



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

### Wednesday, 3 June 2026

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## WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 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

#### Absence of Member



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have received advice from the member for Ipswich that she will be absent from the House from 2 to 4 June, inclusive of those dates. The member's notification complies with standing order 263A.

### PRIVILEGE

#### Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Contempt of Parliament



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 31 March 2026, the member for Bundaberg wrote to me alleging that the Premier threatened him in the House on 25 March 2026. I put these allegations to the Premier and invited a response. In his submission to me, the Premier indicated that he believed that the member for Bundaberg was filming him, and he reacted by pointing towards the member and asking him to stop filming. The Premier denies that his gestures were threatening. I have reviewed the submissions and the overwatch footage of the event, and I do not believe there is adequate evidence put forward that the Premier was threatening the member for Bundaberg.

However, I do believe that the behaviour of the Premier, in standing in the passageway and calling across the chamber while another member was speaking, was disorderly. The correct reaction would have been to draw the attention of the Deputy Speaker to the matter. However, I also note that the disorderly conduct was not significant enough for the Deputy Speaker in the chair to hear or react to the matter and I fail to see how it could amount to misconducting oneself in the presence of the House sufficient to warrant referral to the Ethics Committee. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

All that being said, I have repeatedly warned all members of this House to not quarrel or interject across the House as it ultimately leads to dispute. Therefore, I would ask the Premier to withdraw for the disorderly conduct.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I table the correspondence in relation to this matter. I have circulated a ruling on this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt of parliament by the Premier and Minister for Veterans and member for Broadwater [844].

Leave granted.

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

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

On 31 March 2026, the member for Bundaberg wrote to me alleging that the Premier threatened him in the House on 25 March 2026.

The member for Bundaberg made the following allegation:

*'I was on my mobile telecommunications device at this time, and I was alerted to look up when I heard yelling. I looked up and the Premier appeared to be yelling in an aggressive manner towards me, using threatening gesticulations. It should be noted that he Premier was not in his allocated seat and was in fact standing behind a Minister in the aisle between the seats and the wall at this time.'*

A review of the overwatch footage shows the Premier in the aisle behind the Government seating gesturing in the direction of the member for Bundaberg and speaking. The member for Bundaberg is seen looking what could be described as confused, before standing to raise a point of order. There is no sound from the overwatch footage.

The member alleged that the Premier had threatened him in the House and continued to be threatening as he exited the House.

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

The Premier stated that he believed the member for Bundaberg was filming him on his phone, and that he then asked the member to stop filming. The Premier also admitted that he was pointing at the member for Bundaberg but denied that any of his gestures were threatening.

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

I have reviewed the submissions and the footage and I do not believe there is adequate evidence put forward that the Premier was threatening the member for Bundaberg.

However, I do believe that the behaviour of the Premier, in standing in the passageway and calling across the Chamber while another member was speaking, was disorderly. The correct reaction would have been to draw the attention of the Chair to the matter.

But I also note that the disorderly conduct was not significant enough for the Deputy Speaker in the Chair to hear or react to the matter and I fail to see how it could amount to misconducting oneself in the presence of the House sufficient to warrant referral to the Ethics Committee.

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

All that being said, I have repeatedly warned all members of this House to not quarrel or interject across the House as it ultimately leads to dispute.

Therefore, I would ask the Premier to withdraw for the disorderly conduct.

## 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: Holy Family Catholic Primary School, from Skennars Head, New South Wales; Shorncliffe State School, in the electorate of Sandgate; Langports language college, in the electorate of McConnel; and Browns Plains State High School, in the electorate of Woodridge. I wish to advise members that also in the gallery this afternoon is Mr James Grisman, the youth member for Nicklin, who is accompanied by his mother.

## PETITIONS

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

### Bowls Queensland

**Mr J Kelly**, from 10,903 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures to review funding arrangements with Bowls Queensland [\[835\]](#) [\[836\]](#).

### Daisy Hill to Logan Motorway Upgrade

**Hon. de Brenni**, from 1,198 petitioners, requesting the House to do all in its power to release information and be transparent with the community about the Daisy Hill to Logan motorway upgrade, and ensure the government finishes the project [\[837\]](#) [\[838\]](#).

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

### Aboriginal Programs, Funding

2,409 petitioners, requesting the House to do everything in its power to cause a full, public and transparent audit and report into the funding that is allocated to Aboriginal programs and affairs [\[839\]](#).

### Public Service Charter

531 petitioners, requesting the House to create a Public Service Charter affirming accountability to the public [\[840\]](#).

**Animal Safety, Extreme Heat**

1,165 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce legislation or enforceable regulations to ensure animal safety during extreme heat conditions [\[841\]](#).

Petitions received.

**TABLED PAPERS**

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

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

**Environmental Protection (Efficiency and Streamlining) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025**

Amendments made to Bill

**Short title and consequential references to short title—**

*Omit—*

'Environmental Protection (Efficiency and Streamlining) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025'

*Insert—*

'Environmental Protection (Efficiency and Streamlining) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026'

**SPEAKER'S PAPER**

The following Speaker's paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (Hon. Weir)—

[843](#) Oath of Allegiance and of Office: Member for Stafford (Mr Richmond)

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS****Child Safety Commission of Inquiry**

**Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.05 pm): Our government is committed to making Queensland safer and there is no greater cause than keeping Queensland children safe. Our child safety system is meant to protect vulnerable kids but during a decade of decline the child safety system was neglected. During our first six months in government, we uncovered systemic failures. For-profit organisations were allowed to profit as the child safety system ballooned to a billion dollar industry. Frontline staff did not get the support or the resources they need and vulnerable kids with complex needs and traumatic experiences were not properly cared for.

That is why we launched a commission of inquiry into the broken child safety system. Through its public hearings, the inquiry has uncovered critical failures placing our most vulnerable children at further risk of harm. The evidence has been shocking and it has been deeply concerning. There is no doubt that reform is needed. There is no doubt that our kids deserve better. Paul Anastassiou KC led the inquiry and I formally thank the commissioner for his work. His report makes a range of recommendations to better protect Queensland kids. Shortly, the Attorney-General will release the report and she will table it in this House.

We have already initiated a range of commitments to fix the current system. Our government has launched a professional foster care pilot. The program will see foster carers paid to care for some of our state's most vulnerable kids, ensuring specialised and consistent care is available to kids who need it. We also boosted the allowance to foster and kinship carers to provide a contribution towards extra curricula activities for kids and we saved the jobs of many frontline staff that were unfunded and at risk of ceasing under the former government.

The commission of inquiry has exposed the failures of the previous government's child safety system and the damage they have caused. Our government is determined to create generational change for our state's most vulnerable children. We will deliver to keep Queensland's children safe, secure, cared for and protected.

### Child Safety Commission of Inquiry, Report



**Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (2.07 pm): For the benefit of the House, I table the Child Safety Commission of Inquiry report titled *From pressure to purpose: reforming child protection in Queensland*.

*Tabled paper:* Child Safety Commission of Inquiry Report—From Pressure to Purpose: Reforming Child Protection in Queensland [845].

I thank the Hon. Paul Anastassiou KC and the secretariat for delivering this significant work to the Crisafulli government. To the many people who made a submission and gave evidence, please know that we not only admire your courage but also honour it. In telling your stories, an often harrowing process, your trust and candour has been invaluable. What is more, it will lead to action.

The protection of our vulnerable children is paramount, which is why we have bought forward the delivery of this final report. The timing will allow its recommendations to be considered with those of the *In plain sight* report, handed to the Queensland Child Death Review Board late last year. *In plain sight* issued damning findings against the former Labor government's child safety system, central to which was the failure to protect Queensland children and their families from child sexual offender Ashley Paul Griffith.

When the Crisafulli government came to office, the child safety system encapsulated Labor's decade of decline. Clearly, we needed to identify the broken parts and fix them. The commission of inquiry was given broad terms of reference to facilitate a thorough examination. It discovered that, under Labor, the number of children and young people in residential care surged 229 per cent. The annual cost of residential care also escalated sharply, from around \$300,000 in 2019 to almost half a million dollars per child in 2024-25. The former Labor government repeatedly failed to make timely and sustained investment in family-based care and early intervention, contributing directly to the explosion in residential care placements.

In accepting recommendation 47 of the report, the Crisafulli government has established a new cabinet subcommittee to oversee the development and implementation of the government's response to this report within two months. I will convene our first meeting tomorrow. We are not wasting time because the child safety system that fiercely protects and makes decisions in the best interests of the child should always be at the heart of keeping them safe.

### Child Safety Commission of Inquiry, Report



**Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (2.10 pm): I join with the Premier and the Attorney-General in thanking the Hon. Paul Anastassiou KC, along with his secretariat staff and all of those who contributed to the commission of inquiry. I also place on record my thanks to my department, which also spent countless hours in contributing to the commission's work.

Every Queensland child deserves to grow up safe and supported, and every child deserves a family. If their parents cannot care for them or their home is not safe, they need a child safety system that puts their wellbeing above all else. The former Labor government failed and left a broken system after a decade of decline. They instilled a culture of secrecy and fear within the department and, under five former ministers, failed to provide leadership, and each year it continued to decline. The frontline staff were overworked and under-resourced. Foster and kinship carers were disenfranchised with 80 per cent saying they would not currently recommend this role to a friend or family member. Most importantly, thousands of vulnerable children were left sitting in a system failing them in the most formative and most vulnerable times of their lives.

Queensland has 13,568 children living in out-of-home care, by far the largest number of children in care anywhere in our nation. There are 2,258 children in residential care, including 78 under five years of age and 472 under 10 years of age.

As the minister, as a mother, it keeps me up at night. As Queenslanders, we should all be ashamed of how those opposite failed vulnerable children. Labor's policy failures meant foster and kinship carers were unable to keep pace with demand and, as the number of children requiring protection continued to increase as a result, Labor ministers became more and more reliant on residential care placements that created houses of horror where children experienced sexual abuse, violence, neglect and where providers lined their pockets on the back of this vulnerability.

Children in residential care are some of the most vulnerable young people in our community and many have significant disabilities. There was no effort made by those opposite to increase foster care placements. There was no effort made by those opposite to work collaboratively across portfolios. Carers have told us they felt overlooked, unsupported and burdened by a system that had become increasingly complex.

We on this side of the House recognise the importance of foster and kinship care, of family-based care, and that plays a critical role particularly in giving children stability, connection and a sense of belonging. It is why I have made the policy decision that no children under the age of five are to remain in residential care.


The challenges facing the child safety system did not emerge overnight. They have developed over many years and require serious reform that will take time. Our government has been clear from day one that we are prepared to confront difficult truths and make the decisions necessary to improve outcomes for children and ultimately break the cycles, particularly around youth crime. Through this report, Queenslanders will come to terms with the scale of what was inherited, the significant task that is set before us and our commitment to fix the child safety system to establish clear policy direction, establish legislative reform and provide leadership to the department to embrace reform in the interests of the child always.

Since coming to government, our Safer Children, Safer Communities plan has delivered more for children in care, more for our frontline staff and more for foster and kinship carers in supports—more than those opposite ever tried to do in a decade. We located 800 missing children when those opposite had no idea where they were, and we continue to monitor children self-placing.

We have launched a professional foster care pilot to support children with complex needs and transition more young people into family-based care. We have provided \$1,500 for extra-curricular activities for children in foster and kinship care, and that is practical support to ensure children have opportunities to participate in their local community, in sport and in the arts. We are progressing the state's first secure care facility, something those opposite failed to do after the Carmody inquiry. We are rolling out a dual carer model in residential care settings and we are also increasing the front line by 20 per cent. Let us not forget we are also fixing the broken IT Unify system that was developed and designed by the former Labor government.

At the same time, we are working to restore respect for foster and kinship carers when those opposite failed to do so. We recognise the extraordinary contribution they make to children every day. There are thousands of Queenslanders who open their homes, and my message to them today is: we need more of you. We need 1,000 more foster carers in this state, and we will deliver. They will provide safety, stability and hope, and their contribution cannot be overstated. Our government is committed to ensuring that we fix the broken child safety system.

### Sovereign Industry Development Fund

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.16 pm): I congratulate the Attorney-General and Minister Camm on the royal commission into the child safety system. I, too, was going to report on a royal commission that I am particularly interested in, in July, but we have extended that until the end of next year. The member for McConnel will just have to wait another year and a half for the findings on that one which, I think, will interest all honourable members in this House. Building sovereign capacity—

**Ms Grace:** Is that what it's all about?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Yes, the truth and fixing construction sites. That's what it's about—letting the sun shine in!

**Honourable members** interjected.

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! About five minutes ago you heard me comment about quarrelling across the chamber. It always leads to disruption. Did you have a point of order?

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** I do not know what was happening amongst the quarrelling. I could not hear.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I do not believe that the member for McConnel was named.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I mentioned the member for McConnel two minutes ago. I withdraw from that respect.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Continue.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I make the point that getting to the truth of what was happening in the CFMEU on construction sites is important to Queenslanders and to this side of the House. That is why we extended the royal commission because the royal commission have over 500,000 documents they are trawling through and over 100 witnesses to hear from, and I suspect there will be more. So, yes, the truth will be important and the truth will come out in the royal commission. Just as important—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection. 'Just wait,' she says.

**Ms Grace:** No. I said, 'Can't wait.'

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Oh, she can't wait. I take the interjection. 'I can't wait.' Member for McConnel, neither can we! Building sovereign capability and capacity is just as important as fixing the issues on construction sites in Queensland. That is why the Crisafulli government has developed the Sovereign Industry Development Fund—a \$180.6 million fund to build sovereign capability in defence, biofuels and biomedicine.


I had the absolute pleasure this morning to go to the Sunshine Coast with the member for Caloundra, Ms Kendall Hatcher, and announce a great defence project. When I got back from the Sunshine Coast, the member for Nicklin told me, as you have indicated, Mr Speaker, that the youth member for Nicklin is in the gallery. We welcome him. He can see, as the youth member for Nicklin, all the wonderful things the LNP government is delivering for the Sunshine Coast that were rejected and neglected by the Labor Party for 10 years. Well done, youth member for Nicklin. You are delivering for the Sunshine Coast!

I have announced four projects thus far in biofuel, biomedical and, of course, defence: \$25 million in Ampol's Lytton refinery for their renewable diesel; \$2.25 million in Southern RNA's FlexFill project, which will establish a semiautomated vaccine sterile fill-and-finish platform; \$15.25 million to AdvanCell to establish Australia's first manufacturing capability of Thorium-228 for next-generation targeted alpha therapies; and \$11.2 million to Clinical Trials Group to establish a purpose-built, 40-plus bed phase 1 common-user clinical trials research facility.

In Caloundra this morning we announced \$31.65 million in HeliMods for their advanced industry precinct expansion at the Caloundra Aerodrome. This will make a great aerospace technology centre where the people of the Sunshine Coast will be able to upskill. In total, the project will cost \$78.1 million, of which this government is contributing \$31.65 million. It will create 150 jobs in construction and 100 ongoing high-skilled jobs in the defence industry locally. The project will deliver over 10,000 square metres of purpose-built, defence-grade aerospace infrastructure within a secure, integrated precinct at the Caloundra Aerodrome. There are so many projects that we are delivering under the Sovereign Industry Development Fund.

I can also announce a \$7.7 million investment in BioOra to establish an automated clinical and commercial-scale CAR T-cell manufacturing suite at the existing ENTRI common-user facility, advancing their partnership with the Translational Research Institute. It will be operational in mid-2028, with 72 high-value and high-skilled jobs. We will reduce Australian reliance on imported, expensive CAR T products for lymphoma treatment and strengthen research and development capabilities in Queensland, which in turn will strengthen local biomed supply chains. That is what the Sovereign Industry Development Fund is all about: delivering for the people of Queensland.

### **TAFE, Federal Funding**

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (2.21 pm): I rise to address yet another example of the Albanese Labor government asking Queenslanders to pay more while receiving less. I have reviewed the Commonwealth's proposed new Free TAFE agreement, and what it reveals is deeply concerning. Despite promises from Prime Minister Albanese that fee-free TAFE was here to stay, it is clear the federal Labor government is seeking to cut TAFE funding to Queensland.

This proposal includes a direct reduction of more than \$21 million in Commonwealth funding for Queenslanders undertaking fee-free TAFE. That is a cut of approximately \$199 per student. What is worse, the Albanese Labor government is also trying to shift an additional \$187 million onto Queensland taxpayers by requiring the state to fund half of the student gap fee, which is currently covered in full by

the Commonwealth. This means that either students would need to pay the student gap fee or the Queensland taxpayer would have to cover this additional cost. Queensland already funds around 70 per cent of the cost of delivering fee-free TAFE courses. Now the Commonwealth wants Queensland to pay even more.


This blatant cost shifting is becoming a pattern. Queenslanders are seeing an Albanese Labor government that is increasingly willing to withdraw funding responsibility while we are left to deal with the consequences. At a time when Queensland is experiencing rapid population growth, when we are building the infrastructure needed for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and when we need more tradies, more apprentices, more healthcare workers and more skilled workers across our economy, the Albanese Labor government is proposing cuts that put at risk around 11,000 fee-free TAFE places for Queenslanders. These cuts will harm young Queenslanders who want to learn, regional Queenslanders who want to upskill, the industries that are crying out for workers and the families who are trying to get ahead.

Queensland is already going above and beyond. We delivered record apprenticeship completions in 2025. We have exceeded the targets required under the current fee-free TAFE agreement. We have invested heavily in skills and training because we understand that a strong economy depends on a skilled workforce. Queensland cannot continue to absorb growing Commonwealth funding cuts while Canberra takes the credit for programs it increasingly expects states to fund.

The Crisafulli government remains firmly committed to fee-free TAFE. We support TAFE. We believe in TAFE. We know that Queenslanders rely on TAFE. Those opposite had no plans to build a single new TAFE campus after their decade of decline, but the Crisafulli government is investing more than \$200 million to establish new TAFE centres of excellence in Rockhampton, in Caloundra, in Petrie and on the Moreton Bay islands—new builds that have been fully funded by the Crisafulli government. Our government has fully funded free nursing because we know that there is a long way to go to fix Labor's skills shortages.

Any Queensland government, regardless of colour, would struggle to support an agreement that leaves Queensland worse off and reduces opportunities for our students, apprentices and workers. I have spoken with the federal minister to express my serious concerns, and I have followed up in writing with a clear request that Queensland should be no worse off. I am yet to receive a response from Canberra indicating whether the Albanese government will reconsider its cuts to fee-free TAFE. Queenslanders deserve a Commonwealth government that honours its commitments, and I look forward to the Albanese Labor government providing a fairer offer for Queensland.

## Education System

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (2.25 pm): The Crisafulli government is delivering a plan for Queensland's future, with more teachers, new schools, safer classrooms and more support for teachers after the former Labor government's decade of decline. We promised 550 more teachers and teacher aides over four years and we have far exceeded that target. In just one year the Crisafulli government has hired an additional 1,000 teachers, surpassing Labor's entire total growth figures during their final four-year term. With more teachers, we are also seeing improvements in the teacher vacancy rate. The pipeline for future teachers is also looking positive, with a more than five per cent increase in students choosing teaching degrees at Queensland's universities in 2026.

The Crisafulli government is also delivering a \$1.09 billion investment in 15 new schools in Queensland's fastest growing communities to ensure all students have access to a world-class education. I am pleased to advise that construction is already underway at the new primary school in Caloundra and the new special schools in Ipswich West and central Logan. Planning, tender releases and contract awards are also happening for the new special schools in Springfield-Redbank, Beenleigh and Moreton Bay South. Construction will begin in coming months at new schools in Gracemere, Rockhampton; Ripley Valley; and Coomera.

We are finishing Labor's homework, delivering the special and secondary schools at Logan Reserve as well as the new primary school in Holmview. For Holmview, the former Labor government developed the detailed business case in late 2021-early 2022 without having a site secured. The detailed business case itself noted 'as land has not yet been acquired, the master plan has been based on desktop site investigations and evaluation only'.

Because of Labor's poor planning and mismanagement, the former government was forced to fess up to the community that Holmview would not open in 2026. Construction of the new school commenced with extensive civil works across the site in August last year; however, challenges at the site continue, thanks to this critically poor planning misstep by the former Labor government. These include: road and stormwater infrastructure upgrades required by Logan City Council; problematic terrain within the site consisting of a significant amount of rock that needs to be blasted; challenges and delays due to a high-pressure gas main running along the site; and the discovery of asbestos-containing material and fire ants within the site, requiring strict control and remediation measures.

My department is working closely with the Logan City Council to design and plan external works necessary for the school to safely open, including upgrades to the surrounding road network. For this reason, I am frustrated to say that Labor's mismanagement continues to impact the project, and Holmview's opening date has now been revised to 2028 instead of next year. I share the disappointment of local residents who were looking forward to sending their children to this school next year. The safety of our students, staff and local communities is our highest priority. We will make sure the new school opens in 2028 with a school environment that is conducive to learning.

### **Police Service, Mental Health Services; Wieambilla, Property Sale**



**Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (2.28 pm): The Crisafulli government is delivering on its election commitment to establish a landmark new mental health support framework for current and former police officers. As part of our commitment, \$5.5 million will be invested into the Queensland Police Union's newly established charity Cop Care. This investment will fund a new clinically-led mental health triage service and a 24/7 peer support line called Copline, staffed by veteran police officers providing frontline personnel with immediate access to support from people who understand the realities of policing.

Cop Care has been established in partnership with world-leading trauma and mental health experts including Griffith University's Dr Jacqueline Drew, with a focus on prevention, early intervention, trauma informed care and keeping officers in the job. The new services will work alongside existing Queensland Police Service wellbeing programs and provide pathways into specialist treatment and psychological support where needed. For the first time in the state's history this support will also be available to former police not only to ensure they get support if they need it but also to send a message to all our police across the state that help is available for them now and long into the future.

This critical investment in the wellbeing of our hardworking police is just another example of how the Crisafulli government is strengthening the front line and restoring safety where you live after Labor's decade of decline led to burnt out officers leaving in droves. This new framework comes as the Crisafulli government continues to rebuild the front line—just last week swearing in 108 new constables, with more than 1,800 new officers joining the Queensland Police Service in the past 18 months, taking the service beyond 13,000 officers for the first time in the history of this state.

Since the October 2024 election, the Crisafulli government has delivered a net increase of more than 700 officers on the beat, which is significantly more than Labor added in their last two terms of government, while unplanned attrition has fallen to 2.6 per cent—down from 3.3 per cent under Labor. I have experienced firsthand the realities of this difficult job. Our officers are often exposed to the worst of the worst in our community. That is why I am proud to be part of a government that backs our front line after a decade of neglect under Labor.

While I am on my feet, I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the recent sale of a property at Wieambilla—the location where two of our finest officers, constables Matthew Arnold and Rachel McCrow, along with hero neighbour Alan Dare, lost their lives. It remains one of the darkest days in Queensland's history. Our thoughts remain with the loved ones of those who lost their lives. The new owners of this property have publicly stated that they intend to honour the memories of those slain officers and neighbour, with the couple confirming the memorial to Mr Dare will remain and any fitting tribute erected for the officers would only be done with the blessing of the families. We honour their service.

### **Reconciliation Week; Family Responsibilities Commission**



**Hon. FS SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism) (2.31 pm): I want to thank Birrunga Gallery, which hosted this morning's Reconciliation Walk—a moving and powerful event that acknowledges the past and builds creative opportunities to unlock a brighter future for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.


With the Premier, I hosted the annual Queensland government Reconciliation Awards, where we celebrated and recognised the many ways that organisations are positively working towards reconciliation by building bridges of shared understanding. I give a shout-out to the overall winner—Aspire Cairns Community Ltd for Breaking Barriers. The other winners were: Bamaga Dreamtime, the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak, Mob Pod by Manngoor Dja Aboriginal Health Services, and a partnership of North Stradbroke Island Aboriginal and Islanders Housing Co-operative Society Ltd and St Vincent's Care Services.

Reconciliation is a two-way process of building meaningful relationships of respect and understanding. In contrast, it is disappointing that some Labor members in the committee hearing this morning tried to create fear and division in the future of the Family Responsibilities Commission. I strongly support the work of the Family Responsibilities Commission in some of our most vulnerable communities. That is why I wrote to the federal Minister for Indigenous Australians, Senator McCarthy, in January this year to progress a renewed MOU for this jointly funded program. Senator McCarthy has responded positively at about the same time we have gone to market with the recruitment process for the commissioner and deputy commissioner positions.

The current commissioner and deputy commissioner have both done an outstanding job but, as these are significant appointments who have occupied the role for some time, we have conducted an open merit-based recruitment process. This process will be resolved soon. We are committed to the FRC and working with the federal government to deliver this important initiative.

As we are working with local communities, we hear how the basics of life, such as clean drinking water, were neglected by the former Labor government in a decade of decline. The Crisafulli LNP government is committed to delivering tangible outcomes for some of our most disadvantaged communities.

### **Biosecurity; FarmFest**

 **Hon. AJ PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (2.34 pm): The Crisafulli government is continuing to deliver strong biosecurity measures to protect our primary industries. We are building important capability in key industries to enhance their preparedness and response.

Mr Speaker, I was pleased to join you this morning at FarmFest in your electorate of Condamine to announce our investment of \$75,000 to conduct preparedness exercises that simulate real-world threats and outbreaks. I thank Joe Moro of the Queensland Farmers' Federation for joining me for the announcement.

I saw so many familiar faces including Shane McCarthy and Niki Ford from AgForce. I enjoy going to FarmFest every year. Since it started in 1975 it has grown to become Queensland's largest and most successful annual commercial agricultural business event. Organisers are expecting more than 30,000 visitors to attend the three-day event. Already 11,000 visitors came through the gates on the first day yesterday.

The success and popularity of FarmFest is testament to the confidence that industry is experiencing under this government. More than 700 exhibitors from a diverse range of companies are showcasing their offerings across 26 hectares. I was there on the ground walking the rows of exhibits, machinery and equipment.

FarmFest plays a pivotal role in showcasing and demonstrating a wide range of new products and services, providing information to professionals and highlighting new technology and innovation. Innovation will be critical to the success of our primary industries. FarmFest complements the Crisafulli government's bold \$30 million investment to supercharge the development of technology and innovation for Queensland agriculture.


Our Sowing the Seeds of Farming Innovation Fund will support agri-innovators to become leaders in their field through cutting-edge research and technology. We are backing agriculture. We are letting producers do what they do best, while doing everything possible to reduce risks.

Through the Biodiversity Boost Grants Program, \$75,000 will be invested in Cotton Australia, the Australian Lot Feeders' Association and NRM Regions Queensland. This investment is in addition to our election commitment to bolster the biosecurity front line with 100 new officers during this term of government. The simulations help ensure that industry and government can respond swiftly, decisively and effectively should the worst happen. Biosecurity failures are one of the biggest threats to our \$27 billion primary industry sector.

Strong biosecurity measures are the linchpin of a productive primary industries sector and thriving regional and rural communities. During Labor's decade of decline, Queensland's biosecurity safeguards crumbled. Our northernmost biosecurity defence line was closed. Between 2015 and 2022, Labor's biosecurity workforce shrank by more than 20 per cent.

Industry welcomes this new investment and focus on being prepared. By bolstering our regional presence, enhancing collaborations, surveillance, capability building and knowledge sharing, we are protecting Queensland's primary industries. After Labor's decade of decline, the Crisafulli government is being proactive. We are delivering.

## Queensland Day

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.38 pm): We live in the best part of the world. Nothing beats Queensland—our beaches, our weather, our sporting teams, our pride. This Saturday is Queensland Day.

**Government members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** It is our chance to celebrate everything that makes our state great. We are on a mission to make Queensland Day bigger and better. This year we have more celebrations planned, an inaugural Mega Round of sport, and parties right across the state. To help celebrate, this year we brought back our 'All the Best' competition to give a shout-out to our state's best. The competition is all about Queenslanders backing Queenslanders and getting behind local sports and businesses that they love. Close to 75,000 Queenslanders voted—that is a record. Queenslanders cast votes for their favourite butcher, baker, barber, gym, ice-cream shop, cafe or camping spot, and they were simply shouting out the best.

The leaderboard was both hotly contested and reputable, with places and businesses across Queensland getting a shout-out from locals. That shows we are building something special for this state with Queensland Day. It shows just how proud Queenslanders are of where we live, how good our local businesses are, the people who work in them and what they do for their communities.

