



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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Phone (07) 3553 6344

## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

### Wednesday, 13 May 2026

Subject	Page
<b>SPEAKER'S STATEMENT</b> .....	<b>1331</b>
<b>Photographs in Chamber</b> .....	<b>1331</b>
<b>PRIVILEGE</b> .....	<b>1331</b>
<b>Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House</b> .....	<b>1331</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Minister for Education and the Arts and member for Surfers Paradise. ....	1332
<b>Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House</b> .....	<b>1332</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the member for Callide. ....	1332
<b>Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House</b> .....	<b>1333</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and member for Buderim. ....	1333
<b>Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House</b> .....	<b>1333</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the members for Ipswich, Lytton and Stretton. ....	1334
<b>SPEAKER'S STATEMENT</b> .....	<b>1334</b>
<b>Visitors to Public Gallery</b> .....	<b>1334</b>
<b>PETITIONS</b> .....	<b>1334</b>
<b>TABLED PAPER</b> .....	<b>1334</b>
<b>MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>1335</b>
<b>Federal Budget</b> .....	<b>1335</b>
<b>Federal Budget</b> .....	<b>1336</b>
<b>Federal Budget</b> .....	<b>1336</b>
<b>Federal Budget</b> .....	<b>1338</b>
<b>Federal Budget</b> .....	<b>1338</b>
<b>Forensic Services</b> .....	<b>1339</b>

Table of Contents – Wednesday, 13 May 2026

Education, Cybersecurity Breach; Glasshouse Theatre .....	1339
Sowing the Seeds of Farming Innovation Fund .....	1340
Water Security .....	1341
<b>NOTICES OF MOTION .....</b>	<b>1341</b>
Disallowance of Statutory Instrument.....	1341
Cost of Living .....	1341
<b>QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE .....</b>	<b>1341</b>
Queensland Rail, Workforce .....	1342
Queensland Rail, Workforce .....	1342
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Extract of text messages, undated, regarding job losses .....	1343
<b>Crisafulli LNP Government, Achievements .....</b>	<b>1344</b>
Queensland Rail, Workforce .....	1344
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Extract of text messages, undated, regarding job losses. ....	1344
<b>Infrastructure and Housing.....</b>	<b>1345</b>
<b>Queensland Rail, Workforce.....</b>	<b>1346</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Media release, dated 19 March 2026, from Queensland Rail titled 'Queensland Rail shuts down false scare campaign, locks in job security and better customer service'.....	1346
<b>Youth.....</b>	<b>1347</b>
<b>Queensland Rail, Workforce.....</b>	<b>1348</b>
<b>Roads and Transport Infrastructure, Funding.....</b>	<b>1349</b>
<b>Queensland Rail, Media .....</b>	<b>1350</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document, undated, regarding question time strategy.....	1350
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Extract of text messages, dated 19 March, regarding Queensland Rail.....	1350
<b>Health Services.....</b>	<b>1350</b>
<b>Gas Royalties.....</b>	<b>1351</b>
<b>Federal Budget .....</b>	<b>1352</b>
<b>Queensland Rail, Social Media .....</b>	<b>1353</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Extract of emails, dated 20 March 2026, regarding Queensland Rail media report. ...	1353
<b>Cairns Airport, Transport Infrastructure .....</b>	<b>1353</b>
<b>STRENGTHENING PROTECTIONS FOR QUEENSLAND WORKERS AMENDMENT BILL .....</b>	<b>1354</b>
<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>1354</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Strengthening Protections for Queensland Workers Amendment Bill 2026.....	1354
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Strengthening Protections for Queensland Workers Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes. ....	1354
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Strengthening Protections for Queensland Workers Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights. ....	1354
<b>First Reading .....</b>	<b>1356</b>
<b>Referral to Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee .....</b>	<b>1356</b>
<b>LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION.....</b>	<b>1356</b>
Division: Question put—That leave be granted. ....	1356
Resolved in the negative.....	1356
<b>STRENGTHENING PROTECTIONS AGAINST VIOLENT WORKPLACE INCIDENTS AMENDMENT BILL .....</b>	<b>1356</b>
<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>1356</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Strengthening Protections Against Violent Workplace Incidents Amendment Bill 2026. ....	1356
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Strengthening Protections Against Violent Workplace Incidents Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes.....	1356
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Strengthening Protections Against Violent Workplace Incidents Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights. ....	1356
<b>First Reading .....</b>	<b>1357</b>
<b>Referral to State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee .....</b>	<b>1357</b>
<b>LIQUID FUEL SUPPLY (ETHANOL AND OTHER BIOFUELS MANDATE) AMENDMENT BILL.....</b>	<b>1357</b>
<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>1357</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Liquid Fuel Supply (Ethanol and Other Biofuels Mandate) Amendment Bill 2026. ....	1357
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Liquid Fuel Supply (Ethanol and Other Biofuels Mandate) Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes. ....	1357
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Liquid Fuel Supply (Ethanol and Other Biofuels Mandate) Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights. ....	1357
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from the Institute of Automotive Mechanical Engineers, dated 14 April 2026, titled 'Ethanol-Blended Fuels: A Technical Imperative for Australia's Fuel Security and Automotive Future'.....	1359
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Bundle of documents, dated 5 May 2026 and 4 May 2026 respectively, regarding a national ethanol and biodiesel mandate. ....	1359
<b>First Reading .....</b>	<b>1359</b>
<b>Referral to Governance, Energy and Finance Committee.....</b>	<b>1359</b>
<b>RESOURCES SAFETY AND HEALTH QUEENSLAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL .....</b>	<b>1359</b>
<b>Second Reading .....</b>	<b>1359</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from the Fair Work Ombudsman, dated 20 September 2024, titled 'Mining and Energy Union and union officials penalised \$657,105 for "intimidating and threatening" conduct'. ....	1361
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document, undated, titled 'Proudly Resourcing Queensland 2024-25'.....	1361
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, amendments to be moved by Mr Linus Power MP.....	1361

## Table of Contents – Wednesday, 13 May 2026

<i>Tabled paper</i> : Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes to Mr Linus Power's amendments .....	1361
<i>Tabled paper</i> : Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Mr Linus Power's amendments .....	1361
<b>Consideration in Detail .....</b>	<b>1372</b>
Clauses 1 to 5, as read, agreed to .....	1372
Clause 6— .....	1372
<i>Tabled paper</i> : Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, amendments to be moved by Mr Linus Power MP .....	1372
<i>Tabled paper</i> : Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, explanatory notes to Mr Linus Power's amendments .....	1372
<i>Tabled paper</i> : Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Mr Linus Power's amendments .....	1372
Non-government amendment (Mr Power) negatived .....	1373
Clause 6, as read, agreed to .....	1373
Clause 7— .....	1373
Non-government amendment (Mr Power) negatived .....	1373
Clauses 7 to 83, as read, agreed to .....	1373
<b>Third Reading .....</b>	<b>1374</b>
Resolved in the affirmative .....	1374
<b>Long Title .....</b>	<b>1374</b>
<b>SPEAKER'S RULING .....</b>	<b>1374</b>
<b>Same Question Rule .....</b>	<b>1374</b>
<b>MOTION .....</b>	<b>1375</b>
<b>Cost of Living .....</b>	<b>1375</b>
Division: Question put—That the amendment be agreed to .....	1386
Resolved in the negative .....	1386
Non-government amendment (Mr Mellish) negatived .....	1386
Division: Question put—That the amendment be agreed to .....	1386
Resolved in the affirmative .....	1386
Amendment agreed to .....	1386
Division: Question put—That the motion, as amended, be agreed to .....	1387
Resolved in the affirmative .....	1387
<b>MOTION .....</b>	<b>1387</b>
<b>Order of Business .....</b>	<b>1387</b>
<b>SUNSHINE COAST WATERWAYS AUTHORITY BILL .....</b>	<b>1387</b>
<b>Second Reading .....</b>	<b>1387</b>
<b>ADJOURNMENT .....</b>	<b>1401</b>
<b>Bundamba Electorate, Public Transport .....</b>	<b>1401</b>
<b>McCabe, Mr D; Inland Rail .....</b>	<b>1401</b>
<b>Ipswich West Electorate, Road Infrastructure .....</b>	<b>1402</b>
<b>Federal Budget .....</b>	<b>1402</b>
<b>Bruce Highway Western Alternative .....</b>	<b>1403</b>
<b>Member for Whitsunday, Register of Members' Interests .....</b>	<b>1403</b>
<b>Safe Space .....</b>	<b>1404</b>
<b>McInnes, Mr K; Beef Australia .....</b>	<b>1405</b>
<b>Integrity .....</b>	<b>1405</b>
<b>Mackay Electorate, Anzac Day .....</b>	<b>1406</b>
<b>ATTENDANCE .....</b>	<b>1406</b>



## WEDNESDAY, 13 MAY 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.

### SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

#### Photographs in Chamber



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise the House that I have approved for Parliamentary Service staff to take photographs in the chamber this afternoon during preliminary business for use in parliamentary social media. Photographs will be taken from the gallery level of the Hansard reporters and include the view of members below.

### PRIVILEGE

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



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 2 April 2026, the member for Algester wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Education and the Arts deliberately misled the House on 30 April 2025. The minister answered a question on notice stating that as at 20 May 2025 the name of the new theatre at QPAC had not been finalised. The member provided documents in an RTI application that indicated the name had been 'formally approved' on 3 February 2025. However, included in the bundle of RTI documents was a decision by the minister to invite the public to name the new theatre after the 3 February 2025 briefing note was signed. I also note that the briefing note is equivocal in its language. Accordingly, I consider the minister has made an adequate explanation and 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.

Leave granted.

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

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

On 2 April 2026, the member for Algester wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Education and the Arts deliberately misled the House on 30 April 2025.

The matter relates to an answer by the Minister to a Question on Notice.

Specifically, the Minister stated in Question on Notice 434 of 2025:

*As of 20 May 2025, the name of the New Performing Arts Venue (NPAV) has not been finalised.*

The member argued that this was false and the Minister knew it was false. She provided a briefing note from the Department signed by the Minister on 3 February 2025 seeking approval to name the new theatre the Glasshouse theatre.

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

The Minister submitted that he sent a text message to his staff on 22 February 2025 advising that the community should name the new theatre and that the name 'Glasshouse Theatre' came out of that process. He further submitted that this text message superseded the signed briefing note that formally approved the name to be 'Glasshouse Theatre' that the member for Algester referred to.

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.


The Minister's alleged misleading statement was that the name of the theatre was not 'finalised' by 20 May. The briefing note relied upon by the member for Algester as evidence that the Minister had 'formally approved' the name by signing the briefing note on 3 February 2025, has the Deputy Director-General, Arts Queensland's advice about what would constitute approval of the name. The briefing note also suggests a level of equivocation about whether the approval is 'final' or not, with the recommendation being that the Minister advise the QPAC Chair 'of the preference for the new theatre name'.

The Minister referred to the whole bundle of documents released under the RTI in his response. He submits that the member omitted a relevant record, in which the Minister, via WhatsApp, conveyed his decision 'to invite the public to name the new theatre @ QPAC'. This decision occurred after signing the 3 February 2025 briefing note.

Accordingly, I consider the Minister has made an adequate explanation and 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 Minister for Education and the Arts and member for Surfers Paradise [\[677\]](#).

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

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 8 April 2026, the member for Aspley wrote to me alleging that the member for Callide deliberately misled the House on 26 March 2026. I note that this date was a mistake and the alleged statement occurred on 25 March 2026. The member for Aspley alleged the member for Callide was deliberately misleading when he said the opposition had been silent on the responsibility of the federal government with respect to fuel security. The alleged statement was general and nonspecific. I consider it was more a statement of opinion using political exaggeration or puffery. Accordingly, I consider the matter to be 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 these matters. I have circulated a ruling on this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling.

Leave granted.

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

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

On 8 April 2026, the member for Aspley wrote to me alleging that the member for Callide deliberately misled the House on 26 March 2026. I note that this date was a mistake, and the alleged statement occurred on 25 March 2026.

The matter relates to statement made during debate of a private members' motion.

Specifically, the member for Callide stated:

*'Fuel security is national security and national security is a federal responsibility. What we get from those opposite is complete silence when it comes to the responsibility of the federal Labor Albanese government.'*

The member for Aspley argued that this statement was false and misleading and provided examples of when he, and other members of the Opposition referenced the responsibility of the federal government with respect to fuel security.

I sought further information from the member for Callide about the allegation made against him, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The member for Callide submitted that the Opposition failed to mention the role of the Federal Government with respect to fuel security in social media and during Question Time. He also submitted the matter was frivolous.

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 refer to Speaker Pitt's ruling of 11 September 2024 which was in response to this statement by then member for Burleigh:

*'This government has rigged a whole series of laws over the past nine years that it has been in government, and this is another one of those.'*

In that matter, Speaker Pitt noted that the alleged misleading statement regarding the rigging of laws were non-specific and general and there was no particular allegation against any individual. Speaker Pitt also noted it was akin to 'puffery, hyperbole or political exaggeration'.


Similarly, the statement by the member for Callide is not targeted at an individual. It is non-specific and general and appears more like a statement of opinion using political exaggeration or puffery.

As such, I consider this matter is within the realm of both technical and trivial.

Therefore, 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 member for Callide [\[678\]](#).

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

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 8 April 2026, the member for Aspley wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads deliberately misled the House twice on 26 March 2026. The minister alleged that the opposition were never committed to making 50-cent fares permanent and that they had the opportunity to do so but did not. The member argued that making 50-cent fares permanent was an election commitment that was fully funded in the forward estimates. This is a dispute on an election commitment with differing interpretations on the word 'extension' and whether that equates to a permanent policy extension or a temporary policy extension. It is an argument based on semantics and is both trivial and technical. 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 these matters. I have circulated a ruling on this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling.

Leave granted.

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

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

On 8 April 2026, the member for Aspley wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads deliberately misled the House twice on 26 March 2026.

The matter relates to a statement by the Minister during the cognate debate on the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill and Appropriation (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill.

Specifically, the minister stated:

*'It is very clear that they were never committed to making 50-cent fares permanent. If they were, the evidence would have been there before the election because they had 10 years to make it permanent.'*

It is all well and good to sit there and say, 'I thought it was a good idea. I had an opportunity to make it permanent, but I did not.'

The member argued that this statement was false and misleading the Opposition made an election commitment to make 50-cent fares permanent if they were re-elected, following the commencement of a successful trial just prior to the election.

I sought further information from the minister about the allegation made against him, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The minister submitted that the former government only promised an extension of the 50c fares if elected, and did not promise to make them permanent. Further, he noted that there was only funding for 6 months of 50 cent fares in the 2024-25 budget.

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 member argued that it was the Opposition's intention to make 50 cent fares permanent. Conversely, the minister has argued that the election commitment was a temporary extension of the 50 cent trial and there was insufficient funding in the then budget to support a permanent increase. Both the member and the minister have provided evidence that is purported to support their contradictory claims.

This is a dispute about an election commitment, with differing interpretations of the word 'extension' and whether that equates to a permanent policy extension, or a temporary policy extension. It is an argument based on semantics and is both trivial and technical and does not warrant the further attention of the House.

Therefore, 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 Minister for Transport and Main Roads and member for Buderim [\[679\]](#).

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

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 17 February 2026, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads wrote to me alleging that the members for Ipswich, Lytton and Stretton deliberately misled the House on 25 and 26 February 2026. Each of the members asserted that Queensland Rail will be sacking 700 workers. The minister provided a statement by Queensland Rail that contradicted these assertions. I note that on 12 May 2026, the members each made an apology and clarification, and this is noted at page 1230 of the *Record of Proceedings*. Accordingly, I find that the members have made an adequate apology. 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.

Leave granted.

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

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

On 17 February 2026, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads wrote to me alleging that the members for Ipswich, Lytton and Stretton deliberately misled the House on 25 and 26 February 2026.

The matter relates to statements made during the adjournment debate (member for Lytton) and private members' motion (member for Stretton) on 25 March 2026 and during the cognate debate on the Appropriation bills on 26 March 2026 (member for Ipswich).

Specifically, the members said:

**Ms PEASE:** *Seven hundred Queensland Rail workers will be gone from May Day—700 workers who are the backbone of safety, accessibility and support across our rail network, cut by a government that promised Queenslanders they would not do this.*

**Mr MARTIN:** *This is the same LNP that believes in bold state intervention when it suits their agenda, like rushing through laws that attack free speech, sacking 700 rail workers or cancelling electric buses.*

**Ms HOWARD:** *Just last week we learned that 700 Queensland railway station workers will lose their jobs.*

The Minister argued that the members' comments contradict a media release by Queensland Rail on 19 March 2026 that said frontline jobs were safe, and an additional 35 Authorised Officers were being hired.

I sought further information from the members about the allegations that have been made against them, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The members all advised that they would withdraw their statements and clarify the record at the earliest opportunity.

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 note that on 12 May 2026, the members each made an apology and clarification and this is noted at pg 1230 of the Record of Proceedings.

Accordingly, I find that the members have made an adequate apology.

Therefore 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 members for Ipswich, Lytton and Stretton [\[680\]](#).

**SPEAKER'S STATEMENT****Visitors to Public Gallery**

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this afternoon by students and teachers from St Francis College in the electorate of Woodridge.

**PETITIONS**

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

**Traineeships, Disability Pensioners**

336 petitioners, requesting the House to investigate, create and begin two-year guaranteed traineeships in Queensland for disability pensioners [\[674\]](#).

**Brisbane City Council, Short-Term Accommodation**

413 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures to redraft the Brisbane City Council's proposed law changes for short term accommodation [\[675\]](#).

Petitions received.

**TABLED PAPER**

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPER


The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Bleijie)—

[676](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Bleijie), to an E-Petition (4405-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 123 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures to make new residential and commercial land available in and around Proserpine

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Federal Budget

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.07 pm): Last night, the federal government handed down the 2026-27 budget. It comes at a time of great cost-of-living pressures for families and massive uncertainty for small and family business. I am pleased to see the deals we struck with the federal government on health and education have been honoured and are included in this year's budget. However, for Queensland, this federal budget represents a real missed opportunity. Queenslanders have every right to feel disappointed. Once again, we have not received the level of support that matches our contribution to the national economy. We are delivering the energy, the resources and the agriculture that power this nation, and we are preparing to host the world for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, but this budget fails to match Queensland's ambition and needs with meaningful federal support. Queenslanders have the right to ask: where is our fair share?

The federal budget does not deliver the investment needed in major road and rail projects. It delivers billions for projects south of the border, while critical infrastructure projects here in Queensland continue to wait in line. For Queensland, there is no new infrastructure funding in this year's federal budget. I want to say that again because we have to comprehend the magnitude of that. In a growing state, a state that contributes so much—I will read it again—there is no new infrastructure funding in this year's federal budget. Instead, Labor has even tried to back away from the 80-20 funding deal for the Bruce Highway. We fought hard to secure the 80-20 funding deal when those opposite said it could not be done. We will keep fighting to ensure projects on this critical road are funded fairly.

There is nothing in the federal budget to help deal with long-stay patients stranded in our hospitals. The federal government accepted responsibility for this and they need to step up and provide funding to ensure these Australians can get the care they need, the dignity they need, in purpose-built facilities.

There is no recognition of the immense pressure population growth is placing on housing, hospitals, schools and community infrastructure—things we are spending record amounts on as a state. There is no recognition of the pressure and the fact that we are doing the heavy lifting. Queensland is one of the fastest growing states in the nation. Our infrastructure needs are urgent, not optional. Much will be said about the federal government's decision to change taxes, and my main concern is the impact that will have on housing supply. We must ensure the changes will not diminish housing and rental supply.

I am concerned about the proposed changes to trusts and the impact on small and family businesses. Many small and family businesses rely on family trusts to manage their assets, and I am concerned the incoming changes will hit their bottom lines. Meanwhile, Queensland's share of the GST continues to go backwards.

**A government member:** Shame!

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I am not sure why those opposite would not be joining us on this today. I am not sure why they are shaking their heads.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr Lee** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Hervey Bay, you are the first one on the list today.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** We are all Queenslanders, and I hope we all want what is best for Queensland. Surely the people of this state are worth more than your political movement—surely. Meanwhile, Queensland's share of the GST continues to go backwards.

**Mr de Brenni** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** It is now the Manager of Opposition Business's turn to get upset that we are sticking up for Queensland.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, direct your comments through the chair, please.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Mr Speaker, our independent—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Now the shadow minister for the CFMEU is even chiming in.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms GRACE:** So funny—ha, ha! Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. He should use proper titles and I take offence and ask that it be withdrawn.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Yes, they are two relevant points of order. Use proper titles, please, Premier, and the member has taken personal offence so I ask that you withdraw.


**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I withdraw. I just note that I did not name any individual but an individual named herself.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Apparently the press were trying to count how many times I rose seeking silence yesterday. We are off to a bad start today. We are up to three times already.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** We are simply asking for our fair share. We are asking for investment that reflects Queensland's contribution to the national economy. Queenslanders are ambitious people. We are optimistic about the future, but we cannot do it alone. The Queensland government will never stop fighting to ensure we get the investment and the support that Queenslanders deserve.

### Federal Budget

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.12 pm): Last night Queenslanders watched a federal budget delivered by a treasurer from Brisbane, and they would be forgiven for asking a very simple question: where was Queensland? At a time when our state is carrying the weight of national economic growth, powering the country's exports, producing the resources that keep Australia running and welcoming hundreds of thousands of new residents, Queensland has, once again, been asked to do more with less.

This budget confirms what Queenslanders feared: Jim Chalmers and Anthony Albanese have abandoned Queensland when it matters most. There is no new funding for CopperString, no funding for the Wave, nothing for Gold Coast transport infrastructure and no new commitment to the Mount Isa rail line, and Inland Rail has effectively been stopped in New South Wales and does not even reach Queensland. That is extraordinary. Queenslanders are being asked to accept that Melbourne gets billions more for a 90-kilometre underground Suburban Rail Loop while regional Queensland gets nothing. The Bruce Highway funding announced last night falls well short of what Queensland sought, with the Commonwealth now walking away from the 80-20 funding split that had been previously agreed.

This is a state that contributes enormously to the national economy. Queensland is the engine room of Australia's resources sector, agriculture, tourism and energy exports, yet when the time came for Canberra to deliver Queensland was pushed to the back of the queue. Let's be clear about one of the biggest assumptions underpinning this budget. Labor is claiming tens of billions of dollars in NDIS savings, but Queenslanders know the truth. The budget is built on a cost-shifting exercise and it is the most vulnerable who are left exposed by Canberra. They are banking savings federally while pushing enormous financial pressure on to states to pick up the pieces through health, education, housing and social services. That is not reform; that is accounting trickery.

The same thing is happening in aged care and health. The federal government talks about supporting older Australians, but states, like Queensland, are left dealing with the consequences when aged-care beds are unavailable, support packages are delayed and vulnerable older Australians rely on already stretched public hospitals.

Queenslanders are practical people. They understand priorities and they understand fairness. They understand that if you are good enough to power the national economy you should be good enough to receive your fair share of Canberra investment. Instead, this budget confirms a growing concern across our state: Canberra sees Queensland as a revenue source, not a priority. The Crisafulli government will continue fighting every single day for Queensland's fair share for our infrastructure, for our regions, for our industries and for Queensland families who deserve better than what they got last night.

### Federal Budget

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.15 pm): The federal Albanese budget last night was a real kick in the guts to Queensland and Queenslanders. It completely fell short

in infrastructure spend. As the Premier said, there was no increase in infrastructure spend across the state. The Albanese federal budget was a real kick in the guts. I thought we would have seen their comrades attacking the federal Labor budget today, but, no, there has been silence. I do not know. I think maybe one has put up a social media post in support of the budget, but there has been nothing about the truth of what the kick in the guts the budget was—

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will stop you there, Minister. That has been ruled as unparliamentary in the past. That is the third occasion you have said it, so I will rule that phrase about a kick in the stomach unparliamentary.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Last night's Albanese budget was a real kick in the pants to Queenslanders. It was a real kick to the economy, and not in a good way. That is why the Crisafulli government will fight for every dollar we can for Queensland.

Last night's budget hit working mums and dads the hardest and shows that, when given the opportunity, Labor will always revert to class warfare. It is in their DNA, whether it is state or federal Labor DNA. Queenslanders have seen this federal Labor government cut major infrastructure projects from Queensland while it continues to prop up failing Labor southern states. Queenslanders should not be paying for the economic failures of Victorian and New South Wales Labor governments. We will continue to keep up the fight to the Commonwealth to get the fair share of investment that Queensland so rightly deserves.

I note one announcement in the federal budget last night—a \$2 billion Local Infrastructure Fund, which may sound very familiar to members in this House. Where have we heard about this LIF? It is very similar to a Crisafulli government project: the RAF—the Residential Activation Fund. We are investing \$2 billion in one state. The federal government—and I am happy for them to copy it, even though they have tinkered with the name a little bit—is investing \$2 billion across all of Australia. That is the only glimmer. I am sure the honourable housing minister will have more to say about this in his contribution later today.

The only good idea in the federal budget was an LNP Queensland idea, with our landmark RAF already unlocking trunk infrastructure—roads, water, electrical and sewerage—for housing developments across Queensland.

**Mr O'Connor:** Your acronym is better.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection. I thought it was a positive comment about me, so I take the interjection from the honourable housing minister. The acronyms are much better on this side of the House.

**Mr Head:** The whole program is.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take that interjection as well. Is there anyone else? Is anyone else looking for a promotion? Keep talking! We are making it easier for housing approvals across the state.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Get on with it.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection from the honourable Attorney-General to 'get on with it'. If I was not getting so many interjections from our side of the House—positive interjections—I would be able to get on with it. I will tell the honourable Attorney what we are getting on with, and that is releasing land across the state—supply, supply, supply.

I was joined by honourable members in Far North Queensland last week where we signed, sealed and delivered the Far North Queensland Regional Plan, resetting local planning partnerships with local governments—something those opposite failed to do it. We did the new regional plan in less than 12 months—a regional plan that had been outdated since 2009. We are getting on with the job. What has the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, considering he shares an electorate with the federal Treasurer, said about the federal budget?

**Mrs Frecklington:** And a former treasurer.


**Mr BLEIJIE:** He is a former treasurer, I know, but he also shares an electorate with the federal Treasurer. I wonder if he has visited that area or if he has looked from his gutters, as he said—from the Woodridge gutters.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. You have ruled in relation to the intent of ministerial statements and the right of ministers to give them. Today's performance is neither courteous to the House nor in compliance with those rulings. I ask you to instruct ministers to abide by the rulings and the clarity that you have provided around ministerial statements and their purpose. It is not a joke.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Yes, and I have ruled about personal attacks in amongst ministerial statements. I will ask you to withdraw that language you used earlier in the piece for the dignity of the House.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw. I am giving a compliment to the honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I think it is a matter of public interest that members ought to know that the member for Woodridge is capable of cleaning his own gutters, as he disclosed to the House. I think people would be surprised by that, but that is what he said. The federal budget was a bad budget for Queensland, but people can look to the LNP for light and for the economic opportunities that we will deliver in this great state.

### Federal Budget


 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (2.21 pm): Yesterday's federal budget told Queenslanders everything they need to know about how Canberra sees this state—that Queensland can keep powering the national economy, that Queensland can keep generating the export wealth and that Queensland can keep carrying the population growth, but when it comes time for investment Queensland will not see its fair share.

This nation relies on Queensland—our coal, our gas, our agricultural sector, our ports and our regional industries. They power the Australian economy. Queensland workers and Queensland industries generate billions in revenue for Canberra every single year. While Queensland does the heavy lifting, this federal Labor budget still treats our state like an afterthought. We will lose an outrageous \$2.2 billion in GST funding this financial year alone. Where has the outcry been from those opposite about this? We know that growth brings pressure—pressure on housing, pressure on transport and pressure on the workforce needed to build the next generation of infrastructure. Queensland is carrying the pressure of this country.

Queensland is not asking for special treatment, but Queensland expects fairness. Given Queensland is helping carry the national economy, Queensland deserves infrastructure investment that reflects our contribution. If Queensland is generating billions for the Commonwealth then Queensland deserves a federal government willing to back our growth. If Queensland is carrying the responsibility of Brisbane 2032 for the entire country then this budget should have reflected the scale of that task. Instead, this budget asks Queenslanders to give more while accepting less.

The Crisafulli LNP government will not accept that. We will keep standing up for Queensland. We will keep fighting for our communities right across this state and we will keep reminding Canberra that the people and industries that are powering this nation deserve more than broken promises and scraps from the federal budget. Queensland is not standing on the sidelines of the national economy; Queensland is driving it. It is time the Labor government finally started to treat our state accordingly.

### Federal Budget

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (2.23 pm): Certainly last night the fifth time was not a charm for Queensland and for Queenslanders from Jim Chalmers. Last night's budget confirmed federal Labor's plan to leave stranded Australians languishing in our hospital beds. Federal Labor are slashing tens of billions of dollars from the NDIS, cutting funding for 160,000 Australians. Where is that money going, because it is not going into aged care. The budget confirms that stranded Australians will continue to be abandoned by Labor, despite the Prime Minister acknowledging in Canberra at National Cabinet that aged care is indeed a Commonwealth responsibility.

There are more than 1,400 patients stuck in Queensland hospitals because they cannot access Commonwealth funded aged care or NDIS supports. As I said yesterday, that number has tripled under Jim Chalmers and Anthony Albanese. This federal budget provides no new support for these Australians who are medically fit for discharge—they do not need to be in hospital—but who, through no fault of their own, occupy 11½ per cent of all hospital beds in Queensland. That is a hospital the size of the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital taken out of commission every day.


These patients are not receiving the appropriate aged care they need, and Labor's failure to act is costing Queenslanders \$3.3 million every single day—and it is only going to get worse. Labor have cut \$3 billion from the private health insurance rebate for older Australians over 65. As the president of the Australian Medical Association says, this cut is 'likely to see older Australians ... incomes drop or downgrade their cover'. Imagine! Labor taking from older Australians who have worked and saved and

who prudently want to prepare for their older years. They are being attacked by Jim Chalmers and Anthony Albanese simply because they want to take out private health insurance. This will result in more pressure on our hospital system.

Queenslanders have also been short-changed with Medicare urgent care clinics. Queensland receives just one new Medicare urgent care clinic in this budget, in Caloundra. New South Wales receives six—one in every Labor seat! Can you believe it from a federal Treasurer from Queensland? Jim Chalmers said last night that four out of five Australians live within a 20-minute drive of an urgent care clinic. He obviously spends all of his time in Canberra and needs to familiarise himself with his home state of Queensland, where there are no urgent care clinics west of the Great Dividing Range or north of Cairns. What about places like Longreach? What about Mount Isa? What about Emerald? What about Cooktown? What about Cloncurry? They are not worthy of consideration by this Labor federal Treasurer. Queensland Labor, like federal Labor, leave our regions behind when they fail to deliver. State Labor failed to deliver the hospital beds we need and federal Labor are leaving our regions behind by failing to invest properly in primary care.

Queensland and the Crisafulli government are doing more than their fair share, but where are those opposite? The silence is deafening. I urge those opposite, who have been silent on this issue for far too long, to stand up for stranded Australians, to stand up for those who need NDIS care, and join me and the Crisafulli government in calling on their mates in Canberra to do the same thing.

### Forensic Services

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (2.28 pm): When the Crisafulli government took office it was confronted with an unimaginable travesty—a trail of injustice that redoubled the pain and horror for victims of major crime. Under the former Labor government, the state's forensic regime collapsed in disarray and disrepair: 601 rape kits and more than 11,700 major crime samples were left untested. Four hundred days was the turnaround time for critical DNA samples—more than a year for evidence in rape and major crime cases to be returned to police. The impact of those extraordinary delays and of a system riddled with contamination and unreliable results spread wide and cut deep, upturning lives, destabilising families and rifling across our communities.


