to help these people and the LNP do what is in their DNA: they cut these services. That is why Labor moved to split the bills to have drug diversion considered separately from the rest of the LNP's bill. Sadly, the Crisafulli government denied us the right to do this. Health care is worth fighting for and Labor will fight for it. This bill will ensure that vulnerable Queenslanders grappling with mental health issues and addiction do not get the health services they need. Instead, the LNP are content to condemn these Queenslanders to a lifetime of addiction with a very high likelihood of spending time in prison or in mental health facilities.

In my community I have met so many people with family members who have developed addiction issues, particularly in their teen years. Many of these people, through years of effort, tears and worry, have managed to get young people back on track. Under this bill those young people would be on a track to a lifetime of involvement in the criminal justice system and a lifetime of addiction. I know those opposite do not listen to experts, but experts tell us there is another way. The experts tell us that drug diversion for those found in possession of small amounts of drugs for personal use, if driven by evidence-informed health and wellbeing interventions, would significantly reduce their future involvement with drugs of addiction, mental health or criminal justice services.

Labor will stand up for all Queenslanders, especially vulnerable Queenslanders, including those who have mental health and addiction issues. We cannot support a bill that cuts health care and sends health-based interventions backwards. This bill takes Queenslanders backwards. Honourable members should not for a moment think that I am not fully aware of the damage done to innocent victims by people who use drugs of addiction. I have looked after so many people who have been significantly

injured by people who have been using drugs of addiction. Labor absolutely supports the rights of all Queenslanders to be safe, but this bill does not achieve that. It ignores expert advice and years of demonstrated practical outcomes and instead launches people on a path that will make themselves and their victims unsafe.

We know what the AMA said about this bill: dangerous and contrary to advice. The Queensland Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies said—

Not only do some of the proposed amendments fail to meet the overarching current government priority of ensuring community safety, they are also disconnected from community expectations.


The Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council said—

The repeal of the Police Drug Diversion Program will limit opportunities for individuals to access early Intervention and treatment for alcohol and other drug use. For people experiencing substance dependence, diversion programs provide an important pathway to counselling, treatment and rehabilitation services.

The Alcohol and Drug Foundation said—

- Diversion does not increase drug use and in fact can decrease it: Australian research showed decreases in cannabis use following police diversion for cannabis possession.
- An evaluation of the first three years of NSW Cannabis Cautioning Scheme found it had saved over 18,000 police hours, and over \$1m in court costs.

These experts all know that if we provide a health response we reduce the number of victims, but this bill does not do that. Labor cannot support a bill that cuts health and health-based interventions.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (4.19 pm): Today it is a pleasure to rise to support the Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill, which is delivering on a key election commitment of the Crisafulli LNP government around making Queensland safer. The bill will achieve that in three ways, firstly by strengthening the Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. The Adult Crime, Adult Time laws were a key election commitment made by the government and demanded by the community to ensure that for particularly serious crimes young offenders are treated like adults in the justice system. This comes from the community's demands that victims be put first and the rights of victims and community safety be put above the rights of offenders, in particular in this case youth offenders, and that there be consequences for actions. We have now implemented a number of tranches of Adult Crime, Adult Time which are all about sending a clear message to the community that we are putting the rights of victims first and also ensuring that young offenders are treated with the seriousness they should be when they commit those very serious crimes.

Secondly, the bill scraps Labor's failed three-strikes, soft-on-drugs policy—I will speak more about that later—and introduces a new illicit drug enforcement and diversion framework. Thirdly, the bill recognises the impacts of antisocial behaviour in parts of the community. This is an area that has been of concern in my electorate of Scenic Rim, especially around Beaudesert, and it is great that the implementation of these provisions will give police and the community another tool to bring to heel when people are engaging in antisocial behaviour that impacts businesses and impacts residents. Unfortunately, the previous Labor government removed a number of provisions in the Criminal Code and other acts of parliament which previously criminalised that behaviour, so we are dealing with those concerns as well.

Under Labor's decade of decline there was a huge increase in the number of victims of crimes over those years. We also saw the youth crime crisis get completely out of control after the watering down of the Youth Justice Act by the Labor Party in 2015 and going forward from there. That is the hand that the government was dealt when we came to power and more particularly that the community was dealt when Labor was in office. We are dealing with that through this bill and through a range of other legislative changes we have made, and those opposite continue to put the rights of victims behind the rights of offenders. Labor wants to stop holding youth criminals accountable for their crimes. It is part of its platform to apparently raise the age of criminal responsibility for young offenders from 10 to 14. At a time when youth offenders and youth crime are such an issue of concern in the community, it beggars belief that members of the Labor Party would seek to do that.

In relation to the failed police drug diversion program, the changes being made through this bill bring a more balanced approach in ensuring repeat offenders will face consequences for their actions while also offering a diversion framework for first-time offenders. Some members opposite have mischaracterised these provisions by saying that the bill removes altogether alternative pathways or preventive pathways. It does not, and we need to make that clear. I think all members recognise that sometimes it is the better option for alternative pathways to be taken, but there also need to be consequences when there is serious repeat offending.


The evidence shows that Labor's policy does not work, because under its policy—which has been in place for a couple of years now—there was a tiered system that required warnings to be given on three occasions before there could be consequences for actions for the use of dangerous and illegal substances. In practice that means that it is almost impossible for people to face consequences for their actions. The nature of that offending and the chance of being detained or caught by police three times in possession of illegal substances means that there is almost zero chance of there being consequences. We are changing that back to one time. That is a sensible approach which still offers a diversion policy whilst also recognising that there should be consequences for actions when people are using dangerous and illicit drugs.

In relation to people found in possession of a small quantity of prescribed dangerous drugs or medicine, a police officer will have the discretion to issue a penalty enforcement notice when that is detected, effectively a fine. If someone is issued a fine they will have the opportunity to self-elect to complete a drug diversion program in lieu of paying that fine, so that is an alternative pathway to criminalisation and going down the criminal justice route. However, if we listen to the contributions from members opposite, in many cases we would not know that that option still exists. This new system has strict eligibility criteria and limits an offender to one diversionary opportunity under each pathway, and that is trying to get the balance right between alternative pathways and putting in place consequences for actions.

In relation to designated business and community precincts and providing that particular areas can be designated as a precinct where move-on powers can be given to police, that is a great initiative which has been raised by a number of members in our LNP government to deal with antisocial behaviour in city centres in particular. It is an issue that has been raised with me and with other members of government in the Beaudesert area because of the impact it has on businesses and the feeling of safety for people in the community. This has also come about because of the weakening of public order offences under the former Labor government during that decade of decline. The behaviour and conduct of people that a reasonable person in the community would consider to be unacceptable used to be considered against the law until members opposite removed all of those laws. We are not going down the pathway of restoring them all, but this gives police and the community tools to be able to deal with that behaviour to ensure the safety of people in the community and the safety of businesses and the trading conditions in which they operate and to offer some priority and protection by police and local government, which will be key partners in these new provisions. They will enable police to give directions to move on, give police banning notices and implement Jack's Law in relation to wandering for knives being carried by people in particular designated areas, and that is a welcome move. Although not all of those issues have arisen, especially in relation to knives, in the area that I represent, I know that in other parts of the state they certainly would have arisen. Giving the police and the community those extra tools will be most welcome.

Our approach to this issue can be contrasted with the approach in place under the previous government which was restrictive in relation to giving police the opportunity to issue move-on notices and do wandering processes. We have had that discussion in this parliament previously when we made Jack's Law permanent and made it easier for police to implement it, especially in safe night precincts.

The other issue that is enabled under this bill is for the police banning framework to be implemented outside of safe night precincts but inside the new designated community safety precincts which can be put in place under the bill. This is aimed at dealing with concerns that have been raised by the community around antisocial and dangerous behaviour for families, for individuals and for businesses. It is great to have a government that is putting community safety first, putting the rights of victims first and listening to voices that stand for victims and stand for enhancing community safety rather than always siding with the rights of offenders, which was the hallmark of the previous Labor government. It never got the balance right. It was always too far in favour of offenders. We are putting that right. That has been a hallmark of this government, and we will continue to do that. I commend the minister for bringing this bill to the House and I hope that all members can support it.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (4.29 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill. I make it clear that I support this bill. It partly reflects what Queenslanders have been demanding for years—real consequences for serious crime. The policy and phrase 'Adult Crime, Adult Time' did not originate from this government; it was the KAP's policy and slogan that I first coined in 2023 after an elderly man in my electorate was stabbed to death by a teenager. I table the *Courier-Mail* article which confirms exactly that.


*Tabled paper.* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 29 September 2024, titled 'George Street beat: Qld politics news and gossip' [572].

That is okay. I am happy that the government have copied our policy and slogan, but this bill is not the complete solution. It is only one part of the solution, and if the government pretend otherwise they will fail because what we are seeing right now across Queensland—particularly in North Queensland—is that this approach alone is not enough. Even government members are feeling the pressure, as noted in the *Townsville Bulletin* editorial. It makes it clear that community confidence is already cracking because expectations are not being met. Government MPs are now saying the penalties are not good enough and communities want stronger action. This is what we have been saying for a long time. That is not me saying it; that is the reality on the ground. It proves that Adult Crime, Adult Time and any other bill the government have introduced are only bandaid solutions.

I say again: we support the bill. I say that deliberately because every time we try to contribute to strengthening legislation in this House some joker jumps up with a point of order to shut down debate. I am being directly relevant to the bill by supporting it and putting forward additional measures that would help strengthen the intent of the bill, which is to make Queensland safe.

The first measure that would strengthen Adult Crime, Adult Time is for the government to adopt relocation sentencing. This would get repeat offenders out of environments that breed crime and into a structured setting where they learn discipline and responsibility. Under Adult Crime, Adult Time youth offenders are sent straight back to detention centres. It has been proven this does not work as more than 90 per cent of youth reoffend within a year. This bill does not fix that cycle, but combined with relocation sentencing as an alternative option it would.

The second measure that would improve this bill is castle law. This would act as a real deterrent so youth do not commit adult crimes such as home invasion in the first place. Castle law sends a clear message that if you invade someone's home there will be severe consequences. We are not here to oppose the government's policy; we are here to help. We want to work with the government to help strengthen their crime policies in this bill. If the government do a good job we will applaud them. Every time we raise additional practical solutions to strengthen proposed legislation such as relocation sentencing and castle law we get shouted down with procedural nonsense. Queenslanders do not want half-measures or slogans; they want results. While this bill is a step in the right direction and I will support it, it must be part of a broader plan that makes our communities safe again.

 **Mr CHIESA** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (4.32 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill 2026. This is an important bill. It goes to the heart of one of the most fundamental responsibilities we have in this place—that is, keeping Queenslanders safe. At the end of the day, the debate is not theoretical, it is not abstract; it is about real people and real communities dealing with the real consequences of crime.

This bill forms part of a broader set of reforms that are responding to what Queenslanders have been telling us for some time now. My experience during the Hinchinbrook by-election was that that message came through loud and clear. People told me they were frustrated. They told me they were concerned and, more than anything, they wanted to feel safe again in their own communities. They had seen what happened over the previous decade. Let me be clear: under 10 years of the former Labor government victim numbers rose by more than 193 per cent, and between 2018 and 2023 serious repeat offenders rose by 64 per cent. They are not just statistics; that is a failure. It is a failure of policy, a failure of leadership and a failure to back the people of Queensland.

In just 18 months we are starting to see the benefits of the Crisafulli government's focus on crime. Through stronger laws like Adult Crime, Adult Time, Jack's Law and Daniel's Law, by adding 1,600 new police recruits—making the police force now over 13,000 officers—in addition to the largest investment in early intervention and rehabilitation in Queensland's history, we are seeing a shift. Victim numbers have decreased by 7.2 per cent. We are beginning to stabilise what had become a deeply entrenched problem. We are starting to see the impacts of what we have been focusing on after the decade of decline.

What I know from my time before coming into this place is we had former Labor ministers and former Labor members coming to North Queensland and Townsville and coming up with every single response and excuse as to why crime was increasing. They never said anything about the weakening of the laws—they did not say anything about that. They kept talking about fanciful other reasons. That is why I am in this place. This is important.

The community of Hinchinbrook tells me very clearly that more needs to be done. They are right—we know that. We know that more needs to be done to reverse 10 years of Labor inaction. We all know that it will take a lot of work to turn around 10 years of weak laws, 10 years of running from the problem and 10 years of excuses as to why crime was spiralling out of control.

I want to take a moment to reflect on what I have heard directly from my community. A common theme comes up time and again—frustration. There is frustration that offenders are cycling through the system without meaningful consequences. This is why this bill matters. It sends a clear message that serious harm will carry serious consequences.

Turning to the bill itself, there are three key elements. Firstly, in respect of the expansion of Adult Crime, Adult Time, the bill adds further offences to the regime and, importantly, adds 12 serious offences. They involve violence, coercion, exploitation and deliberate harm to victims. That is a significant step, and it is the right one, because harm is not limited to completed offences. Intent matters, preparation matters and the risk posed to the community matters. When someone is involved in serious criminal conduct—whether they carry it out or play a role in enabling it—there must be accountability.


Secondly, the bill makes important changes to drug policy. It moves away from Labor's failed three-strikes diversion system—a system that allowed offenders multiple chances without consequence—and replaces it with a framework that restores accountability while still providing pathways for rehabilitation. Queenslanders understand this: support where it is needed but consequences where they are deserved.

Thirdly, the bill strengthens police powers through the creation of designated business and community precincts. This is about giving our police the tools they need to intervene early before situations escalate. We have heard clearly through the committee process—including in Townsville—that businesses, workers and communities are crying out for exactly this type of support. The bill has not been rushed. It has been referred to the committee. Submissions were received, hearings were held and feedback was received—and rightly so. After careful consideration, the committee recommended that the bill be passed. At the end of the day, this bill is about one thing—fewer victims—and that is exactly what Queenslanders expect us to deliver.

I acknowledge that there are differing views on this bill. There are those in the Labor opposition who want to talk about weakening the laws, who want to talk about raising the age of criminal responsibility and who want to talk about watering down consequences, but I will be very clear: the Crisafulli government are laser focused on reducing victim numbers. The Labor opposition are laser focused on weakening the laws. We cannot go back to what it was like. I will tell members exactly why crime was out of control under the former government. They were weak on crime, they did not back our police and their weak laws created a generation of serious repeat offenders—that is their legacy. I can only imagine what the situation would look like today if we had not stepped in and introduced stronger laws.

I also want to take the opportunity to raise an issue that was put to me consistently during the by-election and that is the issue of bail. Time and again I heard from people who were frustrated by offenders breaching bail conditions and facing little consequences. I made it clear, and I will continue to say it in this place, 'If you breach jail you should go to jail,' because more than 50 per cent of youth offending is being committed by individuals who are already out on bail. Bail is a privilege—not a right—and when someone repeatedly thumbs their nose up against the law there can be only one response: accountability, consequences and action. As a regional member, I also want to emphasise that these issues are not confined to our cities; they are felt just as strongly, if not more strongly, in communities like Hinchinbrook where a single incident can ripple through an entire town, where small businesses are already under pressure and where community confidence is everything.

In closing, this bill is about restoring balance, it is about putting victims first, it is about backing our police and it is about ensuring those who commit serious crime face serious consequences. We are starting to see progress, but we know there is more work to do and we will continue to do that work every single day to reduce victim numbers and restore safety to Queensland communities because Queenslanders deserve nothing less. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (4.39 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill. I understand there are three separate parts to the bill; however, I would like to talk generally to what the bill is trying to achieve, where we think it has missed the mark and where the solutions lie. I say from the outset that we do not necessarily disagree with the intent of the bill, but we are once again underwhelmed—strongly underwhelmed—by what is not in it to effectively address this problem.

I could claim to have had a front-row seat to the worst offending rates in Queensland over the last seven or eight years in which this issue has ballooned. Mount Isa has four times the average offending rate in Queensland; eight times the average offences against the person; and nine times the average number of assaults. Mount Isa has been a hotspot the whole time. You can throw around whatever stats you want and say that we are beating this—it is important to have stats; it is important to monitor activity—but the stats are so wobbly. I was recently in the media talking about police numbers. It was not so much around police numbers; it was that when you ring triple 0 or Policelink they say they will send someone out when they can but then you get a message back that no-one is available. When people get that sort of response they stop ringing. Sometimes when it is said that calls are down or activity is down it is because people have given up on the system and given up on asking for help. That is not to say that things may not have improved, but, let us be honest, it was a very low base.

I again had a front-row seat when for many years the then government was saying there was not even a problem, that it was a media beat-up. In the last couple of years of Labor in government some activity started in this space. Then everyone, with new hope, voted in the LNP government expecting a big change. Again, the response has been underwhelming. According to a current poll, 77 per cent of Queenslanders reported that they are concerned about crime. That is a high number that indicates this issue is still very significant. According to that Roy Morgan research, Queensland has the highest level of concern in the country.

Under the former government we saw a response to the killing of the son of the now member for Capalaba by a youth offender in 2021 and to the killing of Emma Lovell on Boxing Day in 2022. Certainly the KAP was in here all the time saying, 'Can you please look at this issue? It is ballooning. It is getting worse.' Here we have the response of Adult Crime, Adult Time. The member for Hill did a superb job earlier of summing it up. Of course we were supportive when it became government policy, because we had been saying it for years, as we had been in relation to bush sentencing, which the government adopted before the election. It is gratifying, but it is not there. That is a theme that is becoming all too characteristic of the government. It is all media spin and talk about policy without the back-up.

I can tell members now that Adult Crime, Adult Time is not going to move the needle. We need to do a lot more than this. If you want an indicator of how people feel about crime—members may think it has been solved and that people are comfortable the government is going to turn it around—look at the 113,000 people who signed the castle law petition. Did they sign that because they were invested in that issue or is it that they think crime is a big problem and we need action on this? I think there is a strong element of that. Everyone should see that as a strong statement from Queenslanders, in the biggest e-petition in Queensland's history, that they are not satisfied and we still need something there. That is debatable. You can say, 'We're good,' but there will be a reckoning at some point, as there was with Labor. You can pretend this is good and it is making a difference, but I can assure members that this is not going anywhere near far enough.

One of the points made by the member for Hill was that with Adult Crime, Adult Time you are locking youth up in juvenile detention like Cleveland Youth Detention Centre, where there is over 90 per cent recidivism. What are you doing to stop that recidivism? I will give you a tour of the programs in Mount Isa. There is a common theme: you cannot force the worst kids to do the activities in the programs. The only place you can force them to do anything is in Cleveland detention centre, but that is not working because you get 90 per cent recidivism. That is why we are saying—backed up by Keith Hamburger, who is a strong authority on this—there should be smaller groups in remote areas where youth have no other choice but to participate in activities so they can learn skills and we can get them back as active members of society. That is a better way of doing this. Without plugging that in here, it does not make much sense.

I want to make reference to the contribution of the member for Hinchinbrook, which builds into the point that I am making. It all sounds good. It was a perfect presentation of where we are and how bad it is. For the most part, the Hinchinbrook by-election was a disgusting exercise in deceit. Everyone was being told 'breach of bail, go to jail', the insinuation being that if people voted for the LNP they would get that. I understand that you are allowed to advocate for things, but it cannot stop there. Where is it now? We are talking about it again. We keep talking about these things, but if you mean what you say, if it is so bad, then execute it. That is what we are doing. We come into the House and we put it in legislation to be considered.