This morning I joined the winners at the Story Bridge Hotel to congratulate them and sample some of what makes them the best. There were 15 winners across those categories representing every part of the state. To show how hotly contested voting was, in one of the categories there was a tie, a dead heat—exactly the same number for best gym in the state. These are the things that make Queensland great and make being Queenslanders great: spending time with family over a pizza and mistakenly putting pineapple on it—


**Mr Bleijie:** I take offence and I ask that it be withdrawn.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I will not—a skinny hazelnut latte with syrup after your morning gym session in the Burdekin, or going to the pub in Toowoomba with your mates and getting them to shout you a shandy. Congratulations to every winner and the thousands of Queenslanders who got behind them to take the crown in their category.

Ahead of Queensland Day this Saturday we are calling on all Queenslanders to get behind their state and be part of the celebrations on 6 June—whether it is community events, the Caxton Street party, events at your local pub, six Queensland films for six bucks, or the Mega Round sporting clash, this is a moment to come together and celebrate everything that makes our state great.

## COMMITTEES

### Membership

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (2.41 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—That, effective from Thursday, 4 June 2026:

1. the member for Ipswich West be discharged from, and the member for Stafford appointed to, the Education, Arts and Communities Committee;
2. the member for Aspley be discharged from, and the member for Ipswich West be appointed to, the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee; and
3. the member for Toohey be discharged from, and the member for Morayfield be appointed to, the Ethics Committee.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Child Safety Commission of Inquiry



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

That this House—

1. notes the Child Safety Commission of Inquiry findings which have been released today.
2. acknowledges the work of the Child Safety Commission, including the commissioner.
3. notes that the purpose of the Child Safety Commission of Inquiry is to implement enhanced policies and investment to protect vulnerable Queensland children.
4. notes the 52 recommendations made by the Child Safety Commission of Inquiry which if implemented will enhance protections for Queensland children.
5. notes that the Crisafulli LNP government cut short the Child Safety Commission of Inquiry by six months under the guise of the state budget, limiting the ability of the inquiry to investigate matters, including the LNP government's commissioning of the Unify IT system.
6. notes the litany of failures of the Minister for Child Safety including, but not limited to:
  - (a) failure to protect vulnerable children known to Child Safety.
  - (b) failure to provide appropriate ministerial oversight of the Unify IT system rollout.
  - (c) failure to release timely and accurate data to provide confidence to the child safety sector.
  - (d) failing Queenslanders by going on leave after announcing the Unify failure.
  - (e) failing to advocate against reducing the Child Safety Commission of Inquiry's timeframes by six months.
7. notes that the Minister for Child Safety has been referred to the CCC regarding integrity matters.
8. calls on Premier Crisafulli to sack the Minister for Child Safety as Queenslanders cannot trust the minister to lead major reforms to keep vulnerable Queenslanders safe.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Whilst I have not seen the actual motion itself, could I just seek assurances that, in relation to the number of words that are used—because it was quite lengthy—it is compliant with the standing orders. I just wanted to seek assurances in relation to that.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, we can provide you with that assurance.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Yes, please, because it was lengthy and we will check that.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time today will conclude at 3.44 pm.

### Olympic and Paralympic Games, Infrastructure



**Mr MILES** (2.44 pm): My first question is to the Acting Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. I table Games Leadership Group meeting minutes chaired by the Olympic and Paralympic Games minister.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of documents including the agenda and minutes of the Games Leadership Group [\[846\]](#).

The Games Leadership Group has been briefed that platforms at the newly completed Exhibition station will be impacted because the Crisafulli LNP government has placed the athletes village too close to the station. Can the minister advise how many new platforms will have to be demolished and rebuilt?

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There is a lengthy preamble to the question, and, in relation to the minister it is addressed to, I would submit to you that perhaps it should have been directed to a minister with a different portfolio area of responsibility. There are two points of order.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will have a look at the question.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. We have taken note of the Leader of the House's assertions around the length of the question. I can assure the House it is well within the limits of acceptability based on precedent. In relation to his conjecture that these matters should fall within another minister's responsibilities, I quickly want to point out three things.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr de BRENNI:** I am not debating it. I am responding to the point of order of the Leader of the House. Mr Speaker, I would just seek to point out to you that the minister's portfolio responsibilities are outlined in his charter letter. The Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games is the chair of the Games Leadership Group. This matter has been considered by that group.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I have already decided what I am going to do. The question was too long. It was lengthy, so if you could tighten the questions up that would be very good. When you have long questions it always allows latitude. There were a number of aspects to that question. I will allow it.

**Mr POWELL:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. I am amazed that the Leader of the Opposition would dare ask any minister on this side of the House a question about the Olympic and Paralympic Games—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Let's try again, shall we?

**Mr POWELL:**—particularly a question that goes to the heart of delivering the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and that is the importance of games infrastructure. I am still gobsmacked that they asked this question. Can I remind all members of this House what occurred under those opposite, including the Leader of the Opposition himself: 1,200 days of complete and utter dithering. 'Is it the Gabba? Isn't it the Gabba? It is the Gabba again? Is it this place? Is it that place? Oh, it isn't the Gabba at all—it is QSAC. Let's go to QSAC, put in a whole bunch of temporary seating and sell that as a legacy.' No wonder—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, you will direct all your comments through the chair.

**Mr POWELL:** As I was saying about QSAC and temporary seating—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question was asked specifically around the platform—

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

**Mr de BRENNI:** The question was only about Exhibition station and the demolition and rebuilding of the platforms. The point of order is on relevance.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I submit to you, Mr Speaker, that in your initial response to the Manager of Opposition Business you said there was a fair bit of latitude in relation to the question as asked. The minister is being responsive to the question as asked and this is an infrastructure project that relates to transport and main roads.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The minister has a minute and a half left. Obviously there was the part about the Exhibition ground, which I am sure he will address during his response.

**Mr POWELL:** I was just giving members of the chamber a bit of a history lesson on the Leader of the Opposition's track record when it comes to building—

**Mrs Gerber:**—or lack thereof.

**Mr Power** interjected.

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

**Mr POWELL:** I take that interjection from the minister the member for Currumbin—and lack of delivery around Olympic and—

**Mr McCallum** interjected.

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

**Mr POWELL:**—Paralympic Games infrastructure. After the embarrassment that was those opposite, after the Leader of the Opposition who, when he became the Premier of this state, removed reference to Olympic and Paralympic Games from any ministerial title whatsoever, this government hit the ground running. We set up GIICA. We set about ensuring we had a delivery plan for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This government released its delivery plan and it included delivering a new stadium at Victoria Park. I stand by the comments made by the Premier and the Deputy Premier earlier this week as we turned a sod at Victoria Park on Monday. It was great to be there with kids representing AFL and cricket, who were excited about the opportunity that they will have to snap a goal or throw down a ball on that cricket pitch when it is constructed ready for 2032. That is what delivery is. That is what legacy is. They are going to be the best Olympic and Paralympic Games ever.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Both the member for Burleigh and the member for Bancroft are warned for quarrelling at the back of the chamber.

### **Olympic and Paralympic Games, Infrastructure**

**Mr MILES:** My question is to the Acting Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. When deciding on the location of the athletes village, was the Games Leadership Group briefed that the new Exhibition station platforms would need to be demolished and rebuilt?

**Mr Bleijie:** The athletes village is my portfolio. Ask me.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr Bleijie:** Athletes village is me.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, I caution you.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order relates to the question as asked by the Leader of the Opposition. The question relates directly to the portfolio responsibilities of the Deputy Premier.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Standing order 113(1) states that questions may be put to a minister without notice relating to public affairs with which the minister is officially connected. The acting minister is the chair of the Games Leadership Group. Minutes reveal that this matter was on the agenda and had been discussed at meetings which were chaired by that portfolio minister. This is the acting minister for that portfolio. Therefore, the question is in order.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Hold on while I take some advice. We had this same situation yesterday. It is exactly the same situation. Minister, whatever comes under your portfolio you can answer. What does not, you can refer to somebody else.

**Mr POWELL:** This gives me an opportunity to remind those opposite of their track record on the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Batter up! He asks a second question. It allows me to unpack exactly what we are delivering for Queensland. Let me touch on one aspect that I failed to mention in my previous response. Not only did they fail to deliver any piece of Olympic and Paralympic Games infrastructure—they could not even settle on a plan, they could not settle on a venue, they could not settle on a signature stadium, they could not work out in their own mind which way they were going on that—they lost the backing of the entire state when it came to the Olympic and Paralympic Games. If you had polled any Queenslanders at the time of the election, they would not have wanted the Olympic and Paralympic Games because of the embarrassment it had become under those opposite, particularly under the leadership of the now Leader of the Opposition.

What this government has done, what the Crisafulli government has done, was with a 100-day review determine a delivery plan that maps out where the venues will be and where the athletes villages will be, all of which are being delivered under the leadership of the Deputy Premier and GIICA. Through that, we know there will be athletes villages at the Exhibition centre, at the Sunshine Coast, on the Gold Coast—

**Mr Bleijie:** Why do they hate the Ekka?

**Mr POWELL:** We know why they hate the Ekka. They do not stand up for regional Queensland. I take that interjection. They do not stand up for regional Queensland. We all know it is the time of the year when the country comes to the city and we celebrate all that makes Queensland—that is why they do not like the Ekka. Importantly, though, it is not just about the athletes villages on the Sunshine Coast, the Gold Coast and at the Ekka.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question was about matters—

**Mr SPEAKER:** I have heard the question. Is your point of order about relevance?

**Mr de BRENNI:** It is about relevance and the matters the Games Leadership Group discussed.

**Mr SPEAKER:** It is relevance. I stated at the outset that the minister will respond to parts that he believes are in his portfolio and he is not going to respond to parts that are not. I find he is relevant. There is no point of order.

**Mr POWELL:** As I said, it is not just about delivering those athletes villages here in the south-east, it is not just about delivering Victoria Park and a new sensational stadium that is going to be home to sport and events as well as a huge amount of green space that will be open and available

to the public; it is about spreading the sports across the state. Can honourable members imagine the images of sailing in the Whitsundays and in Townsville, of archery in Maryborough—there you go, member for Maryborough—of rowing in Rockhampton? I acknowledge the member for Rockhampton, the member for Mirani and the member for Keppel. Everyone is back on board when it comes to the Olympic and Paralympic Games. I ask those opposite to get on board as well.

*(Time expired)*

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** We will have some silence.

### Child Safety System

**Mr McDONALD:** My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. How is the Crisafulli LNP government exposing the mismanagement of Queensland's child safety system during the decade of decline, and can the Premier explain the next steps in reforming the sector?

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question itself asked by the member seeks to elicit an answer which could do nothing other than anticipate a matter that is on the *Notice Paper* for debate, the private member's motion. The question, therefore, should be ruled out of order.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will take some advice. Given the significance of the report that was tabled earlier and given that essentially the motion is more about a vote of confidence, or lack of, in the minister, I am going to allow the question.

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

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I will hear the point of order.

**Mr de BRENNI:** I am not taking interjections from the Deputy Premier, but that conduct is disorderly.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am waiting to hear your point of order.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I am just seeking clarity in relation to my point of order. Is that a ruling that you are making, that the question is in order?

**Mr SPEAKER:** I mentioned the significance of the report. I am exercising my power to not let this be a blocking motion on debate on such a significant issue.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** This is the third question and we are about a third of the way through question time. Those opposite are so bereft of strategy that they waste their own question time. I thank the member for Lockyer, who did not do that; he asked a fantastic question. As he is a former officer in charge of Laidley station, where the Laidley child protection unit is, I know it is personal to him and he has done a great job.

Keeping Queensland kids safe is a top priority for this government. It should be a priority for every government. The evidence that has come through in this historic child safety commission of inquiry is damning, it is troubling and it is a call for action—and I would note that that action is something that every member in this House should look for and hope that we embrace.

I want to ask a question, and I want to start with adoption. Page 151 of the report states—

The Carmody Inquiry recommended in 2013 that adoption be routinely considered and pursued, particularly for children under three years of age.

It went on to say—

The then government accepted that recommendation.

But here is the line—

The recommendation was closed out in 2019 with an assertion by Government that it had been implemented.

There has been not one child adopted from residential care since 2019, when those opposite closed out that recommendation—not one! Today I just want to ask why. Were they prepared to put ideology ahead of child safety? Is that what it was about? They were prepared to leave kids in jeopardy rather than jeopardise their relationship with the left-wing elites. That is what that was about, because you cannot close out a recommendation and say, 'Job done' and then go backwards, and that is what happened. The report outlines a decade of decline, and there were five in charge. Many of the eyeballs that look across now are the same ones that refused to take action.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** They can yell and they can scream, but they left vulnerable kids in vulnerable situations. They went to a concert—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** If either the member for Waterford or the member for Gaven come to my attention again, they will be warned. Premier, you have 34 seconds.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** They were prepared to keep kids in harm's way for political ideology. Since this government has come in we have fast-tracked the Reportable Conduct Scheme and there has been a blue card review and the commencement of the national childhood early educator register. We are taking action. We have saved those frontline jobs that were on the chopping block from the opposition with regard to the professional foster care pilot and increased allowances. This royal commission needed to occur. It needed to shine a light on a broken system and map a pathway to fix the decade of decline.

### **Olympic and Paralympic Games, Infrastructure**

**Mr de BRENNI:** My question is to the Acting Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. As the acting—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will hear questions in silence.

**Mr de BRENNI:** As the acting chair of the Games Leadership Group, can the minister advise how much the changes to the brand new Exhibition station will cost Queensland taxpayers during an affordability crisis?

**Mr POWELL:** Again we have seen on display today from the opposition a complete and utter inability to pivot, asking questions around the Olympic and Paralympic Games when its record on this topic—

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Waterford, I told you that if you came to my attention again you would be warned. You are warned.

**Mr POWELL:** I just cannot believe that those opposite are going to back up the first two questions with a third question. There is a little bit of confusion for those opposite as to who is responsible for what in this space, so I will help them out. The 2032 Delivery Plan spelt out very clearly who is responsible for what when it comes to the Olympic and Paralympic Games, so here we go. In simple terms—let me use simple terms—the infrastructure authority that sits underneath the Deputy Premier is responsible for delivering the 17 new and upgraded venues required for the games. If those opposite want to ask a question about the venues, they should ask it of that gentleman sitting there. I am sure the Deputy Premier would be more than willing to answer their questions regarding venue infrastructure required for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Then various Queensland government agencies ensure the delivery of the athletes villages and coordinate and provide the necessary public services, including public transport, to ensure the infrastructure is there to support the delivery of the games and a lasting legacy—a legacy when, let's face it, their legacy was going to be temporary seating at QSAC.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question did not pertain to what was in the minister's brochure. The question pertained—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! So it is on relevance?

**Mr de BRENNI:** It is on relevance, Mr Speaker. Nothing that the minister has said has any bearing on or relevance to the question.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In relation to the Manager of Opposition Business, the minister is currently responding to the question and articulating very clearly the portfolio responsibilities that relate to the Olympics and Paralympics in Queensland. He is being responsive to the question as asked and he is responding to the portfolio responsibilities of various ministers in relation to various elements. That is why he is being responsive to the question as asked, so he is being very relevant to the question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** As with earlier questions, there are aspects that are under the minister's control which he can answer. If they are not, he will not be able to answer those, so there is no point of order.

**Mr POWELL:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. As has been acknowledged, if the members opposite want to ask a question about the athletes village, I am sure the Deputy Premier is willing to answer it. If they want to ask a specific question about Exhibition station, I am sure the Minister for Transport and Main Roads would be very happy to take it. However, members on this side were at the Ekka last year. I do not know if that is something those opposite tend to attend, and I will pick up on the earlier interjection from the Attorney-General: yes, this is my axeman's tie—proof that I do get out to the Ekka each and every year. Guess what? That train station was operating then. Last year people were getting on and off trains at the Ekka.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr POWELL:** The Minister for Transport and Main Roads even caught the train to the Ekka, so I am certain that if those opposite want to ask a specific question about the operations of Exhibition station they should ask the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Let me say this: the track record of those opposite on the Olympic and Paralympic Games is an embarrassment. Queenslanders lost all faith in it. We have delivered a delivery plan, we have restored confidence and we are delivering the venues such as the athletes villages and the services, whether they be public transport or otherwise. Importantly, we are delivering a legacy right across this state in both community sports and tourism. Get on board and join us on it.

### Child Safety System

**Mr HUNT:** My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. How is the Crisafulli LNP government ensuring Queensland's child safety sector is focused on protection and accountability, and can the Attorney explain how the commission of inquiry exposed failures in the system during the decade of decline?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I thank the member for Nicklin, who has served this state as a police officer in the child protection area, for the question. The Crisafulli government created the commission of inquiry into the child protection system after a decade when those opposite did not implement the Carmody review recommendations and did not follow through with what they should have been doing, which is putting the children of this state first. If there is one job of government, it is to protect children.

Under the former Labor government we know that there were five failed ministers. They are opposite us there, there, there and there—and they are still here. What we heard from the commission of inquiry was absolutely damning. It is damning to think that there are almost more children in residential care in Queensland than in every other state put together. That is a damning indictment of the former Labor government. One of those former safety ministers was just yelling out, 'What do they pay you for?' I seriously have no idea what the former government paid her for because she allegedly turned up to estimates, worked out she was going to be asked a question about residential care and thought, 'Hang on a minute, I have been in the job for four or six months and I have never been to one.' As child safety minister her first visit to a residential care facility was after all those months of being in the job and it was only because the now child safety minister was about to put her under pressure during the estimates process.

It is a fact that under those opposite the cost of caring for children in care went from almost \$300,000 a year—that was the cost halfway through their term; it was probably five years in—to almost double that at just over \$500,000. This was a billion dollar industry under those opposite. Like the honourable Premier just said, they closed the recommendations about adoption because philosophically they do not believe in it. We ask: why was there not a child in care adopted since 2019—not one? They can argue all they like, but it is incumbent upon a government to put our children first. That is exactly what the Crisafulli government is doing with the Child Safety Commission of Inquiry report *In plain sight*.

### Olympic and Paralympic Games, Infrastructure

**Ms GRACE:** My question is to the Acting Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. As the acting chair, the Games Leadership Group was advised that out of Fortitude Valley and Exhibition train stations only one could be open during the games. Has the minister been briefed on the impact on tourism and inner-city businesses of closing the Fortitude Valley train station for a month during the games?

**Mr POWELL:** What I have been briefed on is the debacle that was left for this government when it comes to the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Let me turn specifically to the member who asked the question. We still do not know whether the member for McConnell is for a stadium at Victoria Park and an athletes village at the Ekka or against them. Is the member for McConnell backing a new stadium at Victoria Park or is she like the member for Cooper and still talking it down? Does the member for McConnell support the upgrades that are coming to the Ekka as a result of our government's investment in an athletes village at the Exhibition.

**Ms Pease** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Lytton, you are now warned. Minister, there is no need to roar and yell.

**Mr POWELL:** We do not know where the member for McConnell stands on this. She has been chief cheerleader when it comes to talking down the Olympic and Paralympic Games. She did not even appoint a board when she was establishing GIICA. She established GIICA, did not find the time to appoint a board and then has the temerity to come into this House and challenge this government on its delivery plan for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

This Crisafulli government has saved the Olympic and Paralympic Games. It will be a games for all of Queensland. Every Queenslander will be proud of it—whether they are from Cairns in the Far North where we are doing work on Barlow Park, whether it is Rocky and the rowing, sailing in Townsville and the Whitsundays, archery in Maryborough or equestrian in Toowoomba. There is not a Queenslander who does not know now that they will benefit from an Olympic and Paralympic Games that will be held right across this state.

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** The question was around the briefing.

**Mr POWELL:** I mentioned some of the briefings I received. The question also referred to the tourism impacts of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. That is something that I have been briefed on extensively. The reason the then South-East Queensland Council of Mayors bid for the games in the first place was twofold: firstly, for the investment in public transport infrastructure across the state—and I commend the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Transport and Main Roads for the fantastic work they are doing in delivering that—and, secondly, for the tourism legacy. We need to take this opportunity—when the world is looking at all of Queensland—to demonstrate how wonderful this state is, how we are the home of the holiday and how they can keep coming back and bring their family and friends and be sure they experience the best of this fantastic state. We will host a great sporting event but, more than that, we will deliver a legacy that all of Queensland will benefit from for decades to come.

### **Child Safety System**

**Mr DALTON:** My question is to the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. How is the Crisafulli LNP government restoring the welfare of children as the core of Queensland's child safety sector, and is the minister aware of any approaches that failed to keep our valuable children safe during a decade of decline?

**Ms CAMM:** I want to thank the member for Mackay for his fierce advocacy for fixing the broken child safety system and, in particular, for providing a loving family home for children. We know that family-based care is the best form of care. I want to outline recommendation 43: a strategy to prevent exploitation of girls in residential care. Those opposite come into this House and get on social media and speak about the protection of women's rights. They speak about protecting women and girls in this state. They talk the big talk but what the commission of inquiry uncovered was that during their tenure, the former minister for women, former child safety ministers, former leaders of the political party—and I hope the opposition leader wants to hear this—

**Mrs Poole:** The current leader.

**Ms CAMM:** I take that interjection. It sure got a lot worse under his leadership as premier! Young women were sexually exploited in residential care facilities because of the lack of leadership and because of the failures of the former ministers to fund family-based care.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

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

**Ms CAMM:** The commission spoke of the former government's decision. It spoke about there not being suitable family-based care—that children would be in family-based care placements if such placements had been funded. The former premier, who led the cabinet and the CBRC, did not fund family-based care placements and, in doing so, placed girls at risk of sexual exploitation in residential care facilities. That is the record of the former premier and the former government. Those children would be in family-based care placements if they had been funded, generated and maintained in a timely manner. Instead, the reliance on residential care was the only solution this government had. That was from the former minister and member for Nudgee, on her own admission. Ideology drove the former government, instead of funding foster care placements.

To remove young women from residential care and ensure they have a home in family-based care, we are about to launch the biggest foster care recruitment in the state's history. Those opposite would rather have children flounder, sexually abused and assaulted in residential care than fund family-based placements. Have we ever heard anything to the contrary from those opposite?

### Olympic and Paralympic Games, Infrastructure

**Mr MELLISH:** My question is to the Acting Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Games Leadership Group was briefed on four connection concepts to Victoria Park proposed by Arup, including grade separation and large boulevard style bridges. As the chair, can the minister say whether the Games Leadership Group has been briefed on the impact of congestion on the Inner City Bypass during construction?

**Mr POWELL:** This question allows me to continue from where I left off. I was going back through the briefings I have received and I came across Labor's Olympics plan. It was pretty simple. There were three points to it: a temporary QSAC stadium; a CFMEU tax to jack up the price of delivering the venues, the athletes villages and the transport infrastructure the shadow minister is referring to; and complete and utter neglect of the regions.

**Mrs Nightingale** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Inala is warned under the standing orders.

**Mr POWELL:** We have even uncovered the crayons with which it was written. That was the quality of the opposition's efforts in developing a delivery plan for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. At every opportunity those opposite get to talk about the Olympic and Paralympic Games, they are talking it down. They are not content to accept that Queenslanders are backing in a delivery plan for 2032 that sees a brand new stadium at Victoria Park with world-class green spaces—a world-class stadium that will deliver world-class sports and that after the games will be available for world-class music events: a public space. The member refers to that area between the Ekka and Victoria Park—a world-class, publicly accessible space where Queenslanders, people from Brisbane, will be able to go and spend time with their family. We know what is required to deliver the Olympic and Paralympic Games, including what is needed at Victoria Park.

The member for Springwood asked for some numbers in his previous question. Former premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, who forgot to put the word 'Paralympic' in her title, initially said that the Gabba rebuild would be \$1 billion. It then became \$2.7 billion—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The minister's commentary is neither relevant to the question as asked nor relevant to the question I asked.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will wait until we have silence in the House. It is hard to know whether the minister is being relevant or not with the level of noise in the chamber. It would help if you could keep the noise down.

**Mr POWELL:** The member for Aspley asked about Exhibition, the Inner City Bypass and Victoria Park. Let me remind the member for Aspley about the former member for Sandgate, who asked the AFL and cricket to stump up \$90 million to rebuild the Ekka while the Gabba was being knocked down and rebuilt. Those opposite have zero credibility when it comes to the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Feel free to ask me another question.

### Child Safety System; Youth Justice

**Mr FIELD:** My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. How is the Crisafulli LNP government breaking the cycle between child safety and the youth justice system, and is the minister aware of any contrasting policies during a decade of decline?

**Mrs GERBER:** I thank the member for Capalaba for his question. He is a fierce advocate for safety where you live and for safety in his own community. Earlier today the Attorney-General, alongside the Minister for Child Safety, tabled the historic report into child safety in Queensland. The royal commission was shocking. It uncovered a decade of failures by the previous Labor government, but it also uncovered that the previous Labor government allowed a pipeline of Child Safety kids into the youth justice system. It allowed those children, those vulnerable children, to go from Child Safety residential care systems, where they should have been protected and where they should have been given families that care about them, into the youth justice system. Page 55 of the royal commission states that 72—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mrs GERBER:** Listen to this, member for McConnel: 72.9 per cent of youth justice kids—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mrs GERBER:** The member for McConnel was interjecting and I think she should listen.

**Mr Bleijie:** She is on a warning.

**Mrs GERBER:** Oh, she is on a warning. I take the interjection.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for McConnel was interjecting. The minister has taken the interjections. She was on a warning and I just want to bring that to your attention.

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I go to that, member for McConnel, did you interject?

**Ms GRACE:** I was reading the report and I just mentioned a page name. I was not interjecting.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will take that as an interjection and I am going to ask you to leave the chamber for a period of one hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for McConnel withdrew from the chamber at 3.27 pm.*

**Mrs GERBER:** The commission of inquiry uncovers damning findings in relation to the child safety system being a pipeline into youth justice. Page 55 of the report states that 72.9 per cent of youth justice kids had a prior child protection contact in the last decade under the previous Labor government. Under the previous Labor government in the last decade, 72.9 per cent of YJ kids had child protection contact. Those kids in the child protection system under the members for Waterford, Nudgee and Bulimba were funnelled into youth justice. It became a pipeline of crime in this state and it created a youth crime crisis. Of the 388 serious repeat offenders in 2024 under the Labor government, guess how many of those were in child protection? One hundred and eleven! Almost 30 per cent of youth justice kids were in the care of Labor, in the care of the state. They created a broken child safety system that funnelled those vulnerable Child Safety youth into youth justice and they refuse to take responsibility.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mrs GERBER:** I hear the failed former child safety minister—

**Mr O'Connor:** Which one?

**Mrs GERBER:** There are four of them in this chamber right now. She should stand up and apologise—apologise to the children she failed, apologise to the Queenslanders she failed and apologise to this House. The inquiry is a damning indictment on the previous Labor government.

*(Time expired)*

### **Olympic and Paralympic Games, Infrastructure**

**Ms FENTIMAN:** My question is to the Acting Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I will hear the question in silence.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** They are very excited for the answer. As acting chair, has the Games Leadership Group been briefed on whether the cost of demolishing and rebuilding Exhibition station platforms and the connections to the Victoria Park precinct would be funded by the \$3.8 billion funding allocation for Victoria Park stadium or the \$7.1 billion venues funding bucket?

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have to raise it again in relation to the direct portfolio responsibilities. When you listen to the substance of the question as asked, there are ministers that the question should be directed to. I understand your previous rulings. However, I want to raise the point again in relation to the substance in that the overall question should be directed to a minister who has the relevant portfolio responsibilities.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Previously, the minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, former minister Mander, claimed responsibility for the Victoria Park precinct and so I think that that—

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

**Mr de BRENNI:**—is not consistent with the arguments put before by the Leader of the House. I table the excerpt of the media statement for your benefit.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, untitled, part of a Queensland Government media release [847].

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will take some advice. It is exactly back to where we were. As I have said a couple of times, Minister, it is up to what falls under your portfolio. That is what you can answer.

**Mr POWELL:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the member for the question. The member actually knows the answer. It has been said ad nauseam by myself; by the then minister for sport and racing and minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games; by the Deputy Premier; and by the Premier himself. There is a \$7.1 billion envelope for our venues, of which \$3.6 billion has been allocated for the Victoria Park stadium. Aside from that, there is an enormous capital budget being held by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads.