The Crisafulli government is repairing that damage. We are restoring justice. We are restoring confidence to Queenslanders that offenders will be removed from the streets, courts will receive the evidence they need and victims will no longer be left in limbo. Earlier this week I announced the Crisafulli government has fully cleared the backlog of rape kits that were left to us by the former Labor government; that is, all 601 sexual assault examination kits have been processed.

**Government members:** Hear, hear!

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Additionally, the backlog of major crime DNA samples has fallen by 70 per cent, reducing from 11,700 in November 2024 to 3,488 in May this year. For the edification of those opposite, this is not a collection of abstract numbers. These DNA samples relate to crimes against people. They are victims. The Crisafulli government not only recognises them but has responded to them. These sharp inroads on cleaning up Labor's mess shows what can be achieved when a government just gets on with the job instead of turning its back on victims.

The Crisafulli government's two-year outsourcing strategy and recovery plan, through which thousands of DNA samples are processed to clear Labor's backlog, is clearly the right one. DNA samples will no longer sit on the shelf untested. We will not take our foot off the pedal. We are bolstering Forensic Science Queensland's leadership and capability with two new deputy directors, Saranjeet Khera and Kirsten Eades, because the victims deserve answers. They deserve faster justice and Queenslanders are owed stronger accountability and lasting reform. Queenslanders are getting it now from a government that is fixing Labor's unprecedented forensic debacle—exactly as we said we would.

### Education, Cybersecurity Breach; Glasshouse Theatre


 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (2.31 pm): I rise to update the House on the outcome of a significant third party global cybersecurity incident event that I was first notified of on 6 May 2026. At that time the Department of Education was notified by Instructure, the third-party provider of the department's Canvas learning management system, that staff and student data had been accessed as part of a global data breach. The total impact was estimated to affect around 10,000 institutions and 275 million people worldwide. In the Queensland education sector this included all state schools as well as some non-state schools and tertiary education

institutions. I am pleased to report that yesterday we were informed by Instructure that the compromised data has been returned to institutions, will not be released publicly and has been deleted by the threat actors. This news should come as welcome relief to impacted staff and students. We thank the schools and the tertiary education sector for their understanding during this event.

After a decade of decline and delays under the former Labor government, Queenslanders are finally enjoying performances in the new Glasshouse Theatre at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, making the latter the largest performing arts centre under one roof in Australia. Queenslanders deserve honesty about Labor's mismanagement. In 2018 Labor announced this project at a cost of \$150 million and promised completion by 2022. The budget then increased to \$175 million in 2022 and I know that my colleague, the Leader of the House, pursued this matter year after year at estimates. I can advise the House that further delays and increases resulted in a whopping final cost of \$235.3 million. The project suffered a raft of delays including industrial disputes, supply chain pressures, flooding and subcontractor insolvencies, all under Labor's watch.

I thank the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth and his team for getting the project back on track. I thank the public works team, led by Megan Neagle and deputy director-general Graham Atkins, a long-serving public servant. Through Queensland's Time to Shine the Crisafulli government is investing in arts infrastructure, jobs and cultural tourism whilst delivering the accountability Queenslanders deserve. Labor has left major challenges for Queensland, but the Crisafulli government is up to the challenge.

### **Sowing the Seeds of Farming Innovation Fund**

 **Hon. AJ PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (2.34 pm): I am pleased to update the House that the Crisafulli government has delivered another key election commitment: the establishment of our \$30 million Sowing the Seeds of Farming Innovation Fund. The fund is Queensland's first dedicated agriculture innovation fund. It will help supercharge the development of new technology and innovation across our primary industries. We need to back practical innovation that helps producers lift productivity, improve profitability, manage risk and remain competitive. This is what the Sowing the Seeds of Farming Innovation Fund is designed to do. It will support innovative businesses and develop cutting-edge technologies and products that deliver real benefits for our primary industries. It will help get game-changing ideas from concept to commercial application sooner so producers can access tools that make their businesses more productive, profitable, sustainable and resilient.

The fund will be managed by the Queensland Investment Corporation, leveraging its commercial investment expertise to identify and support businesses that are developing practical solutions for the sector. This is not a traditional grants program; it is a targeted investment fund. It will support commercially viable innovation while helping attract additional private investment. Achieving our target of \$30 billion in primary production output by 2030 requires new ideas, new technology and stronger commercialisation pathways.


During Labor's decade of decline opportunities were left to wither on the vine. Producers were burdened with heightened regulation. Industry and the innovation sector have told us that promising ideas need stronger pathways, greater investment discipline and a sharper focus on practical technologies that deliver measurable benefits on farm and across the supply chain. We have heard this loud and clear. This fund responds directly to that need. It will support technologies that help producers do more with less, respond to labour and input cost pressures, strengthen resilience and create new opportunities for regional Queensland.

While the Crisafulli government has been supporting and helping the agriculture sector to grow, the federal Labor government is putting up roadblocks. The Albanese government's decision to end the Inland Rail line at Parkes is disappointing and particularly short-sighted. They have delivered a devastating blow to diversifying transport routes for our agriculture industries. This is a lost opportunity to support Queensland producers. Supply chains, transport corridors, trade across states, and finding quicker and new ways to get products to ports and overseas markets are vital to the productivity of our agriculture industries.

Recent events have shown how fragile supply chains are. Now is the time to strengthen them, not erode them. When Inland Rail was proposed, it was set to reduce the cost of moving both regional and national freight for produce such as grain, livestock, cotton, wool and coal. It would have brought huge benefits by increasing capacity, reliability and reducing the time to move freight. While

Queensland's agriculture industries are doing the heavy lifting, the Albanese government's priorities are elsewhere. Labor's Inland Rail decision is short-sighted, unambitious and proves that Labor does not want to put the work in to support our agriculture sector. The Crisafulli government is delivering; the Albanese Labor government is failing Queensland.

### Water Security


 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (2.38 pm): I rise to update the House on the Crisafulli government's unlocking water project—a key election commitment that is delivering real results for Queensland farmers and regional communities. Water is the lifeblood of regional Queensland, yet for a decade under the former Labor government water sat idle. It was locked away in unnecessary bureaucracy. In fact, in their final year the former Labor government made approximately 3,000 megalitres of water available. That is barely enough for some farms.

The Crisafulli government said we would change that, and we are. Today I can advise the House that the first seven unlocking water project studies are now complete. These studies cover the Gulf, the Wet Tropics, the Barron, the Mitchell, the Mary Basin, the Condamine and Balonne, and the Border Rivers and Moonie water plan areas, and the results speak for themselves. We are making an additional 92,000 megalitres of water available, on top of the 109,000 megalitres that we have already made available, to support farming, agriculture and industry in Queensland. For context, this is enough water to fill the Borumba Dam almost five times over—or, using a metric that members opposite might be able to grasp, enough water to irrigate over 60,000 hectares of shiraz grapes.

Let's run around the catchments to see what is being made available: in the Mitchell catchment, up to 55,000 megalitres; in the Barron, over 18,000 megalitres; in the Wet Tropics, over 15,000 megalitres; in the Mary Basin, over 2,300 megalitres; and a whole lot more. Every one of those megalitres represents an opportunity for a farmer to expand, for a business to invest, for a regional community to grow. These seven studies are just the start. We are committed to reviewing all 23 water plans, and we will deliver. It is about making sure the water resources of this state are working for Queenslanders, not sitting locked away in a filing cabinet in Brisbane.

## NOTICES OF MOTION

### Disallowance of Statutory Instrument

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (2.41 pm): I give notice that I will move—

That clause 5 of the Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Amendment Regulation 2026, subordinate legislation No. 16 of 2026, tabled in the House on 3 March 2026, be disallowed.

### Cost of Living

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (2.41 pm): I give notice that I will move—

That this House notes—

1. that Queenslanders are struggling to put food on the table,
2. that Queenslanders are struggling to pay the rent,
3. that Queenslanders are struggling to pay their mortgages,
4. that Queenslanders are struggling to pay their vehicle registration,
5. that Queenslanders are struggling to pay for fuel for their cars,
6. that Queenslanders are struggling to pay their energy bills,
7. that Queenslanders are struggling to pay their utility bills,
8. that Queenslanders are struggling to pay their rates,
9. the Crisafulli LNP government is likely to have \$2 billion in royalty windfalls,
10. the need for targeted cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders from the government,
11. that the former Labor Queensland government provided targeted cost-of-living relief to support Queenslanders.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time today will conclude at 3.42 pm.

### Queensland Rail, Workforce

**Mr MILES** (2.42 pm): My question is to the Minister for Transport. The minister advised this House that there would be no job cuts to Queensland Rail station staff. Does the minister stand by that advice?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. It is an interesting question given the federal budget has just been handed down and there has been radio silence from those opposite on that federal budget. There is not a whole lot in the budget for Queensland, to be fair, anyway. It is an interesting question given what we saw before question time yesterday—when three members opposite were required to withdraw their misleading statements in relation to the QR station operating model. The member for Stretton, the member for Ipswich and the member for Lytton were required to come in here and withdraw and apologise because they misled this House with another scare campaign—just as we are seeing in Stafford, where there is another scare campaign without substance.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers!

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers, I just cautioned you. You are now warned.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** In fact we see this playbook time and time again from those opposite. Not content to discuss substantive issues, they engage in grubby scare campaigns. This happened before the last election and they have learned nothing since that election, where Queenslanders flatly refuted their type of politics. Queenslanders flatly refuted the Labor Party's approach to politics at the last election in October 2024, and I am confident they will refute their politics again at the by-election in Stafford this weekend.

Ultimately, it is a test of the Leader of the Opposition. Do the people of Stafford want to see more of Labor's grubby scare campaigns, or do the people of Stafford want to see a government that is actually delivering for Queensland? They have seen what their federal counterparts have for Queensland, and it is higher taxes and lower infrastructure spending, while ignoring Queensland and taking money from the pockets of Queenslanders and putting it into the pockets of an incompetent Victorian Labor government which cannot deliver projects on time or on budget. Ultimately, the people of Stafford will be able to make a judgement on Saturday. Will the Labor Party win on primary vote? If they do not, what will the consequence be for the Leader of the Opposition? Do people in Stafford endorse these sorts of grubby scare campaigns—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was very specific about whether or not the minister stood by his advice to the parliament.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Yes, the point of order was on relevance. Minister, you have 30 seconds remaining.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** As I said, those opposite were required to come in here just yesterday and correct the record in relation to their scare campaign when they said in here that there would be QR job cuts. That is what they said, and I think it was 700 jobs. The members for Stretton, Ipswich and Lytton had to come in here and apologise because it was factually incorrect. They apologised and withdrew, and that should tell Queenslanders everything they need to know about this Labor opposition that has learned nothing.

### Queensland Rail, Workforce

**Mr MELLISH:** My question is to the Minister for Transport. I table a text message between Queensland Rail media advisers that states—

... temporary casual staff members that will have to apply for new roles and if they don't get them then they don't have a job—  
expletive—

SAKE!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I did not hear the question. Can you start again, please.

**Mr MELLISH:** My question is to the Minister for Transport. I table a text message between Queensland Rail media advisers that states—

... temporary casual staff members that will have to apply for new roles and if they don't get them then they don't have a job—

expletive—

SAKE!

Can the minister advise how many Queensland Rail staff will not have a job under the Crisafulli LNP government?

*Tabled paper:* Extract of text messages, undated, regarding job losses [681].

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! One person has the call. The question was directed towards the minister.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** There is one job that is temporary—and casual, I might add. There might be a couple that are temporary, but there is definitely one casual job in this place and that is the temporary member for Aspley—or is he the member for Stafford? Which one does he want? We know that he wanted to jump into Stafford for 48 hours or so there. He was doorknocking and he was doing mobile offices in Chermanside West, which is not his electorate, mind you. We know he is temporary, and we know another temporary. The opposition leader is living on borrowed time; we know he is on borrowed time.

**Mr Purdie:** Who's applying for that job?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I will take the interjection from the police minister. Who is applying for the Leader of the Opposition's job? I wonder if it will be a merit-based selection or if it will just be whoever has the numbers.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Minister, you heard the question. If you can address a little bit of enthusiasm towards the question, it would be appreciated.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I will continue to talk about temporary jobs and those who are living on borrowed time. It is the Leader of the Opposition who is living on borrowed time. It is the Leader of the Opposition—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on two matters. You just gave the minister a direct instruction to be relevant to the question. He has defied your ruling, which I submit to you is highly disorderly of the minister—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr de BRENNI:**—as is the behaviour of the Deputy Premier, who continually interjects.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will look after the House.

**Mr de BRENNI:** My point of order then is on relevance. As you said, the answer must be relevant to the question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The minister had just risen to his feet, but I would ask the minister to be relevant to the question.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Those opposite love to engage in grubby politics and scare campaigns with no basis of fact. I would note—

**Mr Mellish** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I can hear the temporary shadow minister opposite interjecting. I would make an observation that this is an RTI, I believe. I can see it is page 15 of 21. They have not provided any of the context; that is always convenient. No doubt they think there is some smoking gun here. Let me be very clear: those opposite have already been required to come in here to correct the record on this issue lest they make the same mistake twice. They may need to do it again.

I want to be very clear: we want to see Queensland Rail staff who are well paid, who are productive and who are delivering the services that Queensland commuters deserve. By contrast, those opposite want to side with behaviour that is designed to destroy productivity, that is not reflective of respecting taxpayers' money and that is designed to be deliberately disruptive. That is what they want.

I make the observation that Queenslanders will have a choice; on Saturday Queenslanders will have a choice—those people in Stafford will have a choice; one ninety-third of the state will have a choice. They will have a great opportunity to tell the rest of the state what they think of the Leader of the Opposition's approach. Do they want to see more grubby politics or do they want to see a government delivering tangible things for Queensland?

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. None of this is relevant to the question about how many jobs will go. None of this is relevant. None of this response is relevant to the question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Your point of order is?

**Mr de BRENNI:** It is on relevance, Mr Speaker.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member was talking about the issue earlier. I will let him finish. Minister, you have 18 seconds remaining.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** As I was saying, on the weekend the people of the Stafford electorate will have an opportunity to pass their judgement on this sort of approach from an opposition bereft of ideas, an opposition that has learnt nothing and an opposition that goes back to the tired old playbook of scare campaigns without substance. Queenslanders have had enough of a Labor opposition that could not govern and cannot—

*(Time expired)*

### **Crisafulli LNP Government, Achievements**

**Mrs POOLE:** My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering for Queensland, and is the Premier aware of any approaches that failed to deliver for Queensland?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I thank the honourable member for Mundingburra for the question. We are delivering for Queensland and there is a lot to do. After a decade of decline it is important that we stay true to those things that we said to the good people of this state that we would deliver and we will continue every day to ensure we keep that relentless focus on youth crime, health, housing and cost of living and ensure we build infrastructure on time and on budget.

The member asked about alternatives and I want to speak about the federal budget. We have spoken already in this place about the walking away from the Bruce Highway funding, about our share of GST and about those stranded patients in hospitals. I want to mention a couple of things that are really relevant to the honourable member in terms of both her electorate and her areas of interest.

I want to start on the defence front. I have to say the commitment of about \$300 million over the next four years to implement those findings from the royal commission into veteran suicide is a great step in the right direction. It is something that I have been talking about for a long time. We are focusing heavily on veterans and the honourable member has a big role to play in that. It is absolutely essential that we invest in veterans and their families. We are drafting this state's first strategy for veterans, and it is a glaring omission that we have not had one previously. We are taking it a step further and we are focusing on veterans and their families. It is really important and we will continue to do that.

The other thing, though, that is not in the budget to the level it should be is funding for critical minerals. I say that because it is so very important for so many members in this place. I see a city like Townsville as being pivotal to the future of critical minerals. Right now critical minerals are to this state what agriculture was many decades ago, what the early days of the mining industry was and what the tourism industry was, which brought many parts of this state to life. Critical minerals and investment in things like data centres are the new frontier for this state right now. To see the lack of investment after we have acknowledged the deal that was done in the US is a glaring omission.

We cannot collectively take our foot off the pedal on this. We have to maintain a big focus. If we are to get those investments, if we are to drive the upgrades in things like the Mount Isa to Townsville railway line to get those new minerals to port, if we are to unlock those opportunities that we have identified in Cairns, Mackay and all the way west to the Isa and beyond—Rockhampton and Mackay—we must continue to invest in it. We will call it out.

In contrast, those opposite will not say a word about the federal budget not delivering for Queensland because they are so focused on two things. One is protecting their mates and the second is protecting the guy sitting opposite me, because in a few days time he has a date with destiny. If he does not get a swing towards him, he will get a swing away.

### **Queensland Rail, Workforce**

**Mr DICK:** My question is to the Minister for Transport. I table messages released under RTI where Queensland Rail media advisers discuss station closure job losses in which they say—

Oh god

But they are temporary anyways! That's any casual job

*Tabled paper:* Extract of text messages, undated, regarding job losses [\[682\]](#).

Does the minister acknowledge that casual and temporary jobs are real jobs?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** If I could get a copy of the tabled document, I will see if it is the same page. It sounds like the same page. Let me make some observations. Those opposite are referring to the station operating model. For those who may be playing along at home, that is an approach that Queensland Rail implemented in order to best deliver the capability with the resources they have. How can they best support customers, commuters, moving around the rail network with the resources they have? After this was raised in parliament by those opposite—in fairness, it was raised in the media prior to in parliament some months ago now—Queensland Rail sought to correct the record. Rob Hill, the EGM of South-East Queensland Operations, said—

This is a false scare campaign by the RTBU ...

Those opposite came in here and echoed that despite that statement being on the record. I will make one observation. This was a process started by the member for Aspley. This station operating model and the consideration around it was started—appropriately, I might add—by the member for Aspley when he was the minister because it was about best supporting the capability within Queensland Rail and using the resources that Queensland Rail have to the fullest potential. I would have thought that is something that all members of this House would think is a worthy endeavour. I say well done; it was one of the few useful things that the member for Aspley did while he was the minister for transport and main roads.

A few of the other things he did do include not fighting for Queensland's fair share when it came to the Bruce Highway and agreeing to the federal government cutting funding to the Mooloolah River Interchange. They were some of the things he did do. At least in this case he did start the station operating model, and Queensland Rail have continued that work. It is about ensuring they deliver the best capability for passengers moving around the network.

I understand there are union concerns in relation to the station operating model, and they are right to raise those concerns. They are right to raise the concerns of their members in relation to how the decisions made by Queensland Rail can best deliver the capability, which ultimately is providing train services for Queensland. I will listen to those concerns. I raise it because the RTBU themselves have put it on their Facebook page. Just before I came in here I met with The Services Union and the RTBU about this specific issue. Just by coincidence those opposite then come in here and ask questions about it. That meeting today may have been booked in April but by coincidence they come in here and ask questions about it. Nonetheless, those opposite know there is no substance to their position.

*(Time expired)*

### Infrastructure and Housing

**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 delivering critical infrastructure and activating housing supply, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any conflicting approaches that have failed to deliver for Queensland?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I thank the member for Burleigh for the question. It was great to join him but a few weeks ago at Varsity Lakes when we were unlocking the Land Activation Program, a great program of the Crisafulli government that unlocks state owned land—something Labor tried to do with its ground lease model but failed after never getting a house delivered over the pasture for the kangaroos in Varsity Lakes. We are going to rip down the fence and we are going to bring the bulldozers and the excavators in and we are going to build, Burleigh, build right in Varsity Lakes, so I thank the member for the question.

The biggest risk to this is not only last night's federal budget, which completely ignored Queensland's infrastructure needs and wants by many Queenslanders, but the CFMEU. The CFMEU is continuing its old tricks. It has not changed. A lot has changed in the culture, but the CFMEU is still up to its old tricks. I cannot let go what I heard in the CFMEU royal commission evidence today, because the former minister, the member for McConnel, was again mentioned. In testimony given today by a former operations manager for Cairns and Far North Queensland for Workplace Health and Safety Queensland, Shannon Farrington stated—

It seems like everyone's saying the root of the problem is Ms Burgess. And yeah, I don't believe she was doing the things she did unwillingly. She certainly seemed to be very happy to be doing the things she did ...

This is Helen Burgess who used to work in the QCU with the member for McConnell but was never disclosed, remember? I take the interjection of the member shaking her head. I tabled a document two sittings ago with Helen Burgess as an admin officer when the member for McConnell was the assistant secretary of the QCU, and she is shaking her head saying no. It is there in black and white. I go on further to quote—

... but I think we need to remember ... that there are people above her that were not, to my knowledge, reining in her behaviour, or not, to my knowledge, counselling her for her behaviour, and that's Marc Dennett and DDG, deputy directors-general, all the way up to a minister.

Another day in the CFMEU royal commission and again the former minister, the member for McConnell, is right in the thick of it. This is Workplace Health and Safety up to the neck and the member for McConnell up to the neck. This is workplace health and safety inspectors saying that they were there and they pleaded; it went all the way up to the minister and nothing ever happened.

I was at Stafford this morning and there were a few Labor shadow ministers there. They were pretty depressed and gloomy. They were so glum. They were walking around glum. When the voters were coming in I was there saying, 'Look at the Crisafulli government delivering for the people of Stafford.' It begs the question: why were members of the Labor Party so glum? Here it is: the federal budget last night. We know why the Labor Party is so glum. With 'Miles' of property all the way to Murrumba, his career is in negative gear!

### Queensland Rail, Workforce

**Mr MILES:** My question is to the Minister for Transport. I table a draft media release where the words 'there are no job cuts at Queensland Rail' were removed at the direction of senior staff. Does the minister now concede that jobs are not safe?

*Tabled paper:* Media release, dated 19 March 2026, from Queensland Rail titled 'Queensland Rail shuts down false scare campaign, locks in job security and better customer service' [683].

**Mr MICKELBERG:** The only job that is not safe around here is the Leader of the Opposition's job with the performance—

**Mr O'Connor:** They're already drafting the media release!

**Mr MICKELBERG:** We know that the member for Woodridge and the member for Waterford have already drafted that media release. They have already drafted the media release that looks like their run at the tilt. In fact, one of them already had a crack at it, just to be aborted.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I call the minister.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I think I have canvassed this issue in fairly extensive detail, but I will canvass it a little bit more.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Get it out of your system, mate, while you are still the opposition leader! Come on!

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Get it out of your system while you are still there!

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Come on, mate! You'll get—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Logan!

**Mr MICKELBERG:** When you are back there, you will get a few goes. It is okay.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, you are warned. Minister, address your comments through the chair.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am asked about draft media releases and I am reminded by the Deputy Premier about a particular media release that was maybe tweaked, drafted, reframed by the then transport minister, the member for Miller—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:**—and it was not relevant that day. It may have been a question of a few billion dollars, but, nonetheless, that is their record.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Nanango!

**Mr MICKELBERG:** ‘Doctored’ may have been the terminology that was used.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Nanango, you are now on the list. I only just cautioned you.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Who could forget that moment when the then transport minister, the member for Miller, was accused of doctoring media releases because they may have had some inconvenient facts in there?

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Yes, they are not asking questions about that one. Let me place a few facts—

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I take the interjection from the member for Pine Rivers, who is on a warning.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr MICKELBERG:** She should be if she is not, Mr Speaker. I apologise, Mr Speaker.

**Mr SPEAKER:** If the noise level would drop, I might be able to hear who is actually doing the interjecting.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Let me place some facts—

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Pine Rivers is on a warning and the minister did take the interjection.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I did not hear it. The noise level was way too high. If you could keep your noise level down, you would help me—all of you.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Let us talk about the station operating model, which is the core of the issue those opposite are asking about today. Let us talk about the jobs under their station operating model. I think they started under the then transport minister, the member for Aspley.

**Mr Mellish** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** No, I actually think it is a great idea, member for Aspley, that you finally looked at how you could best productively use the resources of government to deliver the services that government should be doing. Let us have a look. QR actually has doubled the number of QR employed authorised officers under this to 32 new positions. There are 32 new authorised officers to keep staff and passengers safe. I would have thought that is something those opposite support. I would have thought that was something that an opposition that supposedly values this service would support.

*(Time expired)*

## Youth

**Mrs STOKER:** My question is for the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering for young Queenslanders, and is the minister aware of any conflicting approaches that failed to deliver for younger Queenslanders?

**Mr O’CONNOR:** I thank the member for Oodgeroo for her question and want to commend her for her advocacy for the young Queenslanders that she represents in her electorate. Young Queenslanders are of course feeling housing pressures worse than most after a decade of decline under those opposite when housing supply went nowhere near keeping pace with housing demand. Last night this side of the chamber was eagerly awaiting the delivery of the federal budget. We thought surely a Queensland federal Treasurer would be able to deliver our state its fair share. The member asked me about conflicting approaches. We were very keen to see whether federal Labor would step up to the plate and

match the big commitments this government has made to social and affordable housing, to young people struggling to get into the market, to those affected by homelessness, to building more homes for aspirational young Queenslanders to help them achieve the dream of home ownership.

Once again, this state was duded by the Labor Party. There was not one new dollar of investment to build new social and community homes in Queensland—not one dollar. We saw half a billion dollars allocated to fast-track federal environmental approvals, with housing given as a key reason for that. If you need half a billion dollars to sort out your own environment laws, you have some serious problems. We did see one thing that we could get behind, as the Deputy Premier outlined. We saw some enabling infrastructure funding—a \$2 billion local infrastructure fund, which sounds very familiar. Imitation is the greatest form of flattery because this is essentially our Residential Activation Fund.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr O'CONNOR:** Ours is bigger; I will take that interjection with this caveat: when it comes to enabling infrastructure, size matters. The federal government put on the table \$2 billion for the entire country; ours is just for Queensland. It is no surprise to see that the only housing policy the Queensland Labor opposition are putting forward in the Stafford by-election is to bring back BPIC. Who is their candidate? It is the guy who wrote the policy, Luke Richmond.

**Mr Mander:** Mr BPIC himself.

**Mr O'CONNOR:** Mr BPIC himself; I will take that interjection from the member for Everton. Labor need to understand that the way you get more homes built is not through undeliverable mandates, it is not by adding more regulation, it is not by letting the CFMEU run the show; it is by getting supply, supply, supply out of the ground. Queenslanders in Stafford have a chance this weekend to back Fiona Hammond who has a proven track record of delivery and who will have a seat at the government table to deliver more homes.

*(Time expired)*

### Queensland Rail, Workforce

**Ms LINARD:** My question is to the Minister for Transport. RTI documents reveal that senior Queensland Rail staff were 'losing it about the jobs are safe' line in a media release. Why did the minister say jobs were safe, if Queensland Rail were not comfortable telling Queenslanders that jobs were safe?

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I hear the member for Miller interjecting. I would think you would be silent with your record, mate.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Correct titles, thank you.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Sorry, Mr Speaker. You would think the member for Miller would be more circumspect with respect to the time he interjects given his record. One might say it is foolish to interject at this point in time—

**Mr Bailey:** Bumbling Brent.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** He is still going. He has learnt nothing. Labor have not changed their stripes. We know he has a bit of a glass jaw, but you would think discretion would be the better part of valour at this point for the member for Miller.

**Mr Whiting:** Come on 'Brent the Slasher', give us the answer!

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I can hear the chief cheerleader for the CFMEU, the member for Bancroft, interjecting back there, too—a CFMEU thug himself. I have a copy of the document that those opposite just tabled and it asks what Queensland Rail thought. I probably cannot talk to the mindset of Queensland Rail executives because I was not there, to be clear. That would be a question best put to them. Those opposite will have the opportunity to do that at estimates, presumably.

The question I was asked was: why was the line 'there are no job cuts at Queensland Rail' removed? In fact, it was replaced with 'that frontline jobs are secure'. It begs the question: is there any substance to this scare campaign or is this just another one of their pathetic little political games?

**Mr Whiting** interjected.

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

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Are those opposite suggesting that under their tenure in government there were no temporary separations? Are those opposite suggesting that there were no changes to the workforce under the former Labor state government—none at all? All of those jobs were secure, apparently—temporary, casuals. All the ones they are referring to were secure under the former Labor government. This is a bit like the tenuous argument that has been mounted over recent weeks from those opposite. This is another scare campaign with no substance.

Queenslanders should know that under those opposite the number of temporary separations between 2015 and 2020 was 179,426. There were 179,426 temporary separations under the Labor Party. That is their record. I encourage those opposite to come in here and explain each of those. That is Labor's record, and the people of Stafford deserve to know that.

*(Time expired)*

### **Roads and Transport Infrastructure, Funding**

**Miss DOOLAN:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. How is the Crisafulli LNP government fighting for a fair allocation of project funding, and is the minister aware of any conflicting approaches?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Hello again, Mr Speaker. I thank the member for Pumicestone for her question, impeccably timed as always. I want to thank the member for Pumicestone for her advocacy. It is tremendous to see a member for Pumicestone fighting for Queensland's fair share. In fact, since the new member for Pumicestone has come into this place we have seen delivery for the people of Pumicestone that is unlike anything they have seen before. We were able to deliver the Caboolture to Bribie Island Road—

**An opposition member:** That was already being built!

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I hear those opposite interjecting that it was already there. Yes, it was true there was a line item in there. Work had not started, though. There had been nothing spent and no construction work whatsoever. That is so typical of the Labor Party.

**Mr Mellish** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Aspley, you are on the list.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** It is so typical of the Labor Party. They think a line item gets a thing built. You actually have to start construction! We started construction. In fact, we finished that road early and under budget. Let's contrast that with what I inherited from the member for Aspley: \$6.7 billion in cost overruns in this portfolio alone; not a single line item in QTRIP under budget. That is the member for Aspley's record.

First of all, we have seen in the budget the federal government cut funding to Inland Rail—stopping at Parkes. In fact, the federal minister thinks that freight rail stops at the Queensland border. I have news for the federal minister—we actually have freight rail in Queensland, as well. In fact, it goes all the way to Mount Isa and right up the coast. We would encourage the federal government to invest in that instead of pouring money into a failed Labor Party in Victoria and underwriting their failures on the Suburban Rail Loop. That is an extra \$3.8 billion at the cost of Queenslanders and at the cost of the people of Pumicestone because of incompetent Labor governments—as we had here for the last decade and as they still have in Victoria.

Instead, what we have seen in the federal budget that was handed down last night is no funding for additional rail infrastructure in Queensland. There is no funding for the Wave stage 2. There is no funding to advance the Coomera Connector. In fact, the only commitment that is there is for a 50-50 funding split—a shifty deal trying to walk back the 80-20 funding split we fought so hard for—for the Bruce Highway. We will not stand for it. We will fight for Queensland's fair share. My message to 'Shifty Jim' in Canberra—broken promises.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Use correct titles.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** That is his title, Mr Speaker—

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:**—not in this place, it is not. 'Shifty Jim the federal Treasurer', that is what Queenslanders know him as. Broken promises, writ large. To be frank, Queenslanders deserve better than what they saw last night in the federal budget.

## Queensland Rail, Media

**Mr MARTIN:** My question is to the Minister for Transport. I table an RTI of messages sent by Queensland Rail media advisers which complains about Channel 9 running an RTBU story and not a Queensland Rail proactive story. Why was Queensland Rail focused on promoting themselves and the government while station staff were finding out their jobs and hours of work were not safe?

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, regarding question time strategy [684].

*Tabled paper:* Extract of text messages, dated 19 March, regarding Queensland Rail [685].

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I look forward to seeing the document in due course. I make the observation that, should those opposite actually do any preparation and be ready for estimates this year, these are questions they can put to Queensland Rail staff through the estimates process. I cannot speak for the mindset of Queensland Rail executives, but I will say this—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I hear those opposite interjecting. Those opposite need to be careful. Some of those opposite have apologised already for misleading this House and I am more than happy for them to come in here and do it again.

Let's work through this station operating model question again. That is at the core of what we are talking about here. Those opposite conveniently avoid the fact that the very unions they represent made representations to Fair Work in relation to this issue and they subsequently withdrew those representations to Fair Work. In fact, the Services Union have voiced support for Queensland Rail's approach to the station operating model. As I said earlier, I met with both the RTBU and the Services Union and we discussed some of these issues after it was implemented on 5 May. I would welcome continued engagement in a constructive sense with any unions that want to work constructively to deliver outcomes for Queenslanders. Unlike those opposite, we will work through those issues in a calm and methodical way and address those appropriately.