**A government member:** Let's do it!

**Mr KATTER:** Exactly. Let's do it! Why is it not there now if we are trying to fight crime? We continue to talk about it and use it as a slogan and everyone gets hyped up, but you are going to have to solve this sooner or later. You are going to need to implement things like castle law and bush sentencing. We are not out to use it as a slogan. We are not doing it for votes; we are trying to help the government govern properly and fix this problem. Government members can satisfy themselves and say their nice little slogans back at home and think everyone is happy, but we are trying to fix things here. It is going to take a bold effort. This is not a bold effort; it is expanding on things that are already being done. I do not disagree with it. A cheap shot we often hear is that we oppose it. It is not that we oppose it; it is just that we think you can do a hell of a lot better. Let this not be a criticism but an encouragement to be bolder and do better than this. Let's hope you are warming up for the bigger event down the track. I hope this is not it. This is not going to get you to the finish line in dealing with this problem.


We have not even started talking about the root of these problems, blue cards and title deeds in Aboriginal communities, to help rebuild and strengthen family units so that kids are not displaced into residential care and foster care which we have in these towns and is often a big spawn of these problems. We are not even talking about that yet, but we should be if we really want to get to the root of some of these problems. We will not go there yet. The government is going to have to deal with these things if it wants to fix the problem.

Last week I had photos sent to me of kids jumping around on the roof of the new Centennial Place at Mount Isa. I checked in with the Shell servo last week and they said, 'Rob, it's just as bad as it's always been. They're just coming in and flogging stuff willy-nilly.' The police are throwing their hands in the air, saying, 'We don't know what to do.' I am still getting all the same phone calls, and that is a statistic you cannot avoid. I suspect that a lot of us are not avoiding that in our electorate offices. We all want to fix it. I do not want to make a slogan out of it. I do not want this to be an attack mission on the government. We just want to fix it. It is very frustrating to come back in here and see legislation in the House not going far enough.

Debate, on motion of Mr Katter, adjourned.

## SPEAKER'S RULING

### Motion Out of Order

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Standing order 174 is very clear in stating that no proposal, including a bill or motion, for an appropriation shall be introduced unless first recommended by message. The notice of motion for the private member's motion today 'calls on' the government to immediately increase the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme, including the overnight allowance and doubling of the private motor vehicle subsidy amount. An increase in the subsidies could only be achieved by an increase in an appropriation.


There are rulings in this House that make the point that using the term 'calls on' in a motion means that a positive outcome from such a motion is not an order, but a resolution. It has no legal effect. However, that is not the point of the standing order. The point of the standing order is to prevent appropriation proposals without a recommendation by a message, thus retaining the integrity of the financial imperative of the Crown—an important constitutional convention.

In times past, this issue was avoided by members seeking to move an address to the Crown for a matter to be considered for a message. I have considered whether I should amend the notice of motion under standing order 70(2), but I am not satisfied that I can do that without altering the scope of the original motion and have ultimately come to the conclusion that I will simply rule the motion out of order.

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

### Second Reading

Resumed.

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (4.50 pm): I rise in strong support of the Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill 2026. This bill reflects the

Crisafulli government's commitment to restore law and order in this state. As we have said time and again, if more needs to be done then we will do it and we will stand ready with communities across Queensland in that effort. This bill before the House today strengthens community safety in three strong and decisive ways. First, it strengthens our tough Adult Crime, Adult Time laws, expanding the scope for a further 12 serious offences and ensuring serious crimes attract serious consequences. Second, it scraps Labor's failed three-strikes, soft-on-drugs policy and restores consequences for actions by introducing a new illicit drug enforcement and diversion framework. Third, it recognises the impacts of antisocial behaviour and promotes community safety by creating new designated business and community precincts, giving our police the laws and resources they need to restore safety in our shopping centres, community hubs and business districts.

Like many other regional members in this House, I know firsthand the effects of the weakening of public order offences under the former Labor government during their decade of decline. I have seen how that resulted in persistent antisocial behaviour within key regional business precincts, ultimately resulting in escalating risks to public safety and our communities' wellbeing.

The balanced approach that we have taken in this bill will retain a drug diversion pathway for first-time low-risk offenders whilst, importantly, ensuring repeat offenders face consequences for their actions. The evidence shows that Labor's soft-on-drugs approach simply does not work with the use of dangerous drugs increasing following Labor's watering down of Queensland's drug laws. Importantly, the bill includes the creation of designated business and community precincts where particular powers will be able to be utilised to address antisocial behaviours, including directions to move on, police banning notices and, importantly, wandering under Jack's Law. Unlike the former Labor government, we have listened to communities and frontline police and have expanded Jack's Law and made it permanent. Since July 2025, police have scanned over 115,000 people, seized over 700 weapons, made over 1,550 arrests and laid nearly 3,000 charges, including against the idiot who thought it was okay to take a machete into the Kingaroy shopping centre.


We always said we would continue to strengthen our youth crime laws to make Queensland safer and that is exactly what we are doing. This bill builds on our Making Queensland Safer Laws by extending Adult Crime, Adult Time to include 12 new offences. Those additional offences are amongst the most serious. They involve violence, coercion, exploitation and deliberate harm to victims. The impacts of those crimes are devastating, long lasting and, in many cases, life altering for victims and their families. This bill ensures that youth offenders who commit those serious crimes can be held accountable and face sentences that reflect the seriousness of the harm caused. Since introducing the Making Queensland Safer Laws, more than 4,000 youths have been charged with over 19,000 offences under Adult Crime, Adult Time.

Does more work need to be done? Yes, but guess what? We have had a decade of the former Labor government winding back the laws. That has bred a generation of untouchables growing up in our communities whose behaviour can have devastating impacts on people. That is the impact of Labor's ridiculous weak-on-crime laws. There has actually been a generation of it. They softened the drug laws and they softened the Youth Justice Act. That is a fact. Time and again, when people say they are upset that the laws may not be working, I say that we have a generation of kids who have been brought up in a system where there were no consequences for actions. The result is that crime was up 193 per cent under the former Labor government. That is what we are working with. Police officers were leaving in droves under the former Labor government. That is what we are working with. Thanks to the police minister and the hard work of the acting commissioner, we have thousands more police. The Crisafulli government is committed to our police. We are giving them laws to enable them to catch those little grubs. We are ensuring there are police officers in our stations. That is what the Crisafulli government is doing on behalf of the people of Queensland.

Are we seeing fewer victims of crime? The figures tell us we are with a 7.2 per cent drop in victim numbers across Queensland. Does more need to be done? You betcha more needs to be done! We will stand alongside our communities because fight we must to make our communities safer. That is exactly what the Crisafulli government is doing each and every day. I thank the youth justice minister and the police minister for doing the hard work. I thank them for doing the work needed because of the former failed Labor government. That is the legacy we have been left with. That is the legacy that, each and every day, we are trying to fix. I thank every single member on this side of the House who has the courage of their convictions to stand with their communities and hear the pain that they are going through because of hardcore repeat juvenile offenders. We really do know what happened in the last decade because of the policy settings of the former government.

I end on this note: what upsets me greatly is that still those opposite have not learnt. According to the current policy document of the Queensland Labor Party, they want to raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14. I can tell the House that over the Easter holidays, when crime always goes up, the little kids who think they can get away with it are aged 11, 12, 13 and 14. Under the former Labor government and a future Labor government, nothing would happen to those kids because they want the age of criminal responsibility increased to 14. The Crisafulli government stands firm with our communities and we will not raise the age of criminal responsibility—not under our watch.

Again, I thank the youth justice minister and the committee for their hard work, and thank each and every member of this House, whether you are from Far North Queensland or right down in Coolangatta, for standing with your community.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (4.59 pm): I rise to speak against the Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill. Yes, the title of the bill alone sounds absurd, but it has nothing on the actual contents of this bill. This bill and this government are a prison crisis in the making. This bill is complete insanity.

This government's policy is to lock up and disappear anyone who is inconvenient to them—anyone who reveals the abysmal policy failings that they now oversee. People battling with addiction who cannot access appropriate health care: should we expand AOD services? No, we will lock them up instead. Kids experiencing the whole constellation of disadvantage—lack of access to disability supports, violence at home, exposure to the child protection system: should we invest in frontline services and early intervention and supports for families? No, let's just lock them up instead. People experiencing homelessness and forced to hang out in public spaces because they literally have nowhere else to go: should we invest in universal public housing for them? No, we will just lock them up. That is the government's response to everything. People opposing a genocide supported by weapons parts manufactured right here in Queensland: should we end our government's complicity? No, we will just lock them up as well. First Nations people whose very existence reminds us of our own colonial violence, dispossession and illegal occupation: are we going to do anything meaningful about that? No, we will just keep locking them up, too.

It is utterly disgraceful. It is truly incredible policymaking, and that is before we get to consider the practical financial implications of this bill as well. For a government that claims to be fiscally responsible, I call bollocks. It is absolute rot that this bill is going to do anything but waste Queenslanders' money. The cost of incarcerating children, the cost of processing and prosecuting drug offences—it is just nuts!

I want to make some observations about the inquiry process which, for aspects of it—and this is no reflection on the secretariat; they always do their finest work—was just pathetic. There is no other word for it. This is a bill that proposes three completely distinct and very significant pieces of law reform. The time allowed for the hearings for this bill was completely inadequate and simply did not allow time for the committee to enjoy the benefit of evidence from countless very credible witnesses across all three of those policy issues.

**Mr Hunt** interjected.

**Mr BERKMAN:** I can hear the chair of the committee yapping away down there. Let's look at the program for the inquiry around just the Police Drug Diversion Program. We have here from 20 March 2023 almost five hours of hearings in Brisbane alone on a single element of this bill, yet this committee, under this government, allowed us less than three hours in Brisbane for the entirety of this bill.

**Mr HUNT:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think the member is straying into discussing private committee deliberations and the way the committee operated to set up hearings. He is going, I think, very close to disclosing committee deliberations. I draw your attention to that.

**Mr BERKMAN:** Might I respond on a point of order?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Yes, you may, member for Maiwar.

**Mr BERKMAN:** The program for the Brisbane hearings of this inquiry is a matter of public record. I suggest the chair perhaps jumps online and looks at the program that we as the committee, under his guidance, agreed to, published and then rolled out.

**Mr Mickelberg:** You agreed to it.

**Mr BERKMAN:** No, I certainly did not agree to it.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members, order! Member for Buderim, direct your comments through the chair. I am ruling on this point of order.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members! I am ruling on a point of order. What the member for Nicklin has said has some merit. We need to be careful that we do not stray into committee deliberations. However, the member for Maiwar is right in saying that the program has been published. Certainly some of the things he has talked about are included in his dissenting report. There is no point of order on that, but I would certainly caution the member on not revealing what has happened internally. Thank you. Continue.

**Mr BERKMAN:** Thank you, Deputy Speaker. There was less than three hours for the hearing in Brisbane on this bill. We did not hear from AMA Queensland, the Alcohol and Drug Foundation or the Queensland Mental Health Commissioner. We did not have a single designated First Nations voice, despite what we know, and have known for decades, about the extraordinary over-representation in prisons and about the overpolicing of First Nations people in Queensland. We did not hear from submitters in the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council, ATSILS, Sisters Inside or the Office of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Commissioner.

We still did not hear anything from the so-called Expert Legal Panel. The minister promised in her introductory speech on this bill—she made a commitment to us—that the panel's advice would be released as part of the committee process. We have been provided nothing of the sort. What we have here is what the legal panel has called its final report. That was only made available essentially at the commencement of the public hearing in Brisbane, and this final report itself refers to the advice provided to the government, but none of that advice has been made available.

That should not be a surprise, I suppose, because this LNP government in Queensland is all about legislating ideology and culture wars. It has no regard for evidence or experts. It has shown that since the day it took office. We are used to counterproductive, junk legislation from the LNP, but it does feel like this time they have jumped the shark because this bill is just plain stupid on so many levels.

The expansion of Adult Crime, Adult Time includes 12 new offences, some of which will now attract a maximum penalty of life in prison. We received data from the department at the hearing which showed us that most of them—the vast majority—simply are not offences that are being committed by children with any kind of regularity. Five of these new offences have had zero proven finalised offences—that is, convictions—over the last 11 years. For two of these offences there has not even been a single charge, and for the other three of those five there is a total of four charges across the three of them. Even if you accept that higher penalties have a deterrent effect, who are we supposed to be deterring? These are not offences that kids commit.

If we look at the inclusion of riot as an offence, there was a grand total of 21 convictions of riot, 19 of which were in the year 2017. That just happens to coincide with a riot at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre. Youth detention centres are consistently operating at overcapacity and detainees are subject to inhumane treatment as a result of separations. They are precisely the kinds of conditions that are going to lead to riots—where children feel they have no hope and no option. It is absurd. It is absurd that we would legislate higher penalties for these offences that we know kids generally do not go anywhere near.

The repeal of the drug diversion framework is where the blatant ideology is laid bare. No-one with a credible view on the issue of drug and alcohol misuse supports the repeal of this program. We would have had the benefit of a UQ evaluation of the existing Police Drug Diversion Program, which was showing really positive indications, but if it had have been completed, if we had seen it, it would have shown that it works, so of course we are not going to get to see that. The existing drug diversion program was supported by police at its introduction and there is absolutely no reason to believe that that has changed. QPS data makes clear that in the first 18 months of the PDDP operation the majority of people involved in a drug diversion warning had no further contact with the program. That is 83 per cent.

I want to turn to one of the almost laughable moments in the hearing, when the chair tried to get the police to indicate some dissatisfaction with the program. He had already praised Senior Sergeant Jackway for his presence and was saying that it was great to have operational experience on the panel. He asked him, 'Tell me, what is wrong with the drug diversion program?' The answer from Senior Sergeant Jackway was—

It is working relatively well.

The chair went on—

Do you have any examples of any frustrations police on the ground have had with it?


Senior Sergeant Jackway said no. I would almost feel embarrassed for the guy if it was not such an incredibly laughable performance to try to demonstrate that this is not fully supported by police. They are repealing a program that saves police time, saves them money and allows them to direct their resources where they are really needed, and that is even if you put aside the very real health concerns. This is a crazy misallocation of resources.

We also heard from Senior Sergeant Jackway at the hearing that the drug diversion program takes up 30 minutes max. That was his estimate. How much more time are beat cops going to have to spend now issuing charges, putting together evidence, preparing for appearances at court and going to court? That is before we even get to the waste of court resources that Queenslanders are now going to be paying for because these guys want to run some ideological battle against drugs.

Let's be clear: we are not talking about drug trafficking offences. Repealing the drug diversion program will mean that more police time will be wasted on charges for possession of small amounts of drugs for personal use and there will be less time for them to focus on trafficking offences and other more serious crime. The evidence on this could not be clearer. A health response to drug use and addiction is the only sensible response.

Addiction does not discriminate. It does not care about your postcode, your pay cheque or your means. Everyone knows someone who has struggled with addiction. If they say they do not, they either do not know anyone or they are just ignoring it. This is very real. It touches all corners of our community. We know that access to health care is the determinant of better health outcomes and overcoming addiction. If members have not read QNADA's submission or are not convinced by it, they are not doing their job in here. It states that for every dollar invested in drug and alcohol supports there is 'a seven-dollar return via improved health status, improved psychological wellbeing, and participation in the community'. This government is wasting Queenslanders' money on failed policies that are taking us nowhere.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (5.10 pm): I am very pleased to rise to speak on the bill this evening. I do so because of the former role that I played before coming into this House. I was the officer in charge of police at Laidley. In 2015 I saw the then Labor government introduce weak laws. We warned the government of the day—and, unfortunately, it came true—that we would see a generation of untouchables created over the following 10 years.

It is my great pleasure to stand today and look at the Crisafulli government's latest commitment to make the changes that will make Queensland safer. It was a key election commitment. We told Queenslanders that we would bring in Adult Crime, Adult Time and that we would see Queensland made safe. Yes, there have been some very encouraging results, but there is more work to be done.

I note that the members for Townsville and Mundingburra are beside me. I thank them for their advocacy for North Queensland. I have been able to travel to the member for Thuringowa's electorate a couple of times to see it firsthand, and I have spoken to the community. It was the Townsville area that called this out many years ago. I was there during the election campaign, and I am very pleased to stand with them again today and commit to continuing the fresh start that has been made so far by the Crisafulli government.

I also want to pay tribute to the youth justice minister, who is here tonight, for the great work that she has done in leading this latest bill. I thank the Attorney-General and the Minister for Police—what a novel idea to have ministers working together for the whole of government and be able to put in place whole-of-government approaches.

**Mr Baillie:** Teamwork.

**Mr McDONALD:** I take the interjection from the member for Townsville; it is like teamwork. The members in North Queensland are working together to ensure they get the laws and resources up there. There is a fine academy in Townsville, which I have had the opportunity to visit. I was also pleased to represent the Minister for Police at the Oxley academy recently to see another 61 people graduate. I will continue to stress to all of our police that this government will continue to deliver the laws and resources that they need to make sure Queensland is safe.

It is all right to give thanks to each of those different people, but I want to place on record some of the important reforms that are taking place, specifically with regard to the bill. There are three particular areas. Firstly, it strengthens our tough Adult Crime, Adult Time laws by expanding the scope.

Secondly, it scraps Labor's failed three-strikes, soft-on-drugs policy and restores consequences for action. Thirdly, it recognises the impacts of antisocial behaviour and promotes community safety by creating new designated business and community precincts, giving our police the laws and resources they need to restore safety in our shopping centres, community hubs and business districts.

Recently the Lockyer Valley Regional Council came to talk to me about the changes in the laws and to get some sense of what they may mean for some of the antisocial behaviour that is happening in our community of Lockyer. I was able to give them a summary of the great work that the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee did within the inquiry and across the state, and I recognise the committee chair, the member for Nicklin, Marty Hunt, and the other committee members for their great work.

**Mr Kempton:** A former detective.

**Mr McDONALD:** The member for Nicklin is a former detective and hardworking police officer, member for Cook. I am one of six in this House, including the police minister, who was a detective and trained observer. It is important to bring those skills here. In my role as an officer in charge I had to operationalise changes in law. That was a challenging thing. A little bit of me wishes I was an officer in charge now implementing these laws that are going to make a true difference in our community.

I want to say to those opposite, who continue to slander the Adult Crime, Adult Time approaches: we said that we would bring some offences in and we said that there would be more to be done. We are doing exactly that, based on expert advice. When they come in here and say that we are having another go at it, I say, 'No. We are adding to what we said we would do.' Queenslanders know it. We are doing exactly what we told them we would do and we are expanding those things that would be applicable. Yes, there may not be many of those offences committed across the state during one year, but, rest assured, the victims of those offences matter. Every Queensland matter and every victim matters. We have been focused on ensuring we look through the lens of the victim for all of the changes that we have been making. I am very pleased to be contributing to that argument and commitment to Queenslanders.