**Mr Mickelberg:** \$41.7 billion.

**Mr POWELL:** \$41.7 billion across the forwards or for one year? I will leave it for the minister to pitch for that. That is the truth. That is the envelope that we have been very clear about from day one. Let me unpack some of the figures that we heard from the previous government when it came to the Olympic and Paralympic Games. I started talking about the Exhibition and how the then member for Sandgate asked the AFL and cricket bodies to stump up \$90 million for a \$137 million upgrade of the Exhibition field. The government was going to put only \$45 million on the table. That was all to happen while the Gabba was being knocked down and rebuilt. That was going to be \$1 billion and then \$2.7 billion. We do not know how much it would have cost, but it would have cost a lot more than that.

However, there was actually another cost due to the uncertainty created by those opposite. Being the sports nut that I am and being the tourism minister as I am, I know that one of the biggest costs of that indecision was that we have lost a Gabba test. The uncertainty that those created meant that the Gabba will not be hosting a cricket test match. We will turn that around. Our decision around the Victoria Park stadium ensures the Gabba can be utilised right through to 2032 and the Victoria Park stadium will be available afterwards. The other figure that I refer to is \$1.6 billion.

**Mr Dick:** This is like an episode of *The Games*.

**Mr POWELL:** The member for Woodridge and then treasurer approved \$1.6 billion to be spent on temporary seating at QSAC. The member for Woodridge was the treasurer at the time the decision was made to spend \$1.6 billion on temporary seating at QSAC. What sort of legacy would that have left? I return to the question from the member for Aspley about congestion and trains. What would have happened if we tried to hold the Olympic and Paralympic Games in a temporary venue at QSAC? It is no wonder that Queenslanders rejected the delivery plan, or lack of one, from those opposite. We are delivering the Olympic and Paralympic Games and, again, I ask those on the other side to get on board.

*(Time expired)*

### Child Safety System

**Ms MARR:** My question is to the Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism. How is the Crisafulli LNP government ensuring Queensland's most vulnerable Indigenous communities have a child safety system that prioritises better outcomes and is the minister aware of any instances where this system failed Queensland's most vulnerable?

**Ms SIMPSON:** Firstly, I thank the member for Thuringowa, Natalie Marr, for that question. I acknowledge her strong advocacy in both her electorate and the region. It is great to know that we have great LNP members who are fighting for our communities across Queensland.

Today the revelations about Labor's broken child safety system have been laid bare. So many children and families have been hurt by a decade of decline. This matter is of particular importance to me because we know that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are, unfortunately, overrepresented in our child safety system. The damning commission of inquiry report released today makes it clear just how much work is needed to properly support and protect our most vulnerable Queenslanders who were heartlessly abandoned by Labor's failed child safety ministers, a number of whom still sit in this parliament.

Queensland has almost as many children in residential care as every other state and territory combined and those numbers more than doubled in the 10 years from March 2015. Approximately 67 per cent of reported incidents of sexual abuse of children in care involved children placed in residential care. Labor's reliance on residential care left vulnerable children exposed to abuse and neglect. Labor's five failed child safety ministers—the member for Waterford, the member for Bulimba, the member for Nudgee, the former Labor member for Barron River and the member for Jordan—should hang their heads in shame today.

Rebuilding the child safety system in Queensland will take a lot of work but the Crisafulli government is committed to doing that work for the sake of our children here in Queensland. My ministerial colleagues and I will work to ensure the safety and wellbeing of every child is always paramount. I thank particularly Minister Camm and acknowledge her leadership in this area as well as that of our Attorney-General. Whether the children are in urban, regional or remote communities, we are committed to ensuring they are supported and looked after.

Some of those doing that vital work include the Family Responsibilities Commission and the local commissioners, co-funded by the state and federal governments. As I have outlined today, we acknowledge and respect the great work that they are doing in Indigenous communities, working with families and community members to address and improve safety and wellbeing. We are committed to that work. The Crisafulli government will redouble our efforts after Labor's decade of decline so that our youngest Queenslanders can have the most basic right of a life of safety and wellbeing.

*(Time expired)*

### **Olympic and Paralympic Games, Delivery**

**Mr FURNER:** My question is to the Acting Minister for Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Games Leadership Group was briefed on the games transport and mobility strategy, which was proposed to be released publicly. As the acting chair, has the Games Leadership Group affirmed the proposal to release this strategy publicly?

**Mr POWELL:** I thank the member for the question. I want to pick up on the element that I am the 'acting' minister for this portfolio. Those opposite who have spent some time in government would know it is a very regular occurrence—it happens all the time—that ministers act for other ministers and they do it on repeat. There is a little bit of acting going on in this chamber that is not related to government and ministers. It is the acting that is going on in terms of who is going to replace the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mrs Gerber:** The auditions.

**Mr POWELL:** The auditions. I take that interjection from the member for Currumbin. There is some auditioning going on. I had not considered the member for Ferny Grove as one of those who was potentially a frontrunner for the auditioning but he has been around.

**Mr Crisafulli:** He's been in the Senate.

**Mr POWELL:** He has done some time in the Senate; I take that interjection from the Premier. We do know who is leading the race when it comes to acting and auditions. The member for Waterford, the member for Woodridge and the member for Gaven are circling around, as you would expect them to after the by-election outcome in Stafford. Using the words of the member for Woodridge, it was the worst primary vote ever for Labor in the seat of Stafford. There is plenty of acting and auditioning going on for the role.

We have seen some dark horses come in, too, as the acting minister for racing. There are a few roughies out there. The member for Lytton gave an inspired contribution the other day. Maybe the member for Lytton is thinking her opportunity is on that frontbench, not up the back. We know that the member for Bundaberg has some enthusiasm and has some aspiration, too. There are a few darkies there.

**Mrs Gerber:** Long odds!

**Mr POWELL:** Long odds on the member for Bundaberg.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The term 'acting' was used only in relation to the minister's proper title. It did not pertain—

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

**Mr de BRENNI:** It did not pertain to the question. My point of order is on relevance. He has had a pretty good go.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, you have strayed a little. I will bring you back to the question.

**Mr POWELL:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. As I explained in an earlier answer, there are a number of elements required in the delivery of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Part of the reason they were bid for in the first place is, to the member's question, around transport and mobility. It is an opportunity for all of Queensland to benefit from the investment in generational public transport—road and rail infrastructure—not just here in South-East Queensland but right across the state. That work is being led by the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Infrastructure and the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. I look forward to continuing to deliver with those ministers—indeed, with the entire cabinet—on ensuring that legacy around transport and mobility is delivered.

This side is very clear: we have a golden opportunity in the lead-up to 2032. We have a golden opportunity. We have backed it in with a delivery plan that Queenslanders are on board with. We will continue to work each and every day, regardless of our role, regardless of the seat we represent, to ensure these games are the best there have ever been.

### Planning; Environmental Protection

**Mrs STOKER:** My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the Deputy Premier outline how the Crisafulli LNP government is balancing environmental protections with catering for growth through planning approvals, including the approval of new classrooms and facilities at Ormiston College?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, you have two minutes to respond.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I thank the member for the question. Yes, we are, in the planning space, making sure we are protecting the environment while also allowing schools to develop classrooms of the future—just, I might say, like the Labor Party did with their ministerial infrastructure designations, and I thank the member for her advocacy.

I recently received a letter from the shadow environment minister wherein she is so concerned about this MID regarding Ormiston College. I table the letter.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 27 May 2026, from the member for Nudgee, Hon. Leanne Linard MP, to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations, Hon. Jarrod Bleijie, regarding koala habitat at Ormiston College [848].

Was the shadow environment minister as concerned when the now Leader of the Opposition, when he was the state planning minister, approved a high school expansion in the Gaven electorate which culled 669 koala trees?

**A government member:** Fake outrage.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection—fake outrage, because they were doing it. What is more, the member for Gaven was the environment minister at the time! I table the now Leader of the Opposition's ministerial infrastructure designation with 12 conditions to protect koalas. With regard to my conditions, I table 42 conditions to protect the koalas at Ormiston College. Deputy Premier Bleijie protects koalas; the Labor Party are koala killers. That is what they did. I protect them.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Decision Notice—Amended Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (amended MID) for Pacific Pines State High School (the school)' [849].

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Decision Notice—Ministerial Infrastructure Designation for Ormiston College' [850].

Let me say this on infrastructure: Exhibition station is going to remain open during the games, and we are expanding Exhibition station. The platforms are there already. The Minister for Transport travelled on the platform. Fortitude Valley station will remain open during the games. There is another scare campaign by the Labor Party. It is an abuse of process. I wish they had asked me earlier.

*(Time expired)*

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

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

Resumed from 25 March (see p. 792).

### Second Reading



**Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (3.45 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I rise today to speak on the Transport and Other Legislation (Managing E-mobility Use and Protecting Our Communities) Amendment Bill 2026 following its detailed consideration by the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee. This bill is a critical step to address community safety concerns associated with e-mobility devices in Queensland. The bill is nation-leading and reflects the Crisafulli government's commitment to restoring safety in our communities and responding to the public's call for stronger measures to regulate the use of these devices. We said that we would make the tough decisions to deliver nation-leading reforms and get dangerous e-scooters and e-bikes off Queensland's streets, and that is exactly what this bill will do. We will give the police the powers they need to take dangerous high-powered and illegal devices off the streets while backing in Queenslanders who do the right thing.

The bill was introduced to this House on 25 March this year and referred to the committee for examination. I am pleased to inform the House that the committee tabled its report on 8 May 2026. The report includes a number of recommendations to ensure the bill best achieves our policy objectives. The Crisafulli government has carefully considered these recommendations, and we have made our support, or support in principle, very clear. I take this opportunity to table the government's response to the committee report.

*Tabled paper:* State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 26, 58th Parliament—Transport and Other Legislation (Managing E-mobility use and Protecting Our Communities) Amendment Bill, government response [851].

Additionally, I intend to introduce amendments to the bill—and I have circulated those amendments—which reflect committee and community expectations. Before I address the amendments, I would like to acknowledge the significant work undertaken by the committee, chaired by the member for Lockyer, in conducting its inquiry into this bill. The committee's review process was thorough and inclusive, providing an opportunity for Queenslanders to have their voices heard on this important issue. I also extend my thanks to the committee members, the secretariat, my department and all of those who made submissions or participated in public hearings. Their contributions have been invaluable in shaping this legislation.

The committee received nearly 5,000 submissions from a diverse range of stakeholders including businesses, advocacy groups, local governments, health professionals, academics and community organisations. Through the community's feedback, a number of key themes arose: the importance of balancing safer outcomes for pedestrians with practical outcomes for riders; e-bike riding is an important part of the tourism economy in Queensland, particularly on rail trails and at places like mountain bike facilities; families, older people and people living with disabilities use e-mobility devices as a critical form of transport; and safety outcomes for younger people must be prioritised. This feedback highlighted the complexity of regulating e-mobility devices. It is critical that we ensure the new framework is fair, is balanced and delivers meaningful safety outcomes for all road and path users.

It is clear that these devices have become an increasingly popular mode of transport, offering convenient, affordable and sustainable alternatives for many Queenslanders. However, their rapid proliferation has also brought significant challenges, including safety risks, regulatory gaps and enforcement difficulties. It is important to recognise that, while these devices provide many benefits, the current state of the framework is not achieving the safest possible outcomes for Queenslanders. Existing regulations have not kept up with the rapid growth in e-mobility use, contributing to rising incidents linked to unsafe or illegal behaviour.

The tragic reality is that between 2022 and 2025 more than 6,300 injuries related to e-scooters were reported at emergency departments across 36 Queensland hospitals. Last year alone 12 people lost their lives in e-mobility device related incidents, including several children. These are not just statistics; they represent lives lost, families shattered and communities left grieving. This bill is about addressing these challenges head-on and ensuring our roads, our footpaths and our public spaces are safe for everyone.

As I mentioned, the committee's report endorsed the bill's objectives while recommending a number of amendments to improve its implementation. One of the key recommendations of the committee is to amend the bill to ensure compliance with the European safety standard for electrically power assisted cycles, or e-bikes, captures all previous versions of this standard. The Crisafulli government will amend the bill to recognise compliance with all prior versions of the EN15194 standard, including those dating back to 2009. This change will ensure existing e-bikes which were manufactured under earlier versions of the standard and are currently legal can continue to be used without creating unnecessary barriers for riders or retailers.

The committee also recommended that the Queensland government establish an assurance scheme to allow currently legal e-bikes that cannot meet the European standard to become compliant. The government supports this recommendation and is already working closely with the bicycle industry to develop a scheme that provides a practical pathway for certification and labelling. This scheme will include clear requirements for inspection and testing processes, retailer approval and consumer protections such as a complaints management framework. The Department of Transport and Main Roads will lead this work, and the necessary legislative framework will be introduced during consideration in detail to enable the scheme to be prescribed by regulation.

Another key recommendation from the committee relates to speed limits on footpaths and shared paths. The bill originally proposed a default speed limit of 10 kilometres per hour for e-bikes and personal mobility devices on all footpaths and shared paths. While this approach prioritises pedestrian safety, stakeholders raised concerns about the utility of high-quality shared path infrastructure such as bikeways and rail trails. The committee recommended that the government adopt a more flexible approach to speed limits on footpaths and shared paths.

The Crisafulli government acknowledges that safety outcomes for pedestrians should not come at the cost of rider safety; therefore, the bill will be amended accordingly. We will introduce a speed limit of 12 kilometres per hour on footpaths for all e-mobility devices, aligning with the existing rules for personal mobility devices and a requirement for riders to slow down to 12 kilometres per hour when passing pedestrians on shared paths. This approach strikes a balance between ensuring pedestrian safety and preserving the functionality of shared path infrastructure.

Additionally, the committee recommended the introduction of licensing and age exemption pathways for people who cannot hold a licence because of disability, medical condition or age. The Crisafulli government acknowledges the support that e-mobility devices provide to a person's independence and transport needs. We also acknowledge the recreational and sporting benefits that these devices provide to families with younger children. To this end, amendments will be made to the bill to introduce a head of power under the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995 to allow for these types of exemptions to be prescribed by regulation. This process will ensure individuals who cannot hold a driver's licence for medical reasons can continue to use e-mobility devices safely and legally under a medical exemption framework. It will also ensure children aged 12 to 17 years who cannot or do not yet hold a licence can continue to ride a device while under the direct supervision of a parent or guardian.

During the deliberations of the committee, some argued for a registration system for e-mobility devices. As outlined in evidence provided to the committee, the department's current licensing and registration database, known as TRAILS, is an old IT system that has been in place for nearly 30 years. The former Labor government promised to replace TRAILS with a more modern and flexible system. Had this happened the government could have considered this option; however, again, the former government was all talk and no action, meaning that we have had to develop a regulatory solution within the constraints of legacy systems.

The consultation also uncovered that some recreational settings such as rail trails, mountain bike tracks and other lower-risk areas were popular amongst the Queensland community. This head of power also allows rail trails and mountain bike tracks to be prescribed in regulation and have an exemption applied. This is all about ensuring we are supporting people who do the right thing and allowing the police to focus on those who do the wrong thing.

The backbone of this bill is the new powers we are giving police to tackle illegal motorbike riding and antisocial behaviours. To ensure the continued strength of these powers, the bill will be amended to ensure effective enforcement of the new regulations. What has been clear throughout this process is the former Labor government did not give police the powers they needed to do their job during their decade of decline. They left Queensland police ill-equipped to enforce regulations; introduced a botched subsidy scheme, wasting \$2 million in taxpayers' money; and turned a blind eye to the rise of illegal high-powered devices.

This was clearly demonstrated when the member for Aspley, the then minister for transport and main roads, committed to consider amendments to the laws to give police the powers to conduct random breath tests, or RBTs. It never happened. This bill gives police that power. The member for Aspley has equivocated and changed his position on the importance of taking action on e-mobility safety. On one hand the Queensland Labor opposition moved to shorten the inquiry and then we heard the member earlier this week wanting to refer the bill back to the committee. If the member sees this as an urgent priority, he will support this bill and take immediate action to address this problem.

Amendments will provide clarity around the seizure and destruction of prohibited e-mobility devices, streamline processes for issuing seizure and forfeiture notices and allow notices to be issued electronically, where appropriate. Additional provisions will ensure personal property found with seized devices such as helmets or bags can be safeguarded and returned to their owners.

To be clear: the Crisafulli government recognises the need for immediate reforms. We have heard the calls of the community and we will take strong action. Starting on 1 July, we will bring in the bulk of our nation-leading reforms, including the new police powers for seizing illegal devices and the new device compliance requirements. Parents and retailers will have greater responsibility to keep children safe, police will be able to conduct random breath testing and penalties will be increased to match the severity of the offence. These changes will target the most dangerous behaviours on roads and footpaths.

Penalties will be increased to match the severity of the offence. For example, the fine for riding an illegal, high-powered device will be more than \$500—and that can go to parents as well as to children. Fines for speeding and placing other road and path users at risk begin at \$345 and can go up to \$1,986, depending on the severity.


Queenslanders will be safer for these reforms. Come 1 July we will restore safety to paths and roads. However, the Crisafulli government recognises that, while we need to take quick and decisive action against illegal devices, we do not want to target those cohorts who rely on e-mobility as a critical form of transport and can safely continue to ride. Starting on 31 August this year new age and licensing requirements will commence. Between now and 31 August we will undertake further targeted consultation with key stakeholders, including medical professionals, to refine the licensing exemption framework. We will then work to progress a regulation to provide these pathways, supported by targeted education, to ensure those impacted by these rules know what they need to do. This will ensure we have robust processes in place when these reforms commence.

The Crisafulli government also acknowledges that not all legal e-bikes are currently certified, so we are working with industry to develop an industry assurance scheme to help e-bike owners verify the safety of their bike by February 2027 if it cannot meet the European standard. More information about this scheme and how e-bike owners can access it will be released in due course.

I take this opportunity to again acknowledge my department for its significant efforts in developing this legislation and responding to the feedback received during the committee process. I also acknowledge the Queensland Police Service for its ongoing work in keeping our community safe and for its invaluable input into the development of this bill. Queensland Police Service insights have been critical in ensuring that the enforcement provisions are robust, practical and effective.

The Transport and Other Legislation (Managing E-mobility Use and Protecting Our Communities) Amendment Bill 2026 is a comprehensive and evidence-based response to the challenges of e-mobility use in Queensland. It addresses the concerns of our communities, empowers our police and delivers the strong reforms needed to keep Queenslanders safe. The amendments to be introduced during consideration in detail reflect the valuable feedback received from stakeholders and the committee's recommendations. These changes will ensure the legislation is practical, inclusive and effective in achieving its objectives.

This bill is not just about addressing the problems of the present; it is also about setting a vision for the future. It is about creating a safer, stronger Queensland where everyone can enjoy the benefits of e-mobility without fear for their safety. It is about ensuring that our roads, footpaths and public spaces are safe for everyone—from pedestrians and cyclists to e-device riders and motorists. It is about delivering the nation-leading laws we promised to deliver. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (4.01 pm): The Transport and Other Legislation (Managing E-mobility Use and Protecting Our Communities) Amendment Bill 2026 is an abject failure. It fails to deliver on the very promise in its title. Rather than addressing genuine safety concerns, this bill punishes

responsible Queenslanders, restricts lawful use of e-mobility devices and leaves untouched the very real dangerous behaviours scaring our communities. The LNP must withdraw this bill and actually work with stakeholders to deliver an effective bill, backed by evidence, that strikes the right balance for all Queenslanders.

This bill is a dog's breakfast. The minister cooked it and he knows it. Now he is trying to rush in and fix his own mistakes, but he cannot even get that right. At 3.43 pm, one minute before the minister rose to speak, we had these amendments put in the House. They are significant amendments. I have never seen a bill that has had a committee response having seven significant changes to the bill recommended at the last minute, with one minute of scrutiny before the minister gets to his feet. I have never seen a bill so botched as this. I have never seen a parliamentary process so debased as the shoehorning of this bill into parliament. This bill is an abject failure.

For this photo-op Premier, this is all politics and no policy. Seriously, what a failure of legislation! To be hiding these amendments is a dodgy act and it is a weak act from this government. This is more proof that under the Crisafulli LNP government Queensland is being dragged backwards—dragged backwards by a government paralysed by its own failures.

This bill still does little to address the real problem, and that is the use of already illegal devices. We welcome the increased police powers to assist in getting more dangerous devices and dangerous riders off our roads, but if the government is not going to provide the police with the resources they need for enforcement then these new powers are pointless. The substantial amendments, which we were given one minute before the minister rose to his feet, should be sent back to the committee for its consideration and for proper consultation with stakeholders, as the community has said again and again. This government is trying to dance around the issues created in its own bill and in its own amendments by now staggering the introduction of many elements of the bill until March 2027. That would be over two years since the government first brought up these issues.

The government states that its proposed amendments will include a medical exemption framework for people with medical conditions and disabilities. The minister has provided no further details on what this framework will look like and what the process will be. Stakeholders had already raised concerns about the special circumstances permit process under the first draft of the bill, saying that it risked adding layers of red tape and bureaucracy on disadvantaged people. If an exemption process like the minister's amendment is onerous, particularly on people with a disability, it is likely they will still choose to move away from this safe recreation, which at the moment is important for their mental and physical health.

The minister's amendments also supposedly allow for children aged 12 to 17 to ride a device under parental supervision, despite the bill itself also banning devices for children under 16. So what is the new age—16 or 17? If the amendments allow for exemptions for medical conditions and disabilities and also children aged 12 to ride devices with supervision, what is the point of the licensing altogether? This government is just trying to save face.

The minister this week has admitted that he got it wrong. After his original bill attempted to introduce a speed limit of 10 kilometres an hour, which went against his own department's guidelines for speed management, he now says that a speed limit of 12 kilometres an hour will only apply near pedestrians in high pedestrian areas. How will it be enforced? What is a high pedestrian area? What is a 'passing' action? Who determines it? Will it be signed for riders? Who will be responsible for paying for the signage? Will this be another impost on local governments, who have already raised concerns with the costs? These are all questions the minister has failed to properly answer yet again, and it is another reason these amendments should go back to the committee.

The minister told media that speed limits on shared paths would be 25 kilometres an hour, including where he did his press conference near the Bicentennial Bikeway yesterday. However, this seems to be another cooked moment for this cooked minister, with a spokesperson having to clarify that the minister was in fact wrong. If the minister cannot understand his own laws, how can he expect Queenslanders to? It is yet another reason this bill should go back to the committee.

The minister's press release trumpeted his amended bill while failing to apologise for its shortcomings and failure to address other issues raised during the committee process which still require clarity—issues such as those raised by disability stakeholders and issues such as compliance labelling, which was also consistently raised during the committee process. Under the draft bill, users were required to return their device to the manufacturer and have the device legally labelled as compliant, but in many cases this would be a near impossible task given manufacturers are largely based overseas. Why has the minister not made any clarifications about this? Will Queenslanders still be required to return their devices to overseas manufacturers for labelling at great cost?

**Mr McDonald:** No!

**Mr MELLISH:** That is what the bill had in it. The chair of the committee can complain all he likes, but that was the bill as drafted until five minutes ago. The minister stated in his media release that the government's amendments were based on extensive community and expert consultation—clearly another misleading statement judging from what we saw from the AMAQ and Bicycle Queensland just yesterday and today.

Let me be clear: safety always has been Labor's priority. We were calling for action last year. We support the safe and responsible use of compliant e-mobility devices, but the Crisafulli government has failed to take responsibility for its inaction, ignoring our calls to shorten the inquiry, which we made on numerous occasions, and introduce interim safety measures. We gave this government so many opportunities to show some leadership and they failed every time. Not even the 14 tragic deaths that occurred in 2025 could compel them to act with urgency. It is evidence that this bill was not worth the wait. The University of Queensland's Dr Richard Buning warned that this bill is too blunt and that it will not achieve the desired safety outcomes, and he is absolutely right.

The government has produced a bill that risks crippling the tourism sector, imposing substantial financial burdens on local governments and unfairly discriminating against people with a disability. The bill exploits legitimate community concerns about illegal devices and reckless riding behaviours exhibited by a small but well-publicised minority. In doing so, it comes at the cost of the majority—at the cost of responsible e-mobility riders who are already doing the right thing.

Worse still, in pushing ahead with this legislation the government leaves wide open the very loophole that has contributed to the rise of illegal e-motorbike ride-outs across our communities. This bill fundamentally fails to distinguish between illegal e-motorbikes and compliant electrical pedal-assist bikes, lumping them together under one piece of heavy-handed legislation. It enforces compliance standards so restrictive that the majority of existing devices would become noncompliant overnight.

It introduces an e-mobility-only speed limit so impractical that it will see devices overtaken by slow joggers and it creates licensing requirements that will disproportionately disadvantage the elderly, people with a disability and those who rely on e-mobility as an affordable alternative to car ownership. At a time when Queenslanders are already struggling with rising living costs and fuel prices and trains that do not come, affordable transport options matter now more than ever. The Airport Bicycle User Group calls out this government, saying—

Queenslanders are suffering a cost of living crisis and a fuel shortage. This is not the time to remove options for Queenslanders to use the safe, affordable, sustainable and healthy transport option afforded by EPACs.

For many people, car ownership is simply out of reach. E-mobility devices provide an accessible, low-cost alternative helping people travel to work and education and get around their community. The Queensland Bus Industry Council acknowledged—

E-bikes offer a low-cost, scalable mobility solution that can complement bus services and improve access without requiring significant infrastructure investment.

Restrictive regulatory settings risk disproportionately impacting these communities.

The Transport Professionals Association described the bill as fundamentally misaligned with the Queensland government's own objectives around active transport, healthier lifestyles, congestion, emissions reduction and reliance on fossil fuels. The government-led committee effectively acknowledged the bill's failures through its nine subsequent recommendations that attempt to cover the glaring flaws that should never have been introduced.

If the LNP was truly concerned about e-mobility safety, it would have acted on recommendations supported by health experts like the AMAQ or the government's own Department of Health. They could have legislated greater investment in separated infrastructure and prioritised better data quality and data-sharing arrangements. Unfortunately, none of this safety forward thinking made its way into the bill.

All of this became painfully clear during committee hearings, when it was confirmed that the government had not consulted with anyone prior to the introduction of the bill to parliament in March. Professor Matt Burke from Bicycle Queensland put it perfectly when he said—

... there has been a problem here that the government has confused the actions of the inquiry and the appearances before the inquiry and the submissions to the original inquiry with consultation with the bike community on the specifics of this bill.

The Sunshine Coast Bicycle Users Group said that licensing and speed limit recommendations were 'not supported by evidence, were not shaped by the community consultation process, and will cause serious, foreseeable harm to legal e-mobility users across Queensland'. Despite the avalanche of evidence stacked against them, this government refuses to admit it got it wrong. The committee's own recommendations are an acknowledgment that the transport minister has failed to meet community expectations.

I will in turn address some of the specific shortcomings of the bill. With regard to speed limits, the department's own technical advice for speed management on shared paths, published in only 2020, states that a bicycle can become unstable at speeds below 11 kilometres an hour, so in the initial bill we saw a 10-kilometre-per-hour speed limit which defies physics, logic and reason. A simple google search could have told them that. One Gold Coast City council representative commented that the 10-kilometre-an-hour speed limit has been 'pulled out of the air. It has not been researched.' Stakeholders overwhelmingly warned that forcing riders to travel at walking pace on shared infrastructure would push more people onto roads without protecting cycling infrastructure, increasing the risk of interactions with other motorists. It would see hundreds of kilometres of the state's principal cycle network becoming almost obsolete to its once avid users.

Professor Narelle Haworth warned the committee that introducing rules to penalise or make it less attractive to ride in safer locations may result in riding in less safe locations, with riders more likely to be hit by motor vehicles. She said—

If we want to have safe e-mobility, we need to have lower speed limits and allow people to ride on the road or we need protected infrastructure where people can ride safely.

Queensland Labor recognises the enormous benefits of active transport across our communities. We know that safe riding behaviours are encouraged by investing in separate infrastructure, not over-regulation. Good governments incentivise the uptake of alternative forms of transport; they do not actively deter it, as we see from this government. Instead of investing in active transport infrastructure, the LNP's first budget cut \$27 million in funding to active transport infrastructure compared with the previous budget under Labor. This is in addition to the minister slashing half of the active transport corridor along the Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail project.

Stakeholders have overwhelmingly called on this government to invest in separated active transport infrastructure for e-mobility devices, which is why transport planning recommended that the bill be amended to 'commit parallel investment into separated active transport infrastructure'. Noosa council said that, like them, other regional councils will be unable to absorb the substantial cost of segregated infrastructure without substantial state funding. Further to that recommendation, the committee report outlined that the 10-kilometre-an-hour speed limit would not apply to shared paths—unless it did—and that e-mobility riders should travel slowly around pedestrians on shared paths, with the department to consider a speed limit of 15 kilometres an hour within 10 metres of a pedestrian. That is what the committee report said. What gobbledegook that is.