In fact, it is true that the Services Union—and, I might add, the TSU and the RTBU—raised issues with Fair Work. They subsequently withdrew them and they indicated that they were comfortable with the approach taken. While they wished to talk about how this approach is rolled out across the network, they have also gained comfort by engaging with Queensland Rail in relation to the security tenure of their membership and those who are employed by Queensland Rail. As I said at the outset, we want to see Queensland Rail staff well paid, productive and delivering the services that Queenslanders deserve.

While I am on my feet, I take the opportunity to talk about some of the commentary that has been in the media and the approach that has been taken at times. I want to make it very clear that Queensland Rail will be at the bargaining table dealing with issues in good faith, and I expect the unions to do so as representatives of the workforce. We want to ensure that those jobs are secure, well paid and productive. I am sure we can work through those issues in particular.

Those opposite have come in here trying to create a facade based on no substance. Let us talk about the number of FTEs employed under the station operating model. The number of FTEs employed before the station operating model was 855. The number after the station operating model has been implemented is 855 when it comes to the station staff. That should tell Queenslanders everything they need to know about those opposite.

## Health Services

**Ms DOOLEY:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering on its commitment of health services where you need them, and is the minister aware of any conflicting approaches that fail to deliver for Queenslanders?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I thank the member for Redcliffe for her question. The member for Redcliffe was a nurse before she came into this place. She is well qualified to talk on matters health related and is always showing an interest in them. I thank her for her work on the committee and her work generally for the Redcliffe community. She is, indeed, the best representative for Redcliffe we have seen in many a long year—far and away—including a former health minister. That is not saying terribly much about the former health minister, but certainly says a lot about you, member for Redcliffe. Well done.

Labor's plan to expand the Redcliffe Hospital was undeliverable, as I have said many times. It was delayed by at least two years; the cost blew out by more than a billion dollars; it was unsafe for health workers—no clear entry and exit points; it had no paediatric outpatients; and it had no mortuary. As sad as it might be, you do need a mortuary in a hospital. That does not even cover off on the scar

tree issue that was unable to be resolved by Labor, at a cost of up to \$50,000 a day while it remained unresolved. We are fixing that problem. We are rescuing the Redcliffe Hospital. We are delivering at least 210 new overnight beds by 2032—six more than was promised by Labor.

I am asked about conflicting approaches. A conflicting approach is last night's budget by the federal Treasurer, Jim Chalmers. To summarise, the federal government has abandoned older Queenslanders and older Australians. Unlike those opposite, who gave up the fight for 50-50 funding under the National Health Reform Agreement as soon as their mates in Canberra got into the job, we are continuing to take up the cudgels. I have written to Minister Mark Butler and raised the issue of stranded Australians many times, including to outline the need to continue to make investments in Queensland. Unfortunately, that need has not been answered by Jim Chalmers for Queenslanders. The Prime Minister promised action on stranded Australians—he said it was a Commonwealth responsibility—but a reannouncement of 5,000 aged-care places will not even touch the sides of the 30,000 that are going to be needed in Queensland alone over the next decade.

To add insult to injury, more than \$3 billion has been cut through the private health insurance subsidy scheme for over-65s. This is older Queenslanders who are prudently investing in their healthcare needs and reducing the pressure on the system. Mark Butler said that for every \$1 an older Australian spends on private health insurance they get back \$3. This cut means that every older Australian who can no longer afford private health insurance will need to be supported by Queensland taxpayers for \$3. This is a disgrace. Labor at a federal level has let Queensland down again.

### Gas Royalties

**Mr BERKMAN:** My question is to the Premier. Big gas companies are ripping us off, paying less tax than the average Queenslander. Will this government do what Albanese's has failed to do and tax big gas properly by raising royalties?

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There is an imputation or inference contained within that question and I ask you to consider that and either ask for it to be rephrased or rule the question out of order.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will get some advice on that. Member for Maiwar, could you repeat that question?

**Mr BERKMAN:** I am more than happy to. I would welcome any clarification the Leader of the House can give us as to what the imputation is.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Just repeat the question for me.

**Mr BERKMAN:** To the Premier: big gas companies are ripping us off, paying less tax than the average Queenslander. Will this government do what Albanese's has failed to do and tax big gas properly by raising royalties?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, it is that first sentence that you might have to rephrase for me.

**Mr BERKMAN:** If you are happy for me to rephrase it, I will go right ahead.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Try. This is your chance.

**Mr BERKMAN:** Queenslanders are being sold short by big gas companies in Queensland who pay less tax than the average Queenslander. Will this government do what Albanese's has failed to do and tax big gas companies by raising royalties?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, I will allow the question. Obviously there is no way to authenticate it, so you have a bit of latitude in how you answer it.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Am I the only one who sees the irony in the member for Maiwar, who has fought all his life against the gas industry, asking a question about revenue from the gas industry? It is like a vegan saying that the steak was overcooked. I say to the honourable member: right now there is only one state doing heavy lifting on gas—only one state. It is not New South Wales, because for decades they have refused to do the hard yards. It is not Victoria, because that is an administration so far gone that there is not even a hint of economic security and sovereignty. It is this state.

There is only one thing I will agree with the member on—that is, this state needs to get its fair share because it is this state that has taken the hard decisions. It is this state that implemented a GasFields Commission when we needed one to get people to believe in the industry, to make sure communities like Dalby and Chinchilla could get some benefit. It was this state. Do members know what happened on the back of it? Those communities came on the journey and they saw an opportunity for their kids. It was this state that was prepared to back people who put on high-vis and go to work—

people the member does not support and people the member does not represent. There are a lot of people sitting on this side of the House who do. There are people on this side of the House who have made a living in those industries and will back them every day of the week.

I say to the Treasurer in Canberra and the honourable Prime Minister: when you go overseas to do deals to secure the petrol and the diesel that we need because this state has not been prepared to invest, remember two things: firstly, it is Queensland gas that you are horse trading with; and, secondly, while you are begging for fuel, there is a state that is prepared to do the heavy lifting and get it for you. All we want from those opposite is to get out of the way, because before the crisis it was this state that was prepared to explore. Before the crisis it was this state that was prepared to sign leases to provide long-term storage opportunities.

**Mr BERKMAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question is to do with whether royalties would be raised to get a fair share from gas companies.

**Mr SPEAKER:** You are talking about relevance. I allowed a bit of latitude when allowing the question at all.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** It is only this state that is prepared to do the planning arrangements that are needed to give people the opportunity to bring a refinery back to sovereignty in this country, because for the past 30 years in this country we have celebrated knocking them over rather than building them and running them.

**Mr BERKMAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There is still not a word from the Premier about royalties, with 13 seconds left on the clock.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. You have already ruled that the Premier is being relevant. There was a lot of latitude allowed. I suggest to you that the member for Maiwar is starting to be disorderly in relation to that.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I allowed latitude given the question. The Premier has 12 seconds left to round out his response.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** The royalties come from Queensland and they deserve to belong to Queensland. After two minutes and 50 seconds of attack, I will say one thing about the member for Maiwar: at least he has the ticker to ask me a question.

### Federal Budget

**Mr KRAUSE:** My question is to the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership. Can the Treasurer update the House on whether Queensland received its fair share in the federal budget and is he aware of any who failed to advocate for Queensland?

**Mr JANETZKI:** I thank the honourable member for the question. He already knows the answer. The answer is, no, we did not get our fair share. The question has a second part: who did not advocate for it? Those opposite did not advocate for it! What we do not see in the budget and what would have been our fair share from the federal Treasurer are things like Wave stage 2 and 3—and I will stand down the transport minister and give him a rest for a little while—the Mount Isa rail line and the Dohles Rocks Road-Gateway upgrade, which was originally going to be an 80-20 funding split but now it looks like it will be 50-50 because the federal Labor government is walking away from it.

Did anyone opposite or any federal Labor Party members advocate for these projects? The answer is, no. Did the Leader of the Opposition pick up the phone and talk to someone in Canberra? I am guessing that is a no. If we look to the federal Labor members of parliament, I saw on social media more of them throwing leaves around in Canberra than I heard them talking about projects for Queensland. They are more interested in the budget trees than in delivering for the budget here in Queensland.

I think it was the Deputy Premier who alluded to who is saying what about the federal budget. Who is advocating for it? We know that the opposition leader is not saying a word. With three days to go till the Stafford by-election, who can be surprised that the Leader of the Opposition would not want anything to do with this budget and how it has let Stafford and Queensland down. The member for Waterford had something to say about the federal budget but the former treasurer and member for Woodridge has not said a word about the federal budget. He does not just share an electorate with the federal Treasurer; he shares a wall! Their electorate offices adjoin each other, but even he is not saying anything.

However, there is something that those opposite are advocating for today. I have some breaking news for my colleagues: those opposite have mistakenly tabled their question time strategy for today and I have a copy of it here. They have mistakenly tabled it. They are that hopeless, that disorganised

and that incompetent. The person taking up the advocacy by asking the next question today—unless they can quickly pivot, which they have not shown much propensity for—is the member for Kurwongbah with a question for the member for Buderim. The question after that will be from the member for Lytton and then, to round it out, the member for Ipswich. They are that hopeless that they cannot even get a question time strategy right.

### Queensland Rail, Social Media

**Mr SPEAKER:** I call the member for Kurwongbah.

**Mr KING:** Thank you, Speaker. I am sure you have a list of who is coming after me as well.

**Mr Bleijie:** You don't normally give it to your opponents!

**Mr KING:** If the Deputy Premier would allow me to ask it, my question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. I table an RTI where Queensland Rail media advisers were discussing responding to social media posts of Labor members of parliament. Did the minister authorise Queensland Rail trolling Queenslanders on social media?

*Tabled paper:* Extract of emails, dated 20 March 2026, regarding Queensland Rail media report [\[686\]](#).

**Mr MICKELBERG:** There is one well-known troll over there and it is not the member for Kurwongbah; it is the former failed transport minister, the member for Miller. I thank the member for Kurwongbah for his question. I can categorically state that I had no involvement whatsoever with Queensland Rail responding to what they have said was a baseless scare campaign by those opposite. It would be inappropriate for any minister to seek to direct Queensland Rail staff other than through a ministerial directive and I would most certainly not do that. The answer to the question of the member for Kurwongbah is, no.

I will talk to the issue raised by the Treasurer. I suspect it was not a mistake to table the question list. I reckon they were trying to prove that they had a strategy today because we know that there have been plenty of instances, not least of which was yesterday, when those opposite have come in here with no strategy whatsoever, just as they did in government, listlessly drifting from issue to issue without a genuine plan to deliver for Queenslanders. As a consequence, they have no record to stand on. When they got to 2024, they had no record to stand on and Queenslanders passed judgement on that. On Saturday, the people of Stafford will similarly have an opportunity to pass judgement. They will also be able to pass judgement on a government that is delivering for the people of Stafford.

Just last week, I was with Fiona Hammond at an intersection that those opposite said was too difficult to upgrade. In fact, I have a letter written by Yvette D'Ath when she was the minister for health and ambulance services. It relates to upgrades at Hamilton Road, recognising that there was a fatal crash there in 2018. This is a very serious issue. Given that I am on my feet, I place on the record the position that was articulated. There was a request from council to partner with the state government to fund this important road upgrade because a life had been lost. It was related to state infrastructure in relation to the hospital. The response states—

As you state in your letter, MNH—  
that is, Metro North Health—

have advised council that it does not have funds available to contribute to the Hamilton Road upgrade. Previous discussions with the Department of Transport and Main Roads have also noted that Hamilton Road is a local road, not a state road, and therefore are unable to contribute to this cost.

It begs the question: how is it that our government is partnering with council to deliver a \$10 million upgrade to help upgrade that particular stretch of road? That is something that Fiona Hammond campaigned and advocated for as a councillor. In fact, when he was the local member, Dr Anthony Lynham identified this as an issue that should be fixed, but there was nothing to fix the issue from those opposite when they were in government. Those opposite are completely devoid of substance on this issue or any other and the people of Stafford will have their say.

### Cairns Airport, Transport Infrastructure

**Ms JAMES:** My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Cairns residents have been calling for more transport options to access Cairns Airport, our gateway to the world. Can the minister provide an update on what solutions are progressing and why it has taken until this Crisafulli LNP government to deliver for Cairns and the Far North?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I thank the member for Barron River for her question. What a tremendous advocate the member for Barron River is, delivering for the people of the Far North. The new member for Barron River, who has been in this place about 18 months, has delivered more than the tired member

for Barron River she replaced. The member for Barron River has been advocating for many things in her electorate, including funding for the Cairns Western Arterial Road—one of the few areas we saw funding allocated to last night by the federal government. I welcome that funding and we will get on with the job. As opposed to those opposite, who are fond of putting up a bit of hoarding and talking about an issue, we will actually build things. Whether it is delivering the Cairns Western Arterial Road, fixing the Barron River bridge, after those opposite put it in the too-hard basket, or public transport investments and improvements in the Far North, we will get on with the job.

The member for Barron River has been advocating particularly for boosted bus services between the airport and key destinations in Cairns. In fact, yesterday the member for Barron River was able to brief me on the outcome of her community consultation. There were more than 600 survey responses, and 96 per cent of those survey responses supported a Cairns Airport bus service—an overwhelming response. The survey showed that the community wants a frequent and reliable timetable that connects with flight times, and it identified that a bus is seen as critical to tourism. It begs the question: what did the member for Cairns do, given he is the former minister for tourism? Did he deliver this? No. Like so many issues, those opposite were devoid of action.


By contrast, the member for Barron River has been in here fighting for better services in her community, and I look forward to continuing to engage with the member for Barron River, the Cairns council, operators in Cairns and the airport to advance this worthy improvement to public transport services in Cairns. While I am on my feet, it would be remiss of me not to say that under the LNP's permanent 50-cent fares we have seen a 35 per cent increase in bus patronage in Cairns.

*(Time expired)*

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

## STRENGTHENING PROTECTIONS FOR QUEENSLAND WORKERS AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (3.42 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991, the Corrective Services Act 2006, the Criminal Code and the Human Rights Act 2019 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and the statement of compatibility with human rights, and I nominate the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Strengthening Protections for Queensland Workers Amendment Bill 2026 [\[687\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Strengthening Protections for Queensland Workers Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes [\[688\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Strengthening Protections for Queensland Workers Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[689\]](#).

I present this bill to restore respect-at-work laws for Queensland workers because it is clear that the LNP government is not interested in progressing these important reforms and because Queensland workers, our hardworking public servants and our local government workers need these protections.

Enacted by every other state, respect-at-work legislation is based on the *Respect@Work* report that was published back in March 2020, and that report was the result of an inquiry by the Australian Human Rights Commission, tasked with reviewing responses to workplace sexual harassment, because facing sexual harassment at work is the reality for too many Queenslanders.

The Australian Human Rights Commission reports that one in three Australians have been sexually harassed at work. Too many people still go to work carrying the weight of humiliation, fear and violation. Nearly 40 per cent of women have endured sexually suggestive comments in the workplace, almost one in three have faced intrusive questions about their bodies or private lives, too many have experienced intimidating staring or leering and more than a quarter have been subjected to unwelcome touching. These are not isolated incidents. Half of these incidents are repeated and, of those, half are ongoing for more than a year. Behind every one of these statistics is a person who has felt diminished, unsafe or powerless in a place where they should simply be able to do their job, free from harassment and intimidation.

That groundbreaking *Respect@Work* report had 55 recommendations targeted at every level of government, directed towards eliminating sexual harassment. One of the most significant reforms contained in the bill is the introduction of a positive duty that requires employers to take reasonable and

proportionate measures to eliminate or prevent discrimination or sexual harassment. That *Respect@Work* report found that Queensland's existing laws place too much responsibility on individuals to enforce their own rights through a complaint—that is, after the harm has already occurred.

Having a positive duty would have helped a worker like Mira, who worked as a cleaner. During the course of her work, she was subjected to repeated sexual violence perpetrated by her boss. She attempted to navigate multiple systems in search of support and justice, including engaging with sexual violence support services and the criminal justice system. It was only much later, during an unrelated legal appointment, that she was informed for the first time she may have been able to bring a claim for sexual harassment, but by that stage the limitation period had expired. Mira's story, and so many other Queenslanders' stories, shows that too often the burden falls on individuals who have experienced harm to pursue justice. This kind of conduct, though, should never be allowed to happen, and I remind the House again that this positive duty, which requires all of our workplaces to prevent sexual harassment, could be law right now if those opposite—if the Attorney-General, if the Premier, if the LNP government—had not indefinitely paused these protections.

Who does not want to see greater protections for workers at work when it comes to sexual harassment? Who does not want to see those protections? Every one of those members opposite: that is who does not want to see those protections. They could have implemented these protections already. Every day this LNP government delays these reforms is another day workers like Mira go to work without protection. This is exactly what Brittany Higgins said about this government's decision. She said—

Pausing this legislation indefinitely, without any clear explanation, just further proves that the state government isn't taking the concerns of the women in their state seriously. This shouldn't be a partisan issue. Every day the Crisafulli government delays taking action, more Queenslanders face risk at work.

It is extraordinary, after everything she has been through, that Brittany Higgins had to come forward to fight for basic protections for Queenslanders because the LNP government has failed so badly to stand up for their safety, dignity and rights.

Our public servants—our hardworking local government workers, our teachers, our nurses, our police officers, our firefighters, our prison officers, our departmental staff—who support this government every day are currently not protected by this positive duty. I recently met with a Queensland Teachers' Union delegate who said that every year she has worked as a teacher—she has been a teacher for nine years—she has experienced some form of sexual harassment. That is just one story from hundreds of thousands of public servants in our state who are deliberately not being protected by this Premier and this Attorney-General. To all of our incredible public servants, many of whom I know are listening and watching parliament right now, I say: you deserve these protections. Labor is fighting for you to have these protections. It is shameful that the LNP have continued to deny you these protections.

I read the Working for Queensland survey data. Our Public Service's confidence in workplace culture is slipping, dropping 10 percentage points. Staff are losing faith in how harassment and discrimination complaints are handled under this government. This bill is an opportunity for those opposite and this government to back those workers and demonstrate that these issues will be taken seriously.

The bill also introduces and modernises a number of protected attributes under the Anti-Discrimination Act. It provides stronger protections for some of our most vulnerable: victim-survivors of domestic and family violence, people experiencing homelessness, people with irrelevant medical records and people with potential pregnancy. The Queensland Council of Unions have shared with me so many examples of workers who would benefit from these protections. One of those is Lorna. Lorna and her children recently fled domestic and family violence. Despite being entitled to family and domestic violence leave to attend legal appointments and secure safe accommodation, Lorna's employer claimed she posed a health and safety risk to staff. She lost her job. Workers should be protected under these laws. They should be supported, not punished for seeking safety.

The bill also strengthens our vilification laws by expanding protections to include sex, age and impairment. It also modernises the law to better capture online abuse and social media conduct. I note that during the brief consultation on the government's rushed hate speech laws, which were passed earlier this year, many stakeholders pointed out that Queensland already has carefully considered anti-vilification reforms ready to go, but they have been indefinitely paused by those opposite.

I am pleased to be joined in the gallery today by community organisations, advocates, unions and their delegates who understand how important these reforms are to so many. These are people who have experienced, or work every day with Queenslanders who have experienced, harassment,

discrimination, vilification and unsafe workplace cultures. They know that the reforms contained in this bill are sensible and the result of years of extensive consultation and expert advice. In fact, they are law in every other state but Queensland. The Labor opposition is bringing this bill back before the House because safe and respectful workplaces should never be treated as optional. No-one should have to choose between their job and their safety.

Following last-minute advice received from the Parliamentary Service, I am advised this bill will require a procedural motion in order to progress. I call on the LNP and every member in this House to support this procedural motion so that this bill can properly go before a committee and workers can talk to us about their experiences of sexual harassment at work. I urge them not to stand in the way of these important reforms. To stand in the way of this procedural motion to allow this bill to take its course would be another example of the Crisafulli LNP government refusing to stand up for workers and for women, who disproportionately experience sexual harassment. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading



**Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (3.51 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. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (3.51 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I seek leave to move a motion without notice.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

#### AYES, 38:

**ALP, 34**—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, 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.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

#### 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.

## STRENGTHENING PROTECTIONS AGAINST VIOLENT WORKPLACE INCIDENTS AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction



**Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (3.56 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Safety in Recreational Water Activities Act 2011 and the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Strengthening Protections Against Violent Workplace Incidents Amendment Bill 2026 [690].

*Tabled paper:* Strengthening Protections Against Violent Workplace Incidents Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes [691].

*Tabled paper:* Strengthening Protections Against Violent Workplace Incidents Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights [692].

Queenslanders deserve to feel safe and be safe in their places of work, and every woman deserves to know that violence, intimidation and assault will never be tolerated in her workplace. It is difficult to imagine how traumatic and devastating it would be to experience sexual assault, physical violence or threats at your place of work. That is why the Labor opposition is taking action and introducing a package of reforms today which will strengthen the protection for Queensland workers, in particular Queensland women.

This bill builds on the previous bill I introduced. It widens the scope of notifiable incidents under the Work Health and Safety Act. It widens the scope of 'notifiable incident' to include a new violent incident definition, which is described as one or more of the following that exposes a person to serious risk of psychological harm, including: a sexual assault or suspected sexual assault; a physical assault, including with bodily fluids; deliberate deprivation of a person's liberty without lawful authority; and a threat of sexual or physical assault, or a threat to deprive a person of the person's liberty, if there is reasonable belief that at the time the threat is made the person making the threat intends to carry out the threat and has the means to carry out the threat.

This new provision has been taken from the Model Work Health and Safety Legislation Amendment (Incident Notification) 2025, which is based on consultation which occurred across multiple jurisdictions a few years ago and which, I am advised, was agreed to by a majority of workplace health and safety ministers in mid-2024. The new provisions contained in this bill mean employers will have an obligation to notify the regulator if sexual assault or physical assault occurs in the workplace.

Too many women have suffered in silence. Too many workers have felt unsupported. For too long these incidents have not received the serious attention they deserve. These are important reforms—reforms that will continue to protect Queensland workers and, in particular, women in the workplace. They are sensible reforms—ones that should not be delayed. I look forward to all members of parliament supporting this bill as a strong package of reforms to protect Queensland workers. Queensland workers are counting on this parliament to stand with them. I urge every member of this House to support these vital protections. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (3.59 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

### Referral to State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee

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

## LIQUID FUEL SUPPLY (ETHANOL AND OTHER BIOFUELS MANDATE) AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (4.00 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Liquid Fuel Supply Act 1984 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Liquid Fuel Supply (Ethanol and Other Biofuels Mandate) Amendment Bill 2026 [\[693\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Liquid Fuel Supply (Ethanol and Other Biofuels Mandate) Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes [\[694\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Liquid Fuel Supply (Ethanol and Other Biofuels Mandate) Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[695\]](#).

I rise to introduce the Liquid Fuel Supply (Ethanol and Other Biofuels Mandate) Amendment Bill 2026. The bill is about one thing: securing Queensland's fuel future. It amends the Liquid Fuel Supply Act 1984 to establish clear, enforceable minimum biofuel content requirements across all fuel types. First, it requires that E10 fuel must contain a minimum of nine per cent ethanol by volume. If fuel is sold as E10, it must actually deliver a genuine ethanol blend, not the watered-down version we are seeing under the current system. Second, it requires all other petrol blends, excluding diesel, to contain at least

one per cent ethanol, consistent with the national fuel standard. Third, it requires diesel blends to contain a minimum of two per cent biodiesel, with scope to go up to five per cent, again aligning with national fuel standards.

This bill strengthens compliance and enforcement of Queensland's biofuel mandate. It removes uncertainty, closes loopholes, increases penalties and introduces clear operational requirements for how fuel is blended and sold. It improves transparency for consumers, particularly around E10, and it supports the growth of Queensland's biofuels industry while strengthening our fuel security. The current mandate is weak, poorly enforced and riddled with exemptions. What was meant to be a meaningful policy has been reduced to a suggestion which does not deliver fuel security. Most Queenslanders think that when they fill up with E10 they are getting a 10 per cent ethanol blend, but in reality the average ethanol content barely exceeds three per cent. This bill fixes that and ensures that when fuel is labelled it meets the standards. It ensures compliance is real, not optional, and it puts the onus back where it belongs: on fuel companies to prove they are doing the right thing. Without enforcement, law means nothing. That is why this bill introduces significantly stronger penalties, particularly for repeat offenders, because if there is no consequence there is no compliance.

This bill is not just about enforcement; it is about opportunity. We are a resource-rich state. We have the feedstock, sugar and grain industries and regional communities crying out for jobs and investment. Instead of backing our own industries, we continue to rely on imported fuel. Australia imports over 90 per cent of its refined fuel. That means we are at the mercy of international markets, shipping routes and geopolitical instability. The current conflict in the Middle East has exposed just how fragile global fuel supply chains are. Every time there is instability, prices spike and Queenslanders pay the price at the bowser. Businesses, especially in regional Queensland, are crippled by rising transport costs. The question is: do we keep relying on overseas supply or do we take control of our own fuel security?

While our governments lack the intestinal fortitude, other countries have already established significant ethanol and biofuel mandates and are increasing their mandates. India is pushing towards a 20 per cent ethanol blend nationwide, while Brazil is already operating at around 30 per cent. Indonesia is expanding biodiesel production. China is rolling out ethanol blends across its fuel market. Meanwhile, our governments are frightened about getting the oil and fuel companies offside and enforcing the modest mandate we already have.

We have also heard a lot of hype around new oil developments, particularly the Taroom Trough. I am not opposed to it but, to be honest, this is not new and has been talked about since the 1960s. Even if it is delivered, it could take years to develop, extract and refine, and that is assuming it is commercially viable, because it may be so deep that it requires fracking for extraction.

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

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Pause the clock. Minister for Local Government, what is your point of order?

**Ms LEAHY:** The Taroom Trough is producing now, so to say it is not is misleading parliament.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That is not a point of order, Minister. There is no point of order.

**Mr KNUTH:** What we see from the state government is a political smokescreen and big announcements to grab headlines. The state government has pulled a swifty by putting it out there that the Taroom Trough is a saviour and then calling on the Albanese-led Labor government to make this happen. They know full well the feds will avoid the Taroom Trough like the plague, so this gives the state government an easy out by blaming the feds and moving on to the next headline.

Meanwhile, there is an immediate solution sitting right in front of us in the local production of ethanol and biofuels. Industries have made it clear that they can immediately scale up ethanol production by around 240 million litres. Biodiesel production could increase by 100 million litres, but what are we doing? We are exporting our raw materials. Last year we exported more than 150 million litres of ethanol derived from grain and sugar crops. We also currently export hundreds of millions of dollars worth of tallow to Singapore, where it is turned into biodiesel. We export millions of tonnes of canola to Europe, where, again, they turn it into biodiesel.

Incredibly, we even export biodiesel itself because we are not using it here for our own benefit. Some 600,000 litres of biodiesel was shipped to Asia in the past two months while our Prime Minister was touring the region trying to secure petrol and diesel guarantees. Every month we are sending ethanol in ships to Asia and they are passing carriers with refined fuel and oil coming into Australia. It does not make sense. The rich oil and fuel companies are laughing at our stupidity of relying on them

for our fuel security rather than becoming self-sufficient. This is not just a missed opportunity; it is a failure of back-to-back governments. This could be a multibillion dollar industry in Queensland that supports regional jobs, strengthens our economy and reduces our reliance on imports, but it requires leadership.

The KAP has been consistent in its support of ethanol for decades. The LNP have also supported ethanol mandates in the past when in opposition. There has been bipartisan recognition of the benefits, so this should not be controversial, but every time the LNP get into government they throw out a smokescreen and dodge the ethanol mandate like the plague.

I also want to address the misinformation that continues to circulate about ethanol. There are still claims that ethanol damages vehicle engines or is incompatible with vehicles. That is simply not true. The Institute of Automotive Mechanical Engineers recently released a paper dispelling these myths. They clearly state that one of the most enduring misconceptions in the Australian market is that ethanol damages engines in fuel systems. This belief is outdated, incomplete and technically inaccurate when applied to the modern e-fuel compliant vehicles. The majority of vehicles currently operating on Australian roads are E10 compatible by design. This reflects global vehicle engineering standards, not political decisions. Importantly, ethanol's solvent properties are often mischaracterised as harmful. In reality, they can remove long-accumulated deposits in fuel systems. I table that paper.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the Institute of Automotive Mechanical Engineers, dated 14 April 2026, titled 'Ethanol-Blended Fuels: A Technical Imperative for Australia's Fuel Security and Automotive Future' [\[696\]](#).

These myths have been used for years by the major oil companies to stall progress as they are scared of losing their market share. There is also a broader national interest here. Expanding biofuel blending increases our effective fuel reserves. It provides additional supply security and reduces our exposure to international disruptions, which is critical in our current climate of global uncertainty.

I note there has been significant industry support for stronger ethanol mandates. I table a recent combined media release from the National Farmers' Federation, Canegrowers and Australian Sugar Manufacturers. These influential agriculture bodies have united in their call for an immediate national mandate for ethanol and biodiesel to boost fuel security, support regional jobs and unlock value-adding opportunities in Australian agriculture.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of documents, dated 5 May 2026 and 4 May 2026 respectively, regarding a national ethanol and biodiesel mandate [\[697\]](#).

Recently, we have even seen government members support the KAP's stance on ethanol and publicly acknowledge the need to strengthen the mandate, and I have already tabled those articles. This bill strengthens the existing framework and closes the loopholes. It enforces compliance and ensures that the mandate actually works. I say to the government—particularly the regional members—back your local industries and Queensland jobs. Support stronger ethanol mandates and do not just talk about it to grab a media headline. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading



**Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (4.11 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 Governance, Energy and Finance Committee


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee.

## RESOURCES SAFETY AND HEALTH QUEENSLAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from 12 May (see p. 1323), on motion of Mr Last—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (4.11 pm): I would love to stand here and call out the very interesting bit of legislation that was just introduced. Of course, I will not pre-empt debate on the bill introduced by the member for Waterford, but there is some serious overlap with what I had already written with regard to violence and violent incidents in the workplace. The resources regulator has oversight of Queensland's mining sector, so I will reflect on the comments the member for Waterford just made about ensuring workers feel safe when they turn up to work. I will also reflect on some of the comments made by the member for Greenslopes. He said this bill establishes a board under Resources Safety & Health Queensland and that it is botched and deeply flawed. Surely, the member for Greenslopes would not consider legislation drafted and enacted by a Labor government as botched—that is, the Fair Work Act 2009, which was introduced by the then Rudd Labor government.

Yesterday we heard the member for McConnel—the self-admitted shadow minister for the CFMEU—ask, 'What is the government afraid of?' I can tell you what this government is afraid of—as I would hope is the member for Waterford, given the contribution she just made. The Crisafulli government is afraid for the mental and physical wellbeing of workers in the Queensland resources sector who are subject to abuse at the hands of militant union members. This brings me back to the Fair Work Act 2009. I table a report by the Fair Work Ombudsman on the judgement of Justice Rangiah of the Federal Court against officials of the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union for conduct which included the verbal abuse of workers at the Oakey Creek coalmine near Emerald. These union officials included Stephen Smyth, the then district president of the Queensland branch of the mining and energy division, and Jade Ingham, the divisional branch assistant secretary of the Queensland and Northern Territory construction and general branch of the CFMMEU.

Justice Rangiah found that these union officials engaged in conduct which was meant to intimidate workers, and in order to do so used aggressive and offensive language. This included Stephen Smyth calling a coalmine worker—I will not be able to repeat this in the House because it is unparliamentary—'a ... scab' and Jade Ingham stating to a coalmine worker, 'You're a ...'. Even the second word in that is unparliamentary too, so I cannot repeat that here. Justice Rangiah went on to state that contraventions of the Fair Work Act—

... arising from the verbal abuse spanned a period of approximately three months ... During that period, workers were verbally abused on their way to and from work each day.