The other issue I also want to raise is about Labor's failed three-strikes, soft-on-drugs policy. Those opposite have been saying that we are walking away from the support, assistance and health responses for those drug offenders. That could not be further from the truth. I have read the submissions applicable to this. I know at my core that health and education is part of the drug problem that we have. If mum and dad say no to drugs, the kids are likely to say no to drugs as well. Unfortunately, there are many in the community who have grown up seeing mum and dad taking drugs. When you have a soft-on-drugs approach, it actually allows kids, who have an inquisitive nature, to think, 'These things might not be that bad. They are decriminalised.' No. We need to send a clear message that these illicit drugs, including heroin, methamphetamine, MDMA and cocaine, are very dangerous and addictive. One use of methamphetamine can see people end up with a permanent drug psychosis. They need to ensure they are getting the right information, and these changes that the Crisafulli government is making are sending that clear message.

Again, I commend the police minister, the Minister for Youth Justice and the Attorney-General on those changes. There has been a lot of work done, and I was pleased to be present with a number of police and responders to discuss the issue of drug diversion. I thank them all for their hard work on the policy changes that have come into this bill today. It is great to see that we have the balance right.

I have mentioned my role as an officer in charge of police before. I can tell the House that having the ability to write a penalty infringement notice and then giving offenders the opportunity to go to drug diversion is the sort of change that police will welcome. Under the former Labor government's soft-on-crime approach, police said, 'It's hardly worthwhile doing it. We won't even worry about it.' This will empower them to write a penalty infringement notice. It will probably take a couple of minutes on the side of the road and then they can move on to other operational tasks. Again, this is more evidence. I stress that word 'evidence' because that is what police look for. They look for evidence that improvements are happening. That is a great operational improvement that police have welcomed through the consultation process. I look forward to seeing these things implemented.

I want to finish where I started: I again commend the committee and the secretariat for the hard work they have done on this bill and in holding hearings across the state which were well attended. Some great evidence was obtained. I also commend the Minister for Youth Justice for the work she

and her team have done. I give the minister and her team an A+ rating, as well as the AG and the police. I look forward to seeing more improvements. We want to make sure Queenslanders know that they are safe, that when they go home they are safe. I look forward to assisting them in that process.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (5.21 pm): I rise to speak on the bill. The Queensland Labor opposition believes in strong, robust and evidence-based laws that are based on open and transparent expert advice and community consultation. All Queenslanders have a right to feel safe at home and in their communities. I want to see laws that have been properly scrutinised put in place that will keep Queenslanders safe. Victims and victim-survivors in Queensland deserve nothing less, and we stand by their side.

This is now the third attempt by this government and minister to come back to this parliament, hoping that this time they will get it right—a true indication that a slick slogan that rhymes does not solve crime. I heard the previous speaker give them an A+. Let me give you some statistics in Gatton that we just looked up: stealing cars, up 23 per cent; home break-ins, up 27 per cent; and domestic violence, up 43 per cent. That was comparing 2024 to 2025. If that is an A+, I will walk backwards down Queen Street. It is a true indication, as I said, that a slick slogan that rhymes does not solve crime.

All reports are indicating that, despite what the Premier, a slick politician, has been promising, Queenslanders are not feeling any safer. In fact, it is quite the contrary in my electorate of McConnel. A mother who was at the soccer field just yesterday—who I did not know was coming but who lives just down the road from me—commented about what is happening in the McConnel electorate.

It is no wonder that stakeholders are perplexed and concerned about the addition of these 12 offences, as it became apparent that it is unclear what benefit they would contribute to community safety. Despite promises made by the minister to release the Expert Legal Panel's advice, which the minister frequently referenced, that promise was broken and no such advice was provided in a timely manner. In fact, it was nothing more than a report of what the panel did, not what they actually advised. There is a difference. That was a disgraceful display of arrogance and disrespect, lacking in openness and transparency. With only less than an hour to review the report, the Bar Association of Queensland stated in the committee's public hearing—

What I will note is that it is apparent from reading the report that it is not, in fact, the advice that was provided to government. It is a report which states that advice was provided to cabinet and it appears to be a report which essentially describes a process and then refers to advice having been provided rather than demonstrating what the advice was.

Further, scrutiny from YAC shows that it is 'simply untrue, particularly in relation to the following offences, for which we can find no reported cases of children being sentenced in the last five years'. In addition, the data from the department confirms that for five of the 12 offences in this bill there have been no juvenile convictions recorded in the last 10 years and there has been no significant increase in the levels of offending among that cohort for the majority of the remaining offences. Voice for Victims stated—

The expansion to include s.311 (aiding suicide) and s.316 (stupefying in order to commit indictable offence) raises important considerations for community understanding and transparency. The Statement of Compatibility does not provide sufficient explanation of the nature or scope of these offences ...

That is from Voice for Victims, not us. They were not alone. Stakeholder after stakeholder raised similar issues, begging the question as to whether these new offences will actually make any difference to the number of victims.

I call on the minister again—what has she got to hide?—to table the actual advice from the Expert Legal Panel in this House and then it can be provided to stakeholders. Anything less demonstrates complete arrogance and disrespect to the parliamentary committee process and a broken promise from the minister, who is out of her depth.

Let me clarify for the minister: we are not asking for a report on the process; we are asking for the actual promised legal advice from the Expert Legal Panel on which these new offences are based. Anything less is an insult to all stakeholders and Queenslanders.

**Mr Power:** And victims.

**Ms GRACE:** And victims, of course. Voice for Victims were saying that. Give us the advice.

With regard to designated business and community precincts, no-one wants to see disruptive behaviour in their communities. They are valid concerns which the government should be addressing. I know that views have been put forward by a number of stakeholders that it is the more vulnerable in

our community who will be at the end of these laws. In addition, when people are moved on from CBDs out to the suburbs—for example, when they are displaced from the CBD and go to the Townsville Shopping Centre—that could cause significant disruption, and additional resources will be needed to manage those situations. They need to address that now. Also, the Queensland Law Society told the committee—

There are already, of course, many powers that exist for police in dealing with public spaces ... it is the view of the society that there are already sufficient powers to be able to regulate community and to be able to protect the community.

We hold concerns similar to many stakeholders that this bill does not deliver for Queenslanders and will not achieve what the government has said it will.

On the section of the bill which repeals Labor's police drug diversion program, the government is ignoring the experts, did not consult and did not bother looking at the evidence before introducing these changes. The evidence to the committee was overwhelming and very clear. The best way to deal with the possession of small amounts of drugs for personal use is with a health response. Labor proudly stands for better access to health care and health-based early interventions including for people found with small amounts of drugs for personal use.

That is the difference between Labor and the LNP: we invest in health; those opposite cut. We believe that health care is worth fighting for and we will fight in this House every single day. I believe that most people understand and support this difference. The bill takes a backward step. Do not take my word for it. AMA Queensland stated—

... AMA Queensland condemns the government's decision to repeal the laws supporting the PDDP as dangerous and contrary to evidence.

They are pretty strong words. AMA Queensland was not consulted and, disappointingly, did not appear during the committee proceedings. It was such a shame that the committee were not able to hear from the expert doctors who provide wonderful health services throughout the state. Just yesterday AMAQ said that the move to repeal the state's drug diversion program is 'short-sighted and a blow to mental and preventive health'. They are not my words but theirs. They also said—

Treating these people as criminals instead of patients will not reduce drug use in our community.

...

Timely intervention helps prevent other consequential issues including dementia, cognitive decline, seizures and chronic liver disease.


The AMAQ also expressed disappointment not to have been called to appear before the committee.

What is this committee afraid of? That is science. That is health care, not ideology. We saw that with the banning of pill testing. Interestingly, it was the Queensland Police Service that asked the former Labor government for this change. No fewer than five former police commissioners backed the PDDP when it was introduced. I cannot imagine they have changed their views. In fact, positive results from reports on the police diversion program outlined positive operational benefits for police. Over the four-year evaluation they found that 72 per cent of those people did not go on to commit drug-related offences when referred to existing cannabis diversion programs. As outlined in the many submissions of stakeholders supporting the PDDP, these changes will have devastating consequences for real people because as it stands it prioritises the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders and should not be changed. The evidence clearly shows that it works because it saves lives and that a health response, not a criminal response, is more effective in dealing with minor drug possession.

This bill takes Queensland backwards. Members may remember that the LNP said they would listen to the experts and put doctors and nurses in charge. They have done nothing but ignore their advice. This is not good enough. Queensland deserves better. The police force deserves better.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): I call the member for Mundingburra.

**Mr Baillie:** A former police officer!

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (5.31 pm): I will take that interjection right at the start. Yes, I am a former police officer and I am very proud of my hometown of Townsville. I am joined by five other officers on this side of the House, one of whom is our police minister and, as we know, was a former detective himself.

**Mr McDonald:** A trained observer, too.

**Mrs POOLE:** Yes, I take that interjection: a trained observer. I rise to speak on behalf of the Mundingburra electorate on the Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill 2026. First of all, I thank the youth justice minister, the Attorney-General and our police minister for the work they have done in putting this bill together. I also thank the chair and members of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee. Thank you for coming and listening to the community of Townsville. For 10 long years the community of Townsville has not been heard. They were failed time and again by the former Labor government. They were not heard; they were dictated to. It is a breath of fresh air to have the committee come to Townsville and for the people of Townsville to be able to come to these hearings to have their voices heard and be part of forming the legislation that makes our community safer.

This side of the House is all about strengthening our laws, making our community safer, backing our police and driving down victim numbers. One thing that we have not heard from that side of the chamber is about the victims. We know they do not care about the victims. This side of the chamber is all about driving down victim numbers and supporting our victims, but we are also for consequences for actions. Every single thing we do is about people over policy.

**Mr McDonald:** We care about people, not politics.

**Mrs POOLE:** I take that interjection from the member for Lockyer. This amendment is the third expansion of our Adult Crime, Adult Time legislation, all of which forms part of our Making Queensland Safer legislation. When we went to the election in October 2024 we said that we would deliver a fresh start for Queensland and we would introduce Making Queensland Safer legislation by Christmas, and we did. We delivered on that—tick.

**Mr McDonald:** Well done on fighting for it. You fought for it.

**Mrs POOLE:** That is exactly right: we did fight for that. My community of Mundingburra and the greater community of Townsville saw firsthand what happened when the former Labor government weakened the youth justice legislation. I was a serving police officer at the time and I saw it firsthand from the blue uniform side of things. Our community hurt and our community needed change. That is what they voted for, and that is what we are delivering with the third tranche of the Adult Crime, Adult Time legislation which takes the total number of offences to 45.

In Townsville we saw an increase in unlawful use of motor vehicles—that is stolen motor vehicles—199 per cent; break and enters, 150 per cent; property crime across the state of Queensland, 193 per cent. That is not about looking after victims. On this side of the chamber that is what we are all about. Already under our Making Queensland Safer legislation we have seen a 7.2 per cent decrease in the number of victims, but in Townsville it is over nine per cent. We know that we are coming from a very high base, but we will not stop until we have restored safety in our community. We will not take our foot off the pedal. That is what this legislation is all about.

**Mr McDonald:** There is more to be done.

**Mrs POOLE:** I will take that interjection; there is more to be done. We have always said that we will back our police officers. We will give them the resources, the tools and the powers they need to do their job, but we will also give them more boots on the ground. As we heard in this chamber today, the police minister announced that for the first time ever we have hit 13,000 officers, but the exciting thing for me, as a former police officer, is that the attrition rate has gone down. That means our officers know they have a government that has their back. We are backing our police officers and they are staying because they have those powers. They have the legislation they need to keep our community safe.

I will move on to the second part of the legislation in relation to where the former Labor government watered down public order offences. When did it become okay as a society to urinate, defecate and fornicate on people's doorsteps in public? It became okay when the former Labor government watered down that legislation, and our community is hurting. This is not the first time. In October 2022 the committee went to Townsville to hear from the people of Townsville. The former mayor Jenny Hill said—

At the outset, I would like to say that the majority of Townsville residents as a general principle do not want to see a relaxing of the criminal law in Queensland

...[Likewise] the offence of public urination ... should not be repealed [either]. To be honest, I am surprised that this is even being considered ...

Did they listen?

**Government members:** No!

**Mrs POOLE:** No. They did not listen to the mayor; they did not listen to the people of Townsville. Well, the people of Townsville spoke in October 2024 when they wanted a fresh start for Queensland. On 9 April the new mayor Nick Dametto said—

The idea of banning people for 24 hours for certain behaviour is welcomed by me and the Townsville City Council, and being able to escalate that to a 30-day ban, I think, is crucial to showing that there is a line in the sand ... It also stops the recurring behaviour which is deeply ingrained.

I will move on to Labor's failed three-strikes, soft-on-drugs policy. Drugs are the scourge of our society. As a police officer, I saw that when I had to go around to families' homes and deliver messages that no-one should ever have to deliver because of the misuse of drugs. As a parent, I will stand here and say that all you ever want is that your child will be drug-free. This legislation will help the community, it will help our parents and it will help keep our kids drug-free. As our mayor said, it is drawing a line in the sand.


At the committee hearing in Townsville, quite a few people gave testimony in relation to the out-of-control drug use. I want to quote Alex, who is a business owner in the Mundingburra electorate. He said—

We have been dealing with a raft of antisocial behaviour and criminal activity. We have been dealing with public intoxication, open drug use, theft, public indecency and acts of violence on a daily basis. Our premises are littered with discarded needles, piles of rubbish, people unconscious on our doorstep, vomit, blood and faeces on our doorstep, entrance, footpath and around our buildings. We have even had people having sex in our bushes.

...

The hairdresser has to lock herself in and cancel her clients when these people turn up. The tavern has drug use in their toilets on a daily basis and on a few occasions when the staff asked these people to leave they have been assaulted. The wall adjacent to the kids' playground is a graveyard of discarded needles and human excrement.

We can do better as a society and we are doing better as a government, but I call on those opposite to say where they stand in relation to this legislation. Are they going to back it? Are they going to vote for it? It has been made clear that they will raise the age of criminal responsibility, they will wind back Adult Crime, Adult Time and they will not back this legislation. I guarantee that. I do not even need a crystal ball to say that we would be back where we were 10 years ago when we had the youth crime crisis in our community. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (5.41 pm): I rise tonight in strong support of the Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill 2026. This is a bill that delivers on the LNP Crisafulli government's clear commitment to make Queensland safer and to restore a sense of security in communities like mine in Redcliffe after a decade of decline under Labor. At its core this bill is about one thing: fewer victims of crime, a safer Redcliffe and a safer Queensland. This matters deeply to the community I represent. We desperately need this bill to pass and for these laws to be enforced.

Across Redcliffe, from Suttons Beach to our parks, local shopping precincts and the Redcliffe CBD, I hear directly from residents, families and business owners who are increasingly concerned about rising antisocial behaviour, public drug use and those camping illegally in our public spaces taking over our beaches and parks. On the phones, through emails, at my mobile offices and through my 30-second survey, I hear loudly and clearly that this is what my local residents are concerned about: open illicit drug use in shared common spaces; drug paraphernalia being left in public spaces like children's playgrounds, toilets, sporting fields and our beaches; aggressive and intimidating behaviour, particularly at night; and the growing sense that our public spaces are no longer as safe as they once were. Families should be able to take their children to a local park without walking past open drug use or disorderly conduct; local businesses should not have to deal with intimidation, vandalism, property damage or disruption to trade; and residents should not feel unsafe in their own neighbourhoods.

This bill responds directly to those concerns decisively and responsibly through three key pillars. The bill expands our Adult Crime, Adult Time to a further 12 serious offences—crimes that involve violence, coercion, exploitation and deliberate harm. These are not minor offences; they are serious, life-altering crimes that leave victims with lasting trauma. This bill sends a very clear message: if you commit an adult crime, you will face adult time. That is what our community expects and that is what victims deserve. That is the commitment we took to the Queensland people when we were elected in October 2024, and that is why we are standing here to make sure we deliver on that commitment.

We know that these laws are already making a difference. Victim numbers have already fallen by 7.2 per cent, serious repeat offenders are down 17 per cent and our proven Adult Crime, Adult Time offences have dropped by more than a quarter. That is not just theoretical; it is a direct impact. For my community in Redcliffe that means fewer break-ins, fewer assaults and fewer families living in fear.

We cannot talk about antisocial behaviour without addressing the role of drugs. The evidence is clear: there is a strong and undeniable link between illicit drug use and criminal behaviour. We know that 45 per cent of detainees attribute their offending to substance use, that methamphetamine alone is linked to a significant proportion of violence and property crime, and that drug offences increased by more than 16 per cent under the previous diversion system under Labor. Put simply, the previous approach was just not working.

In communities like Redcliffe, we now suffer the consequences: public drug use in parks and beachfront areas; drug-affected individuals engaging in erratic and sometimes aggressive behaviour and violent assaults; and vulnerable people being drawn into cycles of addiction and crime, then disturbing the peace and sense of safety for all. Just last year, a man needed hospitalisation after being assaulted in a public toilet at Suttons Beach. This bill replaces that failed model with a balanced illicit drug enforcement and diversion framework. It does two important things: it gives first-time low-risk offenders a pathway to rehabilitation and it ensures repeat offenders face real consequences—because without consequences there is no deterrence and without deterrence the cycle continues.


Thirdly, this bill seeks to tackle the rise of antisocial behaviour in community spaces which has exploded after a decade of Labor watering down the laws. This is where the bill will have a particularly strong impact in my electorate of Redcliffe. The introduction of designated business and community precincts is a practical, place-based solution to exactly the issues my community are facing and telling me about. Every single day I receive emails and calls from local residents and business owners frustrated by those who are camping illegally in our public parks, beaches and business precincts, like Sutton Street, Suttons Beach, Pelican Park and Lamington Drive near the Redcliffe tennis centre. These provisions will allow police to issue move-on directions for up to 24 hours, require individuals to provide their details, issue banning notices for up to one month and intervene earlier before situations escalate. This is critical because right now, too often, police can only act once behaviour has already escalated into something more serious. This bill gives them the tools to act early to prevent harm—not just respond to it but work with our local City of Moreton Bay council rangers to move on people who are engaging in criminal behaviour.

I want to put on the record a big shout-out and welcome to the new officer in charge at the Redcliffe Police Station. OIC Kayne Nund has just started in Redcliffe and comes from the Valley with great experience. He has hit the ground running. People in Redcliffe are saying that they are noticing a visible increase in police presence. I want to thank Kayne and all of the Redcliffe police officers who do an extraordinary job keeping our community safe.

Importantly, this bill will target behaviour, not circumstance. Let me be clear: this bill is not about penalising homelessness. We need a compassionate approach whilst holding people to account for their behaviour and having consequences for their actions. It is about addressing disorderly, threatening, drug-affected criminal behaviour that puts others at risk, including vulnerable people themselves, that results in criminal activity and disturbing the safety and security of others. Just because people are homeless does not give them licence to take drugs publicly, to deal publicly, to leave drug paraphernalia around, to urinate and defecate publicly, to leave their rubbish everywhere and to be threatening or assaulting to locals, which we have seen increasingly in Redcliffe at our beaches and in our CBD.

This bill includes sensible safeguards so individuals can access those essential services like health care, transport and our specialist housing services. I put on the record my thanks to the HOAP team, the Homelessness Outreach Assistance Program, run through Encircle Redcliffe. I say thank you for what they do every day to support people who are vulnerable. I continue to advocate strongly for supportive housing models of care in Redcliffe. I want to thank Minister O'Connor for his commitment to the Moreton Bay Youth Foyer in Redcliffe. This will provide housing support for 40 at-risk youth with wraparound supports.