As a result of these amendments you will have to: check your speed on a device that often does not have a speed register on it; determine whether you are passing someone; slow to a certain speed; work out if you are on a footpath, shared path or segregated infrastructure; check the transit of Venus; check on the time of day—you will have to do a range of things. This is overcomplicated. This is absolute garbage.

Twice the minister himself could not correctly say what the speed limit would be on the Bicentennial Bikeway. Right now there is no accepted definition of 'footpath', let alone a definition of a footpath in a high pedestrian area, as has also been floated. All this will do is create more red tape for local governments like Gold Coast City council, Logan council and Somerset council, which have all condemned the bill—but none more so than Brisbane City Council. Even Brisbane's Lord Mayor stood up to his political masters to call out just how bad this bill is.

The LGAQ spoke up against the administrative burden that would be placed on councils as a result of this speed limit. In the words of the LGAQ, the application of this bill would create a substantial administrative, operational and financial burden for local governments, particularly across extensive shared path networks. For shared paths capable of retaining higher speed limits, councils would be required to undertake formal speed limit reviews through their path network and install the required signage. This government has failed to offer any commitment on funding to assist these local governments. In an affordability crisis, will councils and ratepayers be left to pick up the tab for this poorly written bill?

This bill would introduce mandatory compliance labelling for e-bikes, establishing an enforceable definition of an e-bike in alignment with European standard EN15194. The committee heard at length how importation guidelines were delivered under the Morrison LNP government, allowing high-powered and throttle controlled devices to be imported, flooding the Australian market with these noncompliant devices. This change meant that Queensland consumers could legally buy devices that were illegal to ride in public settings. The Albanese Labor government announced that it would reinstate the EN15194 standard, meaning Australians could trust that available e-bikes are safe and compliant.

As this bill was drafted, applying the newest version of the European standard—effective in Europe as of May 2026—this bill excludes more than 90 per cent of the existing stock currently within Australia, making those devices noncompliant. Using the standard as a coverall, the government presented a restrictive definition of an e-bike, excluding e-trikes, while still allowing the sale of high-powered devices covered via a loophole that means their use is limited to private property only. The fix to this recommended that the bill expand the marker of compliance for e-bikes to meet the standard that was applicable at the time of the device's manufacture. This minister still does not know what his laws do. This morning on ABC Radio he said—

... what will be a legal e-bike, and the sort of fat tyre e-bikes that we've seen a considerable amount of on the Gold Coast and in Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast and right across the state, they will be illegal under this legislation.

I went to [fatboybikes.com.au](http://fatboybikes.com.au). As the minister directly references, you will see that many of their bikes meet the EN15194 standard. I table that.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, undated, from 'fatboy' website depicting EN15194 certified eBikes for sale [\[852\]](#).

On the day this bill is debated this minister still does not understand his own bill. How on earth can the public be expected to? We are still no closer to understanding just how the department will manage this process, and I feel for them. Bicycle Queensland called for clarity before the implementation of any new certification system because retailers, small businesses and their customers all deserve a sense of certainty before compliance labels become mandatory. They deserve answers to questions like: how will these mandatory compliance labels work? Where will the responsibility for certification lie? What does this statewide mechanism look like?

Queensland is more than just the south-east corner, so the government must outline how it plans to manage compliance across regional Queensland. Will a representative from TMR have to fly out to Mount Isa, Cloncurry or Townsville once a week to certify the region's e-bikes? DTMR confirmed that it did not possess any additional testing technology. While the bill's initial commencement is 1 July, which has been watered down, pushed back and fobbed off, there is little time for the department to establish an entire compliance or regulatory oversight framework.

We know that the LNP's extreme decision to impose licensing requirements will disproportionately affect the elderly, people with disability who are not able to obtain a licence and younger people from lower socio-economic backgrounds, restricting their ability to get around. It is ridiculous that, under this bill, these people will be banned from using e-mobility devices. The bill's own statement of compatibility says that the right to recognition and equality before the law 'may be limited, as the requirement to hold a valid driver's licence can adversely impact' people with a disability and older Queenslanders unable to drive for health reasons but who can still safely operate e-mobility devices. They have amended the bill because they are trying to save face, but this government is still speeding ahead in its pursuit to turn Queensland into a nanny state, joining the likes of North Korea as the only other jurisdiction that requires a licence to operate a bicycle.

Not content with excluding people without a licence, the bill creates further exclusions for people using adaptive technology devices to meet their needs. In applying the EN15194 standard as a coverall, the government presents a restrictive definition of e-bike that would exclude e-trikes. Small business owners like Richard and Andrea from EveryBody eBikes became the voice for their customers who rely on adaptive technology and devices like e-trikes. Working with their customers over months at a time they came to know and understand their needs, so for Richard and Andrea this is personal. Andrea put it plainly, saying—

... an e-trike should be treated just like an e-bike is being treated, which is just like a bicycle. It is just a bicycle with three wheels instead of two, which means it can never be compliant with EN15194 of any generation, because that is for two-wheel devices only.

We have seen the transport minister talk about the need for greater safety of e-mobility devices, but this government's total failure to consider people living with disabilities is the latest example of the government placing politics over its people. Only when there was significant backlash to the government bill did the government even look like acting, and even then it was too late. Queensland Labor joins

with the Queenslanders with Disability Network in calling on the Crisafulli government to ensure there are no additional financial or administrative burdens imposed on people with a disability as a consequence of this bill. Instead of acknowledging the fear they caused, the Crisafulli LNP government refused to back down, signalling that they would consider a half-hearted exemption process for individual e-mobility devices but not the riders themselves.

The report's fifth recommendation tries to patch up the government's failure to consider that this bill would alienate a considerable chunk of the population.

**Mr McDonald** interjected.

**Mr MELLISH:** I hear the committee chair interjecting endlessly. I am not taking any of those interjections. He should have helped ensure this bill was fixed before it was brought into parliament.

**Mr McDonald:** It is.

**Mr MELLISH:** It is fixed now; there we go. I take that interjection. The government says that it is fixed, it is all good, it is all fine. Let's see what the community says about that.

With no tangible evidence from the government on how any of this would work, and with no community consultation, riders with a disability may still be required to obtain a licence despite the barriers they have in obtaining a learner's permit.

I move to enforcement. The Queensland police warned the committee that enforcement of e-mobility use is highly resource intensive and difficult to sustain, and the increased enforcement measures in this bill will only add to this. Last year the QPS launched Operation X-Ray Surety, a statewide campaign to crack down on unsafe riding behaviours. The committee was advised that this three-month campaign involved almost 5,000 officer hours, with resources allocated to this campaign redistributed from road traffic units—

**Mr McDonald** interjected.

**Ms Bush** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Member for Lockyer and member for Cooper, there will be no quarrelling.

**Mr MELLISH:** I will say that again: resources allocated to this campaign were redistributed from road traffic units, despite last year's 16-year-record death toll on Queensland's roads. Like the police, we have been calling for dedicated police resources for e-mobility compliance, instead of redirecting resources from high-priority policing areas. We have heard nothing from the police minister or anyone else in this government on how they will support the Queensland police with their increased workload under this bill.

We have also had concerns about the health and safety of police, given the bill's seizure powers for noncompliant devices. Impounding these devices poses serious safety risks due to the lithium ion batteries and their storage requirements. In the course of the e-mobility inquiry, the Queensland Fire Department presented some shocking information on the ferocity of thermal runaway fires from compromised lithium ion batteries. When these batteries fail they fail catastrophically, and they can lead to the loss of property or even life. This government has refused to respond to the calls to strengthen battery safety standards and invest in public education.

If allowed to pass, this bill will have significant economic consequences on sectors all through Queensland. Bicycle Queensland made it clear that this bill will destroy or severely harm businesses relying on compliant e-bikes, including retailers, tourism operators, food delivery businesses and e-mobility hire operators. DoorDash warns that the bill risks excluding delivery riders through e-mobility devices and will disproportionately impact workforce participation, shrinking the overall workforce. Imposing car-centric licensing obligations at a cost is likely to reduce access to delivery work for students, casual workers and low-income earners without access to cars. This means family owned small business food retailers and restaurants could struggle to access delivery riders, reducing their ability to serve customers. Tourists use e-mobility devices to explore Queensland's cities and towns, support local businesses and engage with local communities. The bill risks excluding a considerable share of international tourists who would be unlikely to meet the bill's licensing requirements, making Queensland less accessible and less visitor-friendly when compared to other destinations.

The Queensland Bus Industry Council said that a good transport policy is not about appearing tough; it is about being effective. This is where the LNP government has got it completely wrong. In terms of the hire industry, Lime and Neuron acknowledge that there are significant issues with this bill. They are concerned that their declarations in terms of insurance will not be enough to enable them to


maintain their insurance. Losing their insurance will leave more Queensland road users uninsured. Lime and Neuron at the moment have no way of verifying in real time whether someone has a Queensland driver's licence, let alone a full suite of international licences. This is another train wreck part of a train wreck bill.

This government got it wrong. They wanted to appear tough. I have lost count of how many times I have heard this Premier say that this government would deliver nation-leading reforms. What they have delivered are serious barriers to the use of e-mobility devices, layers of bureaucratic red tape for current riders and serious economic flow-on effects—all from a government that promised to listen to the experts. Thousands of people engaged with this inquiry and the committee in good faith, giving up their valuable time and preparing detailed submissions, all with the expectation that this government would listen. They thought this government would work with them to create a bill that would serve Queenslanders. All of the expert advice and impassioned pleas fell on deaf ears, making this bill the latest broken promise from the LNP. The public backlash is loud and clear: this bill must not progress in its current form. As a result, the Queensland Labor opposition simply cannot support the bill in its current state. The bill is a mess and this is the worst panelbeating of a bill I have seen in the Queensland parliament. I move—

That the words 'now read a second time' be deleted and the following words inserted:

'withdrawn, redrafted and reintroduced taking into account all recommendations from the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee report tabled on 8 May 2026 and all stakeholder feedback in respect of the bill, and referred back to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee to undertake a full and proper examination and report back to the House no earlier than six weeks from the reintroduction date.'

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** For the information of the House, members will now be speaking to the motion moved by the member for Aspley until that question is determined.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (4.53 pm): I am pleased to support the motion that was put today by the shadow transport minister. In doing so, I want to acknowledge a couple of the interjections from those opposite prior to my standing, including that we should be reading the amendments. Well, 122 amendments were circulated at the onset of this debate. I do not know how the chair has managed to read the amendments in that time or how he has had an advance copy of the amendments, but there is no way that any of us could have read the amendments in that time and have the ability to debate those.

I also heard the chair calling out and saying, 'This is our report. This is our committee.' Deputy Speaker, you always know when a bill is crap because they like to say—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Member for Cooper—

**Ms BUSH:** I withdraw. I apologise. I did not realise that was unparliamentary. You can always tell when a bill is not up to par because they like to say that it is bipartisan. If they loved the bill they would be owning it 100 per cent, but they like to go out there and say that it is a bipartisan bill. This is not a bipartisan committee. This is a government-led committee, this was a government endorsed report and this is a—

**Mr KEMPTON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I was just about to seek some advice from the table about another matter but I will seek some advice about that.

**Ms BUSH:** I am happy to come back to the motion.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Okay, I will give you that guidance. Thank you, member for Cooper.

**Ms BUSH:** This bill is entirely—

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have not seen a copy of the motion moved by the member for Aspley. I want to understand whether it is being circulated to other members.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Leader of the House, do you have a copy of it now?

**Dr ROWAN:** I have a copy, but other members in the House may not.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** We will try to get that circulated as soon as possible. Thank you for your point of order.

**Ms BUSH:** Does anyone else want to have a go? This is the government's bill and this will be on the government when it comes back to bite them, as it will. We will be back in here having to fix this bill because it has not been adequately consulted on. Well, I should say that there has been sufficient consultation but the government actually have not listened.

What we have are committee members who were confused about the scope of the problem and clearly not across the content we were talking about. Even on the final days of the public hearings they were not across key concepts and terms and they were arguing with stakeholders. They were not willing to listen and they continued to argue with stakeholders throughout. They have this obsession with looking tough on crime and that optic has led us to where we are today, which is a bill with serious problems. There are 122 amendments being introduced today and rushed through with no parliamentary oversight and no oversight from experts and stakeholders.

After 11 months of work, hundreds of submissions, countless hours of evidence—it felt like thousands of submissions—the most generous thing I can say is that the committee process appears to have been conducted under the philosophy of measure once, cut three times. We have an opportunity to send the bill back to the committee today and to get it right. If we do not, we will be back in here fixing this up within 12 months.

This motion is to have the bill withdrawn, redrafted and reintroduced taking into account all of the recommendations from the committee report. I will touch on some of the recommendations from the report, which I assume have formed the basis of the amendments. Of course, I do not know that. I have to take them on face value because they have only just been circulated at the onset of this debate. Of course we know what has been leaked already through the media—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Just one moment, please, member for Cooper. Members, there are a lot of people standing up in the chamber and there is also a lot of noise in the chamber. I would ask members to take their seat and keep the conversation to a minimum.

**Ms BUSH:** We know from media reporting and from what the minister has said today that there will be changes to the licensing regime proposed in the bill—in particular, for children and young people. That was not even a recommendation of the committee in the committee report, yet here it appears in what has been given to the media and apparently circulated today. On the broader issue of licensing, if Queensland proceeds with this bill we will be the only jurisdiction apart from North Korea to require a licence to ride a bike. So much for the government's red-tape reduction! This bill proposes that before some Queenslanders can even get on a bicycle they will need a licence, compliance plates, regulatory approvals and potentially police scrutiny—just to get on and ride a bicycle in Queensland.

We can see through media reporting that children will now be able to ride under parental supervision. What does that involve? Who is a parent? What about older siblings and other custodians? We have no idea what this actually even means. That might be fantastic to assist some organisations like our rail trail groups—absolutely they need support. I acknowledge a lot of those organisations are in the chair's electorate, but what about kids in my electorate who need to get to school? What about kids who want to get from school to Valleys for training? Why are they not given the same exemptions that the children in the seat of Lockyer are afforded? It is completely and utterly biased by a completely and utterly biased chair.

We have an exemption scheme for people with a disability—and this relates to recommendation 5 of the report.

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

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock, please. Member for Cooper, just one moment. What is your point of order, member for Lockyer?

**Mr McDONALD:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

**Ms BUSH:** I withdraw. The backbench seem to have drunk the Kool Aid that these amendments are going to fix everything for people with a disability. I cannot stress enough to people on the backbench how significant and serious this issue is for people with a disability who rely on these devices. These are not recreational or hobby devices; they rely on them to get around. Let me assure members that there are no fixes in this bill. What it will do is restrict those people who cannot get a licence from riding a bike.

I am pleased to see that the exemption scheme is coming in, but we do not know how they are going to operationalise that. We do not have any detail on what that involves. Right now pedal-assist bikes give mobility and independence to people who have seizures or epilepsy and people with intellectual disability, Down syndrome or neurological diseases. Honourable members should put themselves in the shoes of a person like that who is now being asked to go and get a medical exemption. We have not consulted with the AMAQ or any medical practitioners about what that involves. Is DTMR going to sign off on that? Are people going to have to go and see a GP to sign off on that? Imagine going in and having to see a GP just to get an exemption. If people go to see their GP and they

are not prepared to give them an exemption to drive a car, do members think they will be prepared to take on the risk to give the person an exemption to ride a bike on the road? GPs are telling me they are not. None of this has been consulted on. This is not going to fix anything for people from the disability sector. It is putting the onus and the cost back on to the consumers, which is entirely unfair and discriminatory.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is a procedural motion before the House at the moment. I would submit to you that the member for Cooper is now going into substantial debate with respect to the bill itself as opposed to confining her comments to the procedural motion.

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

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Is it to that point of order?

**Mr POWER:** It is. I note that the amendment moved by the member for Aspley asks that the bill be withdrawn, redrafted and reintroduced taking into account all the recommendations. The member is simply advocating for those recommendations for the consideration of the House.

**Ms BUSH:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I am talking specifically to recommendation 4. If you look at the motion—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Are you speaking to that point of order as well?

**Ms BUSH:** I am speaking to the point of order. I am speaking specifically right now to recommendation 4. If you look at the motion, it specifically refers to it being withdrawn, redrafted, sent back and that all recommendations are reconsidered. I am speaking to the recommendations from the report.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause):** Member for Cooper, if you could pause for a moment I am going to seek some advice. Members, I am going to give some advice to the member for Cooper, but I think anyone else who speaks to the reasoned amendment should also take heed. There is some scope to refer to the original bill in addressing the reasoned amendment moved. However, you cannot substantially make your contribution about matters relating to the primary bill or the first motion before the House, which is that the bill be read a second time. I understand you have been giving some context. Perhaps bring your comments back to the specifics of the reasoned amendment moved. Any other members who speak should take heed of that advice too, please.

**Ms BUSH:** The point that I am trying to advance is that there are significant issues, substantial issues, and deficits in the bill and that is the basis of the motion put today. On top of that we now have 122 amendments that have not had parliamentary scrutiny or stakeholder feedback, particularly with important key stakeholders like those from the disability sector, who cannot afford the time or the cost for us to get this wrong. We want to refer the bill back to the committee to ensure that they have the opportunity to look at the amendments and ensure we get the bill right.

I want to talk for a moment about the recommendations around footpath licensing and why it is important that they are referred back so we can ensure people can have a discussion about that. The minister today has floated, and we have seen it through the media, that there are going to be changes to the speed limits on footpaths. The original proposal was for 10 kilometres an hour, and at that time it was against the department's advice. The report then recommended a series of changes to it, which I will read out, which absolutely make no sense. It states—

That the Bill be amended:

- to apply a 10km/h speed limit to all footpaths in high pedestrian areas, with a clear definition of 'footpath in high pedestrian area', to be specified; and that the Department of Transport and Main Roads consider a speed limit of 10km/h within 10 metres of a pedestrian ...
- to provide that the 10km/h speed limit does not apply to shared paths, unless signed; and that on shared paths e-mobility riders should travel slowly around pedestrians and the Department of Transport and Main Roads consider a speed limit of 15km/h within 10 metres of a pedestrian.

I cannot make sense of that at all and neither could anybody when we were going through the original submission. Now we have additional amendments that we are supposed to look at that are proposing 15 kilometres an hour. We hear 12 kilometres an hour and on the radio today we heard 25 kilometres an hour, although the minister was corrected on that. We are supposed to absorb all of that and think about how that might be operationalised in a couple of hours of a debate. This bill must be referred back to the committee. It needs stakeholder and expert intervention. It needs analysts to have a look at what is able to be operationalised. If the government does not do so, they would be absolutely derelict in their duties.

I am running out of time rapidly but somehow the government has managed to produce legislation that is simultaneously over-engineered and under-thought through. That is no indictment on the poor folk in strategy and policy in DTMR, who I know were working overtime to try to get this into some type of shape. The bill does not need passage through the parliament. It needs to be shown the door. These guys have the choice to do the right thing and to refer it back to a committee—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Would you please address members by their correct titles.

**Ms BUSH:** I apologise. The members opposite have the opportunity to refer it back to the committee so we can do some further work and ensure we get it right before we affect thousands of their constituents who, by the way, are emailing me constantly about their members' lack of action. I am asking members opposite to return the bill to the committee for further scrutiny before unleashing this absolute dog's breakfast into Queensland's active transport community.

**Mr King:** Mr Deputy Speaker—

**Mr McDonald:** Mr Deputy Speaker—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I call the member for Lockyer.

**Opposition members** interjected.



**Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (4.39 pm): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I appreciate—

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

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Pause the clock, please, for a moment. I have a point of order, I believe.

**Mr POWER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, there were two members who indicated that they wished to speak on this debate. To that end—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes; what is your point of order?

**Mr POWER:**—I move—

That the honourable member for Kurwongbah be now heard.

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

**AYES, 35:**

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

**Grn, 1—**Berkman.

**Ind, 1—**Bolton.

**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.



**Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (4.44 pm): It is a privilege for me to speak to what I think is probably a disrespect to the House, to this parliament and certainly to the committee process, because this procedural motion does nothing for all of those who made genuine submissions—the 1,780 genuine submissions to the first inquiry and the 3,000-odd to the second inquiry. The committee listened to those people. If those opposite took the time to read the amendments that directly align with the recommendations in the report, then they would understand that this government is doing exactly what we said we would do: listen to people and be calm and methodical in the way we approach these things.

It is not a surprise to me that those opposite have played this trick this afternoon. I have had many people call me, text me and email me today saying that opposition members are creating fear in the community by referring to the fact that the bill has no amendments and that the government has not listened to the committee's recommendations. That is what the former government did and the current opposition does—that is, create fear in the community. I am here to tell them that scare campaigns and fear get overcome by hope. Hope will beat fear every day. I am pleased to be part of a government that is making calm and considered decisions.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr McDONALD:** Those opposite are continuing to heckle, and I am not taking their interjections because they do not warrant being taken, and I will tell members why: as I stand here I am thinking of the 6,300 people who were injured and had to go to hospital and the 14 people who were killed and their families who have suffered, including those of Zeke Hondow. Troy and Kloe gave evidence and we supported them throughout the committee process. I am standing here thinking about all of the trauma and the grief created, and those opposite are now trying to play politics and refer the legislation back to the committee. If they took the time to read the amendments they would realise what this is about, just as the minister said. The minister in his second reading speech spoke about the amendments and what they do, and committee members know that they directly align with the recommendations the committee made. That is a genuine concern for me. Those opposite are just playing politics and not listening to people.

The amendment that has been moved refers to all stakeholder feedback with respect to the bill being taken on board. That is what we did as a committee. I recognise the member for Mulgrave and the member for Cook for the work they did on this inquiry with the committee. I would like to recognise the member for Cooper, the member for Aspley and the member for Kurwongbah as being part of the committee, but given what we have heard today it is like the committee process never happened and they are too busy playing politics trying to create fear in people in terms of the bill that we did the inquiry on. I am pleased to stand on this side of the House and I look forward to speaking on the bill after this is dealt with.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Order, members! Only the member for Lockyer has the call.

**Mr McDONALD:** I will be very pleased to speak to the bill in a very short period of time and listen further to the debate of reasons in this House, but I suspect that those opposite will continue to try to provoke fear based on the draft bill. I wish I had some butcher's paper and crayon—although I am not allowed that in the House—but I must remind those opposite about the process. We bring a bill into the House and a committee holds a fulsome inquiry. We know that this inquiry was driven by a large amount of fear—fear about standards, fear about licensing requirements, fear about speed on footpaths—and that resulted in 1,780 form submissions addressing exactly those things. However, we received a total of 3,030 submissions. In his second reading speech the minister outlined—those opposite must not have been paying attention—exactly what those amendments were and how they addressed the committee's recommendations.

I have a copy of the tabled government response which supported the recommendations made by the committee. I would be very pleased for members opposite to think back to the process that we went through and the recommendations that we worked on together. I am really disappointed that we are here today being political because we have dealt with the issue of licensing in terms of medical exemptions—not the existing process but the enhanced process—for those who may have handed in their licence due to their age, those in the disability community and those who might have other medical conditions. We also worked with the retail sector and listened to Bicycle Queensland to ensure all of the EN standards—both the former ones and the current ones—for bikes are covered by this bill. We have ensured that those people who are not able to get a licence have an improved medical exemption process.

We have also ensured that the speed limits on shared paths was corrected. Members opposite now say that we need to refer the bill back to the committee to take into consideration stakeholder views. We have done that. We have been through that process twice. We have done a second inquiry which was on the bill and had great feedback. We have listened to professionals. As the minister said in his second reading speech, this is about ensuring we have a balanced position and we have the finer details right. That is why he will be working with the industry—whether it be bike share providers, the bicycle industry, the disability sector or providers at rail trails or at mountain bike parks—to ensure the regulations are right.

I want to reinforce to the House that the motion moved by the member for Aspley is, in my opinion, bordering on disorderly because we have actually been through a legitimate committee process—

**Mr MELLISH:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at those comments and I ask that they be withdrawn.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Lockyer, the member has taken personal offence. Would you withdraw, please?

**Mr McDONALD:** I withdraw. I will refer to the procedural motion. I believe that it is something that parliamentarians in this place would not tolerate. I refer to the member for Stafford's first speech yesterday. I complimented him at the end of that on saying that parliamentarians come into this place to make a difference for the people of Queensland and the people of Stafford. I certainly put myself in that category. I reinforce the hope that we will overcome the fear that those members opposite have created by engaging with different members of the community and saying that we have not listened to them. Andrea and Richard from EveryBody eBikes gave great evidence to the committee. We have listened to them. I am sure that if members opposite read the amendments they will see how they align with the report recommendations and we can get on with the business of seeing nation-leading reforms brought into this place.

It is important for this House to consider the balance of those nation-leading reforms. They are nation-leading reforms; they have nuance. Members should take the time to read the amendments. They should take the time to understand the details. With that, I move—

That the question be now put.

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

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There is a motion before the House but I have a point of order from the Manager of Opposition Business.

**Mr de BRENNI:** I am very clear that I am prohibited from debating the closure motion or making amendments to it, but I point out that standing order 88(2) requires you to be satisfied of two things: one, that the question has been sufficiently debated—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Are you pointing out the elements of standing order 88(2)?

**Mr de BRENNI:** I submit to you that there are two elements—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes, there are.

**Mr de BRENNI:**—of which you must be satisfied. One is that the question has been sufficiently debated. I remind you that there is one other member of the House who is seeking the call. The second element of which you must be satisfied is that the closure motion is not an abuse of the rules. I would submit to you this is a gross and deliberate abuse of the standing orders.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have heard your point of order.

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

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Are you speaking to that point of order?

**Dr ROWAN:** I am speaking to that point of order around standing order 88. I submit to you that this is a procedural motion. There has been at least 20 minutes of debate including a division. A number of members have been able to contribute to the debate. I would submit to you that, given the member for Lockyer has moved the procedural motion, we should address that.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Leader of the House. I will seek some advice. This is a subsidiary motion to the primary motion. I am of the view that there was one other member who had indicated their desire to speak to the subsidiary motion—that is, the member for Kurwongbah. If the member for Kurwongbah seeks the call, I will give him the call and not put the member for Lockyer's motion. Member for Kurwongbah, I will give you some advice; that is, you need to speak to the subsidiary motion and not make your contribution about the primary motion.


 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (4.56 pm): I wish to speak to the amendment put by the member for Aspley. Members here will know that the member for Cooper, myself and others were part of the committee proceedings into e-mobility safety and use. I acknowledge the chair and his contribution. He commented on numerous occasions, including publicly during the proceedings, 'We will get this right.' Like the rest of us, he no doubt felt the frustration that the bill did not accurately reflect the evidence of stakeholders and the inquiry's recommendations. I want to acknowledge the context that has brought us here. As mentioned, 14 Queenslanders died in incidents involving some form of e-mobility, and presentations to emergency departments of those injured in e-mobility accidents jumped almost 100 per cent from 2022 to 2025.

The chair said we should read through the amendments foreshadowed to be moved. I hope some of those amendments are moved. There are 122 amendments—39 pages of them. I am sorry, I have not had the luxury of reading through them and seeing how they are going to work. It is crucial that members give this motion serious consideration for the sake of e-mobility businesses, of families who want to get active together on compliant e-mobility devices and of kids who cannot get to school without

them. I saw a foreshadowed amendment in respect of 12- to 16-year-olds having parental supervision. That does not allow kids to get to school. That is going to be very difficult. We all have to face our constituents and families.

Before Christmas we asked that this be brought forward to allow for an interim report and for police powers to be increased and the police to be given extra resources so that all the things that we have been talking about, such as confronting the challenges of the illegally operated devices, could be considered so families did not go out and spend a lot of money on these things for their kids. There will be some cheap e-bikes on the market after this! We started this journey because of community concerns regarding illegally ridden high-powered e-bikes and scooters terrorising our neighbourhoods, destroying our paths and sporting fields and harming riders, pedestrians and compliant vehicle users.

We heard from stakeholders, as the motion mentions. I do not think those stakeholders have been listened to given this bill in its current form. This bill is like a bulldozer chasing butterflies. If it passes this week I predict we will be back with tranche 2 very soon because I do not think it is right. I support the motion moved by the member for Aspley.