So are we going to see those opposite call out this behaviour from members of the CFMEU or are they going to keep on being mates with them? Justice Rangiah continued—

The repeated, sustained and violent nature of the abuse would have had a detrimental effect on the mental wellbeing of the workers.

Last night we heard what the member for McConnel's attitude towards this behaviour is. The member for McConnel proudly stated in this chamber that the CFMEU represents workers and their industry. The member made derogatory references to members on this side of the House in relation to the agriculture sector, using the phrase 'those who sit there and claim to represent'. We know whom the member for McConnel sits there and represents, but we will do whatever we can to ensure that neither Stephen Smyth, Jade Ingham nor the rest of their ilk are ever again allowed to abuse workers in the resources sector.

I hope those opposite take note and that, when we get to other legislation they might want to debate one day in this House, they also call out the behaviour of their mates who turn up and help them get elected. Many of the members opposite have stood in this House and thanked members of the CFMEU for helping them get elected. They sit in their seats because of the CFMEU, and that is the behaviour they accept. Frankly, it is not good enough. Safety is never set and forget—

**Mr McDonald** interjected.

**Mr HEAD:** I am sorry, member for Lockyer; I have a bit more to go. Safety is never set and forget. I know that when it comes to coalmine safety and mine safety, explosives, the petroleum and gas sector, quarrying and hard rock mining there are always new environments to be explored that come with their own safety challenges and so the safety laws around those industries might need to be updated.

**Mr McDonald:** You sound like you know a bit about mine safety.

**Mr HEAD:** I take that interjection from the member for Lockyer. I might have been a coalmine worker who worked in both New South Wales and Queensland. When I worked in Queensland I was working under those opposite, and I spoke about some of that here yesterday when I was speaking on a motion moved by the member opposite. What I saw as far as how the regulators in both states act was like comparing apples and oranges. It is clear that we need to do a lot better in Queensland. Thankfully, we have a minister who is now committed to working with the industry and ensuring we not

only progress this industry but also, importantly, protect the workers of the industry so they can go home to their families each and every night. We want to ensure those families never get a phone call that could only be horrendous to receive. As I have said, I worked at a mine site where families received similar phone calls.

We need to get on with the job and deliver this to ensure RSHQ is accountable to a board of technical experts who have a wide range of expertise and that the regulator is running properly. At every coalmine I go to I hear concerns about how the regulator is not proactive, does not apply the risk focus appropriately and needs to work with industry to deliver the outcomes of improved safety, on all of those sites.

With regard to comments about the commissioner's role, those opposite were talking about how important it is. The reality is that they had the position vacant for over a year. When they did finally fill it, the new recruit was only there for 14 working days and he resigned. It was vacant for a very long time. You only need to read the report of Susan Johnston to understand how that role was not effective in terms of safety in Queensland. Now we are going to have a board with a good set of expertise to ensure that we are progressing safety in a positive light.

I table the contribution of the resources sector to Queensland: 549,000 jobs are supported by the sector and it contributes \$115 billion to the Queensland economy. A lot of that goes to Callide with about 11,000 local jobs being supported thanks to the mining industry in the electorate I represent. I am proud to represent the electorate of Callide. A lot of hardworking people live and work across the electorate and receive good incomes from this industry.


*Tabled paper:* Article from the Fair Work Ombudsman, dated 20 September 2024, titled 'Mining and Energy Union and union officials penalised \$657,105 for "intimidating and threatening" conduct' [698].

We are going to get on with the job and ensure we have a risk-based focus with a regulator that is proactive. The comprehensive report is very damning, very thorough and good. We have taken those recommendations and responded accordingly, but we know that there is plenty more work to do. This legislation is a fantastic step in the right direction to get that regulator back to where it needs to be to deliver better safety outcomes for Queenslanders.

Finally, as I did suggest yesterday when speaking on the amendment, the Land Access Ombudsman's position and functions are not abolished through this rule. We certainly respect the money of taxpayers, but we also respect property rights. That is why we are not abolishing the role, but we are making sure it delivers the functions appropriately in a way that respects taxpayers' money. I commend the bill to the House.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Proudly Resourcing Queensland 2024-25' [699].

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Member for Callide, I am advised that the document you tabled in relation to the Fair Work Ombudsman contains some unparliamentary language. It is deemed not to be tabled at this point. However, you have the opportunity to resubmit it with appropriate redactions made for tabling.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (4.20 pm): I thank the House for the opportunity to make a brief contribution on the Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I note the contribution of the honourable shadow minister, who laid out clearly the opposition's concerns in relation to this bill. In particular, he pointed out that the government is, once again, failing to listen to expert advice in this particular sector, as also occurred with legislation that has been debated in this session of parliament in a range of other sectors. The shadow minister pointed out that the government is failing to listen to Professor Johnston's review into RSHQ by abolishing the Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health, consequently removing them as the independent chairperson of the Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee and the Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee, and failing to require proper industry and worker representation of the RSHQ board.

It is for those reasons that the shadow minister circulated in the House a raft of amendments to this bill. In fact, I understand the shadow minister circulated 68 amendments to remedy the flaws in this bill. This afternoon I am going to take the unusual step of tabling on behalf of the shadow minister those amendments, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility.

*Tabled paper:* Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, amendments to be moved by Mr Linus Power MP [700].

*Tabled paper:* Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes to Mr Linus Power's amendments [701].

*Tabled paper:* Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Mr Linus Power's amendments [702].

As I said, it is unusual for us to do that, but we find it necessary because of what the government has done to attack—some might say slaughter—the democratic processes of this state in order to avoid scrutiny and questions. It is our view that it is beyond the pale that the government would consider it appropriate to allow just 10 minutes for consideration in detail on this bill.

**Mr Power:** They're scared.

**Mr de BRENNI:** I take the interjection. If you have integrity then you do not fear scrutiny. The Queensland Parliamentary Procedures Handbook outlines procedures for members, and members can borrow the handbook from the Clerk's table if they want. In the section on consideration in detail it states—

During this stage each clause of the Bill is examined and amendments may be made to each clause—

There are 83 clauses to this bill to which we have just tabled over 60 amendments. With the extremely restricted time that has been set—not by the standing rules and orders of the Legislative Assembly but by a sessional order brought into this House by the government with the express purpose of overriding those standing rules—we will be lucky to be able to consider even one clause. I say it again: if you have integrity, you are not scared of scrutiny.

What about the shadow minister's amendments? As I said before, there are 68 amendments to this bill now tabled on the record because the Labor opposition believes there is a better way for this bill to operate and we should be afforded the opportunity to put that case during consideration in detail. I hope there will still be an opportunity for us to debate those amendments to retain the Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health and to make sure that workers and industry are properly represented on the new board—and the minister could facilitate that—but I think we can assume that, because of the actions of this government, it is almost certain we will not get the chance.

I referred to the Queensland Parliamentary Procedures Handbook earlier. In relation to consideration in detail, it goes on to say—


This stage also affords Members, particularly the Opposition, further opportunity to seek explanations from the Minister about the operation of the Bill and the interpretation of clauses.

I say it again: if you have integrity then you do not fear scrutiny.

It is clear from the business program motion passed by this House that the Queensland Labor opposition will be unable to seek explanation from the minister because of the restrictions that have been placed on us by the Crisafulli LNP government. We will be unable to ask basic questions of the minister—questions that Queenslanders want the answers to, questions that Queenslanders who work in the resources sector are entitled to have answers to.

Is the business program motion designed in that way because the minister does not want to answer those questions? Is he scared to answer them? Maybe he does not know the answers. Perhaps all of those options are true, but I have another proposition for honourable members: those opposite cannot stand to be held accountable. If you have integrity then you do not fear scrutiny. As they continue to run away from accountability and responsibility, as they attempt to sail away from the integrity crisis that is engulfing this bad government, Queenslanders see a government that are not keeping their promises. I made this point yesterday: they are saying one thing and doing another.

The Labor opposition condemns the Crisafulli LNP government for cutting the consideration in detail time for this bill. I want to make this observation. The record of this House will forever reflect that this government—its ministers, its cabinet—failed to listen to their own review on this bill. It will forever reflect the fact that they lack the intestinal fortitude to front up and answer basic questions on behalf of Queenslanders and this incredibly important industry to this state. This industry is a cornerstone of our economy. The record of this House will forever reflect the fact that the government used their numbers to restrict scrutiny so that debate on amendments during consideration in detail could not happen. That is what they have done. If you have integrity, members, you are not scared of scrutiny. The Labor opposition condemns this Crisafulli LNP government for consistently failing to listen and deliver for Queenslanders.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (4.28 pm): I am pleased to make a contribution on the Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I would like to place on record my extreme appreciation of the committee for the work they did and the minister for bringing this bill into the House. I have to say that I am living in a parallel universe, although it is contrary to those opposite. The Johnston review found very clearly that the Queensland resources safety framework was letting down the very workers it aimed to protect. The government have said that we

support 15 out of the 16 recommendations, so those opposite are obviously pandering to a group out there who are not aware of the content and the facts surrounding that. I think it is very important to place that on the record.

I will also say that they will be doing that. If those opposite do not support this and they vote against this, I would ask the question: what have they got against workers' safety? Every Queenslander deserves to go to work and come home from work safely. Every family deserves that for their family members, and we have heard of some terrible tragedies that have occurred over the years. This government, the Crisafulli government, and Minister Last through this bill are contributing to improving the safety framework in Queensland.


As I said, 15 out of the 16 recommendations have been supported by the government and 13 of those are operational in nature. I must say that, when the resources industry is talking to us about the concerns of the additional costs in their industry, I cannot help but turn back to the CFMEU tax. Honourable members should remember the CFMEU is certainly very involved with the mining and resources organisations and BPIC has placed such a huge regulatory burden and cost factor onto the resources industry of Queensland. It is something that this government has not tolerated. That is why there is a royal commission currently being conducted into the activities of the CFMEU. I must again ask the question: what has the opposition got against workers' safety, because that is what this bill provides for.

Another thing contained in the bill is the Land Access Ombudsman and ensuring people have the ability to make complaints and that those complaints can be dealt with in an appropriate fashion. I must say, when there is a cost of \$617,000 and it receives 49 complaints in a year and 42 of them are found to be out of scope and the other matters were attended to appropriately, the new structure that has been recommended will account for those things. It is not a matter of seeing those things removed so people do not have the opportunity to challenge them. There will be a new system put in place.

The importance of this is to establish a very sensible independent governing board of Resources Safety & Health Queensland. That is a sensible recommendation. Those opposite are used to putting themselves around a table and making decisions to suit themselves—or appointing people to do that—and their own agenda. This is about having an independent governing board to ensure the true safety and health of Queenslanders. When we talk about health and safety we are not just talking about normal physical health; it is also about the mental health of workers. That is a very broad aspect and we want to ensure all workers are going to work safely and coming home safely and are also dealing with any of the scars they may have received over the many hours they have spent working.

I give a shout-out to all of those in my community who contribute to the resource industry. Many are fly-in fly-out workers but there is a lot who do travel enormous distances. I have to say that my wife's cousin Harry Qualischefski has been working for QBirt Enterprises right across Australia providing resources support and civil construction in the resources industry. He has made a tremendous contribution to that industry and it is great to have been in touch with him to know what was going on. Harry recently retired from that and he is happily back at home driving a forklift in the Lockyer community. I wish Harry all the very best.

I will finish my contribution because I do know there are others who wish to speak on this matter. I say to the opposition: support this bill. It supports 15 out of the 16 recommendations that Professor Johnston made. We want to protect workers and their safety in Queensland.

 **Mr CHIESA** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (4.33 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. At its heart, the bill is about safety, accountability and confidence. It is about ensuring Queensland has a resources safety and health regulator that is clear in its purpose, strong in its governance and focused on the workers, families and communities it exists to protect. When we talk about resources safety and health, we are talking about people; we are talking about workers who go underground, work on sites, drive machinery, handle explosives, operate in quarries, work in gas fields and support one of the most important sectors of our state. We are talking about families who expect those workers to come home safely. We are talking about communities, including my community in the electorate of Hinchinbrook, that rely on a strong, responsible and safe resources industry.

The resources sector is central to Queensland's economy. It supports, as we have heard, one in five jobs and contributes one in every \$4 to the Queensland economy. QRC member companies in 2024-25 contributed \$8.6 billion in wages, supported more than 71,000 direct jobs, spent \$35.8 billion across 17,600 Queensland businesses and contributed \$7.9 billion in royalties. I feel like I am calling a rugby league game. Those royalties help fund roads, hospitals, schools and essential services.

In Hinchinbrook the sector has a real local impact. In 2024-25 member companies of QRC contributed \$103 million in wages, supported 747 direct jobs, spent \$48 million across 170 local businesses and supported community organisations. When direct investment and flow-on effects are included, the total economic contribution was \$290 million in gross regional product, supporting 2,081 local jobs. These figures represent households, small businesses, contractors, families and communities, so when we debate a bill dealing with resources safety and health, it matters to Hinchinbrook.

A strong resources sector must also be a safe resources sector. We cannot have confidence in the industry unless workers have confidence in the system that protects them. We cannot expect investment to continue unless the regulatory framework is clear, effective and accountable. We cannot accept a model where roles are unclear, governance is weak and responsibility is blurred. That is why this bill is necessary. Resources Safety & Health Queensland is the independent regulator responsible for safety and health outcomes across Queensland's mining, quarrying, petroleum, gas and explosives industry. Since its establishment, concerns have been raised about oversight, independence and accountability. Minister Dale Last commissioned Professor Susan Johnston AM to undertake an independent review of the Queensland resources safety and health regulatory model. The review examined whether the model remained effective and contemporary. The message from the review was clear: the system needed stronger governance, clearer lines of accountability and a more contemporary regulatory model. This bill responds to that challenge.

The central reform is the establishment of a skills-based governing body for Resources Safety & Health Queensland. Under this model, the chief executive officer of RSHQ will report to the new board and the board will report to the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. This is practical and sensible as it strengthens oversight, creates clearer accountability and gives a vital regulator the governance structure expected of a modern organisation.

The bill also abolishes the position of Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health and transfers the former statutory functions of that role to the new governing body. I know there has been debate about this part of the bill. It is fair that people ask questions about any change to the resources safety framework. The issue is not whether safety voices should be heard. Of course, they should be. The issue is whether the existing structure was the best way to deliver clarity, accountability and safety outcomes. The commissioner role had become unclear. The review identified confusion around its purpose and value. In contrast, a governing board gives the regulator a strong and more durable structure. It places responsibility with a body that can set direction, oversee performance and ensure RSHQ carries out its functions effectively. This bill is not about weakening safety; it is about strengthening the system that is supposed to deliver safety.


Importantly, the bill also strengthens the role of the Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee and the Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee. These committees bring practical experience into the regulatory framework. The bill reinstates and strengthens their ability to review legislation, standards and guidelines and provide practical advice on regulatory changes. In industries where the risks are real, the lived experience of workers, operators and technical experts must inform the rules. Safety regulation must be practical, it must be grounded in what happens on the ground, it must respond to emerging risks and be capable of continuous improvement. I understand that when we debate resources safety, workers and their representatives want to know that their voices will continue to be heard. That is a legitimate concern, but this bill does not remove the importance of those voices. It strengthens advisory structures and gives them a clearer role in reviewing the standards, guidelines and legislation that shape safety outcomes.

The bill also makes important reforms to the Land Access Ombudsman. In regional Queensland, coexistence matters. Landholders, communities and resource companies need clear and practical pathways to resolve disputes. They need systems that are fair, accessible and efficient, but we also need to be honest about how government services are being used and how public money is being spent. The Land Access Ombudsman has been wholly government funded, with an annual allocation of \$617,000. Since the office was established in 2018 it has fully resolved only two disputes, both referred in 2018. This does not mean landholders should be left without support—landholders must have access to fair and practical dispute resolutions—but the structure must be proportionate to the way the service is used. It must avoid unnecessary duplication, cost and complexity. The bill keeps the Land Access Ombudsman function but reforms the way it operates. The role will now be held by the chief executive officer of Coexistence Queensland. That creates a clearer, single interface for landholders and resource companies dealing with coexistence and land access matters.

The bill also repeals provisions from the former government's MEROLA Act which would have created an industry funded model for the Land Access Ombudsman through another levy and cost-recovery fees. Given the very low number of matters that are processed through the office, imposing the levy would have been difficult to justify. It would have just added cost and complexity to a resources sector already facing cost pressures. This is practical reform. It respects taxpayers' money, avoids unnecessary red tape and keeps support available in a more efficient and integrated way.

The bill also makes sensible administration changes to the Mineral Resources Act. This includes replacing references to maps with spatial data, clarifying renewal processes for resource authorities, confirming that an authority remains in force while a renewal is being determined and introducing a show cause process before cancellation is considered for unpaid rent. These may sound like technical changes, but they matter. Modern regulation should have modern language and tools. It should provide certainty, avoid confusion and ensure administrative processes are fair and clear.

For Hinchinbrook this bill speaks to a broader principle: regional Queensland needs industries that are strong, safe and responsibly regulated; we need a resources sector that supports jobs and small businesses; we need regulation that protects workers; we need land access arrangements that are practical and fair; and we need government agencies that are accountable, efficient and focused on outcomes. This bill delivers that balance. I commend this bill to the House.


 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (4.41 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The bill seeks to support the resources sector by enhancing governance, accountability and operational oversight for Resources Safety & Health Queensland, otherwise known as RSHQ. I want to thank the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines for bringing forward this bill and for pursuing the Johnston review. The bill responds to the 2025 Johnston review that found Queensland's resources safety framework was letting down the very workers it aimed to protect. This will make the sector safer for every mineworker, thus delivering on the Crisafulli government's commitment to making Queensland safer. In my electorate we have many resource workers in the oil and gas industry, and hopefully we will have a few more in the oil industry. We also have many workers who work fly-in fly-out and drive-in drive-out to many other areas, and every one of these workers deserves to have a safe workplace. We owe it to their families to ensure that every one of these workers comes home safe after a shift.

I also want to make some comments with regard to the Land Access Ombudsman. The bill seeks to revise the governance arrangements for the Land Access Ombudsman and improve the procedural efficiency in mining tenement frameworks. It also repeals the industry funding levy. The Land Access Ombudsman will be merged with the position of the CEO of Coexistence Queensland, and this is in line with the Crisafulli government's commitment to return respect for your money.

For those members who were not in the parliament when the Land Access Ombudsman legislation was debated, let me give a few facts about what Labor did at that time. Labor said at the time that it had landed on an ombudsman when its review by Robert Scott did not recommend an ombudsman. Whilst Mr Scott recommended the creation of an independent body to assist in the resolution of certain disputes between coal seam gas companies and landholders, this body could not be called an 'ombudsman', and that is in part 7.5 of the report.

The Labor government's own review undertaken by Mr Scott did not recommend the establishment of a Land Access Ombudsman. Mr Scott stated that the term 'ombudsman' usually refers to an independent body that can investigate complaints made about government. However, both conduct and compensation agreements and make-good agreements are commercial arrangements between parties. Not only have we had a state Labor government that ignored its own review; it is also trying to implement a government complaints process on commercial agreements.

Again it is the LNP government that is cleaning up after Labor's failures. Because the Labor government at that time did not specify the characteristics the ombudsman could possess and their capabilities, those opposite could have appointed a CFMEU member to be the Land Access Ombudsman. They could have appointed somebody who was from the Greens, because their legislation did not prescribe the qualities or qualifications for the ombudsman. It is bad enough that the Labor government ignored its own review recommendations, but talk about making a hash of legislation! That any Tom, Dick or Joan could be appointed as the Land Access Ombudsman was a serious flaw and could not result in good outcomes. Clearly, Labor's Land Access Ombudsman has failed, with only two investigations in five years. I commend the bill to the House because we are fixing up Labor's failures.


 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (4.45 pm): I rise today in strong support of the Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. The passing of this bill will result in the establishment of an independent governing board of Resources Safety & Health Queensland which will strengthen oversight, streamline advisory structures and remove duplication. These reforms will deliver a modern, accountable system that puts safety first and restores confidence in Queensland's resources safety framework. This will make the sector safer for every mineworker and delivers on the Crisafulli government's commitment to making Queensland safer.

The honourable minister, Dale Last, commissioned Professor Susan Johnston AM to undertake an independent review of Queensland's resources safety and health regulatory model. This review was triggered by the five-year milestone post the establishment of RSHQ. The Johnston review examined whether the regulatory model remained effective and contemporary, with the final report being delivered to the minister on 30 September 2025. Professor Johnston found that the current regulatory model provides limited oversight and accountability of RSHQ and that there was a lack of clarity around the role of the Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health.

The Johnston review made 16 recommendations, 15 of which were fully supported or supported in principle. The Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 addresses three of these recommendations: it retains RSHQ as a statutory independent authority but repeals the role of the resources safety and health commissioner which the review found lacked clarity; it establishes a skills-based governing board for RSHQ, with operational management to be retained through the CEO of RSHQ; and it transfers the statutory functions of the resources safety and health commissioner to the new governing board, including oversight of the resources safety and health advisory committees, which have been granted additional functions.

Issues that this bill seeks to address include reform of the existing resources safety and health regulatory model to address a lack of accountability and weakness in governance structures to ensure the regulatory framework is doing its job and protecting the health and safety of resources workers. This is in line with the Crisafulli government's commitments to: redesign a government that works for you and makes Queensland safer; address inefficiency in government expenditure by reforming the role of the Land Access Ombudsman in line with the Crisafulli government's commitment to return respect for your money; and repeal provisions within the legislation which would have made the Land Access Ombudsman a statutory body wholly industry funded by the resources sector via a levy on industry and cost-recovery fees.

I would like to thank the Crisafulli LNP government, honourable ministers, members of the committee and parliament staff for their hard work. Queenslanders on 28 October 2024 voted for a change and a fresh start and this government, the Crisafulli LNP government, is working on delivering for them. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (4.49 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. I will cut straight to the chase. The passing of this bill will result in the establishment of an independent governing board of RSHQ which will strengthen oversight, streamline advisory structures and remove duplication. These reforms will deliver a modern, accountable system that puts safety first and restores confidence in Queensland's resource safety framework. This will make the sector safer for every mineworker, thus delivering on the Crisafulli government's commitment to making Queensland safer. The bill responds to the 2025 Johnston review that found that Queensland's resources safety framework was letting down the very workers it aimed to protect. Among the many issues identified, the review found that there was a weakness in governance, confusion around roles and a lack of clear accountability.

The Palaszczuk government established the position of Land Access Ombudsman in 2018. Since the establishment of the position, the LAO has only fully resolved two disputes, both of which were referred to the LAO in 2018. Importantly, this bill repeals the provisions of the Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Act which would have made the Land Access Ombudsman a statutory body wholly funded by the resources sector via a levy on industry and cost recovery fees. This removes unnecessary red tape and financial burden to drive more investment in Queensland's resources sector. It also addresses inefficiencies in government administration and expenditure by reforming the role of the Land Access Ombudsman and merging it with the position of CEO of Coexistence Queensland. This is in line with the Crisafulli government's commitment to return respect for your money and redesign a government that works for you.


Now, let's compare the pair. Labor's record is that the then Palaszczuk government introduced the Resources Safety and Health Queensland Act 2020 following the tabling of the parliamentary Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee recommendations in 2017 and the *Queensland resources*

*safety and health: regulator and funding models* report of 2018. The act established the RSHQ as an independent statutory body which would not be subject to direct oversight from an administering department. However, as Professor Johnston noted in her review—

The structure put forward in the Bill, and subsequently enshrined in the RSHQ Act, differed from both Reports in a number of respects. Most notably, the current regulatory model does not include a governing board (as recommended by the Select Committee) or an Advisory Council (as recommended by the PMO).

The Crisafulli LNP government bill addresses this oversight by implementing a governing board for RSHQ in line with the recommendations made by the Johnston review of 2025 and the parliamentary CWP select committee of 2017.

In closing, I will restate what I said at the beginning. The bill responds to the 2025 Johnston review which found that Queensland's resources safety framework was letting down the very workers it aimed to protect. The reforms contained in the bill will deliver a modern, accountable system that puts safety first and restores confidence in Queensland's resources safety framework. It is a framework that puts safety first and is intended to protect Queensland resources industry workers, ultimately reducing workplace injuries and saving lives. I thank the minister for his commitment to the industry and his portfolio and for his passion in delivering for Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (4.53 pm): I rise to address the debate on the Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. This legislation delivers important and necessary reforms to Queensland's resources safety framework while also ensuring greater accountability, stronger governance, reduced duplication and a more efficient regulatory system that works in the interests of workers, industry, landholders and taxpayers alike. Importantly, this legislation reflects the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government's commitment to making Queensland safer, rebuilding confidence in government administration and ensuring public institutions are modern, accountable and effective.

Queensland's resources sector is critically important to our state. It supports tens of thousands of jobs, underpins regional communities, drives exports and contributes billions of dollars to the Queensland economy. But alongside that economic importance comes a clear responsibility to ensure every worker in the resources sector returns home safely to their family at the end of every shift. That responsibility must always come first.

An important foundation underpinning this legislation is the independent Johnston review into Queensland's resources safety and health regulatory framework. The Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government commissioned this review because it became increasingly clear that serious concerns existed regarding the governance, oversight, accountability and effectiveness of the existing system established under the former Labor state government. The review followed significant instability surrounding the office of the Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health, including the fact that the former Labor government left the role vacant for almost a year before ultimately overseeing the resignation of their nominee within weeks of appointment. That alone demonstrated a system lacking stability, clarity and proper leadership.

Importantly, the Johnston review was comprehensive and independent and led by Professor Susan Johnston AM, an internationally respected expert in mine safety and regulatory systems. The review consulted extensively across industry, unions, government and Resources Safety & Health Queensland itself. It examined whether Queensland's resources safety framework was genuinely delivering effective oversight, proper accountability and the strongest possible safety outcomes for workers. What the review ultimately found was deeply concerning. Professor Johnston identified significant weaknesses in governance arrangements, confusion surrounding roles and responsibilities, limited accountability and a lack of effective oversight within the existing model. The review specifically found that the role of the commissioner lacked clarity and that the overall framework created what were described as 'serious in principle concerns about accountability'.

Importantly, the review found that the governance model established by the former Labor state government differed substantially from the structures originally recommended through earlier reviews and parliamentary inquiries. That is why the Johnston review is so important and why this legislation matters. The review provided a clear, independent, evidence-based road map for reform. That is why this LNP state government is acting. Unlike those opposite, who were content to allow dysfunction and confusion to continue, the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government is implementing practical reform to strengthen the system and improve outcomes for workers and industry.


This legislation establishes a skills-based governing board for Resources Safety & Health Queensland with clear oversight responsibilities and direct reporting relationships. The CEO of RSHQ will report directly to the governing board and the board itself will report to the minister. This is a sensible

and contemporary governance model. It delivers clear accountability, it strengthens strategic oversight, it ensures decisions are properly scrutinised and, importantly, it restores confidence in the operation of Queensland's resources safety regulator. The bill also abolishes the role of the Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health, transferring those functions to the new governing board.


We have heard a criticism from those opposite regarding these reforms, including as part of this debate. However, what matters most is what the independent Johnston review actually found. The review identified widespread confusion surrounding the role, purpose and effectiveness of the Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health. Industry representatives, and even Resources Safety & Health Queensland staff, described the role as a figurehead position, while others openly stated they did not understand its function. Even more concerning—and it is again a point that must be stressed—the former Labor state government left the position vacant for nearly a year after November 2023. That says everything about Labor's priorities.

Those opposite now seek to present themselves as defenders of workers and workplace safety, yet, when they had the responsibility for this system, they failed to provide proper governance, left key positions vacant and ignored mounting concerns regarding accountability and oversight. The reality is that Labor created a framework lacking clarity and effective governance. This legislation fixes that. Importantly, the Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee and Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee will continue operating under a tripartite structure with representation from unions and industries and their functions are being strengthened as well.

In closing my contribution, I want to say that the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government is acting. I commend the minister for the diligent work that he undertook in preparing this legislation, as well as the parliamentary committee for all of the work that they undertook in scrutinising this legislation. This legislation certainly delivers stronger governance, improved oversight and accountability, restores proper advisory functions and reduces duplication and red tape. More importantly, it reinforces the protections of Queensland's resource workers while ensuring Queensland remains competitive and economically strong. As such, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (5.00 pm): I rise in strong support of the Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 and to highlight the very real benefits that this legislation will deliver for FIFO workers in my electorate of Redcliffe. We have many fly-in fly-out and drive-in drive-out workers—many families like James and Anita, whom I met recently at a mobile office.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Member, please take your seat. Under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House, I call the minister to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (5.01 pm), in reply: I commence by thanking all honourable members for their participation in this debate, an important debate that centres on safety in the resources sector. Whilst one may think that this bill only applies to the members for Townsville, Thuringowa, Mundingburra, Rockhampton, Mirani, Mackay, Keppel, Gregory and Callide—those key resource electorates—it also applies to those other electorates whose representatives we have heard from here today such as the member for Oodgeroo, who had mining on Stradbroke Island, and other members who have a lot of FIFO workers who live and work in their particular electorates. I thank you all for standing up for resource workers and I note your support for reforms that strengthen safety right across our resources sector.

In contrast, who would have thought that the Labor Party would desert the mining industry and the 80,000-plus workers who rely on this sector for their livelihood? As the member for Greenslopes said yesterday, Labor is not supporting this bill. As a former nurse, the member for Greenslopes knows better than most the necessity for a safe workplace, yet he and his Labor colleagues are refusing to back a bill that dramatically improves the safety of workers in one of our largest industries. Labor does not believe that Queensland's 80,000 resource workers deserve to have a strengthened safety framework. It is a new low. It is a disgrace. We know that they do not support the gas and coal sectors due to their chummy alliance with the Greens. We know this because investment and confidence in our two sectors plummeted under Labor's decade-long demonising of the industry.

Not supporting workers beggars belief. Labor, with its ties to unions—the very organisations that were created to improve working conditions and specifically improve safety—is opposing a bill designed to do just that. They should be all about the safety of workers, yet they will not support this bill. They should hang their heads in shame. They criticised the government over the timing of appointments,

despite the very position that they now claim to be so concerned about, the commissioner's role, having sat vacant for 12 months—and then the person they appointed quit within two weeks under their watch. Doesn't that say it all?

Queensland workers deserve a regulator focused on safety outcomes, not ideological positioning or political pointscoring. I note the comments made yesterday by the member for Logan about Workers' Memorial Day. I was there. I also stood alongside those families, workers and industry representatives remembering Queenslanders who did not come home from work. The loss of life of two resource workers at the beginning of this year is not forgotten, either. I can tell this House with absolute certainty that families want action, they want accountability and they want a safety system that is focused on preventing tragedies before they occur. That is exactly what this bill seeks to deliver.

This bill implements the Queensland government's policy response to the 2025 Review of the Queensland Resources Safety and Health Regulatory Model and positions RSHQ as a modern, effective and adaptable regulator that supports the health, safety and wellbeing of Queensland's resource industry workers. It also amends the frameworks that support the state's coexistence institutions by enabling the expansion and transition of the Land Access Ombudsman to a statutory body that supports efficient agreement making, helping resource companies get on the ground sooner. This too will underpin the state's long-term prosperity. The bill also makes minor procedural and administrative changes to the Mineral Resources Act 1989 to enhance efficiency across the mining tenement framework. These changes may be administrative, but they improve processes that contribute to approvals being granted sooner.

Investment certainty is what the resources industry is calling for, and together the amendments in this bill are important steps in the Crisafulli government delivering this certainty. Let me be crystal clear: Labor does not support the bill because it does not support the resources sector. The member for Logan talks about delaying and pushing things back. Quite frankly, that is dangerous. It is dangerous because this bill will implement important reforms to government institutions and regulatory processes that support a safer resources sector, which underpins Queensland's long-term economic future. Let me say categorically that, when it comes to worker safety, time is of the essence. We are not about to let this important legislation languish. It is important that this legislation is passed here tonight so that we can move forward, give those workers some certainty and send a message to the resources sector that we have their back—that we are moving ahead with legislation and changes that will help to ensure their safety when they go to work.