In closing, I say that in Redcliffe these reforms will deliver real, tangible benefits. They will help restore safety, security and amenity in our parks and foreshore. They will support local businesses that are currently dealing with disruption, property damage and intimidation. They will give police the confidence and authority to act decisively and, most importantly, ensure families feel safe using public spaces again. I say thank you to Minister Laura Gerber and to the committee for all their hard work. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr G KELLY** (Mirani—LNP) (5.51 pm): I rise today in strong support of the Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill. This bill delivers exactly what Queenslanders voted for: safer communities, stronger laws and real consequences for serious crime. At the end of the day, this is about one simple thing: fewer victims. That is what people in my electorate talk to me about. They do not talk in legal terms or policy language; they just want to feel safe. They want to know if someone breaks the law there are consequences and they want to know that their families, their homes and their businesses are protected.

This bill strengthens community safety in three clear ways. First, it strengthens our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws, ensuring serious crime attracts serious consequences. Second, it restores consequences for drug offences, making it clear repeat offending will not be tolerated. Third, it gives police stronger powers to deal with antisocial behaviour in our communities, particularly in our shopping centres and business districts. That is what this is about: backing our police, backing victims and restoring confidence in our communities.

For too long Queenslanders have been telling us the same thing: they are sick of seeing repeat offenders back out on the streets, they are sick of watching crime escalate and they are sick of feeling unsafe in their own communities. Frankly, they are right. After a decade of weak laws under the former Labor government, we were left with a youth crime crisis, a generation of serious repeat offenders and a system that too often puts the rights of offenders ahead of the rights of victims. This bill continues the work we have already started to turn that around.

Adult Crime, Adult Time is about restoring very basic principles that actions have consequences. If a young person commits a serious offence, they should face serious consequences. This tranche expands it to a further 12 serious offences. These are not minor offences; these are serious, often violent, offences—the kind that leave people injured, traumatised and, in some cases, fighting for their life. They are offences like choking or strangulation in a domestic setting, conspiring to murder, administering poison and serious assaults. These are not one-off mistakes; these are serious actions that cause real harm to real people and the community expects the punishment to reflect that. If someone commits an adult crime, they will face adult time.

This is about community safety and we are already seeing early signs that these stronger laws are working. Across Queensland victim numbers have begun to fall. Serious repeat offending is coming down. Proven Adult Crime, Adult Time offences have dropped significantly. We know there is more work to be done, but we are heading in the right direction. Behind those numbers are real people, real victims, real trauma and, in many cases, lifelong impacts. What victims tell us is simple: they do not want anyone else to go through what they did. They just want fewer victims.

Importantly, this is not just something we are seeing the data on; it is being felt on the ground. In places like Sarina in my electorate, where we backed our police and there are increased boots on the ground, locals are telling me they are noticing the difference. I recently met with acting Senior Sergeant Matt Dowling, who is doing an outstanding job leading the team in Sarina. He spoke about the increased police presence on the ground, and it is no surprise that with more boots on the ground we are seeing a real decline in crime. People are seeing quicker responses and stronger visibility and for the first time in a while they are starting to feel safer again. That is what happens when a government backs the police and gives them the support they need. That matters because in regional communities like ours, feeling safe should not be a luxury; it should be a given.

Whenever we talk about strong laws we must also talk about prevention because you do not just deal with crime after it happens; you stop it before it starts. That is why this government is backing tough laws with the biggest investment we have ever made in early intervention, crime prevention and rehabilitation: a \$560 million commitment to stop youth offending and turn young lives around. Again, I am seeing the benefits of that investment firsthand, particularly through the Crisafulli government's early intervention Kickstarter program.

In Sarina two outstanding local organisations, Miller House and the Sarina Rural Skills Centre, have secured Kickstarter funding to support disengaged young people. Importantly, these programs are working together, ensuring local kids are getting the best possible support and the best possible opportunities. These programs are about getting disengaged kids off the streets and into something positive—building confidence, learning skills and creating real pathways into work. As Sam Raciti, the CEO of Miller House, said, it is about giving young people a sense of belonging and a real chance to get back on track. We are already seeing that happening. Young people like Austin, through Miller House's Kickstarter program, are gaining hands-on work experience, building skills, earning tickets,


giving back to the community and taking real steps towards being work ready. Then there is Tyler. He is learning practical skills and now volunteering those skills back into the community. That is what success looks like.

As someone who spent his life in agriculture, I know the value of getting out and working with your hands. There is something about it, whether it is working with livestock, growing crops or just seeing the result of a hard day's work. It gives people purpose and it is exactly what the Sarina Rural Skills Centre's Agri Engage Program is doing. George Williams from Sarina Rural Skills Centre knows school is not for everyone, so he is giving these kids another pathway through agriculture. Through Agri Engage they are learning hands-on skills from growing crops to working with cattle and even agritourism. Importantly, they are getting connected with industry, opening the door to real jobs and real opportunities. That is what makes this so important. It is not just about keeping kids busy; it is about giving them a future. Strong laws deal with consequences, but early intervention changes the direction. This government is committed to doing both.

This bill also takes a strong and necessary stance on drugs. This bill gets the balance right: if it is someone's first time, they can get help. However, if they keep doing the wrong thing, there are consequences, because helping people and holding them accountable should go hand in hand. The message should be clear: drug use is not consequence free and so it should not be treated that way.

We are also addressing the very real issues of antisocial behaviour in our communities. We have already heard stories of retail workers feeling unsafe, businesses dealing with abuse and intimidation and families avoiding town centres. That is not acceptable. For too long police have not had the tools to step in early and stop situations from escalating. This bill changes that and gives police the powers they need to act sooner, not later, and to keep our communities safe.

We have also heard directly from victims, and their message is clear: they want fewer victims and they want a system that reflects the seriousness of the harm done to them. For too long they have felt ignored. This bill puts victims back at the centre of the system. Those opposite can say what they like, but their record speaks for itself. They weakened the laws and removed consequences, and Queenslanders paid the price. We will not go back to that. We make no apology for doing what needs to be done. This is about restoring balance and putting victims first. It is about making sure actions have consequences and Queenslanders feel safe in their own communities, because Queenslanders deserve nothing less. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs KIRKLAND** (Rockhampton—LNP) (6.00 pm): I rise to speak to the Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill 2026. Put quite simply, this bill is going to introduce a range of amendments across a number of different actions. The goal is to expand police powers in public spaces, to increase penalties and enforcement options for drug related offences and to introduce and formalise those new drug diversion pathways, to strengthen responses to antisocial behaviour and to adjust youth justice provisions to align with a better and more punitive framework.

To understand how we ended up here today, we firstly need to go back to 2015 when the now opposition—those who now sit on the other side of the chamber—was in government and wound back the youth justice laws to a degree where it created a generation of untouchables, a generation of children who have run riot in the streets—thieving, stealing and escalating bad behaviour into more serious crimes. It is absolutely because of the previous government's soft stance on youth justice laws that we are here today. These youths would stand brazenly before a victim who has said that they would call the police and they would proudly boast, 'Go ahead. Call them. You can't touch us, and neither can they.' Those days are over.

**A government member:** Hear, hear!

**Mrs KIRKLAND:** They are over; I take that interjection. The people of Queensland have called for change. They demanded for the laws to be made stronger. They called for and supported Adult Crime, Adult Time. Today we continue to expand on those laws that we first introduced in December 2024 upon our election, again because of the calls from the community.

Will those opposite support Adult Crime, Adult Time? Their rumblings would suggest not, perhaps because they are still confused between helping and hindering community safety, as their track record would suggest. For 10 years those opposite sat in complete denial, arguing that there was no youth crime problem—'Nothing to see here, just a complete media beat-up,' they all chimed—yet here we are today. We saw a rise in victim numbers of 193 per cent under the previous government, and already

under the Crisafulli-led government we see a decrease in victim numbers of 7.2 per cent. It has not decreased all the way, and that is why today we continue to strengthen these laws by increasing the number of offences captured in Adult Crime, Adult Time, because every single person deserves the right to feel safe where they live. This is a basic human right.

We cannot put the rights of offenders ahead of the rights of victims. Because of a decade of decline, people in our communities do not feel safe where they live. They have called on us to bring in stronger laws, and that is what we are doing. They have called on us to put more boots on the ground, and that is what we are doing. They have called on us to empower the police to do the job that they signed up to do to make our communities safer, and that is what we are doing. They called on us for early intervention programs, and that is what we are doing.

It is distressing to think that police and youth services are reporting that child-to-parent violence is now a growing issue with youth offenders and is continuing to rise, with children aged 10 to 17 with active domestic family violence protection orders against them. This means that they are the respondent in matters involving violence towards adults or other children. These laws take that step to capture indecent treatment of children under 12 through choking and strangulation in a domestic setting, causing serious assault with weapons or in the company of someone with weapons, unlawful stalking, attempted robbery and related offences. In fact, 12 new serious offences have been added to this list of Adult Crime, Adult Time offences. We have lived with the opposition's position and preferred stance of being soft on crime, soft on drugs, soft on youth crime. We have lived with that. It has not worked, and that is why we are here today.

It is time to get serious. It is time to bring in proper consequences for actions. In saying that, embedded in this bill are mechanisms that provide warnings and pathways to assist offenders into pathways of diversion. Certain low-level drug possession offences, personal use, small quantities or no prior serious drug history can be dealt with by infringement notices rather than prosecution. We want to make sure that people are given the opportunity for diversion. This bill replaces previous diversion provisions with new structured frameworks. It contains police-offered diversion for eligible adults for minor cannabis offences but does not require that for children. It establishes cannabis diversion agreements and information-sharing rules between agencies, and I could go on.


I want to contribute to the component of this bill that addresses the issue of antisocial behaviour within designated business and community precincts. One speaker opposing this bill suggested that this is simply a renamed version of the safe night precincts that currently exist. I would argue that this is quite different. Having volunteered with our local night chaplaincy team to witness the great work it does firsthand, I can testify to its great work in addressing a different cohort than this bill speaks to relating to more serious matters. For example, Narelle, who runs a local dance school within the Rockhampton CBD, is completely frustrated by the continuing presence of a group of disruptive, intimidating people who have set up camp outside the exit to her studio. Many times police have requested that they move on, but without the laws within this bill the group continues to return and remain a threat to young children and their families as they exit lessons, both during the day and, more concerningly, until late in the evening seven nights a week. Night chaplains within the safe night precincts do not address this.

Peter, who owns a framing and art supply shop in the main CBD area, has more than once experienced youths running around inside his shop in every direction, stealing and threatening customers, without any powers to prevent this from happening again and again. Maggie is a hairdresser who has to clean up vomit, faeces, urine and rubbish early every morning before work, before her staff and customers arrive. It is the same with local dress shops, merchandise stores and the newsagency. In fact, during the day vagrants roam the streets, wandering from side to side yelling blasphemous abuse while carrying their bottle-of-choice liquor. Often in groups, this behaviour is not only intimidating and frightening for our children; it is a deterrent to would-be customers across the entire CBD precinct. This affects businesses, it affects their trade, it destroys visitation and it erodes the local economy.

There is also a major bus stop within the same precinct where groups hang out drinking, doing their drugs, making a right mess and intimidating community members who simply wish to take advantage of public transport and the Crisafulli government's 50-cent fares. This antisocial behaviour needs to be addressed with laws that deliver consequences for actions, and this bill before the House today does that.

The bill before us today presents a remedy that will empower police to enforce move-on powers and should the offenders return with repeated antisocial behaviour the police can issue precinct bans where appropriate. The bill continues to expand on what our communities have been calling out for,

delivering the tools needed to deliver consequences for action, at the same time providing pathways to reform and pathways to prevent our youths and community members—they are members of our community—from getting on this pathway of crime. The Crisafulli government continues to deliver Adult Crime, Adult Time and we will continue to deliver safety for our community where they live in spades. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (6.09 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill. For 10 years, Labor weakened Queensland's youth crime laws, prioritised the rights of offenders over the rights of victims and removed consequences for serious offending. The former Labor government's handling of the youth crime crisis led to a clear erosion of community safety—something we are now seeing play out in our CBDs and our local precincts where antisocial behaviour has been allowed to take hold. The CBD and community of Southport in my electorate has been seriously impacted by this. The Crisafulli government is taking a different approach, putting victims first and ensuring those who fail to meet basic community expectations face appropriate consequences.

This bill delivers on a key election commitment: making Queensland safer. At its core, this is about protecting people. It is about ensuring Queenslanders feel safe in their communities and that there are real consequences for those who do the wrong thing. It is also about giving our police the tools and support they need to do their job properly after a decade of decline under Labor.

The bill strengthens community safety in three clear ways. It expands Adult Crime, Adult Time to cover 12 additional serious offences, ensuring serious crimes are met with serious consequences. It replaces Labor's failed three-strike, soft-on-drugs policy with a new illicit drug enforcement and diversion framework that restores accountability. It introduces designated business and community precincts, giving police stronger powers to respond to antisocial behaviour where people live, work and gather. The changes we are making show positive signs. Victim numbers have fallen by 7.2 per cent but there is still, as we all know, so much more to be done. The Crisafulli government are committed to strengthening these laws because this is not abstract policy; this is what people are dealing with every single day.

In the Southport CBD, business owners and their staff are facing ongoing antisocial behaviour right outside their doors. They are seeing open drug and alcohol use, disruptive behaviour in the middle of the day and people misusing business facilities. Staff are being confronted with aggressive and intimidating behaviour and many no longer feel safe coming to work. Just last week I received an email from a local manager who told me they are now locking the doors during business hours because they feel they have no other option to protect their staff. That is not how any business should operate. This is not a one-off; it is persistent. Business owners report constant loitering, individuals returning shortly after being moved on and a cycle that continues, despite repeated calls for help. The impact is real. It affects customer confidence, staff retention and the overall viability of these businesses.

What is most frustrating is that temporary responses are not solving the problem. People are moved on, only to return hours later. The behaviour continues and the burden remains on business owners and their teams. This bill is about breaking that cycle. It is about restoring a sense of safety and confidence so people can go to work, run their businesses and move through their communities without fear. Importantly, this bill backs our police with stronger, practical tools to deal with exactly these situations.


In designated business and community precincts, police will be able to issue move-on directions where a person's behaviour is causing anxiety, disrupting trade or threatening public order. They will also be able to require individuals to provide their name and address when issuing those directions, strengthening enforcement. Where behaviour continues police will have the ability to issue banning notices, removing individuals from these precincts where their presence poses an ongoing risk to community safety and wellbeing. These powers will also apply in situations where someone repeatedly ignores move-on directions, ensuring there are real consequences for repeat behaviour. Importantly, these measures will apply consistently—including to youth offenders—so that antisocial behaviour is addressed regardless of age.

During the submission period for this bill, Team Southport worked hard to engage with local businesses and residents and encouraged them to share their experiences. We heard strong support for action, alongside deeply concerning stories. One woman shared that she is now afraid to take her dog for a morning walk. Southport is also home to 38 international colleges and schools—more than any other suburb on the Gold Coast. I have heard from operators who are questioning whether they will

renew their leases because their students are afraid to attend classes due to what they are experiencing in the CBD. Other residents are considering moving suburbs or towns altogether. I would love to see Southport as one of the first business and community precincts in the state. The demand from my electorate is clear, with around 200 submissions received from Southport alone highlighting just how serious and widespread these concerns are.

I want to be very clear: this is not about targeting homelessness or those doing it tough. Labor has sought to blur the lines between antisocial and violent behaviour and broader issues like homelessness. Antisocial behaviour is not confined to any one group or demographic. This bill is not about targeting those who are doing it tough; it is about protecting everyone in the community from harmful behaviour. That includes vulnerable people who are often among those who are most impacted by violence and antisocial conduct. This is about addressing antisocial behaviour, public drug and alcohol use, intimidation and conduct that makes people feel unsafe in their own community. Every week my office receives emails and phone calls from business owners and residents sharing confronting stories of what they are witnessing in broad daylight outside their cafes, shops, homes and in local parks. Queenslanders—Gold Coasters—deserve better. They expect that if a crime is committed there are consequences. That is what they voted for, and that is what the Crisafulli government is delivering.

This bill presents a test for Labor: will they stand with the victims of crime and vote for stronger laws or will they stand with the criminals and repeat youth offenders by voting against strengthening Adult Crime, Adult Time in Queensland? I am hopeful. With strong community backing and the measures in this bill, we have an opportunity to restore confidence, improve safety and ensure Southport is a place everyone can enjoy. Whether you are walking through the Broadwater Parklands, catching a tram or heading to work or study, you have a right to feel safe. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (6.17 pm): It is a great pleasure to speak to this bill in the House because, again, we are doing more when it comes to addressing the issues of crime in this state. In recent times in Mermaid Beach there have been quite a few issues: an elderly gentleman was hit with a golf club by an invader—a guy from council I have known for many years; the next-door neighbours had two young blokes with machetes break down their doors which frightened his girls—TikTok girls, actually. In terms of addressing crime, this is a great step forward by the minister with 12 new offences being added to the Adult Crime, Adult Time legislation of the Crisafulli government.

Crime has been with us for a long time. In fact, when I was previously in the government, from 2012 to 2015, of course we had issues of crime in the area, but in 2015 it turned around rapidly with Labor coming to government. As quick as they could, those opposite watered down those laws so there were no consequences for youth, particularly in those communities. If there are no consequences, people will continue to do their nefarious activities, which is exactly what happened over 10 years. Some may think we are going to turn it around and have no crime within 18 months of our governorship of Queensland, but that is not going to happen. We will still get news items every day or every second day highlighting young criminals who did their crime apprenticeship under the Labor government during those 10 years and now are full-blown criminals, understanding that they have no consequence for their crime. This bill is another major step. There will be more bills coming through because we on this side are committed to addressing the crime and the criminality that has been rampant in Queensland for 10 years under the Labor government. This is another great step forward.

In terms of consequences, I am reminded of the consequences that were espoused by the head of the Mr Asia drug syndicate, Terry Clark, also known as Terry Sinclair, the biggest cocaine smuggler in Queensland. A long time ago, two of his drug traffickers, fellows called Barlow and Chambers, were hung in Malaysia. We are not suggesting that in this law. It came out in the investigation that Mr Asia, Terry Clark, said he could not get a drug runner because of those two getting hung in Malaysia. Consequences do have an effect on criminals. For us to say, 'They are only little kids. They do not need consequences. We can let them out. Bail them,' is horrendous.

On 16 May is the very important by-election in Stafford. The Labor candidate in that area will be another cog in winding back the laws we are trying to produce. It is absolutely important that the people of Stafford understand that Labor will wind back these crime laws. They will not attack criminality in our state, whereas we are. We have had success. We are down 7.2 per cent, as I understand it, on victims of crime. That is a great stat for 18 months.


**Mrs Poole:** From such a high bar.

**Mr STEVENS:** Yes. We will keep putting in more legislation to address it. We are not giving up. We understand that the criminality will continue. I could not believe that Mermaid Beach on the Gold Coast was suffering from criminality of the kind that it was. It is just not allowed in my area. We are attacking that criminality. The Crisafulli government will keep going. Whatever it takes, we will address the issues of criminality. I implore the electors in Stafford to be aware that if the Labor Party candidate is elected that will be another cog in terms of winding back our great attempts to stop criminality in this state.