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.00 pm): I rise to speak to the motion moved by the shadow minister, the former minister, the member for Aspley. This is just another example of those opposite consistently trying to find a way out of supporting legislation that they know the community want but they do not have the heart to support. They know that the community are concerned about e-mobility safety, but they do not want to support it. They have done this before; they have form. Whether it is Adult Crime, Adult Time or the multitude of other issues this House has considered, those opposite always try to find a way to weasel out of being held to account for their decision.

The question is very simple: do those opposite support strong action on e-mobility safety? If they do, they should support this legislation. Last year those opposite came into this House and said that we needed to go faster on this legislation and bring it into the House earlier. That is their position. In fact, they put motions before the House suggesting just that. Now they want to send it back to committee and for the committee to report back—I quote from the motion—‘no earlier than six weeks from the reintroduction date’. Those opposite want to push it out at least another six weeks. They are not content to deal with it. They have two days to debate this legislation—two days to fully consider and explore all of the different issues with this legislation.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I hear the member for Miller interjecting. Let us be clear: both the member for Miller and the member for Aspley had plenty of opportunities to address this when they were failed transport ministers. They both had opportunities to address this and did not. They oversaw blowout after blowout. The member for Miller opened the floodgates and let in these e-mobility devices—e-bikes and e-scooters. His record is throwing fuel on the fire with a \$2 million failed e-mobility subsidy scheme.

**Mr MILES:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Thank you for your point of order. Just before I make a ruling on that, I want to seek some advice from the Clerk. Minister, I understand you have been providing context to the amendment that has been moved by the member for Aspley, and you may continue—you are being relevant—but before you continue: member for McConnel, you remain on a warning even though you withdrew from the chamber for an hour and I have heard you interjecting on multiple occasions. I am going to ask you to leave the chamber again, please, for one hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for McConnel withdrew from the chamber at 5.01 pm.*

**Mr MICKELBERG:** A lesson hard learned. It has happened to me in the past. The point I was making is that the heart of those opposite is not in supporting strong action to address the challenges of e-mobility safety. They had an opportunity when they were in government. Both the member for Aspley and the member for Miller could have done this. They did not do it because they always squib it when it comes to making hard choices. Their heart is not in these issues. They could not address the simple issue of putting in place a registration and licencing system by addressing a legacy system that was incapable of putting in place a registration system for these devices. We could have considered that. It was one of the suggestions through the committee process. We cannot do that because over many decades in government those opposite did not address the shortfalls and provide that system.

We know what is before the House right now. This is just another sneaky opportunity. We have seen members on the backbench with headphones on trying to zone out because they do not want to support legislation. This is another example that their hearts are not in supporting strong legislation to

address e-mobility safety. They do not want to be held to account. They want to kick it into the long grass. They are so inconsistent in their position it is not funny. We need to get on with the job of considering this legislation. Every minute we talk about this procedural motion is a minute less those opposite can talk about addressing the substantive legislation. They have two days to deal with it. I would encourage them to do so. I move—

That the question be now put.

Question put—That the question be now put.

Motion agreed to.

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

**AYES, 34:**

**ALP, 32**—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Healy, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richmond, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

**Grn, 1**—Berkman.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

**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.



**Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (5.10 pm): It is an honour to speak on the substantive bill that we are here to debate. I am very proud to be the chair of the committee that undertook the inquiry. We had 3,030-odd submissions: 1,780 of those were a form submission referring to speed on shared paths and footpaths, standards of bikes as well as licensing requirements. We read all of those submissions and listened to the witnesses. It was an honour for us to do that.

At the outset, I thank the minister and his team for working so closely with us to ensure that we got the bill and the amendments right. I was talking to my colleague the member for Everton who said that this is a wonderful example of the parliamentary process where a bill goes through an inquiry process in which we listen to stakeholders and other Queenslanders and then put amendments before the House that contain changes that reflect those stakeholders' views.

As you know, Mr Deputy Speaker, this is quite a complex area to get right. We held an initial inquiry that produced a report containing 28 recommendations. There were 1,780 submitters to that inquiry. The inquiry looked at the number of injured people who presented at hospitals. That number doubled in recent years, with 63,000 people with injuries presenting at hospitals right across Queensland. Doctors suggest that that number is understated by two or three times because many people who were injured never went to hospital. Importantly, many people lost their lives.

When I introduced the original report to the House and we dealt with it, I said that this is very personal to me because I was a police officer for a long time and I was also a forensic crash investigator so I have an understanding of serious injuries and fatal crashes. In addition, my dear friends, Murray and Debbie Hughes, lost their son Lachlan in a terrible crash here in Brisbane, may he rest in peace. I was able to speak with Troy and Kloe, the parents of young Zeke Hondow, who was killed on the Sunshine Coast. When we introduced the bill and listened to the community, my mind turned to those who have suffered the worst thing that you could possibly suffer. No parent should have to bury a child. Therefore, we wanted to make this right and I believe we have now got it right. The Crisafulli LNP government is doing what we said we would do: we are fixing the e-mobility problems that those opposite did not attend to while in government.

We have introduced some great amendments and I will go through those in a minute, but first I will turn to the advice regarding illegally imported e-devices. The minister is continuing to work with other ministers of the state to pressure the federal government to ensure that laws around importing such devices into the state are changed. I thank him for his work in this space because we need to stop the importation of e-devices that would be illegal if ridden on the roads. The advice we had from legal experts is that those imported devices should be sold for use only on private property. However, we all know that there are mischievous retailers who are not doing that. They are not telling people that those

devices cannot be ridden on the road, which is wrong. I can outline to the House that during one calendar year—it may have been the 2023-24 or 2024-25 financial year—19 import licences for e-mobility devices were applied for and granted. Of those 19, 17 were for devices considered to be illegal if ridden on public roads. The retailers who are selling those things know it and they should be held accountable for selling them to people. I am sure many people have bought those devices for birthday or Christmas presents over the past couple of years. Those retailers should hang their heads in shame. All I can say to them is stop, because this bill implements some new fines as well as what is outlined in the original report.


I will turn to some of the amendments that I want the people in our community to hear about, to counter the comments of those opposite who have said that we have not listened. In the cold, hard light of day when the bill passes tomorrow—and I suspect that the bill and the amendments will pass—Queenslanders will know that we are a government that has listened to them and we have ensured Queenslanders are going to be kept safe.

One of the things I have been very focused on, and those opposite will know this, is that under their rules, while 16- and 17-year-olds could be issued with a ticket, neither they nor their parents had to pay it, so the matters would end up going back to the police for a cautioning process. It was a very cumbersome process and there were no consequences for actions. People who did the wrong thing were not punished. We have fixed that. It will be possible to issue 16- and 17-year-olds with a ticket and the matter may be referred to SPER. Sixteen-year-olds must hold at least a learner's permit and then, as they progress through life, they will hold a provisional licence and then a driver's licence. We are very pleased to see the Prepl process updated to reflect the safety issues and rules regarding e-mobility. I am pleased that the department has given that undertaking. We look forward to seeing those changes made to Prepl to reflect these amendments.

The fear that those opposite have instilled in our disabled community and among those who may have medical issues is shameful. I pay respects to Andrea and Richard from EveryBody eBikes here in Brisbane who gave evidence to the inquiry. We listened to Andrea and Richard and we have included a new medical exemption, which is not a costly process but it is a new process. It will not deal with previous standards. The department is going to work with medical practitioners to ensure that we get that right so that people can have confidence that this government has listened to them. We will ensure that those who cannot get a licence are catered for. There are conflicting views on the numbers around those who have been issued with a licence. The department says that it might be 94 per cent of Queenslanders aged 16 and older who hold a licence; University of Queensland statistics say 91.5 per cent of Queenslanders have at least a learner's, a provisional or an open licence, which they can get later in life. That is a very high percentage, but I recognise that eight per cent—or six per cent in the other statistics—do not have a licence. This bill caters for that.

It also caters for the fear that was created by Bicycle Queensland saying that you have to spend tens of thousands of dollars to try to get your trikes and custom bikes upgraded to EN standards. That was never the intention. Those opposite who were on the committee know the conversations we had and know the recommendations from the original report. They should take the time to read the 38 or 39 pages of explanatory notes. They should not try to mislead the House and say there are 122 amendments. If they read the explanatory notes they will see that they directly align with the recommendations we made. Again, I thank the minister for getting those amendments done.

In closing, I thank my fellow committee members the members for Cook and Mulgrave for the work we did on this. I am looking forward to continuing to work together to make sure we produce some great outcomes. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (5.20 pm): I have a couple of opening comments, if it helps the House. Firstly, for the benefit of the chair, the 122 amendments are there in black and white. Secondly, what an insult to be told we are the ones who are perpetrating—

**Mr McDONALD:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and ask the member to withdraw. I referred to the 38 pages of explanatory notes.

**Mr POWER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I do not believe any member's name was mentioned. The member merely mentioned that there were 122 amendments.

**Mr McDONALD:** The member said 'chair' of the committee, which is me.

**Ms BUSH:** I am happy to withdraw. I am withdrawing. What an insult to be told that we are the ones who are perpetrating a fear campaign. Our opposition team was responsive to the genuine fears people were feeling with respect to the bill as drafted—not hypothetical but responding to the bill as

drafted. How insulting for the chair to blame Bicycle Queensland, a key stakeholder—because what would they know, right? I mean, they are just key stakeholders. To say they have made up a fear campaign is an absolute insult included in the introductory speech.

It takes a special kind of talent to spend 11 months working on a bill, receive more than 5,000 submissions—I did have it right originally; 5,000 submissions—hold multiple public hearings, meet repeatedly with stakeholders including the Queensland Police Service, whom we met with three times, hear warning after warning from experts, advocates, retailers, riders and disability groups and still manage to get legislation so incredibly wrong. It takes a special talent to do that.

This inquiry was supposed to make our streets safer. It was supposed to deal with the high-powered electric motorbikes that are getting around masquerading as bicycles. It was supposed to reduce serious injuries on scooters. It was supposed to provide clarity for police, for riders and for regulators. Instead, the bill misses the problem entirely, and rather than targeting these dangerous high-powered devices it turns its attention to ordinary pedal-assist bicycles.

Someone described this bill to me as swinging a sledgehammer at a mosquito, missing entirely and taking out the wall behind it. That is exactly what this bill has done. I cannot think of a better description. The original problem remains entirely untouched. The dangerous behaviour that we all want to prevent and stop is entirely untouched. Nothing in this bill will deal materially with that issue, and that is the issue my constituents speak to me about. There is nothing here to address that. It solves little and complicates everything.

I am not going to go into the technical aspects of the bill right now because, to be quite honest, I am done trying to convince this government to do the right thing and to listen to stakeholders and consider the ramifications. It has been the most frustrating process to be involved in. I have never seen a more seriously flawed process or bill.

People still stop and ask me, 'Where did it all go wrong?' All I can say is that the LNP have come in to government with absolutely no mandate outside of locking up children and going tough on crime. They have then quickly turned their attention to address e-mobility safety. In their quest to look tough on crime, they realised they could not deal with a lot of the issues because they were in the federal domain. 'So what are we going to do? Let's focus on criminalising people with a disability, our elderly folk, young mums and people on pedal-assist bikes.' Way to go, folks! That is where we got to. I want to thank the more than 5,000 submitters who gave us—

**Mr Kempton:** Oh, more than 5,000 now!

**Ms BUSH:** Across both inquiries, yes, there were. The member was on the committee and the member ought to know. But they listened, right? One of the most disappointing aspects of the process has been the mistreatment of stakeholders. There has been an extraordinary level of public engagement. People gave us their time, their energy and their expertise because they genuinely thought the government was trying to fix something. Across thousands of submissions there was overwhelming concern from stakeholders about flaws, unintended consequences and implementation issues, yet somehow the final product bears no resemblance to what people have asked for.

I heard the chair speak earlier about the fact that we did listen. I do think the chair was trying to listen, but it is simply not true. I have an email, which I will not table, from a constituent—not one of my constituents but a constituent of a member opposite; they email me constantly—received a couple of days ago. It asked the chair—

Has your government heard the community on this issue? Have you read the submissions? Does it matter that you've got it so wrong and that you've missed the mark? Will you listen and sort out your flawed regulations? Your inquiry will be seen as a failure if you don't listen. You have wasted a year. It won't stop kids on unregistered bikes. You have heard the evidence: zero deaths by standard compliant e-bikes. Your government will have egg on its face if it does not deal with the problem.

There were pages of impassioned emails to the chair, who then responds with, 'Well, there was a misinformation campaign that resulted in those submissions, and if you read the report you will see that the recommendations sort out 95 per cent of the issues.' The constituents then email me to say, 'Has this guy lost his mind? He obviously has no idea what he is talking about—and where did he get 95 per cent from?' This is what has been going on throughout this entire process, yet they come in here and tell us they have listened to constituents. They have not listened throughout the entire process.

In the time I have left I want to acknowledge the stakeholders who did engage with us for a long period of time: Paul Heyman from Brisbane Valley Rail Trail in the seat of Lockyer—in fact, all of the rail trail, bike hire and tourism companies are across the Lockyer and Nanango electorates. Fifty per cent of those are on e-bikes. They are going to be hit the most by this. It sounds like there are some amendments, but we would not know because we have had no time to consider them.

Chris Cox from Brisbane West Bicycle User Group joins us in the gallery. I thank those people in the gallery today who represent our bicycle user groups, who apparently spread this misinformation campaign. I thank them for joining us in the gallery and let them know that the Labor opposition team have listened to their concerns. Perhaps the government was not listening, but we certainly listened. I want to thank all the bicycle user groups from South Brisbane, Bribie Island and Rockhampton. We have had a lot to do with the bicycle user groups in those regions and look forward to continuing having a lot to do with the bicycle user groups in those regions.

I thank Andrea and the team from Everybody eBikes in Everton, who do an amazing job and gave us incredible stories of how people are going to be absolutely impacted by this bill if it is not implemented correctly. I will not even have time to have touch on implementation issues. I thank Andrew Chesterman, John Chesterman, Michelle Moss from QDN and Matilda from QAI and all of the disability advocates who gave us their time and demonstrated the perverse costs that people with a disability face just to have the same access that able-bodied folk like you and I have, Speaker.

I wish to thank COTA and Seniors Australia, those representing our older folk. Many of those people need e-bikes to keep up with their riding groups. Many of those people who do not have licences will be significantly impacted. Researchers and academics—

**Mr Kempton:** No, they won't.

**Ms BUSH:** I take the interjection from the member for Cook, who is still not listening and still trying to assure us that everything will be right. Well, we do not know, member, because it has not been looked at. If this bill was so good, if this bill was right, as they tried to convince us that it was correct, why are we here today dealing with 122 amendments? If the government were authentic about trying to work with us to get this through today, they would have given us a copy of the amendments yesterday, not circulated them today and put them through the media. That is an absolute insult.

I thank our healthcare experts, researchers, tourism operators, off-road riders and retailers, including 99 Bikes. The impacts they will face are extraordinary. No-one is consulting with them. It would have been lovely if they had been consulted during the drafting of the bill or on the amendments to the bill. When they were consulted they spoke against the bill. In fact, all of the submitters spoke against the bill, but we are still here and we are still going to vote it through. Well done to the chair on that.


Our local governments are against the bill as are our pedestrian advocates. Finally, Bicycle Queensland, which represents a network of around 40,000 riders, quickly got onto this issue and educated its members about the impact it was going to have and mobilised them into action. I commend them. I understand that their funding is up for renewal. I sincerely hope that they continue to be funded by this government. I will be watching very closely come 1 July to see if their funding continues after their strong advocacy on this issue.

The tragedy of this bill is not only that we got the solution wrong; we forgot the problem we were asked to solve. We were supposed to make Queensland safer and deal with dangerous, high-powered bikes. Instead, we have ended up regulating pensioners, people with a disability, commuters and ordinary cyclists.

Debate, on motion of Ms Bush, adjourned.

## SPEAKER'S RULING

### Same Question Rule

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, the government has circulated amendments proposed to be moved to the Transport and Other Legislation (Managing E-mobility Use and Protecting Our Communities) Amendment Bill 2026. Clause 34 of the bill as introduced sought to insert new sections 78B to 78D into the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995 regarding parental liability for offences committed by a child aged under 16.

Government amendment No. 82 seeks to amend clause 34 of the bill by replacing new section 78D so that parental liability applies only if the child commits an offence against a defined parent liability provision. This amendment is proposed to commence on 1 July 2026.

Government amendment No. 83 seeks to subsequently amend new section 78D to expand the definition of 'parent liability provision' and widen the application of subsection (6). This amendment is proposed to commence on 31 August 2026. The effect is that amendment No. 83 would re-amend the same provision already amended by amendment No. 82.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** We will have silence or there will be warnings, or worse. Standing order 87 provides that once the House has resolved a matter in the affirmative or negative the same question shall not again be proposed in the same session. Standing order 150 provides that no amendment shall be moved which is inconsistent with one already agreed to by the House. Amendment No. 83 is inconsistent with amendment No. 82, which the House would have already considered and agreed to during consideration in detail of the bill. This is contrary to standing orders 87 and 150. Accordingly, I rule that the same question rule is enlivened by government amendment No. 83. A motion to suspend standing orders 87 and 150 would be required for this amendment to be considered.

Before I call the member for Mansfield, let me remind those members who are on the warning list: Logan, Bundamba, Bancroft, Burleigh, Waterford, Lytton, McConnel and Inala.

## MOTION

### Child Safety Commission of Inquiry



**Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (5.33 pm): On behalf of the Leader of the Opposition, I move—

That this House—

1. notes the Child Safety Commission of Inquiry findings which have been released today.
2. acknowledges the work of the Child Safety Commission, including the commissioner.
3. notes that the purpose of the Child Safety Commission of Inquiry is to implement enhanced policies and investment to protect vulnerable Queensland children.
4. notes the 52 recommendations made by the Child Safety Commission of Inquiry which if implemented will enhance protections for Queensland children.
5. notes that the Crisafulli LNP government cut short the Child Safety Commission of Inquiry by six months under the guise of the state budget, limiting the ability of the inquiry to investigate matters, including the LNP government's commissioning of the Unify IT system.
6. notes the litany of failures of the Minister for Child Safety including, but not limited to:
  - (a) failure to protect vulnerable children known to Child Safety.
  - (b) failure to provide appropriate ministerial oversight of the Unify IT system rollout.
  - (c) failure to release timely and accurate data to provide confidence to the child safety sector.
  - (d) failing Queenslanders by going on leave after announcing the Unify failure.
  - (e) failing to advocate against reducing the Child Safety Commission of Inquiry's timeframes by six months.
7. notes that the Minister for Child Safety has been referred to the CCC regarding integrity matters.
8. calls on Premier Crisafulli to sack the Minister for Child Safety as Queenslanders cannot trust the minister to lead major reforms to keep vulnerable Queenslanders safe.

Every member in this place would agree that there is nothing more important than the safety of children, and that is exactly why we are moving this motion: to shine a light on the 52 recommendations of the report, which Labor welcomes. Any recommendations that help protect Queensland children should be implemented as soon as possible.

It is also important that we shine a light on why this minister is not up to the job of implementing them. She is too distracted—so distracted, apparently, the Attorney-General had to take control of the press conference today. The litany of failings under this minister's watch is shameful. The failures are as clear as day in the report.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

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

**Ms McMILLAN:** Pages 106 to 107 show that because of the minister's failure to provide proper oversight in the rollout of Unify: 24-hour priority response times fell from 91 per cent to 44 per cent; 72-hour priority response times fell from 30 per cent to 13 per cent; and seven-day standard response times fell from 25 per cent to six per cent. Page 792 states in relation to reunification data—

The Commission was informed data for the full year was unavailable following the transition to Unify.

Page 131 states—

... the Commission has not investigated or analysed the Unify to any extent ...

Page 1355 states—

While this Commission has not interrogated Unify to any extent, it does recognise the broader lesson that when the record system does not function properly, the State's ability to protect children is compromised.

It also points out multiple times the impacts of the truncated timeframes, including on page 353, which states in relation to the scourge of methamphetamine—


Due to its truncated timeframe, the Commission was not able to investigate this issue in-depth ...

It is clear that this minister has failed to protect vulnerable children through her poor decisions, her poor oversight and her poor leadership. We may never know the true scope of the impact of these poor decisions because she cut the inquiry short to cover her back.

Again and again the minister does nothing but obfuscate and point the finger. I hate to break it to the minister: the buck stops with her. The Unify system was turned on under her watch, despite the clear warnings given. The commission of inquiry was cut short under her watch, response times have plummeted under her watch and, rather than take accountability and own her mistake, she threw the director-general under the bus—again pointing the finger. That is not leadership. That is not accountability. That is failure, plain and simple.

Frontline workers have been left to fly blind because of the minister's poor decision-making. To avoid scrutiny of this matter this minister cut the commission of inquiry short by six months—she started to feel the flames at her feet. It tells a stark story of political convenience: wrapping up one commission of inquiry six months early while extending another. How many voices will not be heard? How many advocates have been silenced? How many children's stories have been forever left in the darkness all because of the decisions of this failed minister?

Sadly, this minister's failures do not end with child safety: there was an avalanche of outrage from the domestic and family violence sector when she released the 12-page pamphlet; she left for an African safari during disaster season and while the child safety department was in crisis; and her integrity failures have led to her being referred to the Crime and Corruption Commission. It is clear that this minister loves the title but not the job. She is failing in every portfolio area, and the Premier must act now. He must stop the list of continued failures under this failed minister from growing. He must do this to protect Queensland women and children. He must address this minister and sack her today.

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (5.38 pm): Goodness me! I move the following amendment—

That all words after paragraph 4 be omitted and the following paragraphs inserted:

5. notes the failures in child safety of the former government over 10 years, under five former child safety ministers.
6. calls on the opposition leader and each of the four failed former child safety ministers still in the parliament to apologise for the failures of his government revealed by the commission of inquiry.'

Mr Speaker, I have here the speaking list for the opposition. Where is the member for Waterford? Where is the member for Bulimba? Where is the member for Nudgee? Where is the member for Jordan? Of course, where—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Attorney is a long-term member of this place. She knows very well the rules about referring to the absence of members in the House. I would submit to you that the Attorney should withdraw those remarks.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In response to the point of order as raised by the Manager of Opposition Business, it is my understanding from what I heard that the member for Nanango was not doing that. She was speaking metaphorically in relation to any reference to a member and there was not a direct reflection on members' absence from the chamber.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Just hold on one second. I might get some advice. With all the noise in the chamber, I did not pick up anything untoward.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will note for those opposite that the failed former child safety ministers the members for Jordan and Bulimba are sitting right there and I cannot wait to hear their contributions. Then we have the other former child safety minister the member for Nudgee, who also is not on the list. Maybe they will be on the speaking list by the end of this debate.

**Mr SMITH:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The clock is still paused. I am just bringing that to the attention of the House.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I have just listened to the shadow minister talk about how many children are left. I have said it in this House before and I am going to say it again. What the former Labor government want us to do is stop: 'Don't do anything. Don't protect children.' That is what they did. That is exactly what all five of those former ministers did. That is not what the Minister for Child Safety and member for Whitsunday, the Hon. Amanda Camm, is doing. The honourable child safety minister is doing everything possible to fix up their mess and they know it. That is why it is unacceptable to the government to say that to the children who are left in a broken system by those opposite—not one but five child safety ministers over a decade.

If we want to look at history, what about when the LNP were last in government over 12 years ago? We had the Carmody inquiry, but then not one but five child safety ministers left the implementation of the recommendations of the Carmody inquiry.

**Ms Boyd:** The worst performing one is over there!

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** That member who is interjecting, the member for Pine Rivers, sat around a cabinet table that made decisions to not look after the children in this state. That is the bottom line. We can talk about that. The former government presided over the Mason Jett Lee tragedy. How do they come in here and say to the government and to child safety minister, 'You should stop. Don't do anything. How about we just extend?' We say no on behalf of the children who are vulnerable in this state. We need to get to work to fix the broken system left by those opposite.

Is the report damning, Mr Speaker? You bet it is. It is damning because we have had a decade under those opposite. They can carry on all they like, but they had not one but five failed child safety ministers. The number of young people in residential care under those opposite increased by 229 per cent—and they think that is okay! They do not think we should get on with the job and fix it. That is exactly what we are going to do under the stewardship of the member for Whitsunday.

It is an enormous task. It is an enormous task for which every single one of those failed ministers and their former cabinet colleagues should hang their heads in shame. They all know. The Leader of the Opposition knows. All of those ministers who sat around the cabinet table know. We have the former treasurer of this great state sitting over there laughing about the fact that the commission of inquiry—

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

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

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Speaker, I will withdraw. I would like clarification—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Unreservedly withdraw.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Speaker, on a point of order, I would like clarification from you. The member was laughing. Am I not to refer to him laughing?

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

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I withdraw.

**Mr McCallum** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I take the interjection from the member for Bundamba, who sat around the cabinet table ensuring that children from his electorate no doubt were left to languish in the child safety system. Family-based care is a great spot for our kids to end up. Instead, the former Labor government want us to stop, to do nothing and to just throw our hands in the air. That is not what we were elected to do. That is not what this child safety minister is going to do.

The Crisafulli government is going to do exactly what we were elected to do. We are going to do exactly what we said we were going to do, and that is fix up the mess left by the member for Bulimba and the embarrassment that was the member for Jordan. I cannot even get started on those other failed child safety ministers. It is an absolute embarrassment.

*(Time expired)*

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In relation to the contribution from the member for Nanango, there was an interjection from the member for Bundamba which was taken by the member for Nanango. It is my understanding that the member for Bundamba is on a warning.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Yes, he is. Were you interjecting, member for Bundamba?


**Mr McCALLUM:** Yes, I was.

**Mr SPEAKER:** You can leave the chamber for a period of one hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Bundamba withdrew from the chamber at 5.47 pm.*

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Nanango, you will be the next one warned.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (5.47 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. Every child deserves safety. Every child deserves stability. Every child deserves the opportunity to grow up connected to family, community, culture and identity. That responsibility falls particularly heavily on governments when children enter the child protection system. These are children who often experience trauma and significant disadvantage. Among those children, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children continue to be dramatically over-represented. Governments have grappled with this challenge and sought to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in care for many decades, recognising that protecting children means not only keeping them safe but ensuring they remain connected to family, community, culture and country wherever possible.

Labor supports reforms that improve child safety, strengthen accountability and deliver better outcomes for vulnerable children, but support for reform does not mean giving this government a free pass for the way in which it is handling this process. From the very beginning, this government has been more focused on political announcements than meaningful action. The Crisafulli LNP government chose to slash six months from the inquiry's original timeframe. They claimed urgency. They said it needed the report in time to inform the state budget. That was their excuse for rushing the process, yet now Queenslanders are being told they must wait another two months before receiving a formal government response.


If the situation was so urgent that six months could be cut from a major commission of inquiry, why is the government now dragging its feet? The government cannot have it both ways. It cannot claim urgency when announcing an inquiry and then delay action when it comes to implementing reform. Queensland children deserve better than that. Frankly, the handling of this report has exposed a deeper problem: who is actually leading child safety reform in Queensland?

Queenslanders would reasonably assume that responsibility sits with the Minister for Child Safety. After all, that is her actual job. Yet since the report was handed down Queenslanders have watched the Attorney-General take centre stage, not the child safety minister. It raises an obvious question: if the child safety minister is responsible for the portfolio, why does it appear that others are doing her job? The reality is that this minister appears completely overwhelmed by the tasks before her. At a time when Queensland needs strong leadership on child protection, we have a minister who has struggled to demonstrate ownership of the biggest reform agenda she has faced in years. At a time when vulnerable children need an advocate around the cabinet table, we have a minister who appears to have been sidelined by her own government. At a time when Queenslanders need confidence in the child protection system, they see a minister who lacks both authority and direction.