This bill also delivers a new independent and skills-based governing board that will not only provide strategic direction but also strengthen oversight and accountability. I repeat: independent and skills-based. The bill is about streamlined regulation so the industry and its workers can get on with the job. A tenet of solid regulation is accountability—something those opposite know nothing about. Professor Johnston made it crystal clear in her review—I commissioned it because there was so clearly a need for change—that the role of the Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health did not serve as an effective source of strategic direction or provide regulatory oversight due to the role's ill-defined purpose and absence of clear performance metrics. I say again that the role of the commissioner was ineffective. It was not doing what it was set up to do.

The bill proposes a new independent, skills-based governing board that will not only provide strategic direction but also strengthen oversight and accountability while streamlining advisory structures and removing duplication. The board will embed an important layer of accountability by monitoring RSHQ's performance. It will also absorb the commissioner's stakeholder engagement functions and serve as a central point of contact for industry. The chief executive officer of RSHQ will also be directly accountable to the RSHQ board. This addresses a key gap in the previous governance structure, where no such reporting structure or obligation existed. Transferring the statutory functions of the Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health to the new board provides clearer lines of responsibility and stronger accountability. Importantly, RSHQ's status as an independent statutory body will be maintained. The creation of the RSHQ board simply embeds a layer of accountability within RSHQ to ensure it is operating effectively as a regulator. As the regulator, operational decision-making, including crisis management, will continue to be undertaken by the chief executive officer of RSHQ.

The findings of Professor Susan Johnston AM in her Review of the Queensland Resources Safety and Health Regulatory Model are sobering. Every worker deserves to make it home safely to their family and that is why, with the recommendations from the review, we have introduced legislation to strengthen RSHQ's governance, accountability and operational oversight. As I mentioned in my second reading speech, strengthening governance, accountability and operational oversight will be achieved through the establishment of a new RSHQ board. The board will embed accountability within

RSHQ by overseeing the organisation's regulatory performance and the chief executive officer of RSHQ being directly accountable to the board. This addresses a key gap in the previous governance structure, where no such reporting obligation existed.

I make it clear that this reform will maintain RSHQ's status as an independent statutory body. The performance of the RSHQ board will be reported on each year through the RSHQ annual report, which must include details of how ministerial expectations have been addressed. This requirement not only ensures any ministerial actions are subject to public scrutiny and accountability but also provides transparency on the operation of RSHQ and its board.

The member for Logan said that he wants a current employee of the resources sector on the board. The member for Stretton was worried about someone being appointed to the board who may also have involvement in another mining company. Which one is it? On the one hand, the member for Logan wants someone who works for a resource company on the board and, on the other, the member for Stretton does not want someone who works for another resource company on the board. It is classic Labor Party division. One hand does not know what the other is doing. They tie themselves up in knots to make a point and, in the end, they contradict each other.

**A government member:** Because they're not a team.

**Mr LAST:** I take that interjection; it is not a team. The bill sets out a clear process for board members to disclose conflicts of interest and for the board to manage such conflicts. This is in proposed section 62 of the amended RSHQ Act, under clause 81 of the bill. Any contraventions of this conflict-of-interest process are taken very seriously. If a member contravenes the process, they are disqualified from continuing as a board member.

Board members are appointed by the Governor in Council and, when recommending a person as a member, the minister must ensure the board has the right skill mix. Collectively, the RSHQ board must have knowledge and experience of: governance, risk, and assurance; regulation of safety and health in the mining, petroleum and gas, and explosives industries; stakeholder engagement with government, industry, and workforce representatives; investigations and enforcement; occupational health, hygiene and psychosocial hazards; organisational effectiveness, culture and regulatory performance; and financial management and strategic oversight. That is a pretty impressive skill set. Those will be the skills that board members possess.

The RSHQ board's functions explicitly include ensuring RSHQ performs its functions in a way that upholds the purposes of the resources safety acts, which prioritise the health and safety of workers in the resources industry. This ensures safety remains a central focus of the RSHQ board's oversight. The bill includes measures to ensure transparency and accountability in the exercise of ministerial discretion. For instance, the bill proposes amendments to section 63 of the RSHQ Act requiring the minister to provide a written statement of expectations for the RSHQ board, which must be published on a Queensland government website.

**Mrs Poole:** By the best mining minister ever!

**Mr LAST:** I take that interjection from the member for Mundingburra. That's how you do it. Additionally, the RSHQ annual report must include details of how the RSHQ board or RSHQ has addressed the minister's expectations. These provisions ensure that the minister's oversight is transparent and subject to public scrutiny.

In relation to reservations from those opposite regarding the removal of the role of Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health, I would like to remind the members for Logan, Bundaberg, Greenslopes, Stretton, Kurwongbah, Toohey and Lytton of this very important fact: under the former Labor government, of which all were members, the role of commissioner was left vacant, as I have said, for 12 months. When the former Labor government did make an appointment, its nominee quit within two weeks. The role was vacant when I was sworn in as minister. That's right: the position was so important that they left it vacant for 12 months.

They do not care about the safety of workers in the resources industry. The member for Greenslopes, who should understand, clearly stated that Labor will be opposing the bill. I am not sure that the member has read Professor Johnston's report. If he had, he would understand the need for change. I say again, this role is being abolished as it has not served as an effective source of strategic direction or regulatory oversight. This lack of clarity and authority has meant the role has historically been ineffective and underutilised, as was highlighted by Professor Johnston in her review.

The bill establishes the RSHQ board to serve as an appropriate replacement, with stronger oversight and accountability in driving safety outcomes for RSHQ. It will also ensure ongoing industry engagement in resources safety and health matters by providing industry with a point of contact on

such matters—a function that the commissioner was supposed to provide and was shown as being important to retain through the parliamentary committee process. The RSHQ board's functions explicitly include ensuring that RSHQ performs its functions in a way that upholds the purposes of the resources safety acts, which prioritise the health and safety of workers in the resources industry. This ensures that safety remains a central focus of the RSHQ board's oversight.

The Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee, which is comprised representatives from the Queensland Resources Council, RSHQ, the Mining and Energy Union and the Electrical Trades Union—which might answer some of the questions from those opposite—and the Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee, which is comprised representatives from the Queensland Resources Council, RSHQ, Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia, the Australian Workers' Union and the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union, will be chaired by a member of the RSHQ board and will report on promoting and protecting the safety and health of persons who may be affected by mining operations. As outlined above, those advisory committees will remain tripartite, despite the claims of those opposite. I repeat: they will remain tripartite, meaning membership will include representatives from the regulator, mining companies and industry bodies as well as representatives of mineworkers.

CMSHAC and MSHAC, as they are known, will retain their existing functions. Membership will continue to be made up of people experienced in mining operations to support effective decision-making about safety and health issues by the RSHQ board and the minister. We have not disregarded independent expert advice when it comes to implementing reform to the resources safety and health regulatory model. Professor Johnston made it very clear that it would no longer be necessary or appropriate that a commissioner for resources safety and health exercise any form of oversight of RSHQ if a governing board were established. Fancy that: we are actually streamlining something and making it more efficient.

It would come as no surprise to anyone in this House that last night the member for McConnell came out, all guns blazing, advocating for her union mates to get a seat on the independent board. She could not help herself. She would have the executive of the CFMEU take up all positions, if she had the chance. Well, not on my watch.

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That is absolutely ridiculous. I take offence and I ask that he withdraw that statement.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Minister, the member has taken offence.

**Mr LAST:** I withdraw. Professor Johnston has made clear recommendations on the skills and experience the independent board members will need to be eligible for one of these positions. Not once did Professor Johnston recommend that the CFMEU be involved. The member for McConnell clearly missed that part of the report.

The bill ensures that candidates will be appointed based on their skills and expertise in areas such as governance, safety and health regulation, stakeholder engagement and financial management to uphold and ensure effective governance. As I have just outlined, the appointment process is focused on having a skills-based board. The bill does not take steps to further define or exclude types of professions or areas of the sector that may make up the board. This allows for a diverse range of appointees with the relevant skills and expertise associated with the resources industry.

I note the member for Lytton mentioned that she had concerns around this government's appointment process for board members across the government more broadly. We simply do not have time for me to stand here and outline the sheer number of mates Labor appointed to roles across boards, executive positions, director-general roles, CEO roles—the list could go on, but I will save that for another time because I am focused on the safety of resource workers. That is why we are here today.

There seems to be some confusion from those opposite around Professor Johnston's implementation timeframe. I am struggling to see the problem. I will go through it. Phase 1, in line with Professor Johnston's plan, was to be completed within four months. This included establishing a review implementation group to lead recommendations relating to the overarching resources safety and health regulatory model, developing role descriptions for the independent chair and board members, and meeting with the RSHQ CEO to ascertain whether it was necessary to issue any directions. RSHQ is tasked with advertising the role of Chief Inspector of Explosives and providing to me a plan to address the review findings to commence implementation. Tick, tick.

Phase 2 is to be completed within eight months: finalise and introduce necessary legislative amendments to parliament—well, here we are—and appoint the board. Professor Johnston delivered her report on 30 September 2025 and, if my maths is correct, we are now eight months post September

2025. Those opposite must surely understand that in order to appoint a board we first must pass the legislation. The implementation plan is on track. Phases 3 and 4 will focus on the full establishment and operationalisation of the governing board within RSHQ. We are on track because, as Professor Johnston states in her report, the reviewer found that the current model is intrinsically flawed, given it provides insufficient oversight and accountability for RSHQ.

I want to thank all of the people I have met with over many years who have shared their stories and assisted with the preparation of this legislation. I want to thank Professor Johnston, and I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the officers from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development for their work in contribution to the development of this important bill. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

### Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 5, as read, agreed to.

Clause 6—



**Mr POWER** (5.21 pm): I move amendment No. 1 circulated in my name—

**1 Clause 6 (Amendment of s 77 (Annual report))**

Page 9, lines 10 to 14—

*omit.*

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

*Tabled paper:* Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, amendments to be moved by Mr Linus Power MP [\[703\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, explanatory notes to Mr Linus Power's amendments [\[704\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Mr Linus Power's amendments [\[705\]](#).

At the outset, I say to the House that this is the first of 68 amendments that the opposition has circulated to this bill. Because of, frankly, the sordid actions of the Crisafulli LNP government and their absolute disdain for democracy, it is likely to be the only amendment that we have time to speak to. To allow only 10 minutes for consideration in detail of such a serious issue as mining safety is an absolute farce. The minister needs to go to stakeholders who submitted on the bill and explain why he failed to allow this bill to be properly considered. Those stakeholders have already said they were disappointed by the consultation process for the bill.

The first of my 68 amendments omits clause 6 from the bill which would have removed the Commissioner of Resources Safety and Health as the independent, and truly independent, chairperson of the Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee and, specifically, later the acts that determine that independence, including not being an employee of a company whose own decisions may be impacted. The opposition outlined in the second reading debate that we support the role of the commissioner, in line with the views of stakeholders. We note that there were those who said there were mysterious forces who had, they noted through the process, supported it. That, of course, includes the Queensland Resources Council. They supported it. Professor Johnston supported it. In fact, through this entire process we can find only one person who genuinely supports abolishing the commissioner and that is the minister standing opposite.

The member for Callide blustered and carried on yesterday about the commission and read quotes from the review, but he failed to even mention that the review actually recommended the government amend the legislation to more clearly define the role and to keep them, especially as the chair of the Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee. Instead of doing that, they have simply abolished that role altogether, against these recommendations.

At this point, I want to remind members that Lawrence Springborg, when he did his review, made the recommendation that there be a commissioner. From Lawrence Springborg to the QRC, to everyone who appeared before the committee: they all asked that we keep the commissioner. There is only one person who goes against that and that is the minister, and he has zero respect from anyone in the industry for doing this. We cannot agree more with Lawrence, with Professor Johnston and with the

QRC because we see that the commissioner should be the chairperson of that committee and have the independence that comes with the statutory role of being an independent commissioner. Anyone else puts workers in danger. It is this minister who puts workers in danger.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr LAST:** For the consideration of the member for Logan I say: the inspectorates and divisions within the RSHQ will retain discretion over the operational aspects of RSHQ, including enforcement and regulation, whilst the board will provide guidance, oversight and strategic direction. Accordingly, the RSHQ board embeds accountability within RSHQ to ensure it is operating effectively as the regulator. The CEO of RSHQ will now be accountable to the board whereas previously this check on the accountability of the CEO was absent.

While the commissioner previously had the function of advising on RSHQ's performance, there were no obligations on the CEO to report to the commissioner, limiting the commissioner's ability to effect change. The RSHQ board and the corresponding reporting obligations imposed on the CEO are intended to ensure the organisation remains accountable and is transparent in reporting on its performance. The functions of the commissioner are not regulatory in nature and are primarily focused on advice and engagement and oversight. Therefore, vesting these functions in the RSHQ board will not consolidate significant power within the board. It will merely streamline reporting and enhance lines of communication so that the minister remains apprised of resources safety and health issues within the sector and RSHQ's performance.

The Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee and the Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee will also report to the RSHQ board on promoting and protecting the safety and health of persons at mines or who may be affected by mining operations. These advisory committees will remain tripartite. I repeat: they will remain tripartite, meaning membership includes representatives from the regulator, mining companies and industry bodies and representatives of mineworkers. CSMHAC and MSHAC will retain their existing functions, and its membership will continue to be made up of people experienced in mining operations to support effective decision-making about safety and health issues in the resources industry. The governance reporting to the RSHQ board by CSMHAC and MSHAC does not prevent these advisory committees from providing advice or recommendations to the minister directly. The advisory committees may raise health and safety concerns with the minister at their own initiative and are not required to seek the governing board's approval before doing so.

Non-government amendment (Mr Power) negated.

Clause 6, as read, agreed to.

Clause 7—



**Mr POWER** (5.29 pm): I move amendment No. 2 circulated in my name—

**2 Clause 7 (Amendment of s 78 (Membership of committee))**

Page 9, lines 15 to 24—

*omit.*

We have had no answer from the minister regarding the question of the commissioner. The independent role of the commissioner was put forward by the white lies inquiry as a safeguard against the failures that happened during that period. During that period, coalminers' pneumoconiosis was undetected, and we needed to see an independent actor take this case forward.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, it is now 5.30 pm. I ask you to resume your seat. Under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, I will now put all remaining questions. However, first we need to resolve the member for Logan's amendment.

Question put—That the member for Logan's amendment No. 2 be agreed to.

Motion negated.

Non-government amendment (Mr Power) negated.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will now put all remaining questions necessary to complete consideration of the bill, including clauses en bloc and any amendments to be moved by the minister in charge of the bill, without further amendment or debate.

Question put—That clauses 7 to 83, as read, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 7 to 83, as read, agreed to.

### Third Reading

Division: Question put—That the bill be read a third time.

**AYES, 52:**

**LNP, 52**—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, 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.

**NOES, 38:**

**ALP, 34**—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, 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.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a third time.


### Long Title

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

Motion agreed to.

## SPEAKER'S RULING

### Same Question Rule

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have considered the application of the same question rule to the Strengthening Protections for Queensland Workers Amendment Bill 2026, introduced earlier today. In summary, the same question rule is enlivened by the bill. Therefore, under standing order 87, the Strengthening Protections for Queensland Workers Amendment Bill 2026 cannot proceed and is discharged from the *Notice Paper*. Its referral to the committee is also consequently discharged. I seek leave to incorporate my full ruling in the parliamentary record.

Leave granted.

**SPEAKER'S RULING—APPLICATION OF SAME QUESTION RULE TO THE STRENGTHENING PROTECTIONS FOR QUEENSLAND WORKERS AMENDMENT BILL 2026**

I have considered the application of the same question rule to the Strengthening Protections for Queensland Workers Amendment Bill 2026 introduced earlier today.

The Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2025 (2025 Act) amended the commencement provision of the Respect at Work and Other Matters Amendment Act 2024 (2024 Act) to replace '1 July 2025' with 'a day to be fixed by proclamation'. It also disapplied the automatic commencement provision of the Acts Interpretation Act so these provisions would not automatically commence after two years if a date was not proclaimed.

The Strengthening Protections for Queensland Workers Amendment Bill 2026 (the PMB) proposes to replicate the uncommenced provisions of the 2024 Act in the PMB, to commence on assent to the PMB. If enacted, this would effectively remove the delayed commencement of these provisions which was given effect by the 2025 Act of this Parliament.

The rationale for the same question rule is to prevent the wastage of parliamentary time by reconsidering the same issue. The matters do not have to be identical but merely the same in substance as the previous matter. In other words, it is a question of substance, not form. (Speaker Reynolds, Record of Proceedings, 9 September 2008, p. 2559) My role includes determining the purpose of the second bill and determining if the same issue is at play (House of Representatives Practice, 6th Edition, page 357).

By passing the 2025 Act, the House agreed to delay commencement of the 'Respect at Work' provisions to a date to be fixed by proclamation.

By considering the PMB, the House would again be considering if these provisions (which are replicated in the Bill) should commence at a different time, being the date of assent to the PMB.

It must be remembered that the provisions in the PMB are already in law, but unproclaimed. Although cleverly disguised, it appears to me that the clear reason (or purpose, or substance) of the PMB is to reconsider the commencement of provisions already law but unproclaimed. It could be described as an attempt to reverse the 2025 decision. It could also be described as an indirect attempt to circumnavigate the 2025 decision.

A ruling by Speaker Simpson on 2 May 2013 ROP p1512 stated:

*Previous rulings indicate that there are three possible outcomes where a Bill contains provisions dealing with the same issue as another Bill:*

- (a) *If the Bill contains only a few clauses that deal with issues considered by another Bill, the Bill can proceed but the offending clauses are ruled out of order in consideration in detail; or*
- (b) *If the Bill is substantially the same, in that it predominantly deals with issues contained in another Bill that has been passed, the second Bill cannot proceed further; or*
- (c) *If there are two Bills substantially the same, in that they both deal with the same issues, they can both proceed up to the point at which one of the Bills is accepted on the second reading.*

The PMB fits squarely within the description of a Bill in category (b) above, that is the Bill is substantially the same, in that it predominantly deals with the key question contained in the 2025 Bill (the delayed commencement of the 2024 Act). This is not a case where a bill seeks to impact upon an issue in a different way to a previous bill (Wellington (S) 12/11/2015 PD p2912-13).

The same question rule is enlivened by the Bill.

Being a private members' bill, it is unlikely that Standing Orders will be set aside for the PMB. The precedent in these circumstances is to discharge the bill from the Notice Paper and the committee to which it has been referred (Mickel (S) ROP 6/10/2010 p. 3583; Simpson (S) 2/5/2015 ROP p1512; Simpson (S) 31/10/2013 ROP p3777; Simpson (S) 5/8/2014 ROP p2405).

The Strengthening Protections for Queensland Workers Amendment Bill 2026 cannot proceed and is discharged from the Notice Paper. Its referral to the committee is also consequently discharged.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I remind the members for Hervey Bay, Pine Rivers, Logan, Nanango, Bancroft and Aspley that they are on the warning list.

## MOTION

### Cost of Living



**Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (5.37 pm): I move—

That this House notes—

1. that Queenslanders are struggling to put food on the table,
2. that Queenslanders are struggling to pay the rent,
3. that Queenslanders are struggling to pay their mortgages,
4. that Queenslanders are struggling to pay their vehicle registration,
5. that Queenslanders are struggling to pay for fuel for their cars,
6. that Queenslanders are struggling to pay their energy bills,
7. that Queenslanders are struggling to pay their utility bills,
8. that Queenslanders are struggling to pay their rates,
9. the Crisafulli LNP government is likely to have \$2 billion in royalty windfalls,
10. the need for targeted cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders from the government,
11. that the former Labor Queensland government provided targeted cost-of-living relief to support Queenslanders.

Wherever I go in Queensland at the moment the No. 1 issue everyone is talking about is cost of living. So many Queenslanders—too many Queenslanders—are struggling to put food on the table. This is not hyperbole; this is reality. Too many Queenslanders are struggling to pay the rent. They are struggling to pay their mortgage, especially as interest rates continue to rise. They are struggling to pay their vehicle registration. They are struggling to pay their energy bills, utility bills and rates. There are so many Queenslanders—workers, farmers, tradies, parents and students—who are getting smashed at the bowser.

The above is a bleak catalogue of the kinds of financial hardship that are being experienced by all kinds of Queenslanders, and it means that the need for targeted cost-of-living relief has never been greater. The devastating reality is that the Crisafulli LNP government has made this crisis so much worse than it needs to be. Under the Crisafulli LNP government, car rego has gone through the roof—up by 23 per cent. I say that again: car rego is up 23 per cent under this LNP government. Under the Crisafulli LNP government, universal electricity bill relief has been axed. Under the Crisafulli LNP government, social and affordable housing projects have been slashed. It is time for the Crisafulli LNP government to step up and stand beside Queenslanders with meaningful cost-of-living support.

It seems hard to believe but some of our nurses and frontline health workers are being forced to turn down shifts due to the cost of getting to work. Nurses, like most of our frontline staff, work long hours, sometimes late into the night, caring for us. That means that driving and parking in the hospital car park is the only safe way to get to and from work, particularly when the trains are not running. Because of the cost of fuel, they are being forced to make incredibly painful choices, so today we are

calling on the Premier to make hospital car parking free for all health workers until we see an end to the fuel affordability crisis that is gripping our state. This is not much to ask, but it would make a huge difference to the Queenslanders who work hard to look after us.

It is a time for this LNP government to demonstrate that they care about our healthcare workers and that they will not turn their back on them. It is an opportunity to provide cost-of-living relief to the individuals who care for our sickest, day and night, so they do not have to choose between putting meals on the table and knocking back an extra shift to do the job they love.

The Crisafulli LNP government can help Queenslanders if it chooses to. It is likely that the Crisafulli LNP government will receive around a \$2 billion royalty windfall because of the war in the Middle East—\$2 billion! That money should be used to support Queenslanders through these difficult and challenging times. That is the principle that guided the former Labor government. We used royalties flowing from our resource profits to deliver financial relief to Queenslanders when they needed it most. Labor used royalties to finance 50-cent fares, universal electricity bill relief and car rego discounts.

**Mr Head:** Where was it in the budget before the election?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I take the interjection from the member for Callide. It seems he does not want his residents in Callide to have a rego discount. They do a lot of driving in that part of the world, member for Callide. Shame!

**Mr Head** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Callide, you have joined the list. You are warned. Member for Waterford, you have 42 seconds remaining.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** It was the right thing for the Labor government to do, to support Queenslanders doing it tough—and it is still the right thing to do. I say to the Premier and his LNP government: forget about your LNP mates whom you are so busy putting on boards. Forget about the donors and the developers. For once—for once—do something that will help everyday Queenslanders who are desperate for help. I say to the Premier and the Treasurer: you have the means to provide the financial assistance to Queenslanders that they need right now. To fail to do so would be not just a failure of economic leadership; it would be a moral failure as well.



**Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (5.42 pm): I move the following amendment—

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

- '1. that Queenslanders are struggling under cost-of-living pressures,
2. that the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering targeted and ongoing cost-of-living measures including permanent 50-cent fares, free kindy health checks, the \$100 Back to School Boost, \$200 Play On! vouchers, Women's Career Grants, axing the patients' tax, a nation-leading first home buyers' package, Electricity Maintenance Guarantee, and development of a Fuel Security Plan,
3. that the former government's decade of decline left Queenslanders worse off.'

I start by acknowledging that Queensland households and businesses are struggling. We know that they are struggling. We have seen the circumstances across the globe. We have seen the economic shock. At the end of a very long supply chain lies Queensland and our country. We are seeing that inflationary impact flow through the economy and we are seeing that at the household level and at the business level. It is something we have taken very seriously. As the budget processes are continuing, we have said that there will be cost-of-living relief in the budget, just as I acknowledge and point out to the House that cost-of-living relief was contained in last year's budget.

I reflect on the fact that those opposite had frozen the household rebate for vulnerable households with electricity bills. We lifted that freeze. We invested in the Play On! vouchers. We invested in the Back to School Boost vouchers. We invested in extending the first home owner grant for a further 12 months. We continued to invest in those cost-of-living relief measures because that is what a good government will do.

I look at the motion moved by the member for Waterford. The House needs to get ready for the false hope and deception of those opposite. What they left behind in their final budget—

**Ms Fentiman:** What about hospital car-parking fees?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Waterford.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I take the interjection from the member for Waterford. Those opposite continue to peddle false hope and deception today after what they failed to fund and what they left behind. I am going to go through the member for Waterford's motion. They talk about rent and mortgages.

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Stop quarrelling across the chamber, member for Woodridge.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I happen to notice that they have been pretty quiet today on the federal budget. They should also be pretty quiet about the 15 cash rate increases that their federal colleagues have overseen to make mortgage stress worse for Australians. They are pretty quiet on that.

What about rent? What about their housing failures—their \$2 billion Housing Investment Fund that built precisely zero homes? Zero homes were built. They spent \$2 million on the Griffith University housing solution that went nowhere. Lot approvals and building approvals dropped 29 per cent and 36 per cent respectively under those opposite over a decade. They talk about rent and mortgage costs. That is their legacy. That is their false hope and deception. They talk about vehicle registration. The member for Waterford should know this; she sat through 31 CBRC meetings.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** She must not have paid attention; I take the interjection. She must not have been paying attention because their discount did not go beyond the year in which the budget was. They never put a single dollar in beyond that. They spent more money putting it on the back of the budget papers!

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Waterford!


**Mr JANETZKI:** They spent more time and more money advertising it. They turned the budget papers into advertising hoarding. That is how little the member for Woodridge and the member for Waterford cared about budget integrity.

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Waterford, you are now warned. Minister, you have 39 seconds remaining.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Excellent, Mr Speaker. Next they talk about fuel costs. Can you imagine how bad the fuel cost challenge would be if those opposite had still been in government? They never fully funded the permanent 50-cent fares. It was only the Crisafulli government that permanently funded 50-cent fares. It was us who did that. They spent more time talking about 50-cent fares on the back of the budget papers. Their record is one of false hope and deception, and Queenslanders will never again let them be in charge of the fiscal settings in this state.


*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.47 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the shadow treasurer because right now Queenslanders are struggling to put food on the table and are struggling to pay their rent and their mortgage. They cannot afford to fill up their cars or cover the cost of their rising energy bills, their water bills, their rego or their rates. These are affordability pressures they are facing every single day around the dinner table. They are unrelenting in the current economy, made worse because of the decisions of the Crisafulli LNP government. They are front of mind when Queenslanders are making the choice between fuel and food. They are front of mind when choosing between picking up a shift at work or saving the money that would be spent on transport or parking. Trump's war was not something anyone could predict, but what has happened since with the rising price of fuel, resources and commodities will present this LNP government and this Treasurer with a unique opportunity.

High oil, gas and coal prices sit well above Treasury forecasts and, analysts predict, could generate a windfall of \$2 billion extra. In other states governments are using their budgets to give sensible, targeted cost-of-living relief. In Victoria the state government used their budget to give drivers a 20 per cent discount on their rego. In Western Australia there are \$100 fuel support payments available through their state budget, whereas this LNP government has ruled out direct cost-of-living relief like energy bill rebates or rego discounts despite promising to keep them before the election.

Imagine what up to \$2 billion could deliver in relief for Queensland households. On this side of the House we think that windfall surplus should go back to Queenslanders doing it tough like small and family business operators struggling to keep the lights on or tourism operators who are often high fuel consumers who cannot pass those costs on. Those tourism operators have been calling for temporary relief from state government fees and charges. The state budget could provide regional Queenslanders who do not have the same level of access to frequent or reliable public transport with more support or even across the south-east, where commuters have been pushed into their cars and onto the roads because of the transport minister's epic rail fail.

The Crisafulli LNP government has these levers available to it today. There is no reason that Queenslanders should be left waiting in limbo. Something we have called for is an immediate increase to the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme, a scheme accessed by patients who have to travel the furthest for their care. Amidst this fuel affordability crisis it is so important that the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme is lifted—that it is not left going backwards under the LNP the same way other critical health projects have. Like on Brisbane’s north side at the Prince Charles Hospital where the only construction we have seen is a new car park. Today doctors and nurses have called for temporary free parking at our public hospitals for patients and workers who are also battling with rising fuel costs, because when you need to get to hospital you do not often wait for a bus to come. If you have to clock on for your overnight shift as a doctor or a nurse, there may not be safe or accessible public transport to get you there. These are the kinds of targeted solutions that would make a real difference to those struggling with rising costs right now, solutions that this LNP government should use their \$2 billion royalty windfall to fund. Anything less is a shameful short-change by a Premier and Treasurer who would rather pocket that money while Queenslanders are in pain.

 **Hon. AJ STOKER** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (5.52 pm): I rise today to speak in favour of the amendment to this motion because it reflects an important reality. After a decade of waste, cosy deals with their mates, ever-rising red tape and plummeting productivity, Queenslanders have experienced real hardship. They have been smashed by the impact of ‘Grim Jim’ Chalmers runaway inflation. That is not my assessment; it is the assessment of his hand-picked Reserve Bank Governor. No matter how much the federal treasurer wants to blame it on the Middle East or the Ukraine, the facts are in. It is the result of irresponsibly excessive spending. On 5 May the Reserve Bank Governor said—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mrs STOKER:** They do not want to hear it. They are uncomfortable facts, I am sorry to say.

**Ms Pease** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Lytton.

**Mrs STOKER:** The Reserve Bank Governor said—

Inflation in Australia was already too high before the recent conflict in the Middle East began. The most recent data have confirmed that some of the increase in inflation was being generated by economy-wide capacity pressures ...

She goes on to absolutely hang ‘Grim Jim’ Chalmers out to dry. It is not only the federal Labor legacy that is causing Queenslanders pain. Queensland Labor did its fair share in government too, so maybe those opposite need a little reminder of some of those milestones. I am so sorry that I will not have time to cover them all, but here are a couple: health system overruns to the tune of \$200 million, a health bill that was left largely unfunded; over a billion dollars of blowout on Cross River Rail; the phenomenal waste of the Wellcamp COVID quarantine facility—who can forget that?—\$220 million but only ever housing about 730 people. That is a mighty expensive hotel.

**A government member:** And we don’t even own it!

**Mrs STOKER:** And we do not even own it; I take the interjection. There were delays and cost blowouts in school upgrades and maintenance to the tune of around \$150 million and let’s not forget their legacy of debt. Despite record incomes, rivers of gold, they left debt which would have reached \$218 billion—

**Mr J Kelly** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Greenslopes.

**Mrs STOKER:**—by the end of their last budget. Now, after creating this mess, after leaving the economy in decline, after—

**Mr J Kelly** interjected.

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

**Mrs STOKER:**—leaving crime skyrocketing and leaving our hospitals in crisis, Labor have the nerve to come in here and demand payments to help people with the direct consequences of their policy fails! If they did not have so much chutzpah they would blush with embarrassment. They should be embarrassed. It is not a real solution to suggest that the way out of the mess they have made is to tax you more, borrow more on your behalf, process it a little through the government, and hand it back to you—less, of course, the cost of all that administration.


**Ms Pease** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Lytton is now warned.

**Mrs STOKER:** That is exactly what that motion proposes. The last time Labor did just that. It cost at least \$2 billion they did not have. Despite having rivers of gold from record revenues they left a legacy of nothing but debt.