There is a second part to this bill that is very important. I could not believe my ears when I heard legislation come through the House in relation to decriminalising and the three steps in terms of drug taking before there were criminal charges imposed. No matter what drugs people are involved with, they do affect people's minds. I have great personal experience of this, with friends who have had children greatly affected by drugs to the point where they ended up suiciding with their drug taking. That started with marijuana. It is supposed to be harmless drug but it is not. Minute amounts of drugs are just the starting point for absolute terror and disaster in terms of people's lives in the future. This bill wonderfully addresses those particular issues. It winds back the soft-on-crime laws of Labor. People of Stafford, please keep listening. It is very important that the message is clear that we are determined to stop drug taking at all levels. We have had the pill-testing debate here. As well as that, we are adding more Adult Crime, Adult Time offences to legislation.

There is a very important part of this bill for the people of Mermaid Beach in terms of the defining of community areas where police can issue orders. I have been asking for this type of legislation since we came to government. I am so thankful that it is here. We have people dealing drugs on the beachfront in Mermaid Beach, particularly the southern end of Kurrawa Park, which the member for Surfers Paradise would be well aware of. This gives police power with their banning notices—initially 24 hours but also up to a month—in terms of moving these people on. Council still has a great responsibility and I hope it will keep up with its efforts. The member for Southport would be well aware of the issues confronting his area, as he talked about in his speech.

In my electorate I have women frightened to walk along the beachfront in Broadbeach and Mermaid Beach because of the people who are camped there. There are syringes. Drug dealers turn up to these humpies that are established by the beach. It is not right and proper. This legislation gives police power to move those folk on. I cannot tell you how welcome it is and how the people of my electorate will be very thankful for this particular legislation. The police will be thankful. I have talked to the police on many occasions. They were terribly disappointed when they were robbed of their move-on powers for these particular situations. I have had reports of some horrible incidents at the toilets at North Burleigh. They have been inhabited by people fornicating in the toilets. I have previously mentioned it in speeches in parliament. This legislation is a great step forward. We will continue the actions in terms of addressing the criminality across Queensland and hopefully in three terms time we will have brought it under control.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (6.27 pm): I rise to make the Southern Downs contribution on the Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill. The title of this bill is an explicit proclamation of what it intends to achieve. What it intends to achieve is the outcome and the task that has been set for us by the verdict of the Queensland people at the 2024 election.

**Government members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr LISTER:** I acknowledge the acknowledgements of my colleagues sitting around me. I know the disadvantage and the array of disabilities that people who are homeless, who come from broken families or who have drug addictions or mental illness have. I know that the convictions held on the other side about the importance of considering those matters are sincerely held, but I respectfully say that the opposition is wrong in condemning the moves which are enshrined in this particular bill.

We hear a lot about experts and accusations that we have not listened to experts. Would they be the same experts who got us into this mess in the first place? Would they be the same experts who cheered and egged on the Labor Party in its disastrous moves to weaken youth justice laws and embark on things like the normalisation of antisocial behaviour—something it embarked upon from the very beginning of its term in government after the 2015 election?

The people of Queensland have got it right. They have had enough. There needs to be consequences for action. In relation to these drug laws, none of us wish to see people suffer punitive consequences because of taking drugs, but it is necessary that they do. If we make it explicit to the community that 'this is illegal to do but we do not mind if you do it' and 'this is something that is

dangerous to do but we are going to normalise it and we are not going to impose penalties for it', it says also that it is okay to purchase products which are the trade of organised crime. I say to those who have a liberal view on harm minimisation: do you really want to be supporting the organised crime that provides these drugs? They are inevitably involved in sex slavery and loansharking.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.



**Mr LISTER:** I will continue where I left off before the dinner break.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr LISTER:** Perhaps, the 'member for Crandon'—maybe they will call a seat after him as he is so famous—will move that I have extra time.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr LISTER:** Not in the case of greatness. I would like to reiterate to those whom I serve as the member for Southern Downs that, in my view, the experts in these matters are not those the Labor Party refer to as experts. The experts are the people I serve as the member for Southern Downs who are the real victims of the rampant crime that we have seen in the past decade. To put that into context, recently I visited some businesses in Goondiwindi that have suffered repeatedly from crime.

**Mr Perrett** interjected.

**Mr LISTER:** I take the acknowledgement from the member for Gympie and agriculture minister. Recently I visited two businesses, North West Rural Supplies and Peco Trading, that were invaded. Shortly before that, the Black Toyota dealership was invaded and they lost all of the keys to their vehicles, which created an enormous cost and inconvenience. North West Rural Supplies had over \$100,000 worth of damage just to the building and the gates caused by criminals coming in, for the third time. They also lost a great deal of stock.

I agree with the member for Rockhampton who earlier talked about offenders thumbing their noses at the system because they felt there were no consequences. That is the attitude of offenders as reported to me by the people of Goondiwindi. We talk about the necessity for consequences for actions and the benefit of locking up offenders so that they cannot continue their cycle of offending night after night. I would like to relate to the House something that happened to me when, about two weeks ago, Minister Perrett graciously came to my electorate of Southern Downs, which was great. In Goondiwindi, a very dear friend of mine, whom I have known for eight years, shared with me for the very first time their experience as a parent. While they did not come to me in the context of this bill coming before the House, they did say that they need to see consequences for offenders. That person was talking about their child. I will refer to them as 'the child' so I do not divulge their gender.

My friend's child, who is in their 20s, started using drugs and going awry some time ago. That person begged me to ensure that the system provides for the incarceration of recidivist offenders. She was talking about her child. She related to me the times that her child had gone before the court and been offered an array of mechanisms to avoid incarceration—usually bail for some purpose such as attempting to obtain evidence or to argue their case for not being confined at the King's pleasure. In my good friend's opinion, that emboldened her child to continue and extend their wrongdoing, which in recent times has resulted in domestic violence problems for them. That was a very sad story to hear from someone I know quite well. While it was shared with me quite painfully, I felt it gave me information that would be valuable to the House in this particular debate.


It is not good for offenders to be perpetually let off. It is not good for communities and it is not good for individuals. Often we are implored to look at the rights of offenders and we are told that punitive arrangements are not good for them. However, we are beyond that point. After a decade of going soft on crime, you reach a stage where there are offenders with so little respect for their communities, for their victims or for themselves, in fact, that you must incarcerate them to ensure that their cycle of offending stops. That is why Adult Crime, Adult Time and the expansion of the number of offences to which it applies is important.

To those who are concerned about toughening the law regarding antisocial behaviour, I say that it is not intended to be an attack on the vulnerable. As I have heard the health minister say in the House before, it is an infringement upon their dignity as a human being to say that they are a special case and are not subject to the standards that all of us are rightly expected to uphold such as not offending the public with outrageous behaviour like public drunkenness, defecation, urination, fornication in the streets or leaving needles everywhere. We have rightly—as it is rightly ordained—prioritised good,

law-abiding people who live by and uphold the law, pay their taxes and work hard in their businesses or their jobs to send their kids to school, to pay off their houses, to operate their businesses and employ others, to provide services, and to generate taxes to pay for us as politicians and public servants and all of the services that Queenslanders depend upon. Those people must be prioritised.

We need to fix the problem with crime first and then we can have discussions about touchy-feely measures to look after those who have fallen by the way. I am quite convinced that the plight of many of those people has been worsened by going soft on crime, from a number of angles. It is necessary that we embark on this course. I heard the member for McConnell accuse the LNP government of not getting this right and that this is our third attempt. I have news for the member for McConnell: expect more because we are embarking on an unprecedented process to deal with a decade of going soft on youth crime. We will not shrink from any measure to ensure that the safety of the community is prioritised over that of offenders.

I support this bill. I thank the minister and the government for bringing it to the House and I am sure I speak for the people of my electorate of Southern Downs in doing so.

 **Hon. AJ STOKER** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (7.37 pm): I rise to speak on this bill because it touches upon a few issues about which I am passionate. That depth of belief is drawn from a few of my experiences. It comes from my experience of life, seeing people I care about have their lives utterly destroyed by drug abuse. It comes from my experience as a criminal prosecutor where, among other types of criminal matters I was responsible for acting in, I dealt with drug trafficking and drug and weapon importation offences. I saw firsthand the extreme lengths that people will go to once drug addiction has taken a hold of their lives. It comes from seeing in my community the ways in which drug addled people can create a climate of insecurity in our streets that keep families from visiting our cafes, that drive traffic away from our small businesses and that can mean a simple shopping trip ends with someone becoming a victim of crime. It comes from hearing our police officers talk about the way that drug use creates pockets of deep dysfunction, even in apparently well-to-do suburbs, creating sources of crime in places that we used to call safe.

From these experiences, it is my deeply held belief that there is no safe way to do drugs—none at all. Yet, during the decade of decline over which Queensland Labor presided, the ideological approach of treating all offenders as victims and the actual victims of crime as irrelevant saw our public spaces become unruly, unclean and at times downright dangerous. The decriminalisation of a wide range of hard drugs by Labor indulged an ideology that, at its extremes, believes drugs cannot and even should not be stopped, an ideology that has failed in the other places where it has been embraced.

Along with removing the consequences for actions that created a youth crime crisis, they oversaw—indeed induced—the social decay that lies at the heart of criminal offending and drug use. That is a mess that is going to take time to fix, but we are here, determined to pass yet another bill, another piece in the puzzle, that will tighten a net of laws, programs and supports that must be in place to help turn these lives around and make our community safe again.

This is the third tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time, and this bill adds a further 12 serious offences to the list of crimes for which a young offender will face adult consequences. It brings the total number of offences under this regime to 47. Importantly, it provides for designated business and community precincts where police will have new powers and resources to make these places safe and welcoming again after years of steady decline. It does away with Labor's permissive approach to drugs, replacing it with a new illicit drug enforcement and diversion framework. That means first-time low-risk offenders can access a drug diversion pathway, but it means that repeat offenders will again face serious criminal consequences.

Each of these three elements is an important step in the right direction and, along with the first two tranches of Adult Crime, Adult Time laws, along with Jack's Law to deal with bladed weapons in our streets, along with Daniel's Law to make our children safe from those who would seek to exploit them, along with record police numbers and a record investment in early intervention and rehabilitation, it will make a difference.

We cannot underestimate the size of the task. Pure numbers alone paint a picture. In Labor's decade of decline there was a 193 per cent increase in the number of victims of crime, a 101 per cent increase in the number of stolen vehicles, a 198 per cent increase in the number of assaults—I could keep going. On a personal level, when someone has been living in a manner that embraces crime and drugs, often for years, changing their mindset and behaviour to being law-abiding is not an easy thing

to effect overnight. Despite that challenge, through the measures we have already passed victim numbers are down by 7.2 per cent. It is coming off a high bar and there is a long way to go, but we cannot stop and we will not stop until our streets, our homes and our public places are safe again.

Can I tell members how much I am looking forward to having access to the arrangements for designated business and community precincts to help clean up Middle Street in Cleveland. It is such a great street, with fabulous small businesses and the drape of poinciana trees lit with fairy lights at night, but no-one goes there at night. It is a ghost town after dark. A big reason for that is to do with safety. However, I have to say that there are plenty of problems in the daytime, too.

One Cleveland mum said to me, 'I don't want to take my daughter to the shops and have to explain to her what's wrong with the meth heads there. She's little, but she knows something isn't right.' Colleen, the owner of the One Stop Cafe on Middle Street—highly recommended, by the way; Colleen, Brad and the team are the bomb—has had her front glass smashed in pointless acts of vandalism three times. The last time it occurred the offender was arrested, prosecuted and ordered to pay restitution, but Colleen has not seen a cent. Every time it happens there are glass repairs to pay for, door repairs to realign them and higher insurance premiums to face. In a hospitality business where margins are slim, that really does mean a lot. Colleen, her family and her whole team have put a decade of heart and soul into that business. She deserves to prosper and delight in the interactions she has with our community, but too often she is stressed by the anticipation of misbehaviour by those who wander and loiter around Middle Street causing trouble.

I can share the story of Caitlin and her daughter, who were attacked in an unprovoked way, severely, in our central business district. She is angry and frustrated, and rightly so. Caitlin and her daughter deserve to be able to go shopping without being assaulted by youth offenders. Our council workers should not have to deal with people urinating and defecating in our streets, but they do. It makes me so sad to have to say some of this because I do not want to talk down our fabulous town, but we will not fix this problem by hiding from the truth. These laws are designed to shift this very problem at last, and I welcome them.


I move to say something about the measures here to deal with the permissive attitude to drugs that was adopted by those opposite. In 2000, San Francisco made harm reduction an official public health policy. The county suffered 103 deaths by accidental overdose that year. In 2023, though, San Francisco lost a record 810 residents to drug overdoses—one for every thousand residents. Even outside California, the cities with the highest overdose mortality rates—Baltimore, Portland, Philadelphia, Washington DC, Denver—are all places that have lent hard into a San Francisco style approach to harm reduction. There is a clear problem with this version of harm reduction: it is not working. That is not to say all harm reduction measures are a waste of time, but this version, the ideological version that has been emulated by the bill passed by those opposite, is an abject failure.

To quote Christopher Calton, who has a PhD in homelessness and housing, a field of expertise that one might expect to be quite sympathetic to the plight of drug abusers—

The problem in San Francisco and other progressive cities is that harm reduction has become completely divorced from recovery. What began as a campaign to keep people alive long enough to recover from addiction has developed into a philosophy that no longer considers recovery as necessary or even desirable. The question of whether or not harm reduction is successful comes down to whether it is treated as a gateway to recovery, or as an alternative to it.

I think that is the point. This measure in this bill realigns the progress of these issues to being about recovery rather than a permissive toleration of drug addiction as a way of life.

I cannot tell you how strongly I support this bill. I support it for a man I know whom I will call David who, thinking marijuana was a harmless drug and indulging in it recreationally, has indulged so much that he now has lifelong schizophrenia and will never reach his potential. I support it for Colleen and the people she serves in her cafe. I support it for Caitlin and her daughter who want to walk our streets safely and for every mum and daughter who want to go to the grocery shop in peace and safety.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (7.47 pm): I rise to address the debate on the current legislation before the House. This legislation is about restoring a basic expectation that people should feel safe in their homes, in their streets and in their local communities and that when serious crimes are committed there are real and meaningful consequences for actions.

The people of Queensland delivered a clear mandate at the last election. They voted for stronger laws, they voted for accountability and they voted for a Liberal National Party state government that would support police, support victims and take decisive action to reduce criminal offending and reoffending.

For a decade, Labor weakened youth crime laws, removed consequences for actions and prioritised offenders over victims. The results were not abstract; they were real and they were experienced right across this state. Under Labor's tenure there was a 193 per cent increase in victims of crime, a 101 per cent increase in stolen vehicles, a 44 per cent increase in break-ins and a 198 per cent increase in assaults. That is the legacy of the former Labor government—a decade of decline that created a generation of serious repeat offenders and left our communities feeling unsafe.

Labor often come into this parliament opposing stronger laws and at the same time advocate for policies that would weaken them further, including raising the age of criminal responsibility to 14, effectively removing consequences for serious offending by young offenders.

Since the introduction of Adult Crime, Adult Time, we have seen a 7.2 per cent reduction in victim numbers, a 17 per cent reduction in serious repeat offenders and a 27 per cent reduction in proven Adult Crime, Adult Time offences. These are not insignificant figures. They represent fewer Queenslanders experiencing the trauma of crime, fewer families impacted and safer communities.

This legislation is the next step in building on that progress by expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time to a further 12 serious offences. These are not minor or technical additions. They include offences involving violence, coercion, exploitation and deliberate harm—conduct that causes profound and lasting damage to victims. The law must reflect the seriousness of that conduct, and community expectations demand nothing less.

The principle underpinning these reforms is straightforward. If a young offender commits an adult crime, the consequences should reflect that reality. This is about ensuring accountability, enforcing deterrence and, most importantly, reducing the number of victims in our community. It is also important to recognise that these reforms do not stand alone. They are supported by the largest investment in early intervention, prevention and rehabilitation in Queensland's history, because the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government understands that prevention and consequences must go hand in hand.

At the same time, we are backing our laws with real support for those on the front line. The Queensland Police Service has grown beyond 13,000 officers for the first time in history, with more than 1,600 new officers sworn in since the October 2024 election, exceeding a key election commitment in less than 18 months. This is certainly a tangible demonstration that the Liberal National Party state government is committed to community safety.

I saw the impact of that commitment firsthand in the electorate of Moggill last weekend when I joined local officers at the 4070 Neighbourhood Watch Coffee with a Cop event held at our local Moggill Village shopping centre. It was a terrific opportunity for the community to engage directly with local police officers, to have conversations about local issues and to show their support for the work our officers do each and every day.


I note that this legislation also addresses the very real issue of antisocial behaviour in our business districts, shopping centres and community spaces across Queensland. Under the former Labor state government, the weakening of public order laws allowed this behaviour to escalate, creating environments where people felt unsafe, businesses struggled and staff were exposed to increasing levels of aggression and violence. We have heard directly through the committee process that in some areas nearly one in two people reported feeling unsafe when visiting shopping centres and that businesses were dealing with regular incidents of intimidation, disorder and violence. That is not acceptable in any community.

The introduction of designated business and community precincts provides police with clear, practical tools to respond early and effectively. The ability to issue move-on directions, enforce banning notices and address disruptive behaviour before it escalates is critical to restoring safety and confidence in these areas.

In concluding my contribution, ultimately this legislation presents a clear choice. It is a choice that the Labor Party must make. It is a choice between continuing Labor's failed approach of the past, where laws were weakened and victims were left behind, and supporting the Liberal National Party state government's stronger framework that holds offenders to account, supports police and delivers safer communities. The Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government has been clear from day one: we will not shy away from making the decisions necessary to restore safety in this state. We will continue to strengthen our laws, back our police and stand with victims. That is what Queenslanders voted for, and that is exactly what the Liberal National Party state government is delivering.

There are other elements of the bill, and I know there is a range of views in relation to those. As a member of the Liberal National Party, I take my responsibilities to this government very seriously. I certainly respect the range of views and opinions that have been offered by members of parliament as

a part of the debate and also the range of views of stakeholders heard through the committee process. I certainly acknowledge the diligent work that was undertaken by the members of the parliamentary committee and the report that they submitted as well. It was important work that they undertook in scrutinising this bill. With those words, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (7.53 pm): I rise to address this bill. I want to be clear from the outset that we on this side of the House cannot support cuts to health and health-based interventions. We cannot support repealing the state's drug diversion program. This is not about community safety. It is not about evidence. It is not about helping Queenslanders. It is about ideology and it is bad policy. The Australian Medical Association said in relation to the consideration of the bill by the parliamentary committee—

... AMA Queensland condemns the government's decision to repeal the laws supporting the PDDP as dangerous and contrary to evidence.

They went on to say—

... we urge it to set aside ideology in favour of science.

The LNP ignored that medical expert advice. We probably should not be surprised by that. Everyone remembers them repeatedly ignoring, rejecting or dismissing the advice of medical experts. We remember them dismissing the advice of the Chief Health Officer. We probably should not be surprised by that, given the vaccine adversity of the Premier and the Deputy Premier.

The points that the AMAQ make are not along political lines. In fact, the AMAQ yesterday said in their media statement in relation to this matter—

The ... government's move to repeal the state's drug diversion program is short-sighted and a blow to mental and preventive health.