Nowhere is that more concerning than when we consider the impact these reforms may have on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. Recommendation 40 deserves careful scrutiny because adoption is unlike any other child protection order. It is permanent. It is irreversible. It permanently extinguishes a child's legal relationship with their birth parents and creates an entirely new legal identity. That is why Queensland law has long required parental consent as a fundamental safeguard except in limited circumstances determined by the Supreme Court. These safeguards did not emerge by accident. They exist because Australia learned painful lessons from its history—lessons from forced removals, lessons from coerced adoptions, lessons from government decisions that permanently severed family connections without adequate protections.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people those lessons carry particular significance. The legacy of the stolen generations continues to be felt today. Families are still living with that trauma. Communities are still carrying that burden, as evidenced in the many Sorry Day events that occurred just last week. That is why we must be extraordinarily careful before weakening safeguards that protect family and cultural connection. The unintended consequences of that recommendation may be that pressure emerges to weaken two safeguards at the same time: the first is parental consent; the second is the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle. The child placement principle exists because culture matters, identity matters and kinship matters. Connection to community matters. It recognises that the best interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children cannot be separated from their culture, cultural identity and connection to family. If parental consent protections are weakened while cultural safeguards are simultaneously diminished, the state's power to permanently

sever family relationships expands dramatically. That should concern every member of this place. This is proof that under the Crisafulli LNP government Queensland is being dragged backwards by a government paralysed by its own failures and a child safety minister who is out of her depth.

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (5.52 pm): I welcome the opportunity to rise and speak in strong support of our child safety minister, the member for Whitsunday, who is no doubt the best child safety minister this state has seen in over a decade. If those opposite are proud of their record, there is now a vacancy on the speaking list, so why don't the members for Jordan, Nudgee, Waterford or Bulimba take the opportunity to jump up and defend their record? Now is their chance to defend their record. I am calling on them to fill the spot. Come in here and do that.

I worked in the child safety system under those opposite. I watched firsthand as minister after minister oversaw a failed system that was letting down vulnerable children. They never took responsibility or accountability for that failed system. I was on the Sunshine Coast and we will never forget Mason Jett Lee. They can turn their noses up and smirk over there as much as they want, but we will never forget Mason Jett Lee. A later coronial inquest found that that child was failed in almost every possible way by the system. As we have heard from some of those opposite—

**Mrs Gerber:** Where was the member for Waterford?

**Mr PURDIE:** Where was the minister at the time? We have heard those opposite talk about someone having a break over Christmas, but what did the minister do after the death of Mason Jett Lee?

**Mrs Gerber:** Splendour in the Grass.

**Mr PURDIE:** She went to Splendour in the Grass and never took responsibility or accountability. We can talk about Christmas holidays all we want in this place, but tonight is their chance to come in here, take the vacant spot and defend their record. If they did a better job than the current minister—and they did not, because when I get time I am going to go through the list of things this minister has already done in 18 months, which is more than all of those combined—they would come in here and defend their record. We know about the failed youth justice system, the housing crisis, the cost-of-living crisis and the health crisis we are trying to address. We just did not have time to address the child safety crisis leading up to the last election, so for them to come in here now and try and take the high ground on this issue is appalling.


The report that the Attorney-General is responsible for and has tabled today as Attorney-General is alarming, and that is why I support her amendment to the motion. Some of the things in the report shine a light on the failures of those former ministers opposite. It talks about how the number of children in residential care surged by 229 per cent between March 2015 and March 2025. That surge meant there were 2,388 children in residential care in Queensland earlier this year. That is just 379 fewer kids in care than in the rest of Australia combined. It is an absolute shame. In 2024, their last year in government, a census found that thousands of children living in out-of-home care had suffered physical, sexual and emotional abuse and neglect, domestic violence and mental health issues, while one child alone cost \$2.6 million. It is appalling. They have an opportunity tonight to correct the record or, if not, take the opportunity to stand up and apologise.

In the final minute I have left I do not have enough time to highlight what this child safety minister has done in 18 months after a decade of decline from those opposite, but some things include: the \$1,500 boost to carers for an extracurricular allowance; a dual care model for residential care; a professional foster care pilot that is set to launch; a SecureCare facility in planning—

**Mr Smith** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I might have missed you before, member for Bundaberg, but I will not miss you again.

**Mr PURDIE:**—and a boost to child safety officer numbers after Labor cut funding to 91 existing frontline staff in 2024 under a member who is sitting here now. She has an opportunity to correct the record. The LNP saved those jobs and we are doing everything we possibly can under this minister to save the lives of young vulnerable children in Queensland. The minister has my full support in that.

 **Ms McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (5.57 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the shadow minister. I particularly want to focus on the truncation of the Child Safety Commission of Inquiry. It was announced with much fanfare in May 2025 and commenced on 1 July. Initially the report was to be delivered by 30 November 2026. From media reporting, I understand the cost of the conduct of this commission of inquiry was approximately \$20 million. I am happy to be corrected by the minister on

that. However, in February this year, while the public hearings were still ongoing and further evidence was still being submitted to the inquiry, it was quietly announced here in parliament—there was no media release, by the way—that the reporting date was to be brought forward by six months. This was not announced by the child safety minister; it was announced by the Attorney-General. Considering the Attorney-General was nowhere in the media release that announced the inquiry in the first place, for some reason at the beginning of this year the Attorney-General has taken it upon herself to make announcements in relation to the Child Safety Commission of Inquiry.

Why has this commission of inquiry been truncated? We have heard a couple of different things. Firstly, it might have been about the budget, in which case one would need to know what recommendations were being accepted in order to process and fund it through the budget. One might think that most of the CBRC's submissions would already be done and dusted for this budget and also considering we do not expect to get a response to this report until well after that.

We heard from the Attorney-General, when announcing it had been truncated, that it was about 'urgent policy responses to ensure the protection of Queensland children'. That was in the Attorney-General's private member's statement on 12 February this year. Perhaps the government members have never heard of an interim report. The commissioner indicated in his media release that he reserved the right to introduce an interim report. Interim reports have been used and recommendations have been adopted and even funded in various commissions of inquiry, such as the Productivity Commission and the flood commission. Interim reports enable governments to act just as strongly.


The rather detailed terms of reference, which were issued on 23 May 2025, meant that the commission did not get to do the inquiry it wanted to do into a range of issues. I will quote directly from the commissioner himself in his closing address. He said—

That is not to say that there are not matters which would benefit from further nuanced evaluation nor matters which warrant further investigation.

What might some of those be? Perhaps they did not want us to see some of the results that were starting to come out of the commission. I refer to page 106 of the commissioner's report, which spoke about the investigation commencement times. Those opposite want to talk about legacy, transparency and accountability. In 2021-22 the 24-hour priority response was 96 per cent of the time. However, when it gets to April 2025 to March 2026—when this minister was responsible—the 24-hour response had fallen from 96 per cent to 44 per cent. The 72-hour response had fallen from 38 per cent in 2021-22 to 13 per cent under this minister's watch. Let us talk about accountability for the results. That is what was coming through in the commission of inquiry, so perhaps that is one of the reasons it was truncated.

There are so many more things this commission needed to inquire into. Page 353 of the report stated that they were unable to further investigate the risks posed to children by parental methamphetamine use, specifically saying, 'Due to its truncated timeframe, the Commission was not able to investigate this issue in-depth'. Not only that, but in relation to the number and types of interim orders made the data could not be provided in time.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (6.02 pm): In the words of Jack Nicholson from one of my favourite movies: members of the opposition, 'You can't handle the truth.' The truth exposed by the royal commission and writ large in the report tabled by the Attorney-General this morning is that five of their failed ministers for child safety oversaw a shattered system—a system that our now hardworking and outstanding child safety minister has to clean up.

The hide of the opposition to come in here with a motion like this after their complete failure is gobs macking. They do not want the truth because deep down, in places they do not talk about at Labor love-ins, they want her in that role. They need her in that role to clean up the mess they left in the child safety system. I would rather they just thanked her and sat humbly silent on the issue. Opposition members should be sitting there licking their wounds after the scathing findings of the royal commission. They should be hanging their heads in shame at how they have let down the children in our state. There is an opportunity on the speaking list for one of the previous ministers—the member for Nudgee, Bulimba, Waterford or Jordan—to get up and apologise to the people of Queensland and the children of Queensland.

We come in here each week listening to the hapless opposition try to prosecute the government on issues that they failed in and we are cleaning up.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I apologise to the member for Nicklin, but I note that the member for Macalister, who is directly behind the speaker, is using a piece of paper as a prop.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Macalister knows the rules about props.

**Mr HUNT:** From youth crime to the health crisis, to housing and the Olympics debacle—

**Ms Bourne** interjected.

**Mr HUNT:** I forgive you, member for Ipswich West. You were not here for that rubbish. They have brainwashed you.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Nicklin, stop again. Member for Macalister, would you stop waving that document around. Thank you.

**Mr HUNT:** I was thinking during question time this morning that they should aim their attacks at something they were at least remotely competent in during their time in government, but I could not think of anything. I am sorry to the members of the opposition, but I cannot help them with their strategy. It is obvious from question time and these motions that no-one can help them with their strategy. I feel sorry for them with this ridiculous motion. I think the old saying is 'leading with your chin'. I see the opposition come in here week after week attacking our hardworking child safety minister—

**Ms Bourne** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Ipswich West, you were deliberately trying to upset and disrupt the House. You are warned.

**Mr HUNT:** I see the opposition come in here week after week attacking our hardworking Minister for Child Safety, who is overhauling a broken system and protecting our children. Nothing is more important for a government than protecting our children. The statistics outlined by the Minister for Youth Justice and the Minister for Child Safety in their earlier ministerial statements in relation to kids in residential care being represented in the youth justice system and as victims of sexual assault are absolutely shameful.

The five former child safety ministers in the Labor opposition know too well that it is a hard job. None of them could do it. They were all eventually replaced or at least voted out of government in the end by a community—

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Woodridge.


**Mr HUNT:** None of them could do it. They were all eventually replaced or at least voted out of government in the end by a community of Queenslanders who lived through the failures of the former Labor government.

**Mrs Poole:** Not a single apology.

**Mr HUNT:** I take that interjection; there was not a single apology. Once again, I call on those four former child safety ministers who are here. There is a spare speaking spot so they should get up and apologise to the children of Queensland. Here is their opportunity.

It is a hard job made even harder by the mess left by the opposition. Our child safety minister is doing a fantastic job. We see the members of the opposition come into this place and not only attack the great job she is doing in cleaning up their catastrophic failures but also attack her personally. There was a disgraceful attack on her care of her relative with disabilities—the lowest of low attacks. We know that when they do not have a leg to stand on, when they do not have facts to rely on and when they do not have any credibility to criticise, they go personal, and it is a disgrace.

I am proud to work alongside our fantastic child safety minister. I have complete confidence in her experience, her ability and her results so far to restore the mess left by those opposite. They should be having some moments of self-reflection and be on their knees thanking her for saving the children of Queensland.

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (6.08 pm): I rise in support of the motion moved by the shadow minister. The portfolio areas the minister is responsible for—child safety, the prevention of domestic and family violence, and seniors—are among the most important areas of government responsibility. It

is about protecting our children who depend on the systems around them to keep them safe. It is about victims of domestic violence who are afraid in their own homes, who summon enormous courage to reach out for help and who trust that, when they do, the systems and resources will be put in place for them. There is an expectation that the person responsible for the job will do it with a laser focus—that they will show up, properly resourced and funded, and lead in these areas. It is imperative we look after our vulnerable children.

Last year Queensland police responded to over 180,000 domestic and family violence call-outs across Queensland. That is 500 incidents every day, or one every three minutes, and yet a decision was quietly made to disband the unit that extended support to frontline responses to domestic and family violence cases. Rather than raise this as a concern, the minister responsible for the prevention of domestic and family violence stayed silent—

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance because the member has strayed away from the motion before the House to talk about another issue that we are not debating in this motion.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will listen closely to the member's contribution.

**Ms ASIF:** I am talking about the minister's responsibilities as the minister for domestic violence. Rather than raise this as a concern, the minister responsible for the prevention of domestic and family violence stayed silent. Last year Queensland recorded—

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member has now confirmed that she is not speaking to the motion and she has strayed into another policy area.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think it is well acknowledged in the sector that children—

**Mr SPEAKER:** What is your point of order?

**Mr de BRENNI:** My point of order is relevance because children can be at risk of domestic and family violence. In fact, many of the victims who are in the system are victims of domestic and family violence. Therefore I submit to you that the contribution is within the scope of the motion.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will take a bit of advice.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In relation to the point of order raised by the Manager of Opposition Business, I have had a detailed read again of the private member's motion as well as the amendment to the motion as moved by the member for Nanango. It is very specifically confined to the child safety matters. I would submit to you that the member for Sandgate was straying into areas beyond the specifics that are contained within the motion.

**Mr POWER:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It may not have come to the House's attention that point 4, which is included in not just the first motion but also the second motion, notes the 52 recommendations made by the child safety commissioner, which is all about families, retention and the act and indeed violence within those families.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Sandgate, I will listen to your contribution closely. This motion is about child safety but it is also about keeping Queenslanders safe. I will ask that your focus remains there.

**Ms ASIF:** Mr Speaker, I am happy to take that guidance. I am also happy to talk about the failures of the child safety minister, and there is a whole list of failures. She has failed to protect vulnerable children in the child safety system. She has failed to take accountability for the Unify IT system, leaving the director-general to carry the blame for her.

**Mr Head** interjected.

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

**Ms ASIF:** She has failed to release timely data, leaving the child safety sector without the information they needed. She has failed to deliver meaningful reforms in those elements which are the responsibility of the minister. She has also failed to be present in her own community during a cyclone—I will add that to the long list of failures. Of course, she has failed to make appropriate declarations, which is why there has been a referral. It is a record of failure, a record of—

**Ms Simpson:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is again straying well and truly away from the motion.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I have not called you, member for Maroochydhore. Member for Maroochydhore, do you have a point of order?

**Ms SIMPSON:** Yes. The member is not speaking to the motion. She is straying into other areas of personal attack and not the motion, which is to do with child safety, before the House.

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

**Ms ASIF:** At what? At the failures?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Maroochydhore, I am listening closely. I think point 7, whether you agree with it or not, is part of the motion. The member has taken personal offence. I ask that you withdraw.

**Ms ASIF:** I withdraw. I am directly speaking to the points in the motion, Mr Speaker.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Continue your contribution.


**Ms ASIF:** It is a record of failure, a record of evasion and a record of misplaced priorities that has failed Queensland's most vulnerable—people who are fleeing domestic and family violence and children who are under the minister's watch. It seems like every time something goes wrong it is someone else's fault. It is never the minister's fault; it is never the minister who takes accountability for her actions. The role of a child safety minister is to deal with harrowing and unimaginable circumstances; it is children at risk, and they demand a minister who is completely focused and unreservedly focused on the task at hand. How can the minister be the person responsible when the minister's own integrity is in question? The minister has failed in her role to protect the children of Queensland. All we have seen from this minister is an abdication of responsibility, but it is time for her to take responsibility and take accountability. It is time for the minister to stand down.

It is not just this side of the House that think that; there are people on that side who are sharpening their knives. There is the member for Oodgeroo and the member for Gregory. Plenty of other members have been auditioning today and it speaks volumes to the lack of support that the minister has. Quite frankly, it seems that the Premier has lost control because there does not seem to be any accountability on those benches for what is occurring. The Premier came into office promising there would be a new standard. He stood before Queenslanders and said that his government would be held to account. He spoke about integrity and transparency and yet there is one minister who has been referred to the CCC and another minister has been referred to the AFP. We do not know what is going on with those opposite.

While the government has spent months managing its own scandals, holding shaky press conferences about relationships and God knows what else, everyday Queenslanders in our communities and across Queensland are struggling. They are waiting longer in emergency departments, they are struggling to pay their bills and they are worried about their children's futures—

**Mr SPEAKER:** You are straying now. Come back to the motion.

**Ms ASIF:** They want a government that they elected to be governing for them. They elected a government that they want to govern for Queensland. It is evident that under the Crisafulli LNP government Queenslanders are being dragged backwards by a government that is paralysed by its own failures. Queenslanders want a minister who can show up and do her job, a minister who is not riddled with integrity issues. They deserve a minister who is free from scandal. The minister needs to stand down.

 **Hon. FS SIMPSON** (Maroochydhore—LNP) (Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism) (6.16 pm): Talk about a complete disconnection from the truth and also from the reality of what has been happening in this state with child safety. We have just listened to some Labor members who are more inclined to protect themselves than to protect the children they failed. Let's have some facts. Firstly, I want to address some of the facts around Indigenous children, our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, who deserve protection; all children deserve protection. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are overrepresented in the child safety system, but what happened under Labor?

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I hear members opposite are already going into a state of denial, but the facts are these. Between 2019 and 2024 under the Labor government here in Queensland there was a massive increase in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in care. It went from 33.2 per

thousand up to 42.9 per thousand, a 29 per cent increase. That was under Labor, under those sitting opposite, under those five failed Labor child safety ministers, four of whom are still sitting on the opposition benches but are not speaking tonight. They are the facts.

I listened to the previous member speak and she went on a personal attack against our child safety minister. That minister has been there less than two years and has shown more commitment and understanding than we saw from five failed Labor ministers. Yet there is no recognition from Labor that there was such a dire situation that we needed this royal commission. On one hand they say, 'It should have been extended,' and then on the other hand they do not want to talk about what happened under their decade of decline. Indigenous children are 10 times more likely to be in out-of-home care. Under Labor, out-of-home care went up to 229 per cent but no, they do not talk about that. They try to divert here and there, but they are the facts. Every one of those children deserves to be protected. It is time for the safety of children to come first. We have no time for those who want to pursue ideology over the safety of children.

**Mr Healy** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Cairns is warned for interjecting while not sitting in his correct seat.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Regardless of their background and history and regardless of their culture, all children deserve to be protected. There has been recognition that there is an over-representation of our First People's children in this commission of inquiry which did not happen under us; it happened under the previous government. We do recognise that it is complex but the facts stand, yet there is still denial from those opposite that this needs to be addressed.


I also want to correct the record for those ignorant Labor members who somehow say that the Attorney-General should not have anything to do with a royal commission. I make a humble suggestion that they go and look at the Commissions of Inquiry Act, which comes under which minister? The Attorney-General! Those opposite had been in government all those years and still they do not understand what a commission of inquiry does. The Attorney-General has done her job.

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Yes, it is like question time once again—those opposite do not know who does what, even though they have been in government before. We understand the responsibility, and I want to acknowledge the incredible hard work of Minister Camm as our Minister for Child Safety and what she is doing.

Unfortunately, the statistics speak to the tragedy that too many children have faced in Queensland, and it has got worse over the last decade. That is why we are committed to ensuring there is a focus in taking on board the recommendations of this very serious commission of inquiry. Some members opposite said it should go longer while others have questioned the recommendations. I heard my opposite number questioning the recommendations. What cannot be questioned, though, is that it is time for action. That is why we ensured there was a proper focus in the royal commission on vulnerable children. Our children deserve safety; they do not deserve the ideological warriors opposite who let them down and who ignored all of those children who died—died under their watch. We already heard the police minister, Minister Purdie, talk about Mason Jett Lee, but there were too many other children—too many lives cut short and too many damaged by being in out-of-home care, where they were exposed to sexual abuse. That has to stop!

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.21 pm): It is not often that I say I am very pleased to follow the member for Maroochydore in speaking to this House, but I am tonight, because from the long list of failing and incompetent LNP ministers it is hard to pick a winner, isn't it? There is the bumbling, do-nothing Minister for Women; the bumbling, say-nothing Minister for Trade and Minister for Training; or the bumbling, know-nothing acting minister for the Olympics—and wasn't that performance today worthy of the ABC TV series *The Games*? This time it was not a satire; it was a documentary. This would be funny if it were not so serious, because today the great deception of this government's approach to child safety was exposed. The Crisafulli government did not cut the child safety commission of inquiry short to help the most vulnerable children in Queensland. It was never about that. The Crisafulli government cut the child safety inquiry short in an attempt to protect a grossly incompetent child safety minister. It has been a deceptive and deceitful attempt to hide an incompetent minister from scrutiny.

Today we learned that Queensland will get what it has always asked for to help children who are vulnerable—a cabinet subcommittee! That is what Queensland's most vulnerable children are getting from this government today: a cabinet subcommittee that somehow is going to guide this government's response to the inquiry's report which will not finalise anything for at least two months. So much for this government saying, 'We needed to act urgently to help the most vulnerable. We needed to get money in the budget to help the most vulnerable.' It is going to do nothing for two months and let the budget pass without one new dollar for the most vulnerable children. The government's great sense of urgency—the reason it shut the commission of inquiry down—has been exposed today. Its argument completely evaporated. It was a mirage. It was always a mirage, because this report is a damning indictment of the child safety minister.

What does the report say? In the words of the commissioner, they examined compliance with statutory timeframes and found that it had fallen sharply since April 2025. With regard to the 24-hour priority response, it was 96 per cent under Labor, 91 per cent under Labor and 44 per cent under this minister. What about the 72-hour priority response? It was 38 per cent under Labor and then 30 per cent under Labor. When this government was in power for a year, from April 2025 to March 2026, it was at 13 per cent. What about the median time to respond to 72-hour priority cases? It is 41 days. The seven-day standard response was 30 per cent under Labor in 2021-22 and 26 per cent under Labor in 2024-25 but six per cent under this minister. With regard to the seven-day response time for this government, the median response time is now 63 days—for a seven-day response! That is two months.

**Ms Camm** interjected.


**Mr DICK:** I take the interjection—as if the minister should interject on anyone about her hopeless and incompetent management of her portfolio! As if she should interject on anyone. The commission of inquiry was prevented from examining the Unify IT bungle, and those opposite cut it short to prevent that happening. By cutting that inquiry short they of course stopped the commissioner examining the tragic circumstances of the tragic deaths of Hayley Malcolm and Cleo Catterall. I will not be lectured to by the LNP about the deaths of children in Child Safety when it shut down a multimillion dollar commission of inquiry to stop the commissioner examining deaths under this government. I will not be lectured to, and nor will any member of this opposition. The Premier should for once show leadership. He will come in here later and do the whip's job and count who is in the parliament. I say to the Premier: for once show leadership and show this minister the door. Stop the kerfuffle, start the reshuffle and get rid of this minister.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Pine Rivers is warned for interjecting while not sitting in her correct seat. You were consistently interjecting there.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There are multiple members interjecting who are not sitting in their correct seats.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will watch closely.

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (6.27 pm): Today is a day of reckoning for the Labor Party. Today Queenslanders finally have in black and white what we have known for many years now: Labor's child safety system failed vulnerable Queensland children year after year. The commission of inquiry handed down 52 recommendations—52 recommendations—not because our child safety system needed a tweak and not because there are a few isolated incidents but because Labor systematically failed over a decade to deliver a child safety system that protected vulnerable Queenslanders, and the evidence was there all along. It was reported, it was documented and it was shouted from the rooftops by foster carers, by advocates and by frontline workers, and the previous Labor government ignored it.

Let me take this House back through what former Labor ministers knew and when they knew it. In 2016 an independent review found misconduct and catastrophic failures by the member for Waterford in the deaths of seven children—seven. In that same year, 21-month-old Mason Jett Lee died of horrific injuries—a child known to Child Safety and released from hospital just three months earlier. An internal report revealed gross negligence, gross malpractice—and where was the member for Waterford, the then minister responsible, while this was happening? She was at a festival. She was at Splendour in the Grass. Let that sink in: children were dying and the former government's responsible minister was at Splendour in the Grass, partying.

Then came the member for Bulimba, who I notice is not on this speaking list but should be. In 2020 it was reported by media that, with the member for Bulimba as minister, 16 children under the age of four had died in Labor's care since 2015—16! On national radio Di Farmer—sorry, the member for Bulimba—was called out; she's got to go! They called for a royal commission, and they were right. It only took an LNP government to do it.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It has become the practice of the minister to use incorrect titles.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr de BRENNI:** There was no withdrawal. I think the correction should also include a withdrawal.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will look after the House. The minister is aware that correct titles are to be used.

**Mrs GERBER:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. By 2020, Labor had been warned by its own department that unlicensed residential care providers posed a serious and growing risk to children. They were warned and the member for Waterford, the member for Bulimba, the member for Nudgee, the member for—who was it? Jordan, she was not even there, was she?—Jordan did nothing. All the while residential care numbers surged by 229 per cent and residential care ballooned to a billion dollars—

**Ms Linard** interjected.

**Mrs GERBER:** I am going to get to you in a second, member for Nudgee. I remember when foster carers convened a secret meeting to call out your inaction. What did the member for Nudgee say to those foster carers? The member for Nudgee said to those carers, 'I will do something when they ask me personally.' That is what she said to foster carers and whistleblowers who called for the member for Nudgee to act.

We cannot forget what flowed downstream from their broken child safety system. The commission has found that 72.9 per cent of young people under youth justice supervision had prior contact with the child safety system. Nearly one in four youth offenders on supervision orders were subject to a child protection order. Labor's broken child safety system not only failed children in care but also created a pipeline into youth justice. The failed Labor ministers over there—the members for Nudgee, Waterford and Bulimba—need to apologise.

**Ms Enoch** interjected.

**Ms Linard** interjected.

**Mrs GERBER:** Get on the speaking list, member for Nudgee. Stand up and apologise to the Queensland children you failed.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Algeester and member for Nudgee, this is your last caution.

**Mrs GERBER:** But they will not get up and apologise. They will not apologise to Queenslanders. We do not even need you to apologise to this House.

**Ms Linard** interjected.

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

**Mrs GERBER:** We need them to apologise to Queenslanders, to the vulnerable children they failed over a decade and to the children who died in their care. They need to apologise for the ballooning residential care system that created a house of horrors where children were sexually abused because Labor failed to act, buried their heads and left a broken child safety system. This child safety minister is getting on with the job of fixing Labor's broken system. Queensland children deserve better than the failed Labor ministers who did not deliver for them. This Minister for Child Safety has delivered the commission of inquiry which has made 52 recommendations to overhaul the system. Queensland children deserve so much better than they got under Labor, but they will get it under the LNP and this Minister for Child Safety.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (6.32 pm): This is a very serious matter and the 52 recommendations are quite serious. On this side of the House, we have examined them carefully because we know that we have a duty to protect Queensland children, especially vulnerable children. There is so much colour, yelling and light over there that they have somehow forgotten what we are actually debating.

I note that the original motion had seven parts that were to be taken seriously. We note some of the failures in the last couple of months that are serious for our vulnerable young children. There are major distractions such as the Minister for Child Safety being referred to the CCC. That is point 7, member for Maroochydore. You obviously did not bother to read the original motion.

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

**Mr POWER:** My apologies, Mr Speaker. We ask that Premier Crisafulli take action, show leadership and take responsibility for the massive distraction in this department. I was disappointed that an amendment was moved to the motion that seeks to get rid of serious responsibilities and instead they lead a political attack that is all about extracting political advantage and attacking issues in the past instead of looking to the future and these recommendations.

I hope we will not see any of that from the current minister because the current minister should know the responsibilities that she bears. It would be an indictment if her speech included anything contained in the amendment. To that end, I move an amendment to the government's amendment to the opposition's motion—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, I need to hear the amendment.

**Mr POWER:** I move the following amendment to the member for Nanango's amendment—

**Mr O'Connor** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Bonney, I just called for order. You are warned.

**Mr POWER:** I move the following amendment to the member for Nanango's amendment—

Omit all words after 'of the' in paragraph 5. and insert the following:

'Minister for Child Safety, during the last 580 days of chaos and crisis of not only the Crisafulli LNP government, but within the portfolio of the Minister for Child Safety.

6. calls on Premier Crisafulli to show leadership, to take action, not just turn up for a photo-op and perform no follow-up and sack the Minister for Child Safety from the cabinet today due to the minister's ongoing failures.'

I do this with a sense of regret because we have to examine what has happened in that 580 days. Firstly, we heard about the Unify system. We have heard in this parliament that the Unify system had serious problems from its implementation. The union did a survey that they presented to the highest levels of the minister's department. Indeed, there seems to be evidence that the minister was present at some of those meetings, even though the minister denies having knowledge of any of these issues. We know that hundreds of children were at an increased risk because of Unify. It is a failure so great that child safety officers labelled it—

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.

**Mr POWER:**—take this seriously, member for Currumbin—'the single most dangerous, impactful change they have seen in decades of practice'. That is strike one for the Minister for Child Safety.

Next, we heard that the minister has overseen, possibly because of the failures of Unify, seven-day response times—the ones that are serious and should be investigated by the department—that have fallen from 25 per cent to just six per cent and 72-hour response times that have fallen from 30 per cent to 13 per cent. That is shameful. Twenty-four-hour priority responses—those are the ones that are triaged as urgent—have fallen from 91 per cent to 44 per cent. That is strike 2.

Strike 3: the minister is now distracted by her referral to the Crime and Corruption Commission. She is distracted by so many other issues that the portfolio and the implementation of this serious report cannot be undertaken by the minister and action must be taken.