In contrast, we are doing plenty to tackle the high cost of living in a way that respects the intelligence of Queenslanders and their money by delivering infrastructure projects on time and on budget. It sounds like a small thing, but they never managed it. It did not happen for a decade. It is going to be even more important as we head towards the Olympics. When we provide cost-of-living relief—and there has been a lot of it—those measures are targeted and responsible. With a value of \$8.5 billion in our first budget, those targeted measures include: actually funding permanent 50-cent public transport fares across the Translink network—you can talk about it but if you do not fund it it ain't real; saving Queenslanders from spending more every time they go to the doctor by axing the patient tax; boosting the Electricity Rebate Scheme; reducing schooling costs with the \$100 Back to School Boost; reducing the cost of kids sport by funding a new \$200 Play On! ongoing sports voucher program; supporting women to return to work through our Women's Career Grants to help them overcome barriers to work; more free health care for young Queenslanders through the free Healthy Kindy Kids program, setting them up for a great education and saving on health costs; and restoring the dream of home ownership. They can talk, but all of the facts are with us—

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (5.58 pm): After that droll effort from one of the weakest treasurers in this state's history, consistently rolled by the Premier and Deputy Premier behind the scenes, we should not be surprised to have an audition for cabinet from the member for Oodgeroo, as pedestrian as that was. The member for Oodgeroo spoke to the amendment, but when you look at the amendment all it has in there are either Labor achievements like 50-cent fares or things they were shamed into doing by Labor campaigning under Steven Miles as the Leader of the Opposition.

The simple fact is that the cost of living is challenging for average Queenslanders. Anyone with eyes and ears knows that. With the election of Premier Crisafulli and Deputy Premier Blejje, whom the Premier winds up and then hides behind daily, they abandoned Queenslanders with their broken election promises. They cut the \$1,000 energy rebate to every Queensland household when they said they would not. They increased car rego massively by 24 per cent and they walked away from targeted cost-of-living relief when householders need it most. They left Queenslanders to the wolves when it comes to the cost of living.

They tell Queenslanders that they cannot afford cost-of-living relief. They turn out their pockets and plead poor, yet the Crisafulli LNP government allocates millions and millions of taxpayer dollars for self-promoting political propaganda right across this state on a scale I have never seen before, with billboards, YouTube ads, construction site banners, online ads and newspaper ads—you name it. It is a taxpayer-funded blue blitz in the maroon state. It is a blue blitz using taxpayer funds.

Everywhere you go, Queenslanders are being forced to pay for the Premier's blue self-promoting advertising campaign, and half the time they are pathetic attempts to steal credit for Labor achievements—like 50-cent fares, the QEII Hospital expansion, the PA Hospital expansion, the new Toowoomba Hospital, and the list goes on. In a scene reminiscent of *Yes Minister*, the Crisafulli government is spending \$45,000 a week in the Stafford by-election to promote a \$20,000 grant to a local school, and it is compounding every week. It is straight out of *Yes Minister*.


People are struggling with the price of groceries, rent, mortgages, expensive fuel, energy bills and keeping their car on the road. Families are doing the sums at the kitchen table and cutting back. Premier Crisafulli looked at that and made it worse for them by cutting the energy rebate and using the public purse for self-promotion rather than supporting people with cost-of-living relief. The Crisafulli government will likely have a \$2 billion royalty windfall, yet that money is not being allocated to cost-of-living relief; it is being used to plaster the LNP's blue colours across the state at taxpayer expense, while Queenslanders are told to cop higher bills, higher rego and less help. This is a Premier who is out of touch and aloof. He is not in touch with ordinary Queenslanders.

Cost of living and health are connected. When people cannot afford petrol, they sometimes delay appointments. When families are smashed by cost of living, they put off prescriptions. When patients pay hospital parking on top of travel and time off work, real relief matters for them. When hospitals are under pressure, people pay in waiting, stress, lost work and worse outcomes. They need that practical help, and that is why the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme needs to be increased—it was last increased by Labor and it needs it again—that is why dental needs to be added into the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme, and that is why there needs to be relief with hospital car parking as well.

Premier Crisafulli promised no health cuts in this House, but Queenslanders got the health cuts and I can tell you that the people of Stafford feel betrayed. They have told me about that betrayal at their doors over the last four weeks, and we will see the verdict on Saturday. We know that the government promised there would be no cuts and no cuts to cost of living.

What we see is a government that have taken only 18 months to absolutely detach themselves from ordinary Queenslanders. They are denying people that bit of support and assistance, and they are not even honest about it. They are not honest about their lack of care. They are being callous as people are struggling with cost of living, while their budget bottom line is going to be in pretty good shape due to that \$2 billion royalty increase. They are out of touch. Premier Crisafulli and Deputy Premier Bleijie are showing the lowest standards we have seen in here in a long time.

*(Time expired)*

 **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) (6.03 pm): We cannot cut what Labor never funded. We just heard a whole lot of porkies across the chamber about programs that Labor never funded. They did not extend funding for a range of things, so what we just heard from the Labor members who have spoken in the House is completely untrue.

Let us look at Labor's decade of failure. They did not fund rego rebates after the election, they did not fund electricity rebates after the election, they did not fund FairPlay vouchers after the election and they did not fund 50-cent fares after the election. They did not make them permanent. Under the Crisafulli government, we are funding a range of targeted cost-of-living measures. We are funding permanent 50-cent fares, and that is popular right throughout the state and people are taking it up. It is permanent. We have funded it; it is happening.

We are also funding free kindy health checks, the \$100 Back to School Boost, the \$200 Play On! vouchers and Women's Career Grants. Women's Career Grants is a great program that we are rolling out to help women get back to work after they have been unemployed for more than six months while caring for children or for some other reason.

**A government member:** Practical support.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Absolutely. It is practical support, as my colleague said, to help women get back into paid work. We also have a nation-leading first home buyers package, the Electricity Maintenance Guarantee and development of a fuel security plan. Labor did not do this and now we have a situation where there are real cost-of-living pressures.

I did not hear anyone in the Labor Party talking up their Labor mates in Canberra who just delivered a budget. Why not? It is because it is the worst budget ever. It is a 'Son of Gough' budget, back to the old era where they have no concern for productivity, which actually is about people's cost-of-living pressures. They have put more pressure on people's back pockets. They are actually hitting the very people who drive productivity—the mums and dads, the families, the small businesses. We are standing for Queenslanders with targeted cost-of-living measures and we are also standing against what has happened with federal Labor. The Queensland Labor opposition have not talked about the \$2.3 billion that has been ripped from Queensland with a reduction in GST. That is a disgrace at a time when this state is driving the national economy with respect to our natural resources, our energy and our primary industries.


Queenslanders are left to pay the bill for Labor's ineptitude. Why does productivity matter? There are 77,000 fewer homes in Queensland thanks to Labor's CFMEU tax, where Labor gave in to the outrageous demands of the thugs and criminals in the CFMEU because of their complicit comrades in the Labor Party in Queensland. What does 77,000 fewer homes mean? That is two times the number of existing homes in Rockhampton. Imagine if you wiped out two Rockhamptons in Queensland. What impact would that have? That is a cost-of-living impact on people who need homes.

In contrast, in the last year alone, our targeted measures have been driving the construction of houses after Labor's decade of decline and failure. We have the \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund. In the last year, home approvals have been up by 17 per cent. We have seen a situation where streamlined council approvals have resulted in an 11.9 per cent increase in housing approvals. It is vitally important that we drive productivity to take the pressure off people's back pockets. Labor have learned nothing and are driving down productivity at the national level.

Let us talk about Queensland's Fuel Security Plan, a sovereign fuel program about more production, refining and storage. Sadly, that did not happen under a decade of decline, but we are determined to build sovereign capability into the future. It is not rocket science to know that when you

have volatility due to being at the end of the supply chain you need sovereign capability. Labor never look beyond tomorrow; they just take out the capability of those who can produce the wealth—the mums and dads, the small businesses. We are delivering targeted cost-of-living measures to ensure Queenslanders get a fair go, while Labor puts more red tape and debt on people.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (6.08 pm): I rise to support the shadow treasurer's motion. Queenslanders are not looking for hubris about affordability from the political party that made life harder, more expensive and more insecure for working people the last time they held office and that is repeating those same behaviours again today. This motion matters because Queenslanders are struggling. They are struggling to put food on the table, they are struggling to pay the rent, the mortgage, car registration, rates and power bills, and they are now struggling to afford fuel. While families are counting every dollar at the kitchen table, this Crisafulli LNP government is sitting on the prospect of billions of dollars in royalty windfalls while refusing to deliver meaningful, targeted relief to hardworking Queenslanders who are doing it tough now under this government.

Mr Speaker, you might know that I love a good horror movie, but an LNP government is a horror show that gives even me nightmares. Sadly, we have seen this horror show before. Under Campbell Newman, the LNP sacked tens of thousands of public servants and acted as though the human consequences were little more than an administrative burden. Queenslanders have not forgotten the arrogance. They remember the attitude that if people lost their jobs—if they lost security and they lost confidence in paying their bills—that was simply collateral damage in some ideological crusade that the LNP ran against hardworking Queenslanders. Around 14,000 people lost their jobs, a direct result of the decisions made by the then LNP government. Many of the ministers who sat around the cabinet table at that time are again ministers today, including the Premier. The then premier, Campbell Newman, came into this place and swore that no-one was being sacked as part of a budget process when, in fact, temporary positions were not being filled. It was tricky wording then and it is tricky wording now. The government should come in, front up and be honest.

**Mr Hunt:** 'Temporary' is not a tricky word. It means what it says.


**Ms BUSH:** I take the interjection from the member for Nicklin, who said they are temporary positions. They are temporary positions, but these are real people in real positions needing real money to come in to pay real bills. They may be temporary positions, but those temporary positions matter.

It appears, based on those comments, that the Crisafulli government is just the latest sequel in the LNP horror franchise. When you rip secure jobs out of communities, when you attack wages and conditions, when you undermine public services, you do not improve affordability; you make life more precarious, working-class families grow anxious and you make it harder for people to get ahead. Now, astonishingly, the LNP want Queenslanders to believe that they are somehow the party who cares about cost-of-living relief. Let's look at the record of the Crisafulli government. Teachers, already stretched thin and carrying enormous workloads, have been forced into arbitration instead of being treated with the respect and dignity they deserve and the government working with them in good faith through their unions. At a time when we should be supporting the workforce that is caring for and educating our next generation, this government has chosen conflict over cooperation.

This government scrapped affordable housing targets, abandoned fast-tracked housing processes that would have helped deliver supply in communities like mine where nurses, teachers and healthcare workers are lining up at overcrowded open homes just for the chance to buy a property. Eighteen months after promising this state that we would have nation-leading home ownership—and I remember that coming out of the Treasurer's mouth—young Queenslanders are still locked out of owning their own home. They scrapped the \$1,000 energy rebate put in place by the former Labor government. I saw my own mum on Mother's Day who told me that she still has not paid an electricity bill because of the targeted cost-of-living relief provided by the Labor government. She also said that she dreads the day she will have to start paying those bills again, and that is what these decisions mean.

While other states were working directly with industry on rapid responses to the fuel crisis, the Crisafulli leadership team sat in William Street sending out tweets and writing letters to Canberra. In fact, constituents tell me that the only meaningful cost-of-living relief they have introduced is to continue the Miles Labor government's 50-cent fares, and even that has been undermined by absolute chaos across the train network. This month as we celebrate International Nurses Day and International Day of the Midwife we should acknowledge that many healthcare workers are struggling, too. Perhaps the government can manage something simple like making public hospital parking free for all healthcare workers until the fuel affordability crisis eases.

Queenslanders have seen what happens when the LNP government governs without regard for household pressures. They remember the cuts, the arrogance and the consequences. They will not be fooled again just because this sequel comes with a new title and some more slick slogans.

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (6.13 pm): I rise to support the amendment to the motion moved by the Treasurer. When it comes to cost of living and 'Labornomics', this mob on the other side of the House have it down pat. There was \$70 billion in additional revenue that this mob had distributed to them that was forecast by the member for Woodridge in his first budget. Over and above \$70 billion!

**Mr Minnikin:** What did they do with it?

**Mr LAST:** I take that interjection. That is the question that we all want answered, that Queensland wants answered. That \$70 billion would go a long way to address some of those issues now—the issues that the former treasurer has been asking about. They have the audacity to come in here now and talk about cost of living when they frittered away \$70 billion. Instead of running around looking for the Binna Burra bell, maybe the former treasurer should have been doing the sums and the economics. That is what he should have been doing.


Let's have a look. The rego rebates were not funded after the election—electricity rebates, no; FairPlay vouchers, no; 50-cent fares, no. They made all the promises in the world but nothing was funded going forward. Where was the money coming from? Isn't that so typical of how they managed the finances in this state under their watch? Money that we could have been spending on hospitals, schools and cost-of-living relief instead went to servicing their debt. While families are struggling they were presiding over a government that was plagued by those failures and scandals. Have a look at the blowouts—and my colleague the transport minister will talk about that shortly—in Cross River Rail and in the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program. We are not talking about millions here; we are talking about billions. What could we do in our electorates now with that money? Think about how that would help our struggling families right now. There was the CFMEU tax that cost Queenslanders up to—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr LAST:** They love it. They still talk about it. They love it. There it is. It is getting towards \$20 billion extra on major projects. Electricity prices skyrocketed by nearly 20 per cent. I say again that they have a hide to come in here and talk about cost-of-living pressures. I acknowledge the work that our Treasurer is doing in addressing this because it is a challenging time. Let me run through some of the things we are doing. There is the record cost-of-living package with an \$8½ billion investment in our first budget, reducing those public transport costs and locking in the permanent 50-cent fares, stopping the patients tax, reducing energy costs with the electricity rebate scheme, reducing schooling costs with the \$100 Back to School Boost, reducing the cost of kids' sport with the new \$100 Play on! sports voucher program.

If the member for Waterford wants to talk about cost-of-living relief, I will keep going. This is what we are doing. We are supporting women who want to return to work, delivering more free health care for young Queenslanders through the free Healthy Kindy Kids program, supporting home ownership through the \$330 million Boost to Buy, extension of the \$30,000 first home owners grant—not that that was helped by their mates in Canberra last night—abolishing stamp duty for first home buyers, allowing first home owner grants—the list goes on when it comes to cost-of-living relief. We are getting the job done. As I like to say, we are making it happen because that is exactly what we do. That is exactly what we do on this side of the House and as the government that is going to take this state forward. We like to say we are open for business. We are delivering for Queensland and we are going to continue to deliver for Queensland because we understand that this state needs a good, stable government that is financially responsible. Until such time as those on the other side understand that, they are not going to go anywhere.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (6.18 pm): I rise in support of the motion moved by the shadow treasurer. When we come to parliament as elected members it is a time when we should be focusing on representing our communities and the issues that are impacting them. Unfortunately, that is not the case for those opposite. It is not the case for the government because they seem more focused on childish smears than taking action on the issues that are impacting Queenslanders. This is not a serious government and they are not serious ministers who will take seriously the issues that are impacting people in their communities.


There are thousands of Queenslanders who are struggling with the rising cost of living, being hammered with endless bills, struggling with rent, struggling with paying for groceries and struggling to make ends meet. In my local community that is people like Suchika, who is a newly married social worker who cannot afford to buy a home. It is people like Sally, whose rent has gone up 15 per cent in the last year alone, taking up most of her income. It is people like Rodney, who came into my office asking what cost-of-living support was available through the Queensland government because he could not pay his electricity bill.

These are not isolated stories. I am sure there are many stories like this across all of our communities, but what is unfortunate is that the government is doing nothing to help. Not a single meaningful action is being taken. What about some support with energy bills? Scrapped! There are currently over 37,000 Queenslanders who are on hardship payment plans just to help keep the lights on—a number that has nearly doubled in a single year under the Crisafulli LNP government. What about support with paying car registration? Gone! What about cheaper public transport? Well, we did help with 50-cent public transport fares, but we actually need the trains to run for people to be able to utilise that.

While Queenslanders are dealing with a fuel affordability crisis due to the war in the Middle East, even though those opposite deny it, our frontline healthcare workers such as nurses—people who work hard every day to help our hospitals keep running—are being forced to turn down shifts because they cannot afford to get to work. They cannot afford to get to work and they cannot catch a train to work, so what do they have to do? They have to drive. When they drive to work they have to park somewhere, and currently nurses are paying an extra \$2,600 annually in hospital parking fees. We are calling on the government to provide support with that in terms of covering them to park at public hospitals. I also want to take a moment to thank all of those nurses who are working hard day in, day out—nurses like Sam and Usha and Cameron in my community but nurses across Queensland, nurses who have doorknocked in Stafford and are calling for this LNP government to ensure there is health funding for the Prince Charles Hospital and seeking that the government does not back down on its commitment to deliver the 93 hospital beds, which are nowhere to be seen at the moment.

We are hearing a lot from the government about how this side of the House does not support Labor's budget in the federal parliament. That is not true, because I am happy to go on the record and support a tax cut for every taxpayer which is being delivered by the federal government. I am happy to go on the record to support the record investment in Medicare which the federal government is providing. I call on the state government to match that funding when it comes to health care in Queensland hospitals. I, for one, support the investment in women's health which is being provided by the federal Labor government. I, for one, support the instant tax write-off that the government is providing. I, for one, support the funding for extra housing for young people in Queensland. I support those measures and I know that my colleagues on this side of the House support those measures.

It will be a test for this government to ensure there is cost-of-living relief in its budget. I am calling on the Premier and the Treasurer to ensure they use the extra revenue of \$2 billion from the windfall in royalties to ensure there is cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders who are desperate for that support because they need to be able to put food on the table. Currently their calls are being ignored by this government. People look to the governments they have elected to provide that support, so the budget is going to be a real test for this Premier and this Treasurer to see if they are able to provide any cost-of-living relief at all, because what we saw in the last budget was scrapping any form of cost-of-living relief that Labor had provided. The thousand dollar electricity rebates were scrapped. The rego discount was scrapped. All Queenslanders have seen since this government came to power is that life is becoming harder and harder and there is not a single measure they can look to that makes their lives easier. This government must do better to look out for ordinary Queenslanders who are looking to their government to do better.

 **Mr VORSTER** (Burlleigh—LNP) (6.23 pm): It gives me great pleasure to stand up and back in the amendment moved by our fine Treasurer, who is doing a great job getting Queensland's finances back on track—and not as an accounting exercise but instead to put Queensland in a position where it can deliver the services that Queenslanders expect, that they deserve and that they can afford. During the course of this debate many of those opposite have invoked references to cinematic stories—masterpieces. Well, I have a few references of my own. The member for Cooper talked a lot about her penchant for horror films. She loves horror films. The former Labor government was a horrific government, but I do not consider the former Labor government a horror. I think it believed that it was Robin Hood—that it was stealing from the rich and giving to the poor—when in actual fact the former Labor government was nothing other than the Sheriff of Nottingham who made life materially worse for honest, hardworking people seeking to eke out a better life.

What is particularly galling in addressing the motion moved by the shadow treasurer is that, almost like Dory in *Finding Nemo*, those opposite seem to have completely forgotten what happened over the last 10 years when they presided over a succession of decisions that locked in structural cost issues in the budget that made life materially more difficult for everyday Queenslanders. I think, for example, of their decisions to gut our power generation capacity in this state, where our power plants were not properly maintained and as a consequence—

**Mr BAILLIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Bundaberg is interjecting when he is not in his correct seat.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I obviously could not see him as he is seated behind the member on his feet—

**Honourable members** interjected.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! All members know the rules about interjecting: you need to be in your own seat. My view is a bit obstructed in terms of the member for Bundaberg—and the member for Bancroft, too, on that count—so, member for Kurwongbah, you keep them in order.

**Mr King:** I vow to, Mr Speaker!

**Mr VORSTER:** As I was saying, the former Labor government was absolutely incapable of managing the state's power generation network and, as a consequence, we saw materially higher power prices that were passed on to Queensland consumers. That was not just felt in households, because energy of course is an input into every part of the economy. When energy prices were higher than they would otherwise have been, it was more expensive to run the refrigerators in our supermarkets and it was more expensive to keep the lights on in our footy clubs. Everything became more expensive. Rather than presenting a credible energy policy which could have brought down prices, the former government's Jobs and Energy Plan did the opposite. It took this Treasurer—our energy minister—to deliver an Energy Roadmap and to expose the fact that the difference between the two plans means at least \$1,035 of structural savings and avoidable costs dealt with year after year. That is the difference in the way cost-of-living relief is provided.

Those on the opposite side are addicted to political games, theatre and sugar hits that do not go the distance. They have an addiction to political sugar hits that gave Queensland a case of political diabetes whereas our government is concerned with sustainable, ongoing savings that will deliver a healthier, more sustainable economy by addressing those input costs into the economy. The Leader of the Opposition stood up and said, 'What could we do with this \$2 billion worth of royalties?' I just want to point out that his federal counterparts are addicted to a GST model that strips the revenue that this state would otherwise enjoy from those royalties. If he has a problem with the way royalties are collected and spent, he should take the fight up to Canberra, but he will not. I cannot help but reflect that his contribution followed the incoming leader of the opposition. Maybe we have seen the sequel preview today.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (6.29 pm): I am pleased to make my contribution in the latest Burleigh Heads Toastmasters variety hour, but I am pleased to move on to more important matters. In the midst of an affordability crisis, this LNP government has refused to act to support Queenslanders. While the price of fuel skyrocketed in March, the Crisafulli government stood back and watched on as everyday Queenslanders struggled with rising fuel costs—rising fuel costs that were just the latest blow to Queensland household budgets already suffering from a 23 per cent increase in rego.

While the federal government asked us to consider public transport, the LNP government have made Queensland's public transport system even harder to use. Weekday train services are now operating at a reduced timetable. There are 273 less trains running on the rail network every day. That is a 20 per cent cut to services. They are services that the government is no longer providing to everyday Queenslanders. To add insult to injury, the station cuts have coincided with a reduction in shift hours for Queensland Rail station staff. These changes mean that commuters who have always relied on support from station staff to use the network—like people with a disability, the elderly and tourists—are now left stranded. Transport advocates Better Transport Queensland called for the travelling public to be prioritised over politics, and they are absolutely right. What happens with the LNP in power? Rather than acting to support our communities, this government plays politics and it is everyday Queenslanders who suffer.

While the LNP stands back, it is Labor that stands up and fights for Queenslanders. Our outstanding candidate for Stafford, Luke Richmond, is doing exactly that—standing up for the north side and fighting for the Prince Charles Hospital. Labor has a strong record in Stafford. The former Labor government funded and delivered a publicly owned car park for the Prince Charles Hospital. We

provided 1,500 extra car parks. We alleviated parking pressures, we capped fees and we made life easier for the incredible hospital workers, patients and families who were already doing it tough. We would think that there would be universal support for a positive project that would help the everyday lives of Stafford locals.

Who would oppose such an important and desperately needed project? Fiona Hammond did—the same recycled LNP councillor who spent years overpromising and underdelivering for locals. She even opposed a hospital car park. The north side knows that Fiona and the LNP cannot be trusted when it comes to Stafford. You only have to look at their track record. She promised to fix a dangerous intersection along Hamilton Road outside the Prince Charles Hospital, a council road. Close to a decade after she first made the promise, the intersection remains unchanged. Somehow after all of this, the LNP has the audacity to ask Stafford residents for their vote. The LNP has no shame.

Queenslanders are angry, and rightfully so. Ask anyone who has tried to catch a train in the last week and they will tell you that the rail network—just like the minister—is cooked. People have been sharing story after story about how the transport minister's inability to do his job is having a detrimental effect on their daily lives. Benjamin told me he is unable to catch a train to work because he would have to leave home an hour earlier. Laura said she has been late to work repeatedly and missed meetings despite doing the right thing and following the advice to start her journey earlier. A frustrated local mother asked me whether the Crisafulli government would be footing the bill for the childcare late pick-up fees, and they rack up quickly as we all know.

Each and every Queenslanders experiencing these frustrations knows exactly who to blame, and that is the transport minister. Just like a certain Liberal prime minister who said he 'does not hold a hose', this guy says it is not his job. That was until Magic Round was at risk because only then did the minister finally emerge. Only today—more than a week after reduced services started—has he actually met with unions. The pain felt by everyday commuters was simply not enough for him to do his job. This weekend, as thousands of NRL fans flock to Brisbane to support their teams, it is a crying shame that the Crisafulli government will not support Queenslanders.

The transport minister has well and truly let them down. In question time today we saw more bumbling, more fumbling; the minister claiming casual jobs were not real jobs. The Minister for Transport is clearly not across his brief. He is too busy filming himself racking up speeding tickets across the state. He was laughing about his cuts to casual workers across the rail network in question time today. What a disgrace! Queensland Rail staff who live in Stafford—of which there are many—will not forget this Saturday. Stafford locals struggling to get to work from Wilston, Newmarket, Alderley and even Windsor station will not forget this Saturday. I move the following amendment to the member for Toowoomba South's amendment—

That all words after 'LNP government is' be omitted and the following inserted—

'failing to properly provide actual targeted cost-of-living relief that will help Queensland families, such as electricity rebates and reduced vehicle registration costs,

3. that the former Labor government provided targeted cost-of-living relief which actually supported and helped Queensland families.'



**Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (6.33 pm): If this is Labor's A team when it comes to cost of living, God help us when they send in the reserves! They do not even sound like their heart is in this debate that they moved. Was there ever a less inspiring speech than that which we just heard from the former transport minister—the failed transport minister—the member for Aspley, or does he want to be the member for Stafford? I do not know—he does not know. On reflection, I think we have actually already seen the reserves bench. They were mostly on the front bench last term and we saw what happens when they govern. The cost-of-living crisis that we are dealing with now is a souvenir of their decade of incompetence, a souvenir of Labor's decade of decline.

In the time I have available, I want to rebut some of the arguments that have been mounted by those opposite. The now shadow treasurer, the former health minister, talks about making public hospital parking free. So I wondered: what was her record when she was the health minister? What was the member for Waterford's record when she had an opportunity to make parking free? Redland Hospital comes to mind. In March 2023, I think it was, parking at Redland Hospital was free for nurses. What did the then minister for health, the member for Waterford, do? She jacked up the price—\$1,900 a year for nurses to park at the Redland Hospital. That is their record. That is the member for Waterford's record. The Leader of the Opposition comes into this place and talks about shamefully short-changing Queensland. I agree. That is exactly what the federal budget does—it shamefully short-changes Queenslanders.

The only member opposite who had the courage to agree that the federal budget duds Queensland was the member for Sandgate. I notice she tried to rope in her colleagues and said, 'We all agree.' There was a bit of silence at that point. Let's be very clear: what we saw last night duds Queensland. The federal Labor Party and Jim Chalmers—supposedly a Queenslander—are taking from the pockets of Queenslanders and giving to Victorians.

It is the gift that keeps on giving when the member for Miller comes in and speaks on these motions. The overrun overlord himself! The bloke that oversaw Cross River Rail go from \$5.4 billion to \$19 billion—what we could have done with that money if we actually had a competent minister over that period. He talks about the budget being in good shape. The budget that we inherited from Labor had debt at \$218 billion. That is what we inherited from them. It was \$190 billion that our Treasurer handed down in June last year. The member for Cooper comes in here and rolls out the tired old ghost of Campbell Newman. Look, we tried it in 2015, 2017 and 2020.

**Mrs Nightingale** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Inala is warned.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** It ran out in 2024. I reckon it ran out long before then. Let's be very clear: those opposite have no record. The member for Cooper was silent about temporary staff. She was silent about the fact that more than 179,000 temporary roles ended under the Labor Party between 2015 and 2020. Their record is 179,000. If they genuinely believe that there is an issue then they need to correct the record and show why it is they ended more than 179,000 temporary roles.

The member for Aspley talks about Stafford. He knows all about Stafford. He has been in there doorknocking long before there was a by-election—mobile offices in Chermiside West. He will not call out his union mates. He likes to talk about the disruption to the rail network. If he genuinely wants to see that stop—and I would love to see it stop, as well—I would ask him to walk out there tomorrow morning and call on the unions to withdraw their protected industrial action. That is the only reason that rail services have been interrupted in Queensland—because of the actions of the union movement. They are silent now. They are always silent when it is inconvenient, but Queenslanders know. Queenslanders know that with Labor's A team they will always come second. We have seen this before. It is the same costs, the same script and it is Queenslanders who pay the price because of Labor's failures. I remind the people of Stafford to reflect on that when they go to the ballot box on Saturday. Queenslanders deserve better than the same ending they will get under Labor.

*(Time expired)*

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

**AYES, 34:**

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

**NOES, 52:**

**LNP, 52—**Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, 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.

Non-government amendment (Mr Mellish) negated.

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

**AYES, 52:**

**LNP, 52—**Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, 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.

**NOES, 34:**

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

Resolved in the affirmative.

Amendment agreed to.

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

**AYES, 52:**

**LNP, 52**—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, 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.

**NOES, 34:**

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

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House notes—

1. that Queenslanders are struggling under cost-of-living pressures,
2. that the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering targeted and ongoing cost-of-living measures including permanent 50-cent fares, free kindy health checks, the \$100 Back to School Boost, \$200 Play On! vouchers, Women's Career Grants, axing the patients' tax, a nation-leading first home buyers' package, Electricity Maintenance Guarantee, and development of a Fuel Security Plan,
3. that the former government's decade of decline left Queenslanders worse off.

Sitting suspended from 6.48 pm to 7.50 pm.

## MOTION

### Order of Business



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (7.50 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That general business notice of motion, House to take note of committee reports, No. 10 be postponed until the passage of the Transport and Other Legislation (Managing E-mobility Use and Protecting Our Communities) Amendment Bill 2026.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## SUNSHINE COAST WATERWAYS AUTHORITY BILL

Resumed from 4 March (see p. 486).

### Second Reading



**Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (7.51 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Tonight I rise to speak again on the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026. The bill was introduced in this House on 4 March this year and referred to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee for detailed consideration. The bill delivers the Crisafulli government's election commitment to establish the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority. It represents our commitment to the sustainable management of local waterways, enabling greater local input into waterway management.

As members will recall, this bill is for an act to establish the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority as a statutory body reporting to me as the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. The bill sets out the structure, general powers and governance arrangements for the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority. The bill proposes a requirement for the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority to develop a waterways management strategy through engagement with the public and in consultation with Maritime Safety Queensland and the Moreton Bay, Noosa and Sunshine Coast local governments. The bill proposes amendments to other acts to confer certain powers on the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority in relation to waterways management, public marine facilities, the Mooloolaba state managed boat harbour, ship waste reception facilities and aids to navigation.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads briefed the committee on the bill on 18 March 2026. The committee received 95 submissions to its inquiry on the bill, including submissions from the Sunshine Coast Regional Council, Noosa Shire Council and Moreton Bay City Council. In addition,

submissions were made by a range of industry and community organisations representing residents, businesses and catchment management; and environmental, boating and fishing interests; along with many from individuals in the local community. On 1 April this year, a public hearing was held in Caloundra where the committee heard from: Noosa Shire Council, Sunshine Coast Regional Council, Moreton Bay City Council, the Kabi Kabi Peoples Aboriginal Corporation, the Boating Industry Association, the Noosa Boating Fishing Alliance, Pelican Boat Hire and Noosa River Slipway, Noosa Ferry & Cruise Co, Court Marine, the Sunshine Coast Environment Council, the Noosa Shire Residents and Ratepayers Association, the Caloundra Residents Association, the Sunshine Coast Association of Residents, Pumicestone Passage Catchment Management Body, Take Action for Pumicestone Passage and Mr Lyndsay Price.

The committee tabled its report on 17 April 2026 recommending that the bill be passed. I acknowledge the work of the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee in conducting its inquiry into the bill. Thank you to the chair of the committee, the member for Lockyer, the committee members and the committee secretariat for their thorough and detailed examination of the bill and their report. I would also like to thank all the individuals and organisations that made submissions as well as those who attended the public hearing for giving their valuable feedback and insights to assist the committee. Overall, the committee found broad stakeholder support for the establishment of the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority and its objectives, particularly in improving coordination within a complex legislative environment, strengthening long-term planning and enhancing operational effectiveness across the waterways.

I acknowledge that some supporters of the bill sought clarity or suggested specific changes. The composition of the board overseeing the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority was a key theme, but there were differing views among submitters and public hearing witnesses on what the composition should be. The committee did not support increasing board membership or prescribing specific positions in the bill. I consider that the selection criteria for the board within the bill provides a robust framework for ensuring the right mix of skills, expertise and perspectives on the board. When recommending board candidates for the Governor in Council appointment, I will keep in mind the range of views expressed to the committee in submissions and by public hearing witnesses.