They go on to say that this government has 'fundamentally misunderstood why the tiered system was necessary'. They say—

Treating these people as criminals instead of patients will not reduce drug use in our community.

That is what the medical experts are saying. What the government's bill will do, in fact, is increase drug use in our community. That is what the medical experts say. The peak medical body in this state is warning this parliament that this bill will do harm, that it will do the opposite of reducing drug use in our community. That is pretty concerning.

They are right to be concerned because the program that was in place was having a positive effect. We know that because the data was clear. More than 32,000 Queenslanders were diverted through the program in under two years. Critically, 83 per cent of people who received a diversion warning had no further contact with police. That is not an abstract statistic; that is fewer people reoffending and fewer people entering the justice system. It is also fewer lives being drawn deeper and deeper into a cycle of harm. Having fewer people being drawn into a cycle of harm is what success looks like.

We know why it worked. The evidence, especially from police and other frontline services, has been consistent. The evidence of these drug diversion matters should have been considered fully by the committee and should have been reported separately to this House. It could have been. There was a motion in this place yesterday which would have meant we could hear more from police and frontline services and more from the AMAQ at separate committee hearings about the impact of drug diversion programs. We likely would have heard more about how they free up police to focus their efforts on serious offenders and drug traffickers. We likely would have heard how the drug diversion programs reduce repeat offending. We would have heard how they give people a real opportunity to change direction. That is not going soft on crime; that is being smart on crime.


The practical impacts also matter. The Australian Medical Association estimates diversion saves hundreds of thousands of police hours. Many members have already mentioned that. Of course, that time can be redirected to serious offending. Legal Aid Queensland has pointed to significant savings in court and policing costs. They will now be forgone if this bill passes the House in its current form. The Alcohol and Drug Foundation was clear: criminalising low-level possession does not reduce harm; diversion does.

This is not only about systems; it is about people. There is lived experience behind these numbers. The young Queenslanders given opportunities through diversion, supported into treatment, supported back into education, now drug-free, now contributing to their community—that is what diversion achieves when we choose support over punishment. This bill before us risks taking that

pathway away. We should be honest about where the community is on this. Surveys consistently show strong public support for treating low-level drug use as a health issue, not a criminal one. Queenslanders understand what the evidence shows. It shows that punishment alone does not solve drug harm; it shows that it often entrenches it.

What we have before us is a government that is ignoring doctors, a government that is ignoring the police, a government that is ignoring legal advice, a government that is ignoring the health evidence and a government that is ignoring community expectations and replacing it with a health policy that will increase pressure on courts, that will waste valuable police time, that will worsen health outcomes and that will reduce abilities for rehabilitation. That is not reform; that is regression. We all want safer communities, but dealing with addiction is not built on slogans and rhymes. It is built on evidence, it is built on prevention and it is built on giving people a pathway out of harm, not sending them down a pathway deeper into it.

On this side of the House, we will stand with the Australian Medical Association. We will stand with frontline police and all of the experience that they have brought to this issue. We will stand with the evidence on health and addiction. We will oppose the repeal of drug diversion laws because Queenslanders deserve health policy that works, not health policy driven by ideology. That is why we said that these elements should not be in this bill and that they should have been reintroduced and subjected to further committee examination so that Queenslanders could see this and we could ensure those health measures were properly considered by this House.

 **Mr DALTON** (Mackay—LNP) (8.02 pm): I rise today to support the Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill 2026, because at its core this bill is about restoring safety where people live. For me that means one thing: standing up for the people of Mackay.

This debate is not theatrical. It is not abstract. It is about real people in our communities who deserve to feel safe in their homes, their streets and their local businesses. In Mackay I speak to families every single week who are fed up with the repeat offending, fed up with antisocial behaviour in public spaces and fed up with a system that for far too long failed to hold offenders to account. I have spoken to small business owners in our city who are dealing with break-ins, intimidation and damage. I have spoken to parents who worry about their kids walking home at night. I have spoken to residents who simply want to feel safe again in their own community.

Let me give an example: Red Dog Brewery, right on Blue Water Quay, right on the beautiful blue Pioneer River, run by Jason Egan. The Red Dog Brewery has been what you might term 'ground zero' for harassment and intimidation in Mackay. Jason's team have been victims of far too many incidents disrupting business—and it is a small family business. It is only fair that they see consequences for actions. They are not asking for anything unreasonable. They are asking for consequences. They are asking for accountability. They are asking for a government that puts victims first. That is exactly what this bill delivers.

This bill strengthens community safety in clear and decisive ways, and each of those changes will make a real difference in communities like Mackay. If a young person commits a serious adult crime—a violent offence, an offence that causes real harm—then there must be serious consequences that reflect the seriousness of the offence, because the impact on victims does not change based on the age of the offender. The trauma is real, the harm is real and the consequences should be real too.

This bill expands Adult Crime, Adult Time to include 12 additional serious offences involving violence, coercion and exploitation. These are not minor offences; they are life-altering crimes. In Mackay people expect the justice system to reflect that. They expect that, if someone commits one of these crimes, the punishment matches the crime. The message must be clear: if you commit an adult crime, you will face adult time. Importantly, we are already seeing signs that these laws are working. We are seeing a reduction in victim numbers. We are seeing fewer serious repeat offenders. We are seeing a drop in proven Adult Crime, Adult Time offences.

At this point I want to thank all the police in the Mackay-Whitsunday police district, from the leadership of Superintendent Dean Cavanagh, the district officer, to the detectives, the tactical crime section, road policing, crime prevention and the police on patrol 24 hours a day—the real heroes: the first responders—the general duties crews. All of these units are putting in the hard yards, working to keep Mackay safe, and I will not stop thanking them for their hard work.

That matters because behind every statistic is a person who did not become a victim, a family that did not have to experience trauma, a community that is becoming safer and safer—but we are not done. This bill is about continuing that work. This bill also takes a strong stance on drugs, and this is

critical because the link between drugs and crime is undeniable. We see it in property crime, in violent behaviour and in the damage it causes to families and communities. In Mackay I hear this constantly. People see the same cycle: drug use, offending, no consequences, repeat.

The previous system allowed offenders multiple chances without meaningful accountability, and the reality is that it did not work. This new approach gets the balance right. It still provides a pathway for first-time low-risk offenders because rehabilitation matters, but it also makes it clear that repeat offending will not be ignored. Without consequences, there is no deterrent. Without deterrence, the cycle continues—and just think of the health issues that follow.

This bill also tackles antisocial behaviour head-on, and this is where communities like Mackay will see the difference. Antisocial behaviour does not just affect safety; it affects confidence. When people do not feel safe in a city, when businesses are dealing with constant disruption, when families avoid public spaces, a community starts to lose its sense of security. We cannot allow that to happen. That is why the introduction of designated business and community precincts is so important. These powers give police the ability to act early, to move people on, to prevent escalation and to protect the public. Too often in the past police were forced to wait until things got worse. This bill changes that. It gives them the tools they need to step in sooner and keep communities safe. In Mackay that matters because our city, our parks and our riverfront should be places where people feel safe, not places they avoid because of antisocial behaviour.

We also need to be honest about how we got here. For the last decade under Labor, laws were weakened, consequences were reduced and the rights of offenders were prioritised over the rights of victims. This is the time to get this right, but will Labor support this bill?

Let me give another example of the failure of the drug diversion system. I have lost count of how many times while I was a police officer in Mackay, when I was dealing with a person who was found to be in possession of drugs, I had to send that person to a drug diversion session as they appeared to be eligible for drug diversion. I had to let that person go without charge. Do you know what I was doing a few weeks later? I was trying to find the same offender as they had contravened the direction to attend the drug diversion session—more police time taken up dealing with a soft crime measure, trying to locate the person of interest and issuing a notice to appear. Just say no to drugs: that is the message that should be used.

The result was more victims, more repeat offenders and communities left to deal with consequences. In regional communities like Mackay we saw that firsthand. This is why this bill matters so much. It represents a clear shift back to accountability, back to consequences and back to putting victims first. This government has also been clear that this is not just about tougher laws, it is also about prevention. For example, there are now over 50 Kickstarter programs in the state and Staying on Track allows released youth offenders an opportunity to, well, get back on track. If we want a long-term change we need to stop crime before it starts. That is why these reforms are backed by the largest investment in early intervention and rehabilitation in Queensland's history.

At the end of the day this bill comes down to a simple principle: Queenslanders deserve to feel safe. People in Mackay deserve to feel safe walking along the blue river. They deserve to feel safe running a business like the Red Dog Brewery. This bill delivers stronger laws, real consequences and sends the clear message that the rights of victims come first. I am not sure how many people here have been in the situation where somebody has just taken a drug overdose and died. When police arrive 30 minutes later there is nothing they can do. That is what we are trying to prevent. The early taking of drugs means the person will continue to take drugs. Clearly, in Mackay we stand with the victims, but does Labor? We stand with families; we stand with our community. I do not think Labor will. That is why I support this bill. I commend the bill to the House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): I call the member for Callide.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Members!



**Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (8.10 pm): I take those interjections from all of my colleagues.

**Mrs Poole**: Great local member. He can play touch football too.

**Mr HEAD**: I take that interjection. It was a fabulous game and you played very well too, member for Mundingburra. Since introducing our Making Queensland Safer Laws more than 4,000 youths have been charged with over 19,000 offences under Adult Crime, Adult Time.

Queenslanders saw 10 years of Labor weakening youth crime laws and prioritising the rights of offenders over the rights of victims. In 2016 they closed the Childrens Court to victims and their families and in 2015 they made detention the last resort, which in turn removed consequences for serious offending. Under the former Labor government victims of crime increased by 193 per cent during their decade of decline. Stolen vehicles increased by 101 per cent; assaults increased by 198 per cent; break-ins increased by 44 per cent; robberies increased by 101 per cent; and armed robberies increased by 82 per cent. As these rates increased, Queenslanders were left scared in their own homes.

What did those opposite do? They sat back and watched as the numbers grew. Worse still, they continued to weaken youth crime laws and even went so far as to call it a media beat-up. Labor's statement of reservation suggests that Adult Crime, Adult Time is not working; however, the data is very clear. There has been a 7.2 per cent drop in victim numbers, a 17 per cent drop in serious repeat offenders and a 27 per cent drop in proven Adult Crime, Adult Time offences. The statement of reservation says that the third tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time offences are a clear admission of failure; however, that could not be further from the truth. We said there would be more changes as we continue to strength youth crime laws, but the decreasing results show that we are starting to turn the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis.

We are working with our local police officers, and for the first time in Queensland's history there are 13,000 police officers across Queensland thanks to the hard work of the Crisafulli government's police minister, Dan Purdie. We work with investigators to provide stronger laws and better tools to bring about real change, reduce victim numbers and make Queensland safer. I have personally met with some of our local coppers recently, including in Miles and Biloela, to hear what is happening in those communities.

In Biloela the spike we have seen in crime is simply not good enough. I had a conversation with local police representatives and I certainly have had conversations with my ministerial colleagues about these issues. People want to feel safe in their communities. We have seen youth offenders in Biloela causing chaos in that community. Because of the sub judice rule I cannot go into the details of some of those offences, but I would say to victims of crime in Biloela that I am here fighting for you. This legislation is another step in the right direction to get Queensland back to where it needs to be. We cannot fix the legacy of their 10 years of failures overnight.

It is pleasing to see a decrease in victim numbers in Queensland. As Natalie Merlehan, victim-survivor and director of the Voice for Victims Foundation, said—

From a victim perspective, success is measured by fewer people experiencing harm. What victims consistently tell us is simple: they do not want anyone else to go through what they did.

As I have shared in this House before, fortunately I did not have young offenders enter my home when I was sleeping but I did have my car stolen before I was an MP, and that is not a very nice thing.

**Mr Stevens:** You feel violated.

**Mr HEAD:** I take that interjection. You do feel absolutely violated when your private property is taken from you in those circumstances—especially when in this instance I found out about it when I got a call from the police saying it had been seen in an evade. That is not a very nice way to realise that your own car has been stolen.

Queenslanders voted for change and the Crisafulli government is getting on with the job of making Queensland safer. We continue to take a very strong stance on youth crime. That is what is needed to deliver the safety that Queenslanders expect in their own homes. It is something that you will not get from those opposite under the weak leadership of opposition leader Steven Miles, who does not fundamentally support the principles of this legislation.

**Mrs Poole:** They don't care about victims.

**Mr HEAD:** I take that interjection. They do not care about victims, and their actions have proven that over many years. This bill extends Adult Crime, Adult Time offences to include 47 additional offences including, but not limited to: riots; indecent treatment of children under 16; conspiracy to murder; aiding suicide; choking; suffocation or strangulation; endangering the safety of a person in a vehicle with intent; administering poison with intent to harm; and assault occasioning bodily harm.

We need to break the cycle of youth offending. Too many kids from broken homes continue down that pathway and the cycle will continue. Unfortunately, it is not always kids from broken homes. I know of parents who despair because their kids have ended up in the cycle of youth crime because they have been drawn into it by those who are already caught up in those cycles. That is why we are backing this

strong stance on youth crime with the largest investment in early intervention, crime prevention and rehabilitation in Queensland's history with \$560 million to stop crime before it starts, turn young lives around and make Queensland safer.

Just last week we delivered the 50th new Kickstarter early intervention program. There are nine Regional Reset programs up and running along with our Youth Justice Schools, the Staying on Track program for intense rehabilitation and crime prevention schools. At the end of the day, it is not great to put youth offenders in the prison system, but when they are committing serious offences that is where they are better off not only for their safety but also, more importantly, for victims. That is the appropriate place for them.

There may be some in this House who recall a YouTube classic from 2013 called *The Big Lez Show*. Sassy the Sasquatch had just given Lez a wrap and Lez bit into it. This is some of the transcript. 'Hmmm, quite nice actually. What's that called?' 'It's called a tripper sniper.' 'Why is it called a tripper sniper?' 'Because it trips you right out and your whole life gets snipped from reality. Plus you hear the sound of a whipper sniper in the back of your head for, like, seven hours or so.' Sassy said, 'What's in it?' 'Oh, you know, the yuzh: speed, weed, heroin, cocaine, mushrooms, Pine O Cleen, petrol, battery acid, acid, meth, herbs and spices, lettuce and tomato, BAM! and the dirt is gone!, Ajax Spray n' Wipe, chicken and cheese, all wrapped in a tortilla.'

The point about that is that those opposite brought in laws to significantly decriminalise the quantities of minor drugs that people could possess in this state. A lot of drugs—

**Honourable members** interjected.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): Members, I will not have any conversation across the House, please.

**Mr HEAD:** With a lot of the drugs in that list, you could have about a gram of them and just be walking up the street. You could be high on them and cause all sorts of damage to others in the community, not just yourself. That situation, frankly, is not something we should accept.

**Mr McDonald** interjected.

**Mr HEAD:** I take that interjection; it sends the wrong message. I am someone who supports personal freedoms, but far too often drug users impact others in the community. It destroys families and it destroys the lives of those individuals. I cannot possibly stand for legislation that winds back those strong laws, and that is what those opposite did. That is why it is fantastic to be able to support these laws tonight that send a clear message that no drugs are safe.

We need to ensure that those people get support. The government still runs a lot of programs in conjunction with strong drug laws to provide people with the health care and rehabilitation they need in those circumstances. Drugs and drug addiction destroy lives and the consequences of that add to societal decline. We can look at what is happening in other parts of the world. I have lived in Vancouver and they have a soft-on-drugs approach, and there is a part of that which is very confronting. I support these laws. They are a good thing for Queensland.

 **Mrs YOUNG** (Redlands—LNP) (8.20 pm): At its core this bill is about fewer victims of crime, and that is what matters to the people I represent in the Redlands. Redlanders want to feel safe at home, at work and when they head down to their local shops. Right now, too many do not. I regularly speak with small businesses, retail workers and families across Redlands and what they tell me is consistent: they are dealing with antisocial behaviour, intimidation and sometimes worse in places where they should feel safe—places like shopping centres, local precincts and community hubs, places Redlanders visit every single day. This fear is still happening in our community and it is not good enough. People are fed up. They expect better and they should.

Ten years of Labor's watered-down legislation created a revolving bail door for offenders. Criminals experienced not only weaker consequences but in many cases no consequences at all. For 10 years Labor weakened Queensland's youth crime laws and prioritised the rights of offenders over the rights of victims. In 2015 Labor made detention a last resort and in 2019 Labor abolished breach of bail as an offence. Under the former Labor government, victims of crime increased by 193 per cent, and still today they have learned nothing. Labor's latest policy document does not even mention youth crime. Those opposite want to raise the age of criminal responsibility so that youth offenders aged under 14 face no criminal responsibility at all. Let that sink in: in 10 years Labor weakened laws that created the youth crime crisis and they want Queenslanders to return to that state of fear, inaction and lack of consequences.

**Mr McDonald** interjected.

**Mrs YOUNG:** It is; I take that interjection. The Crisafulli government will not let that happen, and today's bill is just another step forward in fixing the youth crime crisis left behind by Labor. It is about getting back to something pretty simple: making sure people feel safe where they live, work and shop. For some in our community this is not just about feeling unsafe; it is about real harm.

There is a story I have told in this place before and I will continue telling until we get this right. In December 2023 Redlands resident Chris Sanders was stabbed. It was far from a minor incident; it was a violent attack. It had a real impact on Chris, on his family and on the wider community who saw it and asked the same question: how did we get here? When incidents like that happen, it changes how people feel. It makes people think twice about where they go, when they go and whether they feel safe doing the most basic things. That is what is at stake here.

This bill takes a clear approach to restoring safety and it does it in three ways. First, it strengthens Adult Crime, Adult Time. We are expanding the number of serious offences where youth offenders can face adult-level consequences, because serious crime should be treated seriously. This includes offences like conspiring to murder, strangulation in a domestic setting and serious assaults. These are not low-level offences; these are crimes that leave lasting damage for victims and their families. This bill makes it clear that if you commit an adult crime you will face adult time. It also applies to attempts, conspiracies and those who help carry out those crimes because, from a victim's perspective, the impact is real regardless. It does not matter whether something is just an attempt; the fear, the trauma and the consequences are all still there and the law should reflect that.

Second, this bill replaces Labor's failed drug diversion approach with something that actually draws a line. The previous system allowed repeat offenders to avoid consequences multiple times. That did not work. It sent the wrong message, and communities felt the impact of that through increased drug related offending and the antisocial and criminal behaviour that comes with it. This bill introduces a new illicit drug enforcement and diversion framework. It keeps a pathway for first-time low-risk offenders to get help because that is important. It also makes it clear that if you keep offending there are consequences; you do not get unlimited chances. That is the balance people expect: support where appropriate and accountability where it is needed most.


**Mrs Poole:** That's good government.

**Mrs YOUNG:** Very good government. Third, and importantly for communities like Redlands, this bill introduces designated business and community precincts. This is about giving police practical tools to deal with antisocial behaviour where it actually happens—not after the fact and not when it has escalated but early. It means police can issue move-on directions for up to 24 hours, it means they can ban repeat offenders from returning for up to a month, it means they can require identification and step in before situations escalate, and it extends Jack's Law into these areas so police can detect knives and weapons without delay. That matters because the presence of a weapon is often what turns a situation from concerning into dangerous, and if police can intervene earlier we prevent harm. That is the goal. These are the tools police have been asking for, and they are the tools communities expect them to have.