 **Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (6.37 pm): I do not know what to make of that contribution, but I would like to focus on those opposite. I will start with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who went for his job interview with his Right and Old Guard faction because he will never have the numbers to be the leader.

**Mr Bleijie:** He has been found in contempt.

**Ms CAMM:** Thank you. I will take that interjection from the Deputy Premier. He has been found in contempt so he is absolutely qualified to be the Leader of the Opposition. A former treasurer who presided over the cabinet CBRC process and a failed child safety system has the hide to come into this House and talk about failings. He should take a good hard look in the mirror, but we know how often he likes to look in the mirror! A former minister, the member for Nudgee, had to give evidence that her own government and her own treasurer would not let her make a CBRC submission to fund child safety—

**Ms LINARD:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and ask that the comments be withdrawn.

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

**Ms CAMM:** I withdraw. The fact that not one former child safety minister, including the member for Nudgee, had the gumption to stand in this House and even contribute to this debate says it all. Those opposite want to criticise the Crisafulli government's record, when we saved 91 frontline child safety officer jobs that the former treasurer was prepared to cut. Those opposite talk about a tough job. Try standing in a child safety service centre in Mount Isa in your first month and finding out that—

**Mr DICK:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at those words and ask that the minister withdraw.

**Ms CAMM:** I withdraw. The facts are that the former government did not fund 91 frontline child safety officer positions where we have the greatest over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in this state.

**Mr Dick** interjected.

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

**Ms CAMM:** I had to stand with frontline child safety officers in Mount Isa when those opposite were going to cut jobs. There were tears, anxiety and frustration from those frontline officers. I stand on my record and that of our government of saving the frontline jobs that those opposite were prepared to cut. What did we do? We made an election commitment, which we are delivering, to increase child safety officers by 20 per cent because I have heard time and time again from my frontline staff how their pleas were ignored by all those former ministers when they had case loads in excess of 30. They come in here on their high horses yet not one of them has the gumption to speak. I feel sorry for the shadow minister. For all her passion for children as a former principal, she stands there a lone voice when former ministers will not even share with her the failings of their own work. What else did we do? I do not know about other ministers, but when I get updated on critical incidents I go and ask what happened, where the failing is and whose responsibility it is.

**Mr Minnikin:** You don't go to Splendour in the Grass!

**Ms CAMM:** I take that interjection. I do not run away to music festivals. What did I do? I gave an instruction to my department that children under five should no longer be in residential care. What did five former ministers do? They allowed more and more children to enter residential care. Not one of them in their tenure gave a policy direction to ensure that little people, children under five, our most vulnerable, should be placed in family-based care—not one of them. Not one of them made a policy decision to make sure children with complex disability needs should be placed in disability support services and care and specialised family-based care—not one of them. Not one of them ever came up with the professional foster care model and went out and worked with the sector to deploy and recruit specialist services to ensure that children with the most complex of needs have family-based care—not one of those five former ministers. What did they do? They begged their former treasurer for more money and what did he and his cabinet fail to do? They failed to fund a system for our most vulnerable. Shame on them that they stand before the media and pretend that they have a record that is not shameful.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** The time for the debate has expired.

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

**AYES, 29:**

**ALP, 29—**Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Grace, Healy, King, Linard, Martin, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richmond, Ryan, Smith, Whiting.

**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.

Non-government amendment (Mr Power) negated.

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** Ring the bells for one minute.

**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, 29:**

**ALP, 29**—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Grace, Healy, King, Linard, Martin, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richmond, Ryan, Smith, Whiting.

Resolved in the affirmative.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Ring the bells for one minute.

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, 29:**

**ALP, 29**—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Grace, Healy, King, Linard, Martin, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richmond, Ryan, Smith, Whiting.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House—

1. notes the Child Safety Commission of Inquiry findings which have been released today.
2. acknowledges the work of the Child Safety Commission, including the commissioner.
3. notes that the purpose of the Child Safety Commission of Inquiry is to implement enhanced policies and investment to protect vulnerable Queensland children.
4. notes the 52 recommendations made by the Child Safety Commission of Inquiry which if implemented will enhance protections for Queensland children.
5. notes the failures in child safety of the former government over 10 years, under five former child safety ministers.
6. calls on the opposition leader and each of the four failed former child safety ministers still in the parliament to apologise for the failures of his government revealed by the commission of inquiry.

Sitting suspended from 6.52 pm to 7.55 pm.

**MOTION****Suspension of Standing Orders**

**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (7.55 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, with respect to the Transport and Other Legislation (Managing E-mobility Use and Protecting Our Communities) Amendment Bill, standing orders 87 and 150 be suspended to allow the bill and any amendments circulated by the minister to be moved and considered.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

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

**Second Reading**

Resumed from p.1673, on motion of Mr Mickelberg—

That the bill be now read a second time.



**Mr JAMES** (Mulgrave—LNP) (7.56 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Transport and Other Legislation (Managing E-mobility Use and Protecting Our Communities) Amendment Bill 2026. This is an important bill. It responds to growing concern across Queensland about the rapid rise of e-mobility

devices on roads, footpaths and in public spaces. At its heart is a simple principle: innovation must be matched by responsibility and convenience must never come at the expense of safety. As a member of the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee, I acknowledge our chair, Mr Jim McDonald, for guiding a thorough committee process on this complex issue.

E-mobility devices can reduce congestion, lower emissions and provide practical short-distance transport, but the issue before us is whether the current rules are adequate to keep Queenslanders safe. The evidence in this bill shows that they are not. From 2022 to 2025, over 6,000 PMD related injury presentations were recorded across 36 Queensland hospitals reporting to the Queensland Injury Surveillance Unit. Over that period, injury numbers nearly doubled from 1,083 presentations in 2022 to 2,000 in 2025. In 2025 alone, there were 12 fatalities involving e-mobility devices, eight involving PMDs, one involving a legal e-bike and three involving noncompliant e-motorbikes. Even those figures understate the problem because not all hospitals are captured in the data.

Behind every statistic is a person and a family. The concern is especially acute for children and young people. Since 2020, selected emergency department data has shown a steady rise in the proportion of PMD related injuries involving people aged under 16. In 2025, more than a quarter of such injuries were to that age group. That is why this legislation introduces a minimum rider age of 16 and requires riders of compliant e-mobility devices to hold a valid driver's licence of any type or class. That sets a learner's licence as a minimum requirement, ensuring riders have a basic understanding of road rules while still allowing interstate and overseas licence holders to ride. The bill also takes a practical approach to parental responsibility. Where a child aged 12 to 17 unlawfully rides an e-mobility device or prohibited bike without the supervision of their parent, grandparent or legal guardian, that parent is taken to have committed the same offence unless they can show that they did not know, could not easily have known or took all reasonable steps to prevent it.

The bill draws a clearer line between lawful e-mobility and dangerous noncompliant devices. It modernises the definition of an e-bike by adopting the term 'electronically power assisted cycle', or EPAC, and requiring compliance with the prescribed standard and a permanently attached compliance label. It also updates the definition of a personal mobility device by reinstating a maximum design speed of 25 kilometres per hour and modernising dimensional limits with a six-month transitional period for compliance.

These changes matter because they improve clarity for riders, retailers and police. Confusion about device requirements has helped create a market in high-powered, unsafe and noncompliant devices that are often mistaken for legal e-bikes. This bill gives enforcement agencies clearer tools to identify what is lawful and what is not. The bill creates a new prohibited bike framework covering noncompliant EPACs, noncompliant PMDs and certain motorised two- or three-wheeled vehicles that cannot be registered or are being used unregistered. It makes it an offence to ride a prohibited bike on a road, road related area or in a public place.

To support that framework, the bill gives police fit-for-purpose powers to seize, forfeit and dispose of prohibited bikes used, or reasonably suspected of having been used, in public places, with review rights through QCAT. These powers are aimed at removing dangerous and illegal vehicles from Queensland roads and public spaces.

This bill is not only about riders; it is also about pedestrians and the public's right to feel safe in shared spaces. It introduces a consistent 12-kilometres-per-hour limit for PMDs and EPACs on footpaths and shared paths unless a different signed limit applies, and it allows PMDs on roads with speed limits of up to 60 kilometres per hour. That is intended to encourage riders off crowded footpaths and onto more appropriate lower speed roads, improving pedestrian safety and reducing congestion on shared paths.

The bill also tackles behaviour that causes fear and frustration in the community. It creates a new offence for parking a PMD or EPAC so that it unreasonably obstructs pedestrian or vehicle thoroughfare; strengthens penalties for unsafe conduct such as speeding, failing to wear a helmet, carrying passengers and riding on prohibited roads; and makes due care offences enforceable by infringement notice.

The drink-driving reforms are equally important. The bill introduces low-range and mid-range drink-driving offences for riders aged 16 and over on PMDs and bicycles, including EPACs, and gives police power to use breath-testing devices. Injury surveillance data records 623 injured PMD riders—around six per cent—admitting alcohol use, and that is likely to be an underestimate. The bill also refers to 2024 research showing that 19 per cent of hire e-scooter users say they had ridden when probably or definitely over the legal limit, while 45 per cent had observed drunk e-scooter riders.


The legislation recognises that safety is a shared responsibility. Shared e-mobility providers must take all reasonable steps to ensure riders are at least 16 and hold a valid driver's licence, and sellers will be prohibited from selling e-mobility devices and certain non-registerable motorbikes to under-16s.

The bill follows the parliament's 2025 inquiry into e-mobility safety and the committee's 2026 report, which made 28 recommendations on infrastructure, device definitions, user rules, police powers, retailer regulation, battery safety, data collection and national advocacy. The bill's objective is to implement the transport related reform recommendations and deliver nation-leading reforms that respond to community concern.

This bill is about the framework. It creates modern definitions, stronger enforcement, better deterrence, clearer responsibilities, safer footpaths and a more coherent response to dangerous and illegal devices. It also recognises that education and voluntary measures alone are not enough.

Queenslanders are entitled to safe streets, safe footpaths and safe public places. They are entitled to rules that are understandable, enforceable and proportionate and to a parliament that responds when laws no longer match the realities on the ground. This bill does that. It protects pedestrians and children, supports police, clarifies the law and strengthens accountability. It sends a clearer message that, while e-mobility has a place in Queensland's transport future, dangerous and unlawful conduct does not.

This bill is necessary because Labor left Queenslanders with more unsafe devices, more community concern and more pressure on police, hospitals and families, but this legislation begins to clean that up. For those reasons, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (8.06 pm): I rise this evening to speak on the Transport and Other Legislation (Managing E-mobility Use and Protecting Our Communities) Amendment Bill 2026. A few of us in this place have developed a keen interest in this subject, having been on the committee that conducted the initial inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland. I would like to start by acknowledging the work that went into this inquiry by parliamentary and departmental staff. I want to thank my Labor colleagues on the committee—I would have thanked others, but we are at loggerheads this evening—and the many individuals and organisations who made submissions and gave evidence at our public hearings.

I want to preface my contribution to this debate with some context. Last year 14 Queenslanders died in incidents involving some form of e-mobility and, as we heard from the health and hospital sector during our inquiry, presentations of people, especially kids, with injuries sustained in e-mobility accidents had been alarmingly climbing, with an almost 100 per cent increase in reported injuries in emergency departments from 2022 to 2025.

In the lead-up to Christmas last year, Labor called on the Crisafulli LNP government to bring forward our committee's report and announce any government intentions to ban or restrict legal e-mobility devices. The government ignored our pleas, and there are families who bought e-scooters and e-bikes for Christmas who could be unable to use them if this legislation passes.

In my community I have had many conversations about e-scooters and e-bikes, and I have found there is some confusion about what differentiates a legal e-bike from a modified or flat-out illegal device. To put it simply, stakeholders got it but the LNP did not seem to. I know that the chair mentioned butcher's paper. We do not need to draw pictures. Chris Cox from Brisbane West Bicycle User Group said it best when he stated—

Electric pedal assist bicycles are bicycles. They do not make you ride faster, they help you ride further.

A motorbike, whether electric or fuel powered, is however a motorbike, and this is what seems to have confused the government.

The challenge of stopping illegal bikes rests not only with the Queensland Police Service in our state but also with the federal government, who control import laws. They have banned a range of noncompliant bikes, but, sadly, they are already prevalent across the country due to changes made by the Morrison LNP government during the pandemic. These vehicles are causing fear on our footpaths and significant angst on our roads. It is these noncompliant bikes that I hear about from locals, as well as kids not wearing helmets and going too fast on e-scooters. Again, it is probably often a case of e-scooter products being illegally modified to achieve the high speeds. It is these illegal devices and poor rider education that Labor wants to stamp out, and that is why we welcomed the parliamentary inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland.

There is one thing I should explain. We have now had two inquiries into e-mobility devices. The first inquiry began on 1 May last year and a report was tabled on 4 March. On 25 March—only 21 days later—the government tabled its response and the transport minister introduced the Transport and Other Legislation (Managing E-mobility Use and Protecting Our Communities) Amendment Bill 2026. Here we are less than two months later being asked to rush through this legislation.

The LNP will probably tell Queenslanders how the bill was sent back to our State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee for examination, but I will tell them that the Labor members of this committee feel strongly that this legislation is not right in its current form. We listened to stakeholders during the whirlwind inquiry on the contents and impacts of this bill. As I said earlier, the chair said many times publicly, 'We've got to get this right.' We do have to get it right, and I still do not think it is right. In our statement of reservation, the Labor MPs—our deputy chair, the member for Cooper; the shadow transport minister, the member for Aspley; and I—recommended—

That this Bill be withdrawn, and further work undertaken by the government including in-depth consultation with key stakeholders—

they are the ones who ride these things and they are the ones who know—

to ensure that any reforms to the use of e-mobility devices is evidence-based, effective, and strikes the right balance for pedestrians, riders and businesses.

It is too restrictive, punishing families who are doing the right thing and impacting individuals who use e-mobility devices to save money, to save the environment or because they cannot or do not want to drive a car. I understand that there are 122 amendments to the bill. The chair says that there are not, but I have them in front of me. There are 122 amendments.

**Mr McDonald** interjected.

**Mr KING:** I am happy to give the chair some counting lessons. If the amendments do not go through, the bill will discriminate against the disabled and create complexity through the e-mobility device licensing requirements. The bill as tabled sets arbitrary speed limits for footpaths that are not supported by the Department of Transport and Main Roads' standards and modelling and puts the onus on end users to trace back the compliance of their devices with retailers whether in person or online. We heard it loud and clear that if this legislation goes forward in its current form there are businesses that will go bust and kids who will not be able to go to school.

**Mr Vorster** interjected.

**Mr KING:** I heard a snigger from the member for Burleigh, who is sitting in front of me. He was with us at the school where they said that if these kids cannot ride these things they will not come to school. The other thing we heard loud and clear from stakeholders is they were not consulted in the drafting of this bill. I could read out the 10 pages of witnesses and submitters to our inquiry who held reservations about some or all of the provisions in this bill, but I would run out of time.

The LNP may think they got all of the information they needed during our inquiry last year but, just as we have seen with other LNP legislation, when legislation is rushed and based on ideology, not practicality, we end up amending it on loop. That is why we are saying, 'Let's stop this now before we get unworkable, costly and complex laws that are difficult to explain to parents and carers, let alone kids.' These are laws that will cost families hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost assets, not to mention the heartbreak of telling the kids that they cannot ride the rail trail together anymore. I understand that may be fixed, but we will see. These are the stakeholders who should have had a say in the practical aspects of the bill, but that is hard to coordinate in less than two months.

I wrote an article for the local *Times* magazine recently, letting locals know what changes were coming in the e-mobility space. My office has received a stack of emails in response from individuals and families who will be negatively impacted by this bill. I have called these constituents to discuss their concerns, and I will share one of the many stories that I have heard.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr KING:** I am not taking the interjections of the member sitting in front of me. He is not in his seat.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Marr): I do not need assistance, thank you.

**Mr KING:** Okay. A family that goes out for a ride on a Sunday morning—


**Ms Pease** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Lytton, I do not need your assistance, thank you. It is happening on both sides of the chamber and I will call it as I see it. Thank you.

**Mr KING:** A family rides scooters on local trails in our area with their kids on a Sunday morning. They love it. The kids are under 12 and under supervision. That will no longer happen. There are many other stories. I hope some of these issues can be fixed with amendments, but why introduce a rule only to bend it and make it unworkable? They should test the amendments with stakeholders or I predict we will be back here fixing this before too long.

This bill is another example of the Crisafulli crusade against cost-of-living relief. They scrapped electricity rebates. They scrapped our car rego discount. They hate the idea of feeding hungry schoolkids. Now they want to make it harder for kids to get to school and families to get active together. The Crisafulli LNP government care more about making big statements than taking the time to consult with the community and get these big changes right from the get-go. As I have said, I predict that if this bill passes this week we will be back here soon for tranche 2 on e-mobility after it becomes clear tranche 1 is not working.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There is a lot of cross-chamber conversation and a lot of conversation in general. Member for Southport, I am sorry to call you out but your conversation has been constant and I am finding it very difficult to hear, so please keep it down or take it outside.

 **Mr VORSTER** (Burleigh—LNP) (8.15 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise in this House and make a contribution to this debate. It is, of course, a matter that I have brought to this House on several occasions alongside my colleague to the south, the member for Currumbin. In many ways the parliament's work addressing this issue was birthed on the southern end of the Gold Coast. It stemmed from a community town hall hosted by the member for Currumbin.

In the early days of the Crisafulli LNP government we hosted a forum and invited the community to ventilate their concerns and frustrations with the chaos that was unfolding along our foreshores, in our parks and in our streets. I make the point that this town hall occurred shortly after our election to demonstrate that this was yet another problem that we inherited from the then Labor government. It was a problem unfolding across suburbs on the Gold Coast and across cities in Queensland, but the former government was completely disinterested in tackling the problem.

Instead of tackling the problem, they funnelled about \$2 million of taxpayer funds into a scheme that was so ill-conceived that it was putting illegal devices into the hands of Queensland riders. To be clear: the former Labor Queensland government was using taxpayer funds to subsidise the purchase of illegal e-bikes that were being used on Queensland roads. Instead of tackling the problem, they found a way of mobilising taxpayer resources to make it even worse.

It was such a fiasco that the member for Waterford said on the ABC that the matter should be referred to the Crime and Corruption Commission. Whether or not a referral was ever made, it was a demonstration that at least one Labor leader hopeful was willing to take some responsibility. Unfortunately, that sense of responsibility is not shared by those opposite.

During this debate we have heard that they are unwilling to own their mistakes and unwilling to back measures that will make a material difference to safety in our parks, on our foreshores and in our streets. I find that absolutely diabolical for two reasons. The first reason is that it will imperil safety.

**Ms Bush** interjected.

**Mr VORSTER:** I take the interjection from the member for Cooper, who is not in her seat, I might add. She is an example of one of those disingenuous members opposite who will stand up and say that they are pro safety, that they want to address this problem, but they will find every opportunity to get in the way of change. Her contribution to this debate was so much like the contribution of others: they want to urge action, they want the committee to do its work faster, they want the committee to do X, Y and Z, but they also want to suggest that loophole after loophole be introduced into the legislation to take us back to where we started, which is Labor's chaotic regime where young Queenslanders were allowed to ride illegal devices throughout our parks, foreshores and streets and in some cases were enabled using taxpayer funds.

On the southern end of the Gold Coast, while we did fly the flag early on and demanded action and change, we have also demonstrated an appetite to be part of the solution. I want to single out the work of Palm Beach Currumbin State High School under its former executive principal Chris Capra and now Alison Fahlbusch, who absolutely wanted to play their part in cleaning up this mess.

**Mr McDonald:** And is very happy with the amendments.

**Mr VORSTER:** I hear the member for Lockyer and I am going to take his interjection. Mr Chris Capra is delighted with the amendments put forward by the committee. He was a principal on the southern end of the Gold Coast engaged in a genuine way with the work of the committee. He made

two contributions in two separate hearings and has ongoing dialogue with the chair of the committee. That demonstrates that we are a government who will listen, and we will listen to the voices on the southern end of the Gold Coast who are prepared to drive best practice.

It is not just at our high schools. I want to single out Palm Beach State School for the leadership of their year 6 cohort last year. They were very vocal on this issue. The year 6 leaders this year are also very vocal. I think of young Olivia Harris, who made a phenomenal contribution to this debate during a recent meeting in my office.

It is not just community members and civic leaders stepping up. On the southern end of the Gold Coast we have the work of Kurt Foessel, a very much loved Queensland police officer. He really drove cultural change at Palm Beach Currumbin State High School, which introduced what I believe is nation-leading road safety education programs in and around e-bike safety. Kurt, thank you so much for your contribution. I hope that you feel as though the passage of these laws, as amended, will form part of your professional legacy as you approach retirement in the next few weeks.


I want to turn my attention to some facets of the bill which I believe will make a material difference to safety on the Gold Coast. That begins with driving cultural change on our streets—cultural change that will come about because this bill will restore consequence for action. When I say ‘consequence’, I want to draw attention to the fact that this bill for the first time will allow kids between 16 and 18 to finally be on the hook for fines. Labor’s regime would have the police issue unenforceable fines. People were paying them out of charity to the Queensland government—the former government—which was probably using the proceeds of those fines to buy more illegal e-bikes. Finally, we will have a regime where kids who are doing the wrong thing will be on the hook financially. Their parents will be on the hook. There will be consequences for action. That will drive cultural change.

These measures will also drive cultural change because for the first time we will have an effective regime where nonconforming illegal devices can be properly and efficiently confiscated, seized and destroyed.

**Mr McDonald:** Catch and crush.

**Mr VORSTER:** Catch and crush; I take the interjection from the member for Lockyer. One cannot ride a bike dangerously if the bike no longer exists. We will have a legislative framework where a bike can be picked up in situ, taken off a rider who is using it dangerously and destroyed. It can be taken out of circulation, taken out of the economy of despair, distress and injury.

I will conclude with why this bill is so important, and that is to address the genuine trauma we are seeing in our hospitals and in our homes. I know a child very close to my son’s age who had a brain bleed after being struck by an e-bicycle. I know of a young man—I will not mention the code—who had a promising sports career ahead of him. He had signed up to a sporting team. He had a pathway to glory, I can tell you that. As a result of the injury he sustained, that career, that life, is no more. That door has been permanently closed. There are too many people who have lost their lives. There are too many children in our hospitals. That has all happened because of a rotten culture under Labor’s laws—illegal e-bikes were on the streets because of the way Labor used taxpayers’ funds.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (8.25 pm): I would like to echo the words of the member for Burleigh, to acknowledge that everyone should be safe on our roads. We do need to make sure that people are using e-bikes in an appropriate manner. I rise to speak on the Transport and Other Legislation (Managing E-mobility Use and Protecting Our Communities) Amendment Bill. I find it ironic that today is World Bicycle Day, so I would like to say happy World Bicycle Day to all the bicycle users out there including me, my husband and all of my children.

Let me be clear from the outset: the Queensland Labor opposition supports safe and responsible e-mobility use in Queensland. We recognise the important role that e-bikes, e-scooters and other personal mobility devices play as an alternative form of transport for thousands of Queenslanders. We also recognise the genuine concerns within the community about dangerous riding behaviour, illegal high-powered devices and the unacceptable number of injuries and fatalities occurring on our pathways.

Before I go any further, I would like to reflect on my feelings and what I have taken away from what the member for Burleigh was saying. I found his contribution tonight to be an exercise in mansplaining, but there was no-one in the room to watch his audition for a ministerial position which is a real shame.

**Government members** interjected.

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

**Ms PEASE:** There were no decision-makers in the room, unfortunately, member for Burleigh, so you might have to do that all over again.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Lytton, you will put your comments through the chair.

**Ms PEASE:** There are a lot of people ahead of the member for Burleigh who have had much more experience and longstanding in this place.

Queenslanders expect action on the issues we are talking about today, but this bill, member for Burleigh, does not get the balance right. To be frank, this bill is a dog's breakfast. It is confused, contradictory and poorly drafted. For the member for Burleigh's benefit, I would like to table the 122 government amendments to the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Transport and Other Legislation (Managing E-mobility use and Protecting Our Communities) Amendment Bill, amendments to be moved by Hon. Brent Mickelberg [853].

I do not think the member for Burleigh is aware of them because he seemed to think it was a pretty good bill to start with. I would like to table those 122 amendments for the other members who are in the House. They might like to use some of those to prepare their speeches. If you have not prepared your speeches already—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Lytton, I have mentioned this twice now. Please put your comments through the chair.

**Ms PEASE:** I am speaking directly to you. Thank you for your guidance. I suggest that members on the other side have a look at the amendments I have tabled so they can prepare their speeches and their contributions so that they actually address the 122 amendments to their own government bill, yet it still does not do what it is meant to do.

The opposition has consistently called for stronger action against dangerous and illegal devices. We support stronger enforcement powers for police. We support getting dangerous riders off the roads. We support tackling illegal high-powered devices masquerading as e-bikes.

This bill still does little to address the real problem, which is the use of devices that are already illegal. Instead, the government has created a confusing and bureaucratic framework that risks penalising responsible Queenslanders while failing to adequately deal with those doing the wrong thing. If the Crisafulli LNP government is not prepared to provide Queensland police with the resources needed to enforce these new powers, then many of these provisions risk becoming little more than words on paper.

One of the most striking aspects of this legislation was the response from the community. Almost 5,000 submissions were received during the committee process. That is an extraordinary level of public engagement. The overwhelming message from stakeholders was clear: support stronger action against illegal devices but do not punish people who are using legal devices responsibly, like myself and my husband with our electric vehicles and any of the e-biking people in our communities. Disability advocates raised concerns, older Queenslanders raised concerns, families raised concerns and tourism operators raised concerns, yet instead of listening the government pressed ahead. Haven't we heard that tale before! They press ahead and push through without providing any opportunity for the amendments to go to the committee, and then it becomes law and they have to come back and fix it. This is not good lawmaking; this is policy on the run. It is further proof that under the Crisafulli LNP government Queensland is being dragged backwards by a government paralysed by their failures.

The licensing requirements are a prime example. For many people e-bikes and e-scooters are not recreational devices, they are a means of staying active, independent and socially connected. Now the minister says there will be exemptions, but what will they look like? How much bureaucracy will be involved? How many Queenslanders—

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms PEASE:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I am not taking any of those interjections because they are continuing to audition for possible ministerial portfolio opportunities. The minister has failed to provide any answers. He cannot even understand what the new rules are, so how can the community understand? As we have seen, another concern repeatedly raised relates to compliance labelling. Many Queenslanders purchased legal e-bikes in good faith, myself included, yet under the proposed framework some of these will require compliance certificates. What does that mean for me? Do I send my e-bike back to Germany? Stakeholders said this could be impractical—

**Mr McDonald:** Was it a legal one?

**Ms PEASE:** Yes, it was a legal one. Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence at the member for Lockyer's allegation that my electric bike is illegal and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr McDONALD:** I asked the question, but for the benefit of the House I withdraw.

**Ms PEASE:** You are accusing me of a crime.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Lytton, this is the third time I have asked you to put your comments through the chair. You may continue.

**Ms PEASE:** In my electorate of Lytton, cycling is a way of life. Every day families ride along the Wynnum-Lota-Manly foreshore, residents use the Moreton Bay cycleway, school students ride to school and retirees use e-bikes, including my husband, to stay active. Yes, it is a legal e-bike.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Stop the clock. There is too much going on in the chamber. Some of you are not in your seats and I remind you of that. If you could please keep order.

**Ms PEASE:** Residents, including myself, want illegal devices removed from our streets, but they do not want responsible bike riders punished because this government has failed to properly target the real problem. The opposition believes these substantial amendments should be sent back to a committee for proper consideration and consultation. This is not an unreasonable request. Queenslanders deserve legislation that is practical, evidence based and enforceable. They deserve legislation that targets dangerous and illegal behaviour without creating unnecessary barriers for responsible users.

The overwhelming message is clear. Queenslanders support stronger enforcement. Queenslanders support safer roads and pathways. Queenslanders support action against illegal devices. What they do not support is rushed, confusing legislation that risks penalising responsible riders while failing to adequately address the real problem. We all know this bill needs more work and the government should take the time to get it right. For those reasons, Labor cannot support the bill in its current form.

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (8.34 pm): This bill continues the Crisafulli government's commitment to make Queensland safer. Once again we are before the House introducing legislation to fix community safety issues which Labor turned a blind eye to during their decade of decline. The safety of Queensland communities is a priority for the Crisafulli government, and the bill proposes a range of legislative amendments that address the safe use of e-mobility devices on public roads and footpaths, where we have seen an unacceptable rise in antisocial behaviour, injuries and fatalities.