Clarity on roles and responsibilities between the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority and local governments, Maritime Safety Queensland and other state government agencies was a recurring theme in submissions. This is no surprise, considering that in the lead-up to the 2024 election the Sunshine Coast community was concerned about the piecemeal management of waterways by different councils and state government agencies. The community was frustrated about the management of the Bribie Island breakthrough, perceiving that multiple layers of bureaucracy were buck-passing the issue, and these concerns were raised again in submissions to the committee. The Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will improve this situation through its strategic waterways management planning function, which will provide a mechanism to gather stakeholder knowledge and perspectives in developing each 10-year strategy. This strategy then provides a road map to guide the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority's and other regulators' decisions towards realising the identified priorities and objectives for the waterways.

I have no doubt that the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority and Maritime Safety Queensland, which will both report to me as the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, will quickly develop a productive working relationship. The Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will be responsible for public marine facilities such as boat ramps and the Mooloolaba state managed boat harbour. Sunshine Coast locals and industry as well as Brisbane's marine pilot service vessels that transfer marine pilots to service all large commercial shipping that enters and leaves the Port of Brisbane rely on safe access to the Mooloolaba state boat harbour.

The Mooloolah River entrance experiences periodic shoaling driven by natural longshore sediment transport processes. This results in reduced navigable depths, increased risk to vessel operators and disruption to safe access. This House will, of course, be aware of the tragic death of local skipper Robert 'Smithy' Smith at the entrance to the harbour during a shoaling event. I pay tribute to Smithy's family, in particular his wife, his young son and his mother and father.

The Crisafulli government has acted on this risk, commissioning an independent long-term Mooloolaba boat harbour entrance review and accepting the recommendations to implement short- and long-term strategies to manage safety risks and shoaling. The Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will assume the long-term responsibility for managing the Mooloolah River entrance and implementing

recommendations from the independent report to manage shoaling. The Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will also manage aids to navigation and maintain designated channels to ensure navigational access.

There will be a future role for the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority in managing Pumicestone Passage and Bribie Island. This role is identified in the Crisafulli government's published response to the review we commissioned into the Bribie Island erosion and breakthrough. The Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will give certainty to the community and ensure effective delivery and monitoring of Bribie Island's ongoing resilience.

The Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority's responsibilities for navigational access as well as the monitoring and managing of sand and sediment movement will complement, rather than replace, similar activities currently carried out by local governments. Maritime Safety Queensland will continue to be the statewide maritime regulator. This includes responsibility for ship safety in Queensland waters, marine speed limits, life jackets, licensing, registration, seaworthiness, state marine pollution control and ship sourced marine pollution compliance, marine safety directions through MSQ's harbourmasters and general manager powers, and maritime emergency management.

While the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will decide where and under what conditions various waterways activities are permitted, Maritime Safety Queensland and its enforcement partners will be the on-water presence, monitoring compliance and taking enforcement action. This is consistent with Maritime Safety Queensland's role as the statewide compliance and enforcement agency, minimising confusion for the boating public.

The Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will also maintain working relationships with other government agencies, including the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, to facilitate consistent delivery of strategic outcomes. In this way, the policy objective of ensuring cooperation and coordination between the state and local governments around the sustainable use of Sunshine Coast waterways will be met.

From the outset the Crisafulli government's intention to establish the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority has been transparent. The strong participation in the committee's inquiry into the bill, with the large number of detailed and articulate submissions and excellent attendance at the public hearing, shows that the Sunshine Coast community is fully engaged with the detail on how the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will work.

As I outlined when introducing the bill, the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will be required to develop a waterways management strategy through engagement with the public and in consultation with Maritime Safety Queensland and the Moreton Bay, Noosa and Sunshine Coast local governments. A core part of the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority's mission will be consultation on its waterways management strategy and engagement with the Sunshine Coast community and stakeholders. This will provide ongoing opportunities for the local community to influence waterways management.


As was raised many times during the committee's inquiry, the environmental values of the Sunshine Coast waterways are outstanding, and the waterways are vital to supporting the region's lifestyle, economy and environmental health. They deserve holistic waterways management for marine industries and commercial and recreational fisheries, to enable world-class tourism to grow, and to improve and promote the sustainable use of these stunning and iconic waterways. The engagement and willingness to contribute to solutions shown during the committee's inquiry is great news for the future.

During the committee's inquiry, the extent of the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority's powers was considered. The Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will be responsible for defined waterways from Pumicestone Passage in the south to the Noosa lakes in the north. It includes the Noosa, Maroochy and Mooloolah rivers.

The definition of 'Sunshine Coast waterways' in clause 7 needs to be read in conjunction with the functions of the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority in clause 12 of the bill. The Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will only operate in coastal waters or on land to the extent necessary to manage the defined waterways and to perform its functions. An example is where coastal engineering works around a river mouth, such as the Mooloolah River, and extends into coastal waters. Another example is any nourishment of the tip of Bribie Island that may be required in the future to protect Pumicestone Passage. There is no intention to encroach upon local government's management of stormwater networks, or on Maritime Safety Queensland's management of coastal waters, port waters or commercial shipping lanes.

The upstream extent to which the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority would operate, and the extent of waters that would be considered 'adjoining waters' under the definition, is also related to its functions. Public marine facilities, aids to navigation, tidal works development assessment, buoy moorings, the Mooloolaba state managed boat harbour, dredging for navigational access, and provision of ships' waste reception facilities are all functions inherently associated with navigable waters.

I thank my department for its role in developing this legislation, along with other Queensland government agencies that have supported the policy development and drafting process. The work is ongoing. An amendment regulation is being prepared which, subject to the bill passing, will be forwarded for Governor in Council approval. The amendment regulation will implement components of the policy in subordinate legislation, including public marine facilities, the Mooloolaba state managed boat harbour, buoy moorings, aquatic event approvals and tidal works development assessment. Subject to the passing of the bill, preparations are required to appoint the board and chief executive officer and to set up an office on the Sunshine Coast. Consistent with the committee's recommendation, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (8.04 pm): The Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill is a remarkable contradiction from a government that promised Queenslanders it would listen to the experts. Who is more of an expert on Sunshine Coast waterways than a Sunshine Coast local? Expert after expert appeared before the committee to outline the serious flaws and risks within this bill. Their concerns were ignored—ignored by a government determined to put politics above all else.

I have spent a bit of time on the Sunshine Coast region throughout this year, speaking with locals who feel that this Crisafulli government simply does not listen to them, and this bill confirms it. Today I want to acknowledge and speak to the serious concerns raised by community groups, environmental groups and local councils.

In introducing the bill to the House, the transport minister advised that consultation with the Sunshine Coast community and stakeholders would be at the core of this new authority, but when DTMR officials first appeared before the committee at a public briefing they confirmed that no community consultation had occurred on the bill prior to its introduction to parliament in March. The old adage says 'start as you mean to go on'. If the LNP's first step was shutting out the local community, Sunshine Coast residents are right to be alarmed.

Clause 15 of the bill states that in developing a waterways management strategy the authority must take reasonable steps to engage in public consultation and consult with Maritime Safety Queensland, Moreton Bay Regional Council, the Noosa Shire Council and the Sunshine Coast Regional Council. Local community groups and affected stakeholders have been united in their scepticism of the government's appetite to carry out any meaningful future community consultation when it had considered that unnecessary in the drafting of the bill. Noosa Council noted—

The absence of this engagement is a significant structural weakness that should be acknowledged and addressed through amendments and strengthen consultation mechanisms as the bill progresses.

The committee also received confirmation that the Kabi Kabi people, the traditional owners of the waterways that this bill will oversee, had not once been consulted by the department during the drafting of this bill. The Kabi Kabi people's enduring connection to the land and sea of the Sunshine Coast region was formally recognised through a native title decision by the Federal High Court in 2024. As such, the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation requested that clause 15 of the bill be updated to include that the authority must consult with native title holders and claimants. Their simple request has been ignored by the government. How can traditional owners trust this new authority will consult them when they are not required to and have already failed to do so? Just like consultation, representation is necessary to ensure transparency and accountability.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr MELLISH:** Local governments want tangible, direct representation. They want a seat at the table. They want to be in the room where—

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Marr): Members to my right!

**Mr MELLISH:** I am not taking these rambling interjections from the member for Coomera and the Attorney-General.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Coomera!

**Mr MELLISH:** The Sunshine Coast Council recommended that the bill be amended to ensure local government representation on the board. Dr Moore from the council stated that the lack of local government representation is a key governance risk because consultation alone is insufficient when council assets, infrastructure and growth are potentially impacted.

**Mrs Frecklington:** You are just making stuff up. Staff will be handing out at Stafford again.

**Mr MELLISH:** It is disappointing that the Attorney-General does not seem to think the Sunshine Coast Council should be heard.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Aspley, the member has taken offence. Please withdraw.

**Mr MELLISH:** I withdraw. I thank the member for Noosa for her submission on the bill in which she makes the case for appropriate board representation for the Noosa community. The member for Noosa illustrates that local representation would ensure consideration of local knowledge in the authority's decision-making process and maintain non-politically biased representation. As with other Sunshine Coast residents, the concerns raised by the member for Noosa have not been addressed.

In introducing the bill to the House, the transport minister referred to the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority as a 'one-stop shop'. The Boating Industry Alliance called for consistent messaging to ensure there is no public confusion over the role of the new authority. They say the terminology 'one-stop shop' ignores the remits of other government bodies on the waterways. It completely erodes the roles and responsibilities of Maritime Safety Queensland and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority federally. This new authority will not assume enforcement duties; that remains the responsibility of Maritime Safety Queensland, as do marine speed limits, life jackets, licensing—

**Mr Dillon** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Gregory, your interjections are not being taken.

**Mr MELLISH:** I am pleased to be lectured about Maritime Safety Queensland by the member for Gregory. He is a fair distance from—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Aspley, direct your comments through the chair, thank you, not directly at members.

**Mr MELLISH:** I do believe I was referring through the chair, Deputy Speaker, but I am happy to continue. Maritime safety remains the responsibility—

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Was the member on his feet reflecting on the chair in his comment just then after your direction?

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will have silence while I am taking a point of order, thank you. Member for Aspley, I will take order of the House, so that will come through me, thank you. I do not need your assistance. If you would like to continue, thank you.

**Mr MELLISH:** The new authority will not assume enforcement duties that remain the responsibility of MSQ such as marine speed limits, the wearing of life jackets, licensing, registration, seaworthiness, state marine pollution control and ship sourced marine pollution compliance, marine safety directions and emergency management. Commonwealth legislation will continue to regulate international shipping, and the regulation of domestic commercial vessel safety will remain the responsibility of AMSA.

There are fundamental questions that go to the heart of governance arrangements. The Noosa Integrated Catchment Association sought greater clarity on the jurisdiction of the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority. They warned that the bill could lead to conflicts over decision-making authority and funding responsibilities as it appears to cover both local and state waters. If all of these responsibilities are not changing, why create another layer of red tape and bureaucracy? Why establish a new authority with new board members and a new chief executive?

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members to my right, I will start giving warnings soon.

**Mr MELLISH:** Why spend \$36 million when existing agencies are already performing these functions?

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Coomera, I have asked you plenty of times. You are warned.

**Mr MELLISH:** The Noosa Residents and Ratepayers Association questioned how the community could 'hold decision makers to account when issues such as resourcing and distribution of funds inevitably arise' if the Noosa river system is subject to external management. These are real concerns from locals. This association outlined concerns that another level of bureaucracy could impede the progress of the Noosa River Management Plan, a plan developed and supported by the local community. Multiple stakeholders expressed their hesitations for the ministerial appointment of the authority's chief executive officer, citing threats to the independence of the authority.

The Sunshine Coast and Hinterland branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland recommended the bill be amended to strengthen the accountability of this new authority through the board appointment of the authority's CEO—another very reasonable recommendation. They highlight that 'board-appointed CEOs have resulted in increased transparency and strengthened trust between management and governance bodies and ensures clear accountability', but we all know why the LNP do not want to have board appointed CEOs. They are very happy to do it directly.

Reviewing the submissions provided to the committee, it is clear that the Crisafulli LNP government's track record of jobs for mates is of real concern to Queenslanders. Queenslanders are entitled to question whether this role will be held by another failed LNP candidate or former minister looking for a taxpayer funded landing pad. It was obvious that the Crisafulli LNP government did not anticipate any pushback on this bill from locals. This became evident when the member for Pumicestone asked a representative of the Noosa Parks Association if he believed a Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority was needed. The reply was, 'I am sorry to say that I do not think it is needed, but I understand that there is a political imperative. I understand that it was an election commitment and thus it is going to be.'

This bill shows what happens when governments fail to listen to the experts. This is what happens when a government is all questionable style and absolutely no substance. Too often we see this government, led by a slick politician, putting profits over people, and now this bill will see the Premier put—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Aspley, can you take your seat for a moment, please? Member for Bundaberg, you are not speaking but you are having a cross-chamber conversation with others and you are not in your seat.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I do not need your assistance, thank you. I have not finished. Members to my right, there are to be no cross-chamber conversations, thank you.

**Mr MELLISH:** When outlining the bill's relationship to other acts, it fails to acknowledge the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. The Take Action for Pumicestone Passage group called for the bill to be amended to include reference to the act. Doing so would recognise the international significance of the Pumicestone Passage's connection to a Ramsar listed wetland and the federal legislation designed to protect it.


Neither the bill, its supporting documents nor the departmental briefings could clarify how this new authority would navigate conflicting priorities. Predictably, when a conflict arises between protecting the environment and expanding boat access, or the Deputy Premier's dredging dreams, this bill offers little by way of guidance. The Noosa Integrated Catchment Association sought greater clarity on the jurisdiction of the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority. They warned that the bill could lead to conflicts over decision-making authority and funding responsibilities as it appears to cover both local and state waters—fundamental questions that go to the heart of governance arrangements.

One of the authority's listed functions is to monitor and manage the movement of sand or sediment. Moreton Bay Regional Council suggested that 'sediment management and navigation decisions may influence the design, construction methodology and maintenance requirements for major transport infrastructure, including the proposed second Bribie Island bridge'. I want to reassure the council that they should not worry about potential risks to the second Bribie Island bridge because that would require the Crisafulli LNP government to actually fund and build it.

The City of Moreton Bay has established dredging operations which are required to maintain safe navigational access, functional waterways and the ongoing usability of council managed marine and canal systems. The council sought assurances that the new authority would recognise existing and approved dredging programs, and that the creation of this new authority would not create duplication or changes to its dredging regimes. Dredging is a massive undertaking for councils. It is natural that

they would want confirmation from the state government. The Department of Transport and Main Roads has confirmed that the responsibility for managing dredging operations will transition over to the new authority. Naturally, there are concerns for the financial cost to local governments to undertake further dredging, with the Pumicestone Passage dredging works costing well over \$20 million already. That is almost two-thirds of the budget allocated to the new authority over a three-year period.

Community groups and locals engaged with the committee process in good faith, with their thoughtful submissions and evidence. They want transparency. They want to be properly consulted. They need certainty, but the best that this Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill can deliver is doubts. It is a shame that the government failed to act in good faith to provide these answers and address these concerns. With so many flaws, questions and duplications, the Crisafulli LNP government has failed to make the case on why this authority should be established.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (8.15 pm): I am very pleased to be able to speak on the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill. Thank you, Deputy Speaker, for the opportunity to do so. I must say that I appreciate the minister and his compliments earlier—thank you very much. I would like to recognise my colleagues the member for Cook and the member for Mulgrave for their assistance on this really important bill. I will not stop my appreciation there. I also want to place on record my appreciation for the Deputy Premier and the way he approached the problems that happened at the Bribie Island passage. This was a commitment that we made before the election. We said that we would put in place a Sunshine Coast waterways authority, and we are doing exactly what we said we would do.

Labor had many years and opportunity to fix that, but they did not do it. With the levers of government and the Coordinator-General's assistance, the Deputy Premier was able to put in place some really sensible operations at Bribie Island and give a lot of confidence to both the Bribie Island community and those of the Sunshine Coast who are neighbours of Bribie Island. I really appreciate the work of the Deputy Premier.

I was very pleased to be the chair of the committee that looked at 95 submissions and listened to the many witnesses who attended the public hearings on this bill. I must say to the community that I spent 16 years in local government. I believe in local government. It was great to hear from the mayors of Noosa, the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay. The beautiful waterways of the Sunshine Coast are pristine.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr McDONALD:** I hear the interjections of the members from the Gold Coast. It is beautiful at the Gold Coast as well, but the Sunshine Coast is a special place for me. I am pleased to go to the Sunshine Coast whenever I can.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Marr): Members, I cannot hear the speaker.

**Mr McDONALD:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I appreciate your guidance to the other members. I understand why those on the Gold Coast are parochial. They have had a Gold Coast Waterways Authority for some time. It is not broken. It is not a new thing. I understand that we started that a short while ago. We have learned from those opportunities. Back in 2012, I am informed, the then LNP government started the Gold Coast Waterways Authority. It is great to see us starting the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority as well. I understand the parochialism of each of the councils.

I met with the minister and his office about the representation issues. Through the submissions it was clear that they thought each of the councils should be represented on the board. I stress to the councils out there—and many of those councillors and mayors are friends of mine—that, whilst I have no financial connection to them at all, I understand their parochialism.

What we are trying to do is remove the blame game of who is responsible—local government or state government. The Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority does that for us. Fortunately, Maritime Safety Queensland and the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority both report to the minister and both have responsibilities above the water, beside the water and under the water. It is important for our communities to know that the independent board being established under these new governance arrangements will be a skills-based board, but that does not mean that the board cannot have representation on it from local government. I heard the minister say in his introductory speech that he had read the submissions and listened to the community. Whilst the Minister for Transport and Main Roads' electorate of Buderim does not border any waterways, I know that he spends a lot of time in the waterways of the Sunshine Coast and is closely connected to each of those communities up there.

The important point is that inaction on the waterways of the Sunshine Coast is visible. There are a number of issues such as boat parking and different levels of responsibility—who should do what. This new authority will remove that confusion and bring clarity to those roles. For that reason I am pleased to have not made further recommendations in this report other than that the bill be passed. The bill enables all that is necessary for us to set up a responsible, independent governance board that does not have the weight of local government on it, as a number of people suggested. There were suggestions that each of the councils should be represented on that board of seven. I understand their parochialism, but the board would end up with a majority of local government on it and its effectiveness and independence would not be there. I appreciate their parochialism, but I recognise that this is the best way forward.


I think back to the process we went through in establishing GIICA, the independent authority for the Olympics. We put the brightest and best around the table to make decisions about it—doing what we said we would do. GIICA is a very successful delivery authority and we are able to move forward with that authority in place. I am very confident that the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will be just as successful because it will remove the parochialism. We will be able to have people on the board whose heart and soul is for the Sunshine Coast.

We heard from some really passionate people not only from the fishing and boating industry but also from local government as well as from the environment and marine safety areas. Each brought their own skills to this inquiry. I listened carefully to the fishing and boating industry and to the boat hire companies in the waterways of the Sunshine Coast. I likened them to some of my farmers in the Lockyer Valley who are stewards for the land. The boating industry and the people who use the waterways every day, every week are stewards for those waterways. They want to make sure the waterways are appropriately managed.

I cannot remember the gentleman's name, but he raised a really important issue about the lack of provision of new jetties across the Sunshine Coast waterways. He was talking specifically about the Noosa River. The point was well made that we need to make sure that we have priorities, that we have an action plan and that we have an independent authority that works with the state government and that works with local government to make sure that all of the community needs are met. We heard earlier from some of the Gold Coast members—I think there are four or five of them here in the chamber tonight—as they stressed how well the Gold Coast Waterways Authority was operating on the Gold Coast.

I have to place on record my thoughts and appreciation to the family of Robert Smith, a wonderful local who was tragically lost on the Mooloolah River bar, the entrance to the Mooloolah River. There is no better example one can give than Robert Smith, an experienced boatman, tour operator and fisherman. To see Smithy lost in that waterway shows how seriously you must treat that waterway every time you go in and out of the bar, because he certainly had more experience than most. To his family and friends: please accept my thoughts, albeit at this point in time, remembering the importance of making sure we have safe waterways that are well serviced and well funded.

Once again, I thank the minister and his team for the work on the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority. I know that the community on the Sunshine Coast are so passionate about their waterways, as am I for the waterways right across Queensland and on the Sunshine Coast. I want to stress to them that their parochialism is not unheard but that an independent board, in being able to balance all of the priorities of safety and the environment, will work with the state and local governments to produce the best outcomes that the Sunshine Coast can be proud of.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (8.25 pm): I rise to speak to the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill. I want to start by thanking my fellow committee members and the secretariat for all of their work and, of course, the 95 submitters on this particular bill. I, like many here, support safe waterways. I support the simplification of governance and processes which create greater transparency, support better decision-making and give certainty for Queenslanders. Most, if not all, of the 95 submitters agree with those objectives. However, a lot of the submitters questioned whether the bill as drafted will actually achieve and deliver on that. Opposition members of the committee did seek answers from the department on behalf of those submitters. Again today there are questions I would like to put to the minister on behalf of those who will be directly impacted by this bill.

Functionally, the bill will establish the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority as a statutory body. The bill provides for the SCWA to be responsible for defined waterways from Pumicestone Passage in the south to the Noosa lakes in the north, including the Noosa, Maroochy and Mooloolah rivers. What became abundantly clear during the inquiry was the demonstrable intrinsic connection that people feel

to their lands and to their waterways. We heard from people in Noosa who either live there or are working to take care of the waterways—people who love to get a boat out and drop a line in and birdwatchers who talked about the importance of the waterways to their lifestyle and to the Noosa identity and, in particular, its recent biosphere status, which was achieved through the local community having trusted stewardship of the lands and waters.

We heard from people in Pumicestone about how their waterway and Bribie Island are a rare double-ended estuary of ecological significance. We heard how important it is for the residents of Pumicestone, Caloundra and Bribie to have a stabilised and safer bar. All affected communities shared a common connection to the ongoing ecological protection of the waterways. They all spoke of the joy they get from getting out onto the water and valuing safe access to the open ocean.

This bill purports to simplify governance around the waterways. However, there is very little detail in the bill itself about how that is going to be delivered, whose interests are going to be prioritised and who actually gets a seat at the table. The Deputy Premier, Jarrod Bleijie, has promised this new authority will give certainty to locals, to councils and to businesses, but the submissions question the value of the bill in delivering a simplified framework and providing that voice within yet another bureaucratic body located in Brisbane. They questioned whether the committed \$36 million to establish the SCWA could be better invested directly into infrastructure like boat ramps rather than being consumed by bureaucracy. They queried whether there were sufficient safeguards to protect the natural environment and cultural heritage that we know is key to the economic and social future of these communities.

Multiple submitters highlighted how important it is that we are stewards of our environment and, in particular, for waterways like those surrounding the Pumicestone Passage and the Noosa wetlands—waterways with ecological value and incredible vulnerability. These waterways form part of the Ramsar wetlands. They are recognised internationally for their tidal flats and habitat for tens of thousands of migratory shorebirds protected under international agreements. They are some of the most unique river systems on this planet.

These river systems run adjacent to the Great Sandy National Park and K'gari Island, the largest vegetated dune system anywhere on this earth. This area supports more than half of the perched lakes anywhere on the planet, with an Indigenous presence that goes back 65,000 years. There is no other landscape quite like it. Submitters have raised concerns that activities typically overseen by waterways authorities such as dredging, navigation and channel maintenance, boating infrastructure and tourism facilities have the potential to affect the ecological character of these waterways if they are not properly constrained. Submitters shared their concerns that the bill lacks a clear definition of what sustainable use is, telling us there is little confidence regarding ecological risk assessment and the cumulative impacts that need to be looked at in the very beginning of any consideration of works. Take Action for Pumicestone Passage informed the committee—

TAPP supports the intent of establishing a coordinated waterways authority. However, the current Bill requires **critical strengthening** to ensure it functions as a framework for **ecological protection and improved management**, rather than simply consolidating existing practices.

Understandably, many submitters sought additional detail on the compensation of the SCWA board. During his introductory speech the minister said that this bill would enable greater local input into waterway management. Well, stakeholders want more than just the minister's word on that. This bill does not provide for any local representation at all in any way. Submitters were clear that they wanted a guarantee from the minister that there would be local representation. As one submitter, David Baker, put it—

Noosa River does not require another level of river management based 50km south.

Ultimately, people queried the rationale for the bill. The Noosa Residents and Ratepayers Association told the committee—

It remains unclear how a new \$36 million bureaucracy will provide tangible benefits on the ground when simply providing more funding to existing agencies (including MSQ) would mostly likely achieve better outcomes.

The member for Pumicestone asked submitter Tony Wellington—

Tony, do you believe a Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority is needed and why?

Mr Wellington responded—

I am sorry to say that I do not think it is needed but I understand that there is a political imperative. I understand that it was an election commitment and thus it is going to be.

I acknowledge the member for Noosa, who also appeared alongside the committee when we visited the Sunshine Coast. I recognise her role in listening to her constituents and trying to extract answers from this government on how the SCWA is going to operate and interact with other authorities. I know that the member for Noosa has made numerous requests of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads on behalf of her electorate trying to obtain details on how the authority would be resourced, how locals would have a voice, and the rationale behind including Noosa within the authority when extensive work had already been undertaken by Noosa Council, residents, businesses and environmental groups on the Noosa River Management Plan. To date those questions to the local member have not been comprehensively addressed, which concerns me and it should concern locals. If the government is not being up-front and transparent with the local member, it is utterly reasonable for them to have no confidence in the government doing the right thing and consulting with locals during the implementation of the SCWA.


The government has already failed to consult in the development of this bill and none of the stakeholders who appeared before the committee had been consulted on the development of the bill. Many of them had no idea why this election commitment had been made at all. As submitter David Baker put it—

If you want to push this forward then you need to at least what your plans for the Noosa river are. So far heard nothing. In fact the first any one I know heard of this was today, from Sandy Bolton. And I am a local and use the river several times a week, since 1992. Never heard a word about this.

It is not too late for the minister to amend this bill and meet the needs of the communities of Noosa, Pumicestone and Caloundra. It is not too late for the government to strengthen ecological risk management and cumulative impact assessment; embed robust monitoring, evaluation and reporting frameworks; ensure there is genuine local and First Nations input into management planning; and clarify the jurisdictional boundaries that exist and the responsibilities that exist.

I know that the member for Lockyer talked about the rationale behind the bill trying to avoid buck passing. This bill does not avoid that. When we spoke about that in the committee hearings it was not clear how conflict gets resolved. It was not clear who takes responsibility and where that demarcation between this authority and Maritime Safety Queensland or local councils is going to lie, for example. None of that has been addressed. We are supposed to take the government's word that they will just fix it up as far as implementation is concerned. I am sorry, but given their track record I would not trust them for a minute, and I do not think the locals in Noosa, Pumicestone, Bribie and Caloundra would trust them either.

They could improve governance through strengthened representative board composition. If the minister is not prepared to do that tonight, he should speak to those points and clarify those issues on the record for those locals in that area who will be directly affected. The Labor opposition is not going to oppose this bill, but we do believe these questions deserve answers tonight.

 **Mr JAMES** (Mulgrave—LNP) (8.34 pm): I rise to speak in support of the bill to establish the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority, or SCWA. When enacted, the bill will be cited as the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Act 2026, the act. The main purpose of the act is to establish the SCWA, which is a significant step forward in addressing the sustainable management, development and use of Sunshine Coast waterways, assets that are vital to our state's lifestyle, economy and environmental health. The establishment of the SCWA will provide strategic direction and coordination, ensuring these waterways are managed holistically for the benefit of our community, industry and tourism sectors.

Currently, maritime transport legislation is administered by Maritime Safety Queensland within the Department of Transport and Main Roads. However, there is no single body representing or managing the diverse interests associated with Sunshine Coast waterways. This has led to concerns from the local community regarding fragmented management, particularly in response to issues such as the Bribie Island breakthrough. Local voices have called for a sustainable use, greater transparency, certainty for marine industries and meaningful community involvement in decision-making.

The SCWA will be established as a statutory authority governed by an independent board and led by a chief executive officer. The board will comprise seven appointed members, being a chairperson and six other persons. Board members must be appropriately qualified in at least one of the following areas: accounting; corporate governance; finance; management of entities delivering public services; commercial and marketing development; maritime business; environmental management; marine science; marine, coastal or waterways planning; marine, coastal, waterways or infrastructure engineering; the representation of the interests of stakeholders in Sunshine Coast waterways including,

for example, native title holders, industry, recreational waterways users, tourism operators and interested groups; and any other area the minister considers relevant to achieving the purpose of this act.

It will operate autonomously, representing the state and performing functions under its enabling legislation and other relative acts. The authority will be subject to Queensland's statutory frameworks, including: financial accountability, information privacy, and human rights legislation. To fulfil its mandate the SCWA's functions will include: strategic planning for the management of Sunshine Coast waterways; considering impacts and benefits for the community, environment, marine industries, tourism and the local economy; installing, managing and maintaining waterway infrastructure; managing navigational access to and within the waterways; monitoring and managing sand and sediment movement in the waterways and adjacent coastal areas; and undertaking any additional functions conferred by other acts.


Importantly, these functions do not exclude local governments from similar activities, ensuring collaboration and continuity in operations such as dredging for public marine facilities and ports. The SCWA board's primary responsibility will be to ensure the authority acts efficiently and effectively, with clear distinction between the regulatory roles of Maritime Safety Queensland and the Department of Transport and Main Roads. Legislation is required to establish the SCWA as a statutory body with the necessary powers and independence. Alternative organisational forms such as departmental officers would not provide the same capability, autonomy or opportunity for public participation tailored to the unique needs of Sunshine Coast waterways.

The statutory body model allows for the appointment of an independent board with relevant expertise, driving high standards of performance and governance and enabling a focused pursuit of long-term objectives. Clause 42 provides that the board may also establish committees to assist in the performance of its functions and to decide membership of the committees and that a committee may conduct its proceedings, including its meetings, as it considers appropriate, subject to the directions of the board.

The Queensland government has allocated \$35.6 million over three years to cover establishment and core operational costs of the SCWA. This funding commitment demonstrates the Crisafulli government's intent to deliver improved coordination and engagement in waterway management. The bill has been drafted with regard to the fundamental legislative principles under the Legislative Standards Act 1992. Delegation provisions are appropriate, allowing functions to be assigned to board members, the CEO or suitably qualified staff while maintaining accountability. The CEO will be appointed through a rigorous process and held accountable to the board. Safeguards are in place regarding criminal history reports for board members and the CEO, including requirements for written consent, penalties for misuse and destruction of records when no longer needed. These measures ensure integrity and public confidence in the authority's leadership. The bill also sets out offences for failure to disclose disqualification, criminal history or conflicts of interest and for providing false or misleading statements. These obligations reinforce ethical and legal conduct, underpinning oversight and accountability.

While the bill is specific to Queensland and not uniform with Commonwealth or other state legislation, its provisions are broadly aligned with existing statutory body frameworks in Queensland. The SCWA's functions are deliberately bespoke, reflecting the unique needs of the Sunshine Coast's waterways.

In closing, I commend the bill to the House. The establishment of the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority is a forward-thinking response to community calls for better coordination, sustainability and transparency. It will ensure our waterways are managed for the enduring benefit of Queenslanders, now and into the future. I urge all honourable members to support this important legislation.

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (8.42 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026. As a member of the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee, which conducted the inquiry into this bill, I want to start by acknowledging the work that went into this inquiry and every inquiry we do—by the secretariat, parliamentary and departmental staff, my colleagues on the committee and the many individuals and organisations that made submissions and gave evidence at our public hearings. I want to acknowledge the member for Noosa, who came to our public hearing in Caloundra. We were happy to provide time for her questions on the bill. It was also nice to see former Labor member Jason Hunt take an interest and make it along for a bit. The member for Pumicestone also came and asked some questions. It is good that it attracted a lot of interest from people in the area.