I want to bring this back to what this looks like on the ground. I recently visited Jones & Co IGA in Redland Bay and spoke with the owner, Tyrone Jones. He put it plainly: his staff deserve to feel safe at work and that should not be a big ask, but right now it is not always their reality. He spoke about groups coming through, behaviour crossing the line and the impact that has on his team and his customers: that uneasy feeling that something could turn quickly, the sense of feeling people are on edge. That is what this bill is designed to deal with—not after something serious happens but before it gets there, because when this behaviour is left unchecked it does not just affect one business; it drives people away, it hurts local economies and hardworking small businesses, and it changes how people feel in their own community. Over time, it chips away at confidence and we cannot ignore that. This bill is part of resetting that balance. For too long, the system drifted away from victims, consequences were weakened and communities were left dealing with the impacts. That is not what people voted for and it is not what we will be continuing.

We are already starting to see some early signs that things are shifting—fewer victims, fewer serious repeat offenders—but no-one is pretending the job is done. There is still more to do and this bill is a part of that work. It strengthens the laws, it backs our police and it responds directly to what communities like Redlands have been asking for: safer streets, safer workplaces and safer communities.

To those opposite, I ask this straightforward question: do they support stronger laws that back victims, or do they go back to the approach that weakened consequences? They cannot claim to support community safety while opposing the measures that deliver it. For me, this comes back to the people I represent in Redlands: the small business owner trying to look after their staff, the parent who wants their kids to feel safe in the shops, the worker who just wants to do their job without being intimidated and people like Chris Sanders. As I say, I will keep repeating Chris's story until we feel safer in Redlands because that reminds us what happens when things go too far. They are not asking for anything unreasonable; they are asking for safety, and that is exactly what this bill is about delivering: fewer victims, stronger laws and safer communities.

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (8.30 pm): I rise to speak to the Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill 2026. The Crisafulli government is making Queensland safer by calmly and methodically restoring safety to Hervey Bay. Our Making Queensland Safer Laws were a key election commitment and my Hervey Bay community has backed us in. Labor weakened our youth justice laws by removing detention as a last resort, abolishing breach of bail as an offence, closing the Childrens Court to victims and families and making a youth offender's criminal history inadmissible in determining an offender's sentence. Labor by implication progressively disempowered and diminished the substantive rights of victims of crime. Ernest Hemingway has famously described the process of going bankrupt as happening two ways: gradually, then suddenly. A decade of Labor's gradual, ideological and systemic dismantling of the youth justice system unsurprisingly and suddenly gave rise to a youth crime crisis.

According to a 2024 Queensland Audit Office report, there was a 64 per cent increase in the average daily number of serious repeat offenders from 2019. In contrast, under the Crisafulli government, the number of serious repeat offenders has now decreased an astonishing 17 per cent. Furthermore, there was a 193 per cent increase in youth crime over Labor's decade of decline. In stark contrast, the Crisafulli government in just 18 months has reduced the number of youth crime victims by 7.2 per cent.

In Hervey Bay small businesses were vandalised whilst young offenders celebrated their crimes on social media; a youngster was assaulted with a machete and an elderly couple experienced a terrifying home invasion. So much for Labor's slick and deceptive slogan of 'keeping us safe and strong'! Meanwhile, as youth crime intensified, the former Labor member for Hervey Bay was whisked off by his Labor minders into witness protection where he remained for his entire term. When it comes to speaking up for the rights of victims of crime, Labor's silence was and is resoundingly deafening. On this side of the House we are slowly and methodically reforming the youth justice system and lazy Labor had better get used to it.

The objective of this bill is to amend the Youth Justice Act 1992 to prescribe new Adult Crime, Adult Time offences; repeal Labor's botched three-strike police drug diversion program and introduce a new illicit drug enforcement and diversion framework; and, finally, introduce new and expanded police powers within prescribed designated business and community precincts. Whenever the Crisafulli government speaks of strengthening the youth justice laws we also articulate the importance of early intervention. Indeed, we are investing \$560 million to stop crime before it starts. The member for Maryborough and I have tirelessly advocated for state government funding for Fraser Coast youth intervention programs. We are delighted that the Susan River Operation Hard Yakka and Smithery Next Man Up programs are to receive state government funding. It is an inspiring change after Labor cut the funding to these types of programs.

This amendment bill inserts 12 new offences, as recommended by the Expert Legal Panel, into section 175A of the Youth Justice Act. They include offences like riot, indecent treatment of children under 16, abuse of persons with an impairment of the mind, endangering the safety of a person in a vehicle with intent, conspiring to murder and assault occasioning bodily harm. The bill proposes to increase the penalties for young offenders who commit prescribed offences—that is, serious offences that cause significant harm to victims. On this side of the House we make no apologies for prioritising the rights of victims over serious repeat offenders.


In turning to the introduction of the new illicit drug enforcement and diversion framework, the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support, Hon. Laura Gerber, in her introductory speech said—

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

Hervey Bay is not immune to the scourge of illicit drugs. It is a blight on our suburban streets, parks and shopping centres. The Crisafulli government's well-considered illicit drug enforcement and diversion program narrows drug diversion to first-time low-risk individuals through two distinct pathways: for a minor cannabis offence or a minor drug offence. The framework empowers police officers with the ability to offer eligible persons in possession of a minor amount of cannabis an opportunity to participate in a drug diversion program as an alternative to criminal proceedings. In relation to minor drug offences, a police officer will have a discretion to issue a penalty infringement notice, a PIN. An offender will then be provided with the opportunity to self-select to complete a drug diversion program in lieu of paying the PIN. The eligibility criteria restricts an offender to one diversionary opportunity under each pathway. We have an excellent drug diversion program in Hervey Bay. Bayside Transformations drug and alcohol recovery centre has a strong and enduring record in turning lives around.

Finally, the Crisafulli government is introducing new and expanded police powers within prescribed designated business and community precincts. This bill is about taking a strong stance on drugs and antisocial behaviour by establishing a framework for the minister to prescribe a designated business and community precinct. Like the safe night precinct in the Liquor Act 1992, this framework will provide the police with strengthened powers to deter, detect and respond to antisocial behaviour in designated precincts and maintain community safety. The bill empowers a police officer to give a direction of up to 24 hours to a person or group of persons in certain circumstances pursuant to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000. Furthermore, a police officer may issue a banning notice of one month, unless extended, to a person where they have behaved in a disorderly, offensive, threatening or violent way and the person's ongoing presence poses an unacceptable risk of causing violence, impacting the safety of others or disrupting or interfering with the reasonable use and enjoyment of a stated area. The bill also amends the Jack's Law framework to allow police officers the power to use handheld scanners without a warrant, removing the requirement for senior officer approval.

Before closing, I want to acknowledge our hardworking Hervey Bay Queensland Police Service personnel. They do a fantastic job in keeping our community safe. Let's be frank: Queensland Labor weakened the youth justice laws in 2015 and Labor's chaotic policy on the run was writ large in announcing a five-point plan in 2016, a four-point plan in 2019, a five-point plan in 2020 and a 10-point plan in 2022. Labor is soft on crime, Labor is soft on drugs and Labor is soft on standing up for the rights of victims. We on this side of the House are restoring safety in the home and community with well-considered and methodical legislative reform. We are recalibrating the scales of Lady Justice to ensure that the rights of victims are prioritised. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (8.39 pm): Tonight I rise to speak on the Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill—an aptly named bill that describes exactly what we are trying to achieve. It is great to follow the member for Hervey Bay, one of our great new members amongst many new members who were elected on this platform—that is, stronger laws that are more concerned about victims than they are about perpetrators of crime. I thank him for his contribution.

The people of Everton are very affected by crime—everybody in this House would have the same experience—and leading into the election I do not think I had had so much interaction with people about this issue in terms of home invasions and cars being stolen and rammed into private property. The youth crime situation was completely out of control, and, unfortunately, my electorate was not quarantined from that. No electorate across the state was quarantined from that. It is important that we have bills that address this issue, and we have been doing that progressively to ensure we have laws that are strong enough to deter crime and to lessen victim numbers.

The bill before the House tonight delivers on our key election commitment of making Queensland safer. This bill is about protecting Queenslanders and ensuring there are fewer victims of crime. These reforms restore safety where you live, ensure there are consequences for actions and give police stronger laws and better tools to help reduce the number of victims after a decade of decline under the previous Labor government.

This bill strengthens community safety in three strong and decisive ways. First, it strengthens our tough Adult Crime, Adult Time laws, expanding the scope by 12 serious offences, ensuring that serious crime attracts serious consequences. Second, it scraps Labor's failed three-strikes-out, soft-on-drugs

policy and restores consequences for actions by introducing a new illicit drug enforcement and diversion framework. Third, it recognises the impacts of antisocial behaviour and promotes community safety by creating new designated business and community precincts, giving our police the laws and resources they need to restore safety to our shopping centres, community hubs and business districts. This bill is about making our communities safer, because Queenslanders deserve to be safe and they expect that if a crime is committed the offender is held to account. This is what Queenslanders voted for and is exactly what we are delivering after Labor's decade of decline.

The changes we are making are showing some very positive signs. Victim numbers have fallen by 7.2 per cent, but there is still much more work to be done and the LNP will continue to work to strengthen these laws. What was the previous Labor government's record? After a decade of Labor's weak laws, its legacy is a youth crime crisis which created a generation of serious hardcore repeat offenders. Under the former Labor government and its decade of decline, victims of crime increased an incredible 193 per cent. Under Labor's decade of decline, there was, as I just mentioned, a 193 per cent increase in victims of crime, a 101 per cent increase in the number of stolen vehicles, a 44 per cent increase in the number of break-ins, a 192 per cent increase in assaults, a 101 per cent increase in the number of robberies, an 82 per cent increase in the number of armed robberies and a 29 per cent increase in the number of arsons.


Labor continues to put the rights of offenders ahead of the rights of victims and Labor wants to stop holding youth criminals accountable for their crimes. Its state platform for 2025—its signature policy document—says that it will increase the age of criminal responsibility from 10 years to 14 years. It has learned nothing. It has not changed. It is fundamentally against strong youth crime laws and consequences for actions. Labor introduced watered-down drug diversion programs in May 2024 that allowed offenders to possess illicit drugs on up to five occasions before facing any kind of penalty or punishment. Under this program, total drug offences increased by more than 11,000 from the previous year, up to 76,756 for the July 2024 to June 2025 period—a 16.8 per cent increase—with trafficking dangerous drug offences up 9.2 per cent, possessing dangerous drug offences up 12.9 per cent and other drug offences up 26 per cent. What a record of woe!

What does this bill address? It addresses Adult Crime, Adult Time—our signature policy which Queenslanders voted for in numbers. We know what is going to happen from the opposition's point of view, given it does not support these laws. If a youth commits a serious adult crime, the courts will be able to sentence them to adult time, and this bill builds on our Making Queensland Safer Laws by expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time to a further 12 offences. Secondly, the bill introduces an illicit drug enforcement and diversion program. The bill repeals Labor's failed police drug diversion program and introduces a new illicit drug enforcement and diversion framework. This balanced approach retains a drug diversion pathway for first-time low-risk offenders while ensuring repeat offenders face consequences for their actions. The evidence shows that Labor's soft-on-drugs policies do not work, with the use of dangerous drugs in Queensland increasing.

The third issue that this bill addresses relates to designated business and community precincts. The weakening of public order offences under the Labor government during the decade of decline has resulted in persistent antisocial behaviour within key regional business areas and precincts, ultimately resulting in escalating risks to public safety, community wellbeing and declining economic activity. Brookside Shopping Centre, which is the big shopping centre in my electorate, has definitely had this experience. I constantly received representations from local businesses in that centre that talked about gangs of youths freely walking around the place, wandering in to retail outlets taking what they liked and walking out knowing that there would be no consequences, as was the case under the previous Labor government, so this particular aspect of the bill is very important.

Within a designated business and community precinct, particular powers will be able to be utilised to address antisocial behaviours, including directions to move on, police banning notices and Jack's Law. I also want to commend the police minister in that Brookside has had a police beat for many years but, under the previous Labor government, it was not resourced. There were simply not enough resources to put police officers there, but under the new police minister's realm he recognises that these types of things are incredibly important. It is also important that those shoppers who do their shopping at this centre feel safe and that the retailers themselves feel they have some sort of protection.

I want to finish by thanking the police in my local area. I have a number of police districts that cover the electorate of Everton. Albany Creek is in the middle of my electorate and I say thank you to those police officers. I have officers at Stafford who cover some of my area at Everton Park. The police district of Ferny Grove takes in areas like Mitchelton, Gaythorne and Enoggera. I thank them very much for their service. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr DILLON** (Gregory—LNP) (8.49 pm): My previous iterations around the introduction of the Adult Crime, Adult Time legislation in this place and the passing of that legislation have delved into a number of areas. One of those has been the speciality, skills, quality and expertise of those members of the government who have contributed to the development of these laws—be it through community champions or their roles before they came to this place. I have been struck once again during this debate by how true that is. In the limited contributions we have had to date from members opposite, we have heard about how this side has allegedly ignored expert advice.

I want to mention a couple of people who to my mind are experts. A person in this place who I have come to consider a very close friend was driven to stand here through being a victim in the most tragic of ways. The member for Capalaba sits here as a true stalwart and champion of his community, but he was driven to be here through circumstances that nobody wants to experience or witness anybody experience again. I see the contribution he makes not only in a 10-minute speech but also in terms of policy development and the scrutiny of these laws. This is the third tranche of these laws as we continue to expand what it is we need to do to send a very clear signal that we will not tolerate the continuation of the softening of youth crime that happened under those opposite over a decade. He has to sit in committee hearings, scrutinise this legislation, hear from witnesses both for and against this legislation and almost relive his experience daily and yet he can come into this place and clearly articulate a voice for victims of crime—specifically victims of youth crime which resulted in the most heinous of outcomes for his family and for his community.

I look a little bit further afield and I see a police officer who made a heartfelt contribution earlier today—I speak of the member for Mundingburra. She is somebody who has policed this, who has knocked on doors—not to check whether somebody is home, but to pass on news that somebody is not coming home. I hear from people who used to wear the uniform, whom I consider to be subject matter experts, that this is essential—the methodical process by which we grow not only the scale of the offence but also the number of offences to ensure we send a message and put behind bars people who break the law.

I hear from the lawyers in the room, starting with the minister, a former prosecutor. There is not just her. The member for Oodgeroo spoke not just from a legal perspective tonight but as a true representative of issues in her community. I give this summary of the experts I have heard from today and in the lead-up to the introduction of the bill because I am not a lawyer or a police officer—I am a bushie. I have been informed and advised by experts within the government of the essential need for these provisions to be passed. I have to use that as a polite rebuttal to those opposite who say that in the development, formulation, presentation, consideration and, hopefully some time tomorrow, the adoption of these bills that the government has ignored experts that they are wrong, in my opinion. I have heard from the experts who sit on the government benches, who sit in the executive arm of this government and acknowledge the role they have had in the development of this.

It is important that we spell it out. This is not ‘catching up with’; this is continuing to take expert advice from the Expert Legal Panel and those members whom I have just mentioned and saying, ‘If you riot, you are an adult. You are making a conscious decision to undertake a crime that has a serious effect on others.’ The impairment of mind applies to the indecent treatment of a child—I paraphrase. You are an adult in the eyes of this law and, therefore, that is fit and proper. In terms of conspiring to murder, it actually beggars belief that that is not already being treated seriously. With the methodical approach this government has taken it is tonight. On what level do people think that a child should not be treated as an adult if they are conspiring to murder—the ultimate end of the severity scale? I could continue to read through those provisions but the lawyers and others who are much more eloquent than I will do that.

I want to talk, though, about one element of this piece of legislation that has a serious effect on the electorate of Gregory—even more so than some of the more express provisions around Adult Crime, Adult Time—and that is the drug diversion programs. I have been stunned in my time in this place to think that people think that the taking or carrying of drugs cannot always be considered a crime. I respect people for their alternative points of view, but I respectfully disagree. It starts at a low level and ends as we have heard and we have witnessed with the tragic losses that happen through accidental or incidental means due to drug use on our streets in every electorate in the state of Queensland. In 2023 alone there were 310. We need to stop people thinking that they have three strikes or three opportunities to not have action against you and that it is okay to try a little bit, it is okay to just use it periodically—it is okay. ‘We are not dealing, we are just using.’ What message are we sending to kids? Zero use of drugs is the only safe way to deal with drug use.

I note there are provisions contained in the bill for diversion programs to still apply. In two minor provisions it is very clear that those options are still present, but for serious drugs that are listed currently—cocaine, heroin, fentanyl, ketamine—that is not the case. For anyone to think that it is okay to be caught with ketamine and they will go into a diversion program, is absolutely horrendous. I cannot see how people think that the continuation of the drug diversion program would result in safer communities. Members opposite have interjected during my contribution about me not knowing what is in this bill. I have been very transparent about my understanding, but what I will say is that no-one in my electorate will support continually seeing people not prosecuted for the use of serious drugs that result in children's lives being affected—

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Order! Pause the clock. Member for Logan, member for Everton, we have a minute to go of this contribution. No more arguing across the chamber. Member for Gregory, you have the call.

**Mr DILLON:** I thank you for your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker. On behalf of my constituents who have resoundingly told me in my various community roles that no drugs are safe and that we need to ensure we send a strong message through people—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mrs NIGHTINGALE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Everton is using highly unparliamentary language. I draw attention to that and ask that he withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I did not hear any unparliamentary language. Member for Everton, it will assist the House if everyone could put their comments through the chair. There will be no more quarrelling across the chamber. The first person who does in the next 42 seconds will be warned.

**Mr DILLON:** I will summarise by saying that the people of Gregory have had a clear position on drug use for a very long time. It has been clearly communicated to me as a community group member, as a member of my local council, as a mayor. The position the government has taken, through the informed advice of experts on our side and experts broader in the community, is one that my constituents wholeheartedly support. It gives me great pleasure to stand in this place and add my voice to those who support this legislation.

Debate, on motion of Mr Dillon, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT



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

That the House do now adjourn.

### Logan Electorate, Hooning



**Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (9.00 pm): Yarrabilba locals have had enough of the lawless gatherings of hoons on Waterford Tamborine Road. Hoons are covertly organising large gatherings where they completely block Waterford Tamborine Road, Camp Cable Road and Yarrabilba Drive and drive dangerously. They intimidate those who try to use the intersection to get to work or get home. Their hooning blocks off the only exit from the suburb for over 15,000 residents. It puts at risk their lives and the lives of those of the community.


Locals have had enough. I have had enough. This government is not doing much to prevent these dangerous illegal hoon gatherings. It is out of control. It sends a message to the Yarrabilba community that this Crisafulli LNP government does not care about them. There are even those who park in the nearby street and then gather to watch the illegal activities. I have spoken about this before. In fact, the member for Woodridge and I gathered all of the Logan MPs in the Crestmead industrial estate, another hoon hotspot. Locals have desperately called on this police minister and transport minister to act, but they have heard nothing in reply—that is incredibly disappointing—or have been rejected.