The availability and use of e-mobility devices, specifically e-bikes and e-scooters, has exploded across Queensland over the past decade. The primary users of these devices are teenagers. Whilst there are benefits to these devices, we have observed gangs of kids on illegal machines terrorising pedestrians, road users, business owners and families through dangerous and reckless behaviours with no regard for personal safety or the safety of persons around them.

Australian import laws have allowed unregulated and unsafe devices to enter and be sold in Queensland in their thousands. These devices had no minimum safety or design standards and led to an epidemic of injury and fatalities. In 2025 alone, 12 fatalities attributed to e-mobility device use were recorded, including an eight-year-old child on the Sunshine Coast. Between 2022 and 2025 more than 6,000 e-scooter related injuries were recorded across Queensland hospitals.

What did the Labor government of the time do in response? Absolutely nothing. The previous Labor government failed to identify and act on this emerging threat. On top of that, the Miles Labor government and the then transport minister, the member for Aspley, provided financial subsidies towards the purchase of 693 illegal e-bikes and 141 illegal e-scooters, costing the Queensland taxpayer 374,000 and contributing to the disarray the LNP government is now required to fix.

In my electorate of Ninderry on the Sunshine Coast, the centre point of my electorate is Coolum Beach, a favourite destination for locals and tourists with stunning beachside parks, pristine beaches, the Coolum boardwalk and a vibrant town centre. People come to Coolum to enjoy the laid-back lifestyle, walk the coastal paths, picnic in our parks overlooking the beaches and ocean, and enjoy a coffee or sandwich from the local cafe or a meal at the award-winning Coolum Surf Club.

My office has received a huge volume of complaints from the local community about young people and their use of noncompliant e-mobility devices and other illegal motorbikes in our public areas not only in Coolum but also across the Sunshine Coast and across this state. These youths have disrupted the peaceful enjoyment of the local parks, public areas and footpaths through their complete disregard for road rules, pedestrians and anyone else who gets in their way.

The Crisafulli government is committed to restoring safety where you live and giving our police the laws and resources they need to manage the use of e-mobility devices, and this bill delivers on that commitment. I would like to acknowledge the Coolum State High School. An audit undertaken in conjunction with our local police at the end of last year identified that 130 out of a total of 148 e-bikes used by school students were noncompliant. Recognising the risk these devices posed, and prioritising student safety and community wellbeing, Coolum State High School, together with Noosa District State High School and Sunshine Beach State High School, were the first schools in Queensland to ban all students from bringing e-bikes and e-scooters onto the school site. However, it should not be the responsibility of our schools to police e-mobility compliance.

I also acknowledge the officers of the Queensland Police Service, particularly at the Coolum police station, and the work they have undertaken in addressing the issue of these noncompliant devices and irresponsible users. Operation Overwatch focused on reducing dangerous and unlawful e-motorcycle behaviour in the Coolum Beach division. Police undertook extensive engagement, education and enforcement initiatives aimed at improving community awareness and compliance around e-mobility devices, including school-based presentations, community safety days, community question and answer sessions, and innovative operations using drones to safely identify offenders. Acting officer in charge, Sergeant Joel Bryant, and a number of frontline police officers from Coolum and across the state have been pivotal in providing feedback to assist the government in drafting e-mobility safety legislation to give police the powers they need to crack down on illegal and unsafe e-bikes.

In addition to this, the Queensland Police Service undertook Operation X-Ray Surety between 3 November 2025 and 26 January 2026. This statewide operation combined high-visibility patrols, education and targeted enforcement to protect riders, pedestrians and other road users. Across Queensland, police issued more than 2,800 infringements to e-mobility device users. A further 148 noncompliant devices were removed from Queensland roads to reduce the risk of serious and fatal crashes. From undertaking these operations, the Queensland Police Service was able to provide valuable experience and learnings to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee's inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland and their report. I acknowledge the comprehensive work through community and stakeholder engagement that the committee undertook. The input and requests for legislative amendments put forward by the Queensland Police Service have directly contributed to the development of this bill.


In March 2026 I asked my local residents to have their say on the proposed bill and I received over 500 survey responses in two weeks. The overwhelming majority of people who contacted my office were asking for more restrictions on e-bikes and e-scooters and stronger penalties to crack down on dangerous behaviour, and they were pleased to hear that the Crisafulli government accepted, or accepted in principle, the 28 recommendations of the parliamentary inquiry.

Current policing powers do not provide officers with the tailored tools required to promptly and lawfully intervene in the types of disruptive behaviours that we increasingly see being undertaken by e-mobility users and which threaten the amenity and safety of the Queensland community. The bill provides police with the legislation and associated powers they have been asking for to respond to the dangers and risks that unlawful e-mobility use poses.

I acknowledge that there will be increased expectation for police officers to undertake enforcement activities of e-mobility devices if the proposed bill is passed. The Police Service continues to work cooperatively with the Department of Transport and Main Roads to identify the most efficient practices that will be adopted by police to ensure that the proposed legislation is effectively operationalised, that illegal e-mobility devices are removed from our roads, footpaths and parks, and that offenders are held to account for their actions.

Police will be able to seize and destroy illegal devices, including high-powered e-motorbikes, if used or left in public places. Police will be able to take action against persons using e-mobility devices to engage in hooning related behaviour including organising, filming, promoting or encouraging events known as rideouts. The bill also introduces a parental responsibility framework, putting responsibility back on to parents to ensure their children are using compliant devices in a safe, lawful manner.

Labor did not give police the powers they needed to do their job during their decade of decline. The former Labor government introduced a botched subsidy scheme which wasted taxpayer money whilst contributing to the rise of illegal high-powered devices on our streets and footpaths. They watched as our emergency departments and hospitals filled with injured riders and pedestrians and they left the Queensland police ill-equipped to enforce regulations. The Crisafulli government has taken a methodical, evidence-based approach, and this bill is giving police the practical powers they need to regulate e-mobility use and make Queensland safer. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (8.43 pm): There is no question that action is needed to improve safety around e-mobility devices in Queensland. The Labor opposition has said consistently that the rise of dangerous, illegal e-mobility devices is a serious issue, and we have consistently called on the LNP government to take appropriate action because communities are frustrated, pedestrians are worried, parents are worried and we have seen tragic incidents and loss of life involving illegal high-powered devices, particularly among young people.

Nobody is suggesting that no response is required—quite the opposite—but this bill does not get that response right. It is not a measured, targeted or effective response to address the actual and real issues being experienced across our communities. Instead of focusing on illegal high-powered e-motorbikes and the retailers flooding them into the market and instead of working to ensure existing laws are better enforced, this catch-all, poorly drafted legislation has swept up ordinary Queenslanders using safe legal e-bikes and e-scooters to get to work, school, the train station, child care, appointments and local businesses. In doing so, this bill has generated significant and warranted backlash from stakeholders, disability advocates, riders, local governments, businesses and Queenslanders.

Frankly, the government should have seen this coming, and they would have if they had properly consulted on their proposed changes. If they had given the community the time, respect and voice it deserves, we might be looking at genuine, effective reform, but that is not the case because, yet again, this Crisafulli LNP government have run roughshod over genuine consultation and gone their own way, and the community invariably pays for it.

The evidence put before the committee was instructive in this regard. Bicycle Queensland said, 'This Bill will make Queensland the hardest place in the world to ride a safe, legal e-bike.' These are the e-bikes which many of our constituents use as affordable, greener alternatives to road travel. They are used to reduce their commute times and give them back time in their day to be active with their children—not to mention reducing congestion on our roads at the same time.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads itself advised the committee that legal e-bikes were not the issue. RACQ made similar points. Stakeholders repeatedly told the government that there needed to be a distinction between legal e-bikes and illegal high-powered devices masquerading as bicycles. Instead of listening, the Crisafulli government produced legislation that creates enormous unintended consequences for people doing the right thing. The proposed 10-kilometre-per-hour speed limit is one obvious example. I have heard from hundreds of people in my electorate who called, emailed or stopped me in the street to discuss the absolute impracticality of a blanket 10-kilometre speed limit. The committee heard from thousands in submissions about the same issue. Jim in my electorate said—

I tried to go under 10kmh this morning to see what it was like, and I was one wobble away from falling over the whole time. It's infeasible to set such a slow limit.

Another constituent from Nundah, Joshua, said—

Today I attempted to follow the proposed laws and travel at 10kms or under and it was wobbly, unsafe and impractical. If these laws are enacted, you will make my commute to work illegal, and make me consider clogging up the train station carpark with another car.

Another constituent, Debbie from Boondall, explained that her e-bike allows her to remain independent and active despite chronic knee pain. She wrote—

My e-bike allows me to travel independently without adding another car to the road and without relying entirely on patchy public transport to get to work and appointments.

She also explained that walking long distances causes pain that her knees can no longer tolerate. For older Queenslanders, for people living with disability and for those without practical access to public transport, e-bikes are not a novelty; they are mobility, they are independence, they are access to work and community life. For young people, legal e-bikes represent autonomy, freedom and an incentive to get outside and be active. This bill risks treating those Queenslanders as the problem and it risks taking away access to the only form of transport that many Queenslanders can rely on to get to work and school and to access the services they need.

These concerns are far from isolated to my electorate of Nudgee. Stakeholders from across Queensland told the committee that forcing riders to travel at such low speeds on shared infrastructure could actually increase crash risk through instability and force more riders back on to roads with cars and trucks. I fail to see how this reform improves safety and how it is anything other than an incentive to return to travelling by car. It is completely counterintuitive to the goal of increased safety that this bill purports to deliver.

The bill also imposes licensing requirements that many Queenslanders simply cannot reasonably meet. One constituent contacted my office regarding her 37-year-old son who is vision-impaired and has never been able to obtain a driver's licence. She wrote—

He uses an e-bike to get to and from work. He will never have a driver's license, so I don't believe he should be required to sit for and then pay for a learners permit that will only last 3 years.

She went on to explain that forcing him through a licensing process he can never fully complete would only serve as a painful reminder of his disability and affect his mental health. That is a deeply human consequence of legislation that appears not to have been properly thought through.

This legislation also ignores the enormous cost-of-living pressures Queenslanders are facing. Travelling via e-bike as opposed to driving a car, particularly in a time of fuel price increases, represents an important avenue available to Queenslanders who are trying to make every dollar count right now. While this government continues to offer little meaningful relief for Queenslanders struggling with cost-of-living pressures, it is an insult to now impose even more barriers, more uncertainty and more financial burden on people simply trying to get to work, school and appointments affordably. One constituent from Banyo told me his household had recently invested significantly in high-quality pedal e-bikes purchased in good faith under the current legal framework. He wrote—

With fuel prices remaining high and placing increasing strain on household budgets, eBikes have provided us with a practical and affordable alternative for short to medium-distance travel.


A Nundah resident, Lachlan, a clinical nurse at the Prince Charles Hospital, stated—

I regularly see firsthand the types of injuries that can occur from e-bikes and scooters. I understand the risks associated with these devices and fully appreciate the importance of appropriate regulation to improve safety outcomes at the same time—I am also an everyday e-bike user commuting daily to the hospital without incident. Riding allows me to avoid the significant costs of petrol and hospital parking, and it has become an essential and reliable part of my routine.

Now those Queenslanders face enormous uncertainty about whether their bikes remain compliant, they can continue using them safely or they will be forced onto the road due to proposed speed restrictions. Another constituent, Christine from Nudgee, stated that she commutes 20 kilometres each way by e-bike to the Wesley Hospital several days each week. She said doing so saves her petrol and parking costs, improves her health, benefits the environment and means one less car on the roads. That is exactly the kind of active transport behaviour governments should be encouraging, not putting obstacles in front of. Perhaps one of the clearest examples of this bill missing the mark came from a parent who regularly commutes with two young children by e-bike to day care. She explained that using the footpath is the safest option for her family because it avoids busy roads and peak hour traffic.

As I said earlier, nobody is defending illegal high-powered devices—far from it. Queenslanders want dangerous illegal devices dealt with. They want enforcement. They want proper import restrictions. They want action against reckless behaviour. What they do not want is legislation that punishes safe and lawful riders while leaving major loopholes in place for illegal devices sold for 'private property use only'. That concern was echoed again and again throughout the committee process. Good legislation is built through proper consultation, especially when it affects so many Queenslanders—businesses, commuters, parents, older people and people living with disability. Instead, this government appeared to have rushed toward a headline without fully considering the consequences.

For these reasons, the constituents I have quoted and the thousands of Queenslanders that I have not quoted, the opposition cannot support this bill in its current form and believe it should be returned to the committee for appropriate scrutiny. When we called for action we said—and it should go without saying—that action should have taken place with genuine consultation with the community and in respect of what Queenslanders wanted. Because this legislation overreaches, creates serious unintended consequences and fundamentally fails to strike the right balance, the opposition, as I said, believes it should go back to a committee for proper consultation. If this parliament gets this wrong, the consequences will be felt by the worker trying to get to the train station, parents taking their children to day care and older Queenslanders trying to stay mobile and independent. Queenslanders deserve better than rushed legislation that creates more problems than it solves.

 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (8.53 pm): I quote—

'Twas Mulga Bill, from Eaglehawk, that caught the cycling craze;  
He turned away the good old horse that served him many days;  
He dressed himself in cycling clothes, resplendent to be seen;  
He hurried off to town and bought a shining new machine;  
And as he wheeled it through the door, with air of lordly pride,  
The grinning shop assistant said, "Excuse me, can you ride?"

That famous stanza by the bard of the bush Banjo Paterson encapsulates the Transport and Other Legislation (Managing E-mobility Use and Protecting Our Communities) Amendment Bill 2026. The proposition 'Can you ride?' lies at the very heart of the matters considered by the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee in its deliberations in respect of e-mobility devices. Can you ride? Do you have the necessary skills, experience, situational awareness and physical ability to actually manoeuvre and control an e-mobility device? Can you ride? Are you permitted by law to ride an e-mobility device in a public place?

The humble bicycle found its origins in Germany in 1817 when German inventor Baron Karl von Drais invented the Laufmaschine, or running machine, in response to food shortages that killed horses. This wooden, two-wheeled, steerable machine without pedals was propelled by pushing off the ground with the feet. The invention of the first pedal-driven bicycle was credited to Scottish blacksmith Kirkpatrick Macmillan, who worked in the Vulcan Foundry in about 1840 and who in 1842 is reported in a Glasgow newspaper as knocking over a pedestrian in The Gorbals in 1842. The first motorbike was developed by Daimler and made back in 1885 featuring an internal combustion, petroleum fuelled motorbike with steel wheels. Ultimately, the modern-day e-bike evolved from patents dating back to 1881. However, the first pedal-assist e-bike was pioneered by Yamaha in 1993. The scooter has evolved from a 19th century wooden toy into a kick scooter boom that eventually gave rise to modern e-scooters. This is all very informative.

The bill will not impact upon bicycle riders in Queensland of any age. The bill will not impact upon any lawful riders of legal motorbikes in Queensland. The bill will not impact upon any e-bike riders or e-scooter riders over the age of 16 who hold a current learner's permit or licence riding a compliant e-bike or e-scooter. What the bill will do is respond to the public demand and numerous submissions seeking to curb the avoidable fatalities and increasing antisocial behaviour involving illegal motorbikes ridden by underage and unlicensed riders. There have been over 6,000 e-scooter and electric motorcycle related injuries recorded in Queensland's hospitals since 2022 and too many young lives have been lost, including a very young man on an e-scooter tragically killed in my electorate.

The committee received hundreds of submissions and heard dozens of witnesses across the state and in New South Wales. The committee heard from hospitals, schools, doctors, industry bodies, individuals, school pupils, police, transport authorities and experts, and so on. Most witnesses were expansive, flexible and informative. They made sufficient contribution and offered genuine assistance to the committee. However, the submissions and subsequent public campaign by Bicycle Queensland opposing the bill were both disingenuous and unhelpful. They did little to advance the cause of its membership who, by and large, are not impacted by the bill.

The committee was tasked with finding a balance between public safety, the wellbeing of young people, lifestyles, freedoms and transport considerations. Paramount was the need to respond to an exponential growth in the ownership and operation of e-mobility devices, particularly in heavily populated areas, coupled with an unacceptable rise in injuries and fatalities arising from their use. Finding the right balance was no mean feat.

I would like to thank the committee staff for their tireless effort over the past 12 months and the committee chair, the member for Lockyer, for his steady guidance. Finding this balance at times required considering varying and further points of view. There was no backflip, as some media outlets reported; rather, an exemption was included that was both responsive and reasonable in line with community expectations and standards. Persons under the age of 16 years will not be able to use or operate an e-mobility device unless under the direct supervision of their parents.

In all the submissions and witness presentations to the committee there was no empirical evidence that under 16-year-old mobility riders under the supervision of their parents were involved in, or caused, a significant number of accidents. The opposition members of the committee have delivered a statement of reservation which can only beg the question as to whether they were engaged in the process at all. After today it is obvious they are prepared to play politics with this serious issue.

Importantly, this bill is not simply about restricting behaviour; it is about establishing a modern and enforceable framework that reflects the rapid growth of e-mobility devices across Queensland communities. These devices are now a significant part of the transport mix in many urban and regional communities, and with that growth must come clear rules, accountability and appropriate safeguards.

The bill introduces police seizure and disposal powers for illegal and noncompliant e-mobility devices and prohibited motorbikes being unlawfully operated in public places. It creates a new targeted offence framework with substantial penalties for dangerous and antisocial behaviour, including speeding, careless riding, illegally carrying passengers, failing to wear a helmet, riding on prohibited roads and riding without due care and attention. These are not unreasonable expectations; they are the same commonsense road safety standards Queenslanders already expect from every other road user.

One of the most significant reforms contained within the bill is the requirement that riders of e-mobility devices be at least 16 years of age and hold a valid driver's licence, at minimum a learner's permit, to ensure riders possess road rule knowledge and an understanding of safe operation. As a result, practical exemptions will apply. Children aged between 12 and 17 will—

Debate, on motion of Mr Kempton, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT



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

That the House do now adjourn.

## Cost of Living




**Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (9.00 pm): I rise today to speak on the growing cost-of-living crisis facing Queensland families—a crisis that is not easing, not improving and not being taken seriously enough by the current government. While economists can debate percentages and technical figures, Queenslanders know what reality looks like every time they open a bill, fill up their car or walk through the supermarket check-out. Housing costs are soaring. Rents in Brisbane are an average of \$680 a week for a standard three-bedroom home, with vacancy rates below one per cent. That is not a healthy housing market; that is a housing system under extreme pressure. Families are being forced to move further away from work, schools and support networks just to find somewhere affordable to live. Young people are locked out of independence. Parents are working harder than ever but falling further behind.

Then there is the fuel crisis. Queenslanders are being hammered by petrol and diesel prices between \$2.50 and \$3.50 a litre, with sudden spikes of up to 50 cents in a single week. That is not normal and that is not sustainable, and for many families it is becoming impossible, because fuel is not optional. People in Queensland rely on their cars to get to work, take their children to school, attend medical appointments and run their businesses. In my electorate that impact goes beyond family households, and this is further proof that under the Crisafulli LNP government Queensland is being dragged backwards—backwards by a government paralysed by its own failures. Sunnybank Meals on Wheels delivers meals every single day to vulnerable members of our community—seniors, people living alone and residents who rely on that support service to stay independent—but rising fuel and diesel prices are driving up the cost of every meal it prepares and every delivery it makes, and that means charities and community organisations are now carrying the burden of the cost-of-living crisis as well.

What did the LNP do when practical fuel price reform was put before this parliament? It rejected it. It rejected the Transport Affordability Amendment Bill—a bill designed to provide transparency, certainty and relief for Queensland motorists. The bill would have required fuel retailers to publish the next day's fuel price by 2 pm. This would have prevented prices increasing by more than five cents per litre from the previous day's lowest cost.

### Glass House Small Business Awards

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation and Acting Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.03 pm): This evening I rise to celebrate the outstanding small businesses and their employees recognised at my 2026 annual small business awards, better known throughout the community as the Glassies, held this year at the Mooloolah Valley Country Club. This year marked a significant milestone—celebrating 10 years of recognising the businesses and employees who contribute so much to the Glass House electorate. Over the past decade the Glassies have become a valued tradition, highlighting the resilience and community spirit that define our local business community. From Maleny and Montville to Glass House country and the Moreton Bay hinterland, small businesses are the backbone of the electorate of Glass House. They create local jobs, support local families, sponsor community groups and sporting clubs and help make our region such a wonderful place to live and work.

Held during Small Business Month, the Glassies are the culmination of two months of nominations and public voting. This year was the largest in the award's history, with a record number of nominations and more than 4,500 votes cast by community members. That level of participation reflects the pride our communities have in the businesses and employees who serve them every day. I would like to pay special tribute to our Gold Glassies recipients. The Gold Business award was presented to Glasshouse Plantation, a working coffee plantation that offers coffee tastings, farm tours and a cafe featuring local farm to table produce, all set against the stunning backdrop of the Glass House Mountains. Glasshouse Plantation's excellence in tourism, hospitality and customer experience consistently showcases Glass House country to visitors across Queensland and beyond, helping to strengthen the profile of our local communities. All credit to Lisa and Paul the owners.


The Gold Employee award was presented to Hunter Juffs from Ledgers Country Butchery in Woodford. At just 17 years of age, Hunter has already earned a reputation for his exceptional work ethic and positive attitude. One customer wrote to me saying—

Doesn't matter what time I go into the butcher, he's there. Always a pleasure, happy and smiling. We should all be recognising and applauding kids like himself. He is a winner!

That nomination perfectly captures why Hunter received this award. His dedication, reliability and commitment to customer service have left a lasting impression on the community he serves and makes him a wonderful ambassador for the next generation of skilled workers.

I would also like to thank all of the local chamber presidents, along with the prize sponsors who have made the Glassies such a success over the past decade. As we celebrate 10 years of the Glassies, we celebrate the people who make the electorate of Glass House such a vibrant, prosperous and connected community.

### Small Business Month

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (9.06 pm): Thank you to the 508,000 small businesses right across our state who get up every day, take risks, create over a million jobs and keep our communities moving, contributing \$131 billion to our economy. Over the past month I have had the privilege of meeting with dozens upon dozens of small business owners throughout the regions and suburban Queensland, visiting cafes, manufacturers, retailers, tourism operators, tradies, family businesses and startups. We also hosted a small business reception at Parliament House, together with the Small Business Association of Australia, and we had the opportunity to personally thank the small business community for their hard work.


More importantly, we listened. Whilst every business is different, the message was remarkably consistent: businesses are doing it tough. They are battling rising insurance premiums and increasing energy costs and they are struggling to find and retain workers. Many are concerned about weakening consumer confidence and the pressures families are facing with the cost of living. What they want from a Queensland government is simple. They want practical support, someone to listen—a government focused on their challenges. Unfortunately, while Queensland's small businesses were talking about payroll costs, insurance bills and staff shortages, the Minister for Small Business was busy curating his Spotify list. While business owners were worrying about how to pay the next electricity bill, the minister apparently thought the month was an opportunity to launch his own music review career.

The minister opened Small Business Month by posting what he proudly described as his ‘birthday banger’, Michael Jackson’s *Thriller*. Frankly, after 18 months of government, plenty of small businesses owners are living through a thriller. Every time another bill arrives, every time another cost goes up, every time another promise disappears, it feels like a horror story. It is a real-life ‘thriller’.

To close the month, the minister gave another musical selection—Kylie Minogue’s *Can’t Get You Out of My Head*. Small businesses cannot get rising costs out their heads. They cannot get insurance premiums, workforce shortages—and they certainly cannot get the government’s lack of action—out of their heads. The irony is remarkable. Queensland small businesses spent the month talking to me about the real challenges facing their livelihood. The minister spent the month talking about his favourite songs. It is another example that Queensland is being dragged backwards by a government paralysed by their own failings.

As Small Business Month concludes, I want to thank every business owner who took the time to meet with us, to share their experiences and to tell us what is happening on the ground. Labor will continue to listen, Labor will continue to advocate and Labor will continue standing up for small businesses across our great state because they contribute so much not only to our economy but also to the great state of Queensland. They are often our first job, they are always the first place to go to for a raffle prize and they contribute so much to developing the wonderful places that we all live, work and play in. I want to ensure I thank very strongly all of the great small businesses, particularly those in my electorate of Lytton. Thank you for coming out on what was a very wet and miserable night for my small business networking night.

### Ormiston College

 **Hon. AJ STOKER** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (9.09pm): Redlanders care deeply about koalas, and so do I. However, a fundamental mistruth has emerged in discussions about the Ormiston College masterplan: the idea that we must choose between environmental protection and better local infrastructure. It simply is not true. By imposing comprehensive environmental conditions on this project, the government has ensured the school can expand—adding classrooms, an early learning centre and sporting facilities—with no net loss of koala habitat. That is not my view; it is the words of the expert ecologists who certified that this project was appropriate.

The approval includes 39 overarching conditions to protect wildlife and local amenity, with 42 subprovisions specific to koala protection. Only 20 per cent of the site will be cleared, preserving 80 per cent as vegetated areas. While 54 koala fodder trees will be removed—far fewer than activists claim—the conditions mandate their replacement with at least 526 new trees and a mitigation plan to ensure koala food is available until they mature. The school will ultimately enhance the corridor with expert help. This is not unchecked clearing; it is a careful process on ecological advice with strict compliance monitoring. Even federal Labor environment minister Murray Watt has stated the project will not have a significant impact.


I respect that there will be differing opinions on balancing progress and conservation. However, the recent behaviour from some activists has crossed a line: vandalism that slurs the motives of the people who make up a not-for-profit institution dedicated to helping bring out the best in our local children; students and parents facing verbal abuse and online harassment, even with threats of violence made against school leadership; and trespass and carry-on that made the onsite ecologist and koala spotter fear for the welfare of the very koalas these people say they want to protect. I table evidence to that effect.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, undated, from Elliot Wigram, Ecologist, Keystone Fauna Management, regarding koala-protestor interaction [\[854\]](#).

The hypocrisy is alarming: people so fixated on their priorities that they would cause harm to children in the pursuit of them—so fixated they would harm the very wildlife they claim to defend. It has to stop. True environmentalism respects both wildlife and people, allowing both to flourish.

Great schools are vital for strong communities. Families deserve a range of education options from which to choose, and children need these facilities to reach their potential. The clearing work is now complete and construction will soon begin. Every inspector who has come to check compliance has given the school the tick. We can protect koalas while supporting our children. We can maintain strong environmental conditions and still allow schools to invest in the future. I will conclude with the words of the experts: there is ‘no net loss of koala habitat’. In fact, by the time the masterplan is complete, that habitat will be better than ever.

### Back to School Boost

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (9.12 pm): I rise tonight to talk about the Back to School Boost and Behaviour Boost initiatives and how they are working—or not working as the case seems to be in some of my local schools. I know that I talk a lot about schools in this place. That is because the life-changing power of a good education is something I am very passionate about. When something is not working for our schools the way it should be, I will always speak up. It is clear to me that kids across the Kurwongbah electorate are getting back to school.

In his media release dated 6 May, the Minister for Education announced ‘almost 50 per cent of the popular Back to School Boost now utilised by Queensland’s primary school parents’. Let us unpack that statement. Almost 50 per cent? Not even half of primary school parents have been able to use the LNP’s Back to School Boost four months into the school year. I can tell members why.


In my electorate of Kurwongbah we have surveyed hundreds of local mums and dads about whether the boost has helped them this year. Here is some of the feedback we received. Families told us how disappointed they were that the boost was not actually available before school started—despite the initiative’s name and despite being promised at the state election that it would help them with back-to-school expenses, most of which are incurred, funnily enough, at back-to-school time, not halfway through term 2.

We heard from families that \$100 is not enough to ease back-to-school cost pressures when book packs and uniforms, and some camps and excursions, cost much more than that amount. Some parents told us that they will not even be able to access the full \$100 for their students this year because there are not enough eligible school invoiced Boost expenses to spend it on. These parents still have plenty of other school expenses—like replacing lost hats, buying school jumpers, topping up stationery or ordering tuckshop on Fridays—that the money the LNP promised to them cannot be used for.

I have also heard from P&Cs about how they have had to turn away families who had expectations of using their \$100 credit in the P&C-run uniform shops but could not because those items are not school invoiced. Therefore, I am