What is the point of this bill? No, that is not a rhetorical question, although some stakeholders probably think it should be. This bill will establish a new statutory body, the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority, to manage defined waterways from the Pumicestone Passage in the north of the mighty City of Moreton Bay region, to the Noosa lakes and Noosa River in the Noosa Council area and the Maroochy and Mooloolah rivers which run through the Sunshine Coast Council's patch.

What does managing the waterways entail? The responsibilities of the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will include: strategic planning and delivery program; installation and maintenance of infrastructure; management of navigational access to the waterways; and monitoring and management of sand and sediment movement in the waterways and adjacent coastal waters and land. The bill also transfers powers from the department of transport or transport minister to the new authority. We will probably see some LNP mates appointed to that board. Watch this space.

A couple of concerning themes were raised during our inquiry, and I will run through them for the record. We heard concerns that modelling this statutory authority on the Gold Coast Waterways Authority might not work as the nature of the waterways is vastly different and there are three councils to deal with the authority on the Sunshine Coast, not just one. The councils raised that as a concern. We heard the member for Noosa ask about funding: would there be more money for the waterways or would the authority be managing or repurposing the finite funding already committed via state government departments? I do not believe we got a clear answer on that. We heard the Moreton Bay Ramsar protected wetlands could be at risk because the LNP has failed to consider federal environmental legislation. That is another thing that was raised.


A consistent question from stakeholders during our parliamentary inquiry was about the definition of sustainability. Unfortunately, there was no definition for sustainability in this bill. Stakeholders, particularly environmental groups active along the waterways, voiced significant concerns that a lack of definition equated to a lack of prioritising sustainability in our waterways.

We also heard concerns from representatives of the three councils the new authority will overlap that they would not have a seat on the board, despite having significant shared interests. I asked a question of the council representatives during our hearing about whether a similar model—that is, Unitywater, which is run by all three councils, where councils are stakeholders with direct communications—might work here. I would ask the minister to consider giving councils a voice to see if that would work.

Further concerns were expressed across stakeholder groups about what expertise, if any, the members of the authority board would be required to have. No doubt some of them, like me, are worried that the only requirement might be that you have to be an LNP mate. I know we will be watching closely as the details of the board composition and qualifications are announced by the Crisafulli LNP government. We are told it will be an independent board appointed by the government, so watch this space.

There are two more key concerns I want to address. Firstly, perhaps most disappointing is the lack of consultation with the First Nations communities, specifically the Kabi Kabi people who are the traditional owners and native title holders of these waterways. I want to pay my respects to them and thank the representatives who participated in our inquiry. I hope the government can show some respect by including their representation in the waterways board. I will not be holding my breath on that one, either. Lastly, and again this probably comes as no surprise, we heard from the stakeholders who gave evidence—and I did hear it mentioned earlier—that most of them felt there was a failure to consult with them properly about the establishment of this new authority.

On balance, we are giving the government the benefit of the doubt on claims that this bill, in establishing this Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority, will do the following: improve coordination in a complex system of intertwined regulations; strengthen planning and delivery outcomes for users of the waterways, entities who caretake them and residents who live along them; and enhance operational effectiveness. Bearing in mind that a triennial review of the authority's operation will provide future opportunities for stakeholders to put forward positive changes, there is broad support for the intent of the bill. Even though the stakeholders did not agree with a lot of the bill, I sincerely hope this authority works out for the Sunshine Coast and does some good.

 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (8.47 pm): As a member of the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee, so ably chaired by the member for Lockyer, Jim McDonald, I wish to make a contribution to this debate. With over 13,000 kilometres of coastline in Queensland, 42,000 rivers of which 180 are considered major and 64 distinct river catchments, including thousands of kilometres of

creeks, tidal waterways and wetlands, Queenslanders have a keen interest in the management of waterways. While this bill focuses on the Sunshine Coast, members of this House from every corner of Queensland understand the significance of waterways to their communities.

For those of us representing northern and remote Queensland, waterways are not just a scenic feature on a map; they are the veins and arteries of our communities. The electorate of Cook is in fact one of the most waterway-rich electorates in Australia. Stretching across Cape York and the Torres Strait, it contains hundreds of named rivers and major creeks, thousands of tributaries and drainage systems, and some of the most significant wetland and estuarine environments anywhere in the nation—the mighty Mitchell, the Wenlock, the Archer, the Jardine, the Normanby, the Endeavour, the Lockhart and the Olive, to name a few.

These waterways have sustained Indigenous people for tens of thousands of years. They support tourism, agriculture, fishing, transport, biodiversity and local livelihoods across some of the most remote regions of Queensland. For many communities in Cook, waterways are also roads, they are food sources and they are places of story, culture and connection. This is why legislation concerning waterways matters beyond its immediate geography.

Whilst the Sunshine Coast waterway is over 1,800 kilometres away from my electorate of Cook and does not usually have to cope with cyclones nor is it frequented by crocodiles, it is not without its problems. Extending from the coastal beaches and headlands of Caloundra in the south to Noosa and Great Sandy National Park in the north and stretching inland to the Blackall Range, the waterway includes the Pumicestone Passage, the Mooloolah and Maroochy catchments, and numerous artificial and canal systems. It is also central to the local lifestyle, tourism and the regional economy. Sounds idyllic and begs the question: why this bill?

**Mr Hutton:** Why?

**Mrs Stoker:** Tell me more.

**Mr KEMPTON:** It will become obvious. This waterway is vital to so many components of the Sunshine Coast economy and way of life, yet at present its management is fragmented with responsibilities spread across a number of agencies resulting in delays in decision-making and lack of transparency. This has resulted in congestion in the waterways, haphazard anchorage, pollution, a lack of planning in relation to infrastructure such as boat ramps, jetties and access points, as well as a failure to properly maintain the same. This mayhem results in a loss of economic opportunity, constraints on recreation and tourism advancement, and pressure on sensitive ecosystems. This bill creates the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority, a move that provides a practical fix to a complex problem. The authority does not replace Maritime Safety Queensland. It is a dedicated coordinating body to operate across state and local governments which will reduce duplication and focus responsibilities.

The Sunshine Coast waterways under Labor were left to drift around day after day with no single entity responsible for operation, supervision, planning, maintenance and so on. The Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority will not only address but resolve these issues and bring certainty to all users and interested parties. Specifically, boat parking at Noosa resulted in hundreds of vessels being anchored dangerously in Noosa waterways, causing congestion, pollution and navigation risks. Derelict and unseaworthy vehicles became a hazard around the waterway. Changes in rules, shifting stages and last-minute changes and disruption caused uncertainty and conflict for users and operators.


Even though I said the waterways were not frequented by cyclones, in 2021 so-called ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth—strong by south-east standards—wreaked havoc on the waterways, cutting a channel through Bribie Island North opposite Caloundra's Golden Beach. The damage of this natural disaster was ignored by Labor for years. The Mooloolah River bar suffered shoaling and notwithstanding an outpouring by locals and industry, Labor failed to act—the sad story of neglect, failure and disinterest over a decade of decline.

The Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill establishes the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority, which was an election commitment of the Crisafulli government. This statutory authority is responsible for the strategic planning, waterways infrastructure delivery, community engagement and sustainable delivery—critical ingredients to ensure the waterways are managed efficiently and effectively.

Turning to the detail of this bill, the first steps were to define the boundaries of the management area, establish governance and organisational structure, and review arrangements. The functions and powers of the authority include: developing the waterways management strategy and program including mandatory public engagement and consultation; providing, managing and maintaining infrastructure such as jetties and boat ramps; providing navigation buoys, dredging channels and so on; planning and zoning; and other regulatory functions.

I wish to recognise the considerable work of the committee support team, who managed 95 submissions and a public hearing on 1 April 2026 and formulated an extensive and comprehensive report. I also acknowledge the support of the member of Pumicestone with committee deliberations. The authority will comprise seven members including a chair and will have representatives from the tourism, boating and fishing industries and will report direct to the minister.

Returning to the Bribie Island breakthrough in the Pumicestone Passage, the Crisafulli government recognised the breach of Bribie Island as a serious coastal hazard with risks to navigation, community safety, infrastructure, local communities and environmental values and took immediate action. That is in sharp contrast to Labor's lazy inaction. The Crisafulli government funded and delivered emergency stabilisation works to slow erosion and water flows and to mitigate risks while maintaining boating access. After a decade of decline, disinterest, chaos and neglect by Labor, this bill will ensure that once again peace and calm will settle on the pond. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (8.54 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate of the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill. At the outset I acknowledge, as indicated by those who have spoken before me, that the opposition will not be opposing this bill. The establishment of a dedicated waterways authority for the Sunshine Coast was an election commitment from those opposite. In that sense, this bill is the government doing what it said it would do. Given this government's growing record of broken promises, that alone may come as a surprise to many Queenslanders. However, as always with the Crisafulli LNP government, the devil is in the detail.

The detail of this bill tells a familiar story: a government that is happy to announce; happy to rebrand; happy to talk about certainty, sustainability and coordination. However, when it comes to doing the hard work—properly consulting, respecting First Nations communities, listening to local stakeholders and embedding strong environmental safeguards—this government once again falls short. The Sunshine Coast waterways are living environmental, cultural and community systems. They include rivers, estuaries, wetlands, coastal systems, mangroves, seagrass beds, saltmarshes and shorebird habitat. They support fish, turtles, dolphins, dugongs and migratory birds. They are places of economic activity and recreation, yes, but they are also fragile ecosystems that need to be protected for future generations. For the Kabi Kabi people, these waterways are much more than a planning boundary or a management zone; they are country.

The Kabi Kabi Peoples Aboriginal Corporation put it very clearly in their submission: our culture is our country. That should have meant something to this government. It should have meant that before legislation affecting these waterways was drafted, the traditional owners and native title holders were properly consulted. It should have meant that Kabi Kabi voices were embedded in the governance of this new authority. It should have meant that decisions about the future of these waterways were not made without them but, rather, in consultation with them. Instead, requests to include requirements to consult with native title holders and claimants have been ignored. The bill does not guarantee representation from key regional stakeholders despite calls for Kabi Kabi representation on the board and for meaningful community input to be embedded in decision-making. That is not good enough, and this is sadly not the first time or the second time or the third that I have stood in this House to call out the LNP's shocking disrespect for First Nations peoples and I am saddened to say I am sure it will not be the last. Traditional owners should not have to ask to be heard in respect of legislation affecting their country. They should not have to rely on the goodwill of a future board or a future minister. Respectful consultation should be built into the framework from the beginning.

This failure of consultation is also not limited to First Nations communities in this instance. Departmental officers confirmed that there had been no public consultation prior to the drafting of this bill—none. That is extraordinary. This is a bill establishing a new statutory authority to manage some of the most important waterways in South-East Queensland and the public was not consulted before it was drafted. The minister says this authority will better listen to the needs of the Sunshine Coast community, but the community is already telling the government that it has not been listened to. The Deputy Premier promised this new authority would provide certainty for locals, councils and businesses, but the submissions to the committee process show just the opposite. They show great uncertainty. They show real concern. They show stakeholders asking who will actually be represented, who will have a seat at the table and who will be left outside the room while decisions are made about waterways they live beside, care for and rely on. There are real questions about the governance of this authority.

Stakeholders have raised concerns about board composition, including the absence of clear requirements for local representation. Local governments have raised concerns about jurisdictional overlap. There are questions about duplication with Maritime Safety Queensland. There are questions about who has primary authority when responsibilities collide. There are questions about the boundaries of the authority's remit.

Despite the government's repeated use of the phrase 'one-stop shop', this bill does not magically make those complexities disappear. A one-stop shop sounds neat in a media release and it sounds simple in a campaign slogan, but I hate to be the one to break it to this government that you cannot govern with nothing but slogans, and waterways management is not simple. It involves environmental protection, maritime safety, local planning, dredging, infrastructure, tourism, recreation, cultural heritage and native title interests. As shadow minister for the environment, I am particularly concerned that the bill does not go far enough in embedding environmental protection at the centre of the authority's work.

Debate, on motion of Ms Linard, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT



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

That the House do now adjourn.

### Bundamba Electorate, Public Transport



**Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (9.00 pm): I rise to talk about how the LNP's savage cuts to transport are impacting our local Bundamba community. We have seen the impacts of the 'rail fail' that has happened under the LNP, where services are running at a reduced timetable. Since early May there have been 20 per cent fewer rail services across the network, impacting the Ipswich line and impacting the lives of my local community. There are three-car trains running for some services until further notice. There is not even a plan to end this 'rail fail' under this bad government. There are people who are queueing off the platform—basically out of the station—because the three-car trains cannot move enough commuters and people are packed onto these three-car trains like sardines in a completely unsafe manner. Why? It is because the transport minister is not up to the job and is not providing the services that he should be providing for Queenslanders.

It is not just services that have been cut under this government; it is also the hours of our hardworking station staff at our train stations. Some workers are earning up to \$30,000 less because of the cuts this government is visiting upon them. With fewer staff at our local stations, Bundamba, Dinmore and Ebbw Vale stations are now totally unstaffed on the weekends. Riverview station will be totally unstaffed on weekends and only staffed from 5 am to 1 pm on weekdays—on weekdays—so kids getting home from school after three will not have station staff there able to help them. Station staff not being there means that toilets are locked and that passengers who are vulnerable and might need assistance getting on or off services will not be able to get the help they need. This is a safety issue. Our community does not deserve it from this government.

Finally, I want to talk about the Ipswich bus improvement package stage 2, which was due this year. I have asked the transport minister a question about it in order to look for some confirmation for our community. The answer I got back was that works and detailed planning are underway to deliver stage 2, with commencement scheduled for late 2026 subject to detailed planning. Now that has a cloud over it as well. It is not good enough.

### McCabe, Mr D; Inland Rail



**Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (9.03 pm): Tonight I want to pay tribute to a recently departed legend of Toowoomba. I want to pay tribute to the late Dan McCabe, who was a stalwart of the University Cricket Club. For everybody Dan met, firstly his nickname was 'Mad Dog'. He was quite a fearsome character—wholehearted, committed and with a real gift for bringing in the young and the new arrivals to be part of the University Cricket Club. He played a significant role in my life as a young man. I recall unfortunately running Dan out when I was a very young fellow—I was about 14 years old—and I remember listening to and learning every profanity as he walked off the field. I remember that it had to be a long time before I went out there and met him again. I was fortunate that day to get my first hundred, but coming off the field—

**Mr Mander** interjected.


**Mr JANETZKI:** Exactly. Coming off the field, Dan did not say, 'Congratulations!'; he said, 'I forgive you,' and that is exactly the kind of guy he was.

He was a significant mentor to so many. I saw Ricky Brunner—who was another significant figure in my life as a young man; he was one of my key cricket coaches—posted about Dan, as well. He was an outstanding teacher, but he had a gift for bringing people together. I know University Cricket Club will never be the same with 'Mad Dog' not being a part of it, and we will all miss him very deeply.

In the time I have remaining, I want to make some more remarks about how the federal government has stopped Inland Rail in New South Wales. Over the last couple of days I have had cause to speak with some key people who were right behind Inland Rail. Just yesterday I spoke with Everal Compton, 96 years old. Everal has this dream of Inland Rail. I spoke with Don Dornbusch who invested into this project more than 25 years ago. This project was to unlock the potential of the interior of our country and I personally believe that the promise of our country will not be fulfilled until Inland Rail is completed. I was heartened by talking to them that people will not give up.

That was my message when I spoke with the Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise, TSBE, on Monday night. They brought over 350 people to the parliament. We will not give up. The federal government may give up on Inland Rail but we will not give up because we believe it will unlock the potential of our country. If 96-year-old Everal Compton continues to dream of Inland Rail being completed, then we should too. I again call on the federal government to back it in because the people of the Darling Downs will not give up on it.

### Ipswich West Electorate, Road Infrastructure


 **Ms BOURNE** (Ipswich West—ALP) (9.06 pm): It may come as no surprise to those on this side of the chamber that I am again calling on this government to act on Ipswich West's critical road infrastructure needs. I have lost count of the number of letters I have sent, speeches I have delivered, petitions I have launched and direct representations I have made on this matter, but I will not rest until my community has the answers that they deserve and that this government refuses to provide.

The lack of clarity on the Amberley Interchange upgrade, a vital access point for my residents travelling along the Cunningham Highway and for the over 5,000 personnel at Australia's largest military base RAAF Base Amberley, is nothing short of appalling, especially given how clearly set out the funding and timelines were prior to October 2024. Queenslanders expect transparency from government but thus far those opposite have been anything but.

Maybe I have not adequately explained why this upgrade is so important so, in the interests of transparency, I will spell it out for those opposite. Ipswich is Queensland's fastest growing region, projected to nearly double in population by 2046. To support a growing population you need to invest in infrastructure—roads, for example. To upgrade a road you need money. Luckily for the Amberley Interchange they already have it—\$200 million in federal funding sitting there begging to be spent, plus a few extra million from the former state government for good measure. The last step—which should be the easiest—is to spend that money on upgrading the road.

This, bizarrely, is where those opposite fall down. They are happy to splash thousands on billboards—ironically titled 'Delivering for Queensland'—in regions where the biggest thing they have delivered is the billboard. They are happy to spend millions on private hospital deals and jobs for mates, but when it comes to the Amberley Interchange they will not act. Members opposite may take to social media and baselessly accuse other levels of government of conspiracy. They spread misinformation and mislead our community, but they will not deliver for us. This government is nothing but broken promises—from the Amberley Interchange and Ipswich's Olympic venues to the Prince Charles Hospital in North Brisbane. I once again call on the government to honour its commitment to Ipswich West. The funding is there; the plans are there. What is missing is the will to act.

### Federal Budget

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (9.09 pm): I rise to speak on the federal Labor government's latest budget, a budget of betrayal for Thuringowa and for every Queenslander. Last night Canberra once again turned its back on our state. While Queenslanders do the heavy lifting for the national economy—powering Australia with our resources, our agriculture, our tourism and our growing industries—this Labor government funnels infrastructure dollars south, ignoring the very state that keeps the lights of this nation on. Canberra has overlooked Queensland. It has chosen to reward other states with major funding announcements while our roads crumble, our rail networks lag and our housing crisis deepens. Let us be clear: this is a deliberate choice and Queenslanders are paying the price.


In Thuringowa, families are doing it tough. Young couples cannot get into their first home because supply has been strangled for over a decade and costs have gone through the roof. The reckless attack on negative gearing in this budget is economic sabotage. As an ex real estate agent in a city that depends on mum-and-dad investors, I have seen this disaster before. I know exactly where this road leads: crushed housing supply, soaring rents and devastated investor confidence. This is the very thing

Labor solemnly promised the Australian people they would not do. Yet again they have broken their word and it is the Queensland families and renters, who are already struggling, who will pay the devastating price.

The Queensland economy is carrying the nation, yet this budget underfunds the very things we need to keep doing that job: modern roads, reliable rail, a quality health service and housing supply that matches demand. This is economic vandalism dressed up as a budget. It punishes success and rewards political mates. Those opposite, the Labor opposition sitting across the room, have remained silent. They refuse to stand up for Queenslanders because their federal mates in Canberra come first. Their loyalty is to the party and not to the people of this state.

I say to the federal Treasurer and Prime Minister: Queensland is not an afterthought. We are not the junior partner in this Federation; we are the engine room. Our miners, our farmers, our small business owners and our frontline workers contribute more than their fair share. They deserve better than crumbs from the table while billions flow to the southern electorates. The Crisafulli LNP government sets the example of real leadership for Queensland. We on this side of the House will never stop fighting for our fair share for better roads, better hospitals, more homes and a stronger future for every Queenslander. Queensland will not be silent. We will not be overlooked. We will continue to deliver the respect and investment our state has earned.


### **Bruce Highway Western Alternative**

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (9.11 pm): I rise to talk firstly about the Bruce Highway Western Alternative—also known as the Moreton Motorway—and about other needs that come with population growth that the LNP could address in the upcoming state budget. I recently put forward a question on notice asking the Minister for Transport whether he stands by the statement of the member for Glass House that the Bruce Highway Western Alternative is at least a decade away, if not two, into the future. I asked this because the City of Moreton Bay is calling for the road to be delivered by 2032. The minister provided a response that did not answer my question, leaving the residents of Glass House, Morayfield, Kurwongbah, Murrumba and maybe even parts of Pine Rivers in the dark. This is another stellar example of the transparency we were promised at the election—not! They are pretty transparent about putting their LNP mates on boards, though. I would like to congratulate Peter Dutton, who used to be our federal member, on his new position.

I come back to the road and where it is going to go. I have written to the Premier seeking funding for a feasibility study on stage 3 and another option for stage 2 of the Bruce Highway Western Alternative—to move it further west than TMR has proposed, to run along the footprint of existing powerline corridors. Doing this would save on property resumptions and protect our flora and fauna. The Minister for Transport knows about my proposal. I have written to him as well. I am not going to promise my electorate that we can achieve this better outcome—and it is a far better outcome—but I am promising to fight for it, because, even though federal Labor is helping to fix up the Bruce Highway, we are probably going to need the western alternative a lot sooner to service our local population growth.

Contrary to the lines the LNP like to run on the issue of housing in Queensland, there are tens of thousands of new homes being built across the City of Moreton Bay, particularly in the western part just to the north of my electorate. These homes were signed off well before the LNP came to power and now people are living in them—people who move around on our roads and on our public transport networks, people who need schools to send their children to and people who might want to join a sports club or two. I am asking the Crisafulli government to put aside the quest to stack government boards, put aside the agenda of cuts to cost-of-living measures like electricity rebates, car rego discounts and health—like I am hearing in Stafford—and put aside their fight against our cheaper fuel and transport bill and against unions, teachers and train drivers and instead concentrate on delivering some infrastructure outcomes for our growing communities—outcomes for commuters experiencing congestion on the roads, who cannot get a park at the train station either, outcomes for families forced to travel for schools because there are not local options, outcomes for schools and sporting clubs bursting at the seams because enrolments and memberships have outstripped government investment in facilities. These should be the priorities for government. Let us hope we see them reflected in the state budget.

### **Member for Whitsunday, Register of Members' Interests**

 **Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (9.14 pm): I am a carer for a family member with an intellectual disability. It is my role to look after her day-to-day needs, health

and wellbeing as power of attorney. I administer the day-to-day financial support that she needs, including the oversight of her NDIS plan, supports and package, and I have integrity advice and a conflict-of-interest management plan in place due to my role as disability services minister.


Upon my grandmother's death, I was advised I had become executor and trustee of her estate for the benefit of a family member with an intellectual disability and that I had become the director of several company structures. A client structure was provided to me by my grandmother's lawyer and I immediately contacted the Clerk and provided to him the information that I had been provided.

The Clerk and I met on this matter on 2 December 2022 and my family's lawyer also joined by telephone. The Clerk prepared my declaration based upon the information at hand and the conversation between the lawyer and the Clerk. My register of interests has reflected this advice under subclause 7(5)(b)(i)-(iii) and has done so since that day, with no changes in circumstances.

I have sought further advice from the Clerk today. The Clerk has now stated what was not clear to him from the information and the conversation is my status as director and shareholder, as trustee and executor. Thus, in the declaration the Clerk prepared for me only the directorships were declared. The Clerk has recommended for clarity that I amend my declaration by inserting 'and shares' after the word 'directorships' in the declaration.

The Clerk has also advised that I inform the House at the earliest opportunity and make it clear that at all times I believed that I had made the correct declaration and certainly had no intent nor motivation to mislead. Indeed, he has also declared that I had no beneficial interest in the matter and, for the clarity of the House, under my declaration of interests there is no need for a declaration under subclause 7(5)(a) because I do not own the shares in the companies; I only oversee it as executor of the estate.

### Safe Space

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (9.17 pm): I rise to speak about an important issue in the Morayfield state electorate relating to the delivery of health services, particularly mental health services. Over the past couple of weeks we have heard about this government's lack of commitment to health services, particularly around the Prince Charles Hospital and those 93 beds that we have heard a lot about.

The mental health services provided by Safe Space are critical to not only the community of the Morayfield state electorate but also communities right across Brisbane north. There are four Safe Spaces that are funded jointly by the Commonwealth and state governments: the Caboolture Safe Space, which is operated by Stride; the Redcliffe Safe Space, which is operated by the Redcliffe Area Youth Space; the Strathpine Safe Space, which is operated by Neami National; and the Bardon Safe Space, which is operated by Communitify.

These are critical mental health services. They are a peer-led service model co-designed with people with lived experience, mental health practitioners and researchers. They provide after-hours support to people in need—nonclinical support provided after hours, at night-time, on weekends and on public holidays. The services are well utilised, but they are at risk. Their funding is due to expire on 30 June 2026.

Thankfully, last night in their budget the federal government committed to provide additional funding for the Safe Space services. Despite numerous representations to this government, including numerous letters from myself and other advocacy, we are yet to receive any confirmation from the Queensland government that they will extend their contribution towards Safe Space. Let's hear what some of the people who rely on Safe Space say—


Safe Space is important to me because it gives me somewhere to go where I am safe and cared for, when I need to step away from my current situation.

If Safe Space was no longer in operation, I feel it would be a big void in my life.

Before I started going to Caboolture Safe Space, I was in the emergency department every day for my mental health, and that is not an exaggeration. Once I started going to Safe Space, the next time I was in ED was for an injury and the staff mentioned how long it had been and the triage nurse had thought I had moved away.

This is a critical service. I thank federal Labor, the Albanese Labor government, for confirming their extended funding contribution, and I call on this government to match that funding contribution, to extend the funding that was already there, so that people of the Caboolture region and beyond who rely on Safe Space can continue to do so.

### **McInnes, Mr K; Beef Australia**


 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (9.20 pm): The LNP is a great party of great people, and recently we lost one of those great members of the LNP: Mr Ken McInnes of Biloela, a true stalwart of our great party who would have turned 90 on 19 May, just six days from now. This man was a party member since 1962; of course, back then it was the Country Party. Then he continued his membership through the days of the National Party and well into the days of the LNP.

He grew up in Jandowae, not too far from where I grew up, before he and his family lived a lot of their days in Julia Creek and before he and his lovely wife, Val, retired to the community of Biloela. He loved all things Queensland—a true patriot who loved our state. He was passionate about trucks and primary industries, which are the backbone of our nation. He was a real gentleman who cared about people and, alongside his wife, made an incredible contribution to the state of Queensland through his actions and his membership and support of the great party that I now represent.

I do not remember my first interaction with Mr McInnes because I was only a little whippersnapper at National Party events back in the day when my parents attended. Nonetheless, I got to know both Ken and Val in more recent years. It was about 4½ years ago, when I was running for preselection, that I first had an interaction with Mr and Mrs McInnes that I now recall. They were rehashing all those old days. My grandparents as well knew the McInneses because Ken, in his dedication, travelled far and wide across the state of Queensland supporting the National Party. When he lived at Julia Creek, through his support of grassroots membership, he travelled as far as Mount Perry, where my grandparents were trying to re-establish a local National Party branch. His was a life of incredible contribution of raising funds and growing membership—a contribution that absolutely deserves recognition in this House. Vale, Ken McInnes.

It is less than a year until we will hold the Beef Australia event in Rockhampton—less than a year! I encourage all Queenslanders and Australians, especially those across Callide, to put it in the diary. It will run from 2 to 8 May next year. Get a steak on your plate and back the beef industry.

### **Integrity**

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (9.23 pm): In December I asked the Premier for an independent inquiry into the failings of our governance and parliamentary systems as these systems of decision-making are instrumental in delivering for Queenslanders. When those systems are broken, no-one is held responsible for the bad decisions or the wasted billions of taxpayer dollars—\$1 billion in inflated BPIC costs for Cross River Rail, and now apparently we have to foot the legal bills; publicly owned buildings left to rot, whether decommissioned TAFE sites or rangers huts, instead of being repurposed, including for housing; \$200 million on the scrapped Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro; \$65 million on the failed Gladstone green hydrogen facility; and now the Paradise Dam fiasco. Even \$4 billion per year on consultants has not stopped the waste or bad decisions.

These are not just numbers; they are hard-earned taxpayer dollars. As we are seeing federally, Australians have had enough of a duopoly that continues to reel out slogans, bandaids and blame. Queensland is no different. We need a properly functioning system of parliament and oversight and an end to elected dictatorships making decisions for vested interests.


The government, when in opposition, said that we need a better performing parliament and greater transparency on all decisions. The previous government did not deliver that, nor is our new government. Neither want to fix the failings when in power. One has to ask the question: why? These flaws give absolute power; however, as Lord Acton said all those years ago, 'Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.' Since 2018 I have stood in this chamber calling for reform of the systems that allowed our housing crisis to continue—it has been a decade—our businesses to struggle and our communities to be robbed of their voices.

The last part to the very sad saga of this parliament was seeing an MP suffering from mental health and other challenges abandoned by one side and subjected to months of harassment and vitriol by the other. That the government then used the committee system for by-election campaigning purposes during that MP's funeral is beyond disgraceful. These truly sad events must be the catalyst for change in this chamber.

If the government will not instigate an independent review, it is time for Queenslanders to do so. We need a system that works, is transparent, is accountable and has integrity—a system that is for everyday Queenslanders, not for behind-the-scenes benefactors. This is a priority for Queenslanders, and both sides of the chamber know it. I ask both parties to make a solid commitment to Queenslanders

and support fixing this broken system before voters need to make the decision for them. This is serious. Both sides know that our systems are not working the way they should be, and what has been happening in this chamber is truly appalling.

### **Mackay Electorate, Anzac Day**

 **Mr DALTON** (Mackay—LNP) (9.26 pm): There are few occasions more meaningful in our community than coming together on Anzac Day to honour the men and women who served our nation with courage, sacrifice and mateship. This year I had the privilege of attending the Anzac Day dusk service at the Saints AFL ground in Beaconsfield, Mackay, alongside local families, veterans, serving personnel and members of the wider Mackay community. What made the day particularly special was seeing the entire community coming together through sport and remembrance. The afternoon began with the women's AFL clash between the North Mackay Saints AFL club and the Mackay Swans AFL club, showcasing the incredible growth of women's sport in our region and the strong community spirit that exists between both clubs.

Following the women's game, the community gathered for the Anzac Day dusk service. As the sun set across the grounds and the service began, there was a real sense of reflection and gratitude right across Beaconsfield. It was a powerful reminder that the Anzac spirit is not confined to history books; it lives on in communities like Mackay every single day. I acknowledge the organisers, volunteers, veterans groups and both football clubs for hosting such a respectful and moving service. Events like these do not happen without a huge amount of work behind the scenes, and our community is grateful for their efforts.

It was also a proud moment to officially switch on the brand new lights at the Saints AFL ground—lights delivered as part of an election commitment to the club and the Beaconsfield community. For many years, the club has been advocating for upgraded lighting so they could host games and training at night and continue growing participation in local AFL. Without these lights, the Anzac fixture as we saw it would simply not have happened. The election commitment made it possible for both the women's and the men's games to be played around dusk, allowing the entire community to come together for an afternoon and evening of sport, remembrance and community connection.

Following the service, those new lights were put into action during the men's clash between the Saints and the Swans. To see local families remaining at the grounds after the service supporting local players under the new lights was a fantastic example of what community sport looks like. Community sporting groups are the backbone of regional Queensland. They are where friendships are formed and where young people learn teamwork and discipline. They are where communities come together. These new lights are far more than infrastructure; they are about supporting volunteers, creating more opportunities for players of all ages and ensuring local clubs can continue to grow in the future.

Mackay is a community that shows up for each other. Whether it is commemorating our veterans, supporting local sporting clubs or volunteering time to community organisations, people in Mackay understand the importance of connection and community spirit. I am proud to continue advocating for projects that strengthen our region and deliver real outcomes for local families. Lest we forget.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.29 pm.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Asif, Bailey, Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Chiesa, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, de Brenni, Dick, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Field, Frecklington, 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