We have spoken about the need for cameras to track these activities, but this has not been delivered. That is why recently we held a public meeting in Yarrabilba with concerned residents, the local police and local councillor Nathan St Ledger. Together we moved to put an official petition to parliament. I urge all residents to sign the online petition, which was launched today, that calls on the

ministers to take action on hooning. The petition calls for physical lane separation on the approaches to the intersection of Waterford Tamborine Road and Yarrabilba Drive through the use of either concrete barriers or other physical infrastructure and the installation of traffic-calming measures. I have written to the minister through the department and they have written back rejecting that, saying that this minister is not giving them the funds to do these vital safety measures. The petition also calls for provision of greater local police resources for Logan Village Yarrabilba Police Station. These are large gatherings and the police need the resources. Lastly, the petition calls for the installation of anti-hooning cameras equipped with the latest technology to fight hooning.

The community has made it plain they want action. In the last parliament we made it a crime to gather as an audience for hooning. We made it easier for the Logan police to identify and arrest hoons. We need police resources to do that. I think we need a new generation of laws in order to target hoons. The LNP has always ignored Logan. It is simply not good enough. We can make a difference and drive hoons off our roads. I urge everyone to sign the petition and force the LNP to take action.

### **Toowoomba North Electorate, Projects**


 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (9.03 pm): Before I came to this place, in 2006 I was president of the local P&C where my children went to school. A road was widened to four lanes and we campaigned to ensure it was safe for the children to cross. We had some success. We got some lights installed and eventually we got more time given to those lights. However, at the time we asked for it to be a school zone. We campaigned on it. We did petitions. We were ignored by the then Labor government. When I came to office here in 2012, some six years later, I raised the same issue. We had success at Wilsonton and we had success at Harlaxton, but we did not have success at Highfields.

However, after many years of campaigning, we now have a situation where parents can be assured that their children will be safer crossing that road. Not only do we have controlled lights; it will now become a full school zone. I thank the minister for that. This is about three simple things: listening to the community, delivering on commitments and backing local organisations as the community works together. Last year, the P&C yet again put this down as one of their priorities and I started working with them. We ran a petition. We made the case. We had some traffic management surveys done. We spoke to the minister. We were successful in finally getting this sorted out and now it will be safer for the kids to cross at that junction. It is a good outcome. I thank everybody who participated in getting that done. This is exactly what we are about: supporting the grassroots.

On supporting the grassroots, \$307,000 in Gambling Community Benefit Fund grants have been delivered across Toowoomba North. Therese at Toowoomba State High School has funds to purchase a new trailer. Robert at the Toowoomba Bromeliad and Succulent Society is upgrading their PA equipment. Ann-Maree at the Rockville Rovers has new equipment for the football club. We are backing culture, too. A couple of really good grants have gone to the Lighthouse, which helps children with literacy, and the Toowoomba Concert Orchestra, which is supporting The Whitlams at the Empire theatre in June so get your tickets.

This is what happens when you commit to and deliver for your community. A school zone was delivered and over \$307,000 has been invested back into local organisations meaning real outcomes, real safety improvements and real support. This is what a strong local voice looks like. Mine is a community that fought and was heard. A commitment was made and delivered. We have a future where we keep backing our community, not just with words but with action.

### **Autism Awareness Month**

 **Ms McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (9.06 pm): Tonight I rise to make my regular contribution in respect of Autism Awareness Month. I was not in parliament last year to provide an update to the House on how our family's challenges with autism are going so I have a bit to catch up on. April is Autism Awareness Month, which is also known as Autism Understanding Month. I think we need to move towards 'Autism Inclusion Month'.


There have been some big changes for Team Ronan. Last time I spoke on this topic Ronan was in primary school. He has graduated primary school and is now a big high schooler. When he graduated he was resplendent in his County Clare full tartan kilt, which was a hit with the teachers. We spent a good 18 months preparing him to go to high school because it was going to be a big challenge—and it was.

Unfortunately, Ronan did not get to go to the high school that we wanted. They rejected him on the basis that his needs were too high. We looked around and found another school that was recommended by his inclusion teachers. He has settled in. He is contributing. In last term's reports, he got a couple of Bs for some of his grades. I say to the school that rejected him: he is doing okay; he just needed support, understanding and inclusion.

Ronan is a strapping 12-year-old. He is half a foot taller than me. He is still the kindest and sweetest boy. Last year, unfortunately, there was a tragedy within his friend group and he showed empathy and compassion well beyond what anyone would expect of a 12-year-old boy. I am so proud of him for that.

I know that the autism community is facing a period of uncertainty. Whether it is a parent or whether it is a person themselves who has autism, I understand the anxiety that this can be causing, but I see this as an opportunity for us here in Queensland. I remember the autism funding we had before the NDIS, and that worked for us because this was funding organised by Queenslanders for Queenslanders who understood autism. The NDIS was not meant for our kids who needed early intervention for autism. We have not fit into the NDIS model. It is not designed for us. I encourage the government and ministers to lean in to what it could be like for kids in Queensland with autism when it is designed, when it is funded and when it is specific for kids with autism. Lean in. Our kids will appreciate it.


### **Veteran Support Services; Anzac Day**

 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (9.09 pm): Last weekend in Townsville, over 3,000 people turned out to recognise and support our frontline service workers and volunteers by taking part in Run Army. There was a 2.4-kilometre, a five-kilometre and a 10-kilometre course as well as the 15-kilometre Chief's Challenge, and the demand to participate in the event was so strong it was completely sold out. Together the Townsville community raised over \$160,000, with the money raised going toward veteran support services and support services for first responders and their families. I take this opportunity to congratulate everyone who participated and thank everyone who donated, worked or volunteered on the day to make it such a successful and well-run event.

It would be remiss of me, as the member for Townsville, given it is Anzac Day this weekend, not to mention what Anzac Day means to our community. Anzac Day means a lot to every Australian, but in Townsville it is a truly special and sacred day. We are a proud garrison city. In Townsville, the men and women of the Australian Defence Force are not just names in history books; they are our mums and dads, sons and daughters, neighbours, mates, parents at school drop-off and the people we see at the shops and on the job site.

Anzac Day is about remembering the courage and sacrifice of those who served and those who never made it home. It is also about recognising the service that continues. In Townsville, we see that service and the impact on those who served every single day. We know that the cost of service is not only carried on the battlefield but also carried long after the conflict is over. It is carried by those who served, by their families, by partners and by their children. That is why this Anzac Day means so much in Townsville. It is a day when our community comes together, and at the dawn service, whether it be in Thuringowa, on Magnetic Island, at Lavarack Barracks or at Anzac Memorial Park, Townsville turns out in force, young and old standing side by side in quiet reflection. As the sun rises over the horizon it reminds us that even in the darkest moments hope endures and that the legacy of those who served lives on in each of us—in the freedoms we enjoy and in the community we stand shoulder to shoulder to protect. We remember, we respect and we make a promise that the sacrifices made for our country and our freedom are never taken for granted. Lest we forget.


### **Kurwongbah Electorate, Sport Infrastructure**

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (9.12 pm): I rise to congratulate the Narangba Eagles on finally getting all the funding needed to build their new clubhouse. It has been a little while coming. On 8 April, we turned the first sod on this game-changing project that will include a new canteen, changing rooms, referee rooms and other amenities. I want to thank the City of Moreton Bay and the federal Labor government for funding the project together. It is a project I took to the 2024 election, but sadly the LNP would not match Queensland Labor's commitment when they won, so I went back in to bat for the Eagles and the Narangba Demons, who will soon have the old shared clubhouse all to themselves, and we asked whether federal Labor could fund the shortfall.

I also raised it as a local priority with Councillor Ellie Smith after her election this year. Councillor Smith's predecessor, Darren Grimwade, had initially secured council funding for the project—something we both worked on together with the Eagles' executive. During the 2022 federal election, our Labor candidate committed \$2 million to partner with council to deliver the project. Unfortunately, Labor did not win the seat of Longman, leaving the commitment in limbo. I knocked on the doors of our federal counterparts to make sure they knew what this project would do for our community. I am pleased to say that the commitment was upheld. However, there was still a shortfall, so when the LNP would not deliver my state funding and Labor won the 2025 election I enlisted the help of my colleague and friend the newly elected senator for Queensland, Corrine Mulholland, who came with me to meet the clubs and hear firsthand about the community benefits this project would bring. Senator Mulholland was able to secure the further funding, bringing federal Labor's contribution to the project to \$3 million—almost half the total cost. While the Crisafulli government was busy scrapping electricity rebates and cutting car rego discounts, I was busy getting on with the job and, thanks to federal Labor, we were able to deliver a positive outcome for the locals.

The next grassroots sports projects I would like to see delivered for Narangba locals—and I have written to the Premier about these—include bigger home bases, in Narangba hopefully, for the Narangba Crows AFL club and the Narangba Rangers Rugby League Football Club. Some of these clubs have doubled their membership and they need bigger fields. I would also like to see the Narangba Bowls Club get a shade sail to protect the members and visitors from the risks of skin cancer and heat stroke. I would be happy to take the sports minister on a tour of all of these clubs so he can see the merits of the projects, meet with the members and work with the Narangba community to help our grassroots community sports.

### **Maryborough Electorate, Manufacturing Hub**


 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (9.15 pm): I rise today to inform the House of a significant and encouraging development within my electorate. A manufacturing boom is currently taking shape and positioning our region for a strong and sustainable future as a manufacturing hub. Maryborough's history is deeply rooted in manufacturing excellence, from train construction to timber milling and primary industries. In recent times, we have witnessed the state government's development of the train facility in Torbanlea.

I call on our government to lend its support to a manufacturing hub to support existing, emerging and developing manufacturing businesses within my electorate. This manufacturing hub would provide: mentoring opportunities; access to learning opportunities on state-of-the-art equipment; the advancement of skills in our local workforce; optimisation of business processes; and courses and training for our manufacturing workers. This manufacturing hub would work alongside Manufacturing Skills Queensland. Together, these two entities would become a leader in the manufacturing industry for skilling our workers within the Maryborough electorate and beyond.

It is an opportunity for our government to step in, to support local industry and to ensure the economic benefits of this manufacturing boom are fully realised within our region. I stand today and call on our government to consider the establishment of a manufacturing hub in Maryborough. This manufacturing hub would provide critical support to existing businesses, helping them scale up and adopt new technologies.

I have implemented a community-based petition to demonstrate the strong local support for this initiative. Based on the level of industrial expansion already occurring in our region, a manufacturing hub would also be embraced by the surrounding areas. A manufacturing hub in Maryborough would not simply be an infrastructure project; it would be an investment in our community and future local workforce—an investment in skills, jobs and the economic strength of Maryborough. I urge the honourable Minister for Manufacturing, Dale Last, and our Crisafulli LNP government to give serious consideration to this proposal. Thank you.

### **Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (9.18 pm): When it comes to public and active transport, the Crisafulli LNP government is, quite simply, a train wreck. The advent of a once-in-a-generation fuel price crisis has brought into even sharper relief the Crisafulli LNP government's failures to support Queenslanders, in particular the people of the Woodridge electorate.

In recent weeks, people all over the south-east have been left waiting for hours, stranded at train stations for buses that never come. In the middle of a fuel price crisis, the Crisafulli government shut down the Queensland Rail train network—a monumental rail fail of the LNP's own making. It is just like

their other big transport train wreck—when they cut the planned active bikeway and walkway designed to connect Kuraby in Brisbane to Beenleigh in Logan. That bikeway was part of Labor's transformative, once-in-a-generation Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail project. It was aimed at getting rid of level crossings, upgrading train stations in the Woodridge electorate and other parts of Logan and providing better train services and facilities to our communities.


Labor's vision was always 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 line from Kuraby to Beenleigh. This corridor was not an add-on, an afterthought or an optional extra. It was a key component of a project designed to get more people off our roads, to help reduce congestion and to help people save money.

Now we know it is just not going to happen under the Crisafulli LNP government, and it is not happening at a time when now, more than ever, it would be good for everyone if we could have fewer cars on our roads. I have been raising this issue in the public arena for weeks now and I do not intend to stop, but the Premier and his transport minister stubbornly continue to refuse to listen to our community.

On its website, Bicycle Queensland and the Logan Bicycle User Group are calling for an urgent reinstatement of the important active transport corridor, and I join them in that call. Bicycle Queensland says the most egregious section removed is south of Woodridge station. Here, riders will be expected to leave the rail corridor and ride along Jacaranda Avenue and then via a road and a path around Gould Adams Park. Good luck to those families trying to get their kids to school safely!

Bicycle Queensland says that this is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a great asset for the Logan community that will deliver on so many fronts—congestion reduction, health and wellbeing, community connectedness, the environment and the local visitor economy. I could not agree with them more. That is why I call on the Premier to set aside his pride and reinstate this active transport corridor. Transport minister Brent Mickelberg has proven with his rail fail that he is simply a lost cause. The Premier must reinstate this active transport corridor immediately.

### CF & JE Miles

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (9.21 pm): I want to pay tribute to a longstanding business in the Scenic Rim electorate run by Cec and Jan Miles, who operate under the partnership of CF & JE Miles, a very successful and longstanding building partnership in the Fassifern region that I represent. This week they will be celebrating 50 years of a partnership—50 years in business as builders in the Fassifern district, building so many houses and other commercial premises throughout not only the Fassifern region but also Ipswich and the broader Scenic Rim region. For people who are in business, even people who are employed in a job for 10 or 20 years, that is a massive achievement, but to be involved in the building and construction industry for 50 years as a husband and wife partnership is an achievement that really needs to be congratulated and called out.


They have been an integral part of our local economy. I caught up with Cec earlier this week for about an hour. He told me that over those years he has probably trained around 200 apprentices. When you think about the flow-on effect to our local economy and the skills that have been signed off on by Cec, as the chief builder in that partnership—and when you think about the apprentices who would have been trained by the people whom Cec trained—it is a great tribute to that partnership.

They have built a lot of iconic buildings in Boonah, including the Boonah Cultural Centre, the Boonah Valley Motel and The Vue Restaurant, and also other significant commercial operations like the commercial buildings at Kalfresh, VegPro4 and Moffatts. The footprint and the hand of the CF & JE Miles partnership over 50 years is something that has made a massive impact on our local economy.

I think we should all pay tribute to small businesses like CF & JE Miles that contribute so much to our local economies. As we know on this side of the House, small business is the backbone of Queensland and it is certainly the backbone of the local Scenic Rim economy, making up some 90 to 95 per cent, but it does not happen unless businesses like CF & JE Miles can have a go and continue an operation for some time; employ lots and lots of people; raise a family—and a lot of the family have contributed to that business as well; put apprentices into the market; and continue the growth of skills and the growth of trades in that area.

Congratulations to Cec. Congratulations to Jan, who is an integral part of the partnership as well, helping out with all of the administration, packing the trucks, sending the fellows out to work. It has been a great innings. I hope they have many more to come. Well done to CF & JE Miles.

## Fuel Security


 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (9.23 pm): The government's response to the fuel crisis has raised some questions for me, particularly in terms of biofuels. We have heard a lot of media hype and spin around the Taroom Trough. I am not opposed to it. It is not a bad thing to do, but we will not enjoy the fruits of that for five or 10 years in terms of refining any oil that comes out of there. It is good to encourage new development, but if you look at what options there are to stimulate immediate availability then how on earth can that come before ethanol and biodiesel?

This is not something the LNP government has disagreed with. In 2002 under Lawrence Springborg there was an LNP bill introduced for an ethanol mandate. In 2004 the same thing was put up again. In 2008 a similar bill for an ethanol mandate was put up. Then in 2014 a photocopy of that 2008 bill was put in by the KAP and voted down by Labor and the Liberals. Then before a mandate was finally delivered and the four per cent was in the KAP's name, in the hung parliament there was a motion put by the LNP calling for the mandate again. On balance there has been a lot more support for it in the past than not, yet we still seem to be gaffer taped from talking about it. It was not even mentioned until we talked about some biodiesel from Lytton in 2028.

Right now we are talking about scaling up ethanol through a mandate. The industry is saying they can immediately scale up 240 million litres of petrol. That is not three or five years down the track; that can be done now. That could possibly cost the taxpayer nothing. With biodiesel they can immediately scale up 100 million, without even talking about aspirational things down the track. It should be said that we export \$400 million worth of tallow to Singapore in one year. They make it into biodiesel. We exported \$2.3 billion worth of canola to the EU that they made into biodiesel. Only a few weeks ago it was alleged that about 600,000 litres went to New Zealand as biodiesel because we would not use it here.

The government wants to address the fuel crisis. If you listen to people who say what the oil companies said years ago about it damaging your car, I suggest you all educate yourselves properly through the Institute of Automotive Mechanical Engineers. They put out a document the other day dispelling all of those myths and giving out correct information. If you wanted to do that you could really help with the fuel crisis. You could also commit to CopperString and give them a date. Do not just say it is going to be built at some mythical date in the future. You would save 130 million litres of diesel there as well. They are real things that can provide fuel savings now.

## Keppel Electorate

 **Mr HUTTON** (Keppel—LNP) (9.26 pm): This coming Saturday there will be convoys of headlights seen on the streets of Keppel as pilgrims undertake their pre-dawn drive. We will have people coming to the dawn service in Yeppoon as well as to the Centenary of Anzac project at Emu Park. Livingstone Shire Council, in partnership with the Queensland government, the Australian government, the Bendigo Bank and so many in our community, have invested time and money, including the Emu Park Lions Club, to bring about something truly special: a place that honours those who have served our community. While we are still looking for funding for stage 4 of this project, it is a site to see. We will have thousands of people there. It is an opportunity for us to reflect over this weekend not only on the service of our hardworking men and women of the past but also on those who continue to serve us today in these times of great uncertainty.

Nominations for the Queensland Day Awards are open now and I encourage everyone—whether it is the Dean Street Bakery in Rockhampton or The Caves Pub—to put forward their nominations for their greatest local businesses in Queensland that serve our community.

As we get ready for May, when we will have small and family business month, is there a better reflection of the messages we have been receiving from our small business community than that around access to, and the cost of, fuel? This Crisafulli government is going to drill Queensland oil, refine Queensland biofuels and store fuel in Queensland to ensure future supplies, because never again will this government allow our community to be left behind after a decade of decline and a complete lack of understanding and concern for sovereign risk.

Earlier this month we had the opportunity for the Governor of Queensland to attend Yeppoon and hear from some of our young leaders as part of Youth Week. These young leaders spoke about their experiences and their dreams for our community. I commend the young leaders from Yeppoon State High School and St Ursula's College who took time in their school holidays—they dressed back up in their school uniforms—to speak to the Governor about our community and their vision for it, as

well as how much it has changed in the last 20 years. They spoke about Blueprint Livingstone, a plan for the future and growth of that community. Having our young people talk about their role and their place in that was incredibly important.

Following on from that event we had the seafood and fisheries forum in Yeppoon, where local fishermen had a chance to stand up and have their say, along with people from industry. They were reflecting on where the industry is going in Central Queensland and making sure they had the ear of the agriculture minister to inform good practices and make sure we are using good data. We are ensuring that Queensland fishermen have a voice in this Crisafulli government, unlike what they had under the last government.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.29 pm.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Bailey, Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Chiesa, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, de Brenni, Dick, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Field, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Grace, Hatcher, Head, Healy, Howard, Hunt, Hutton, James B, James T, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly G, Kelly J, Kempton, King, Kirkland, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Linard, Lister, Mander, Marr, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, Nightingale, O'Connor, O'Shea, Pease, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stoker, Vorster, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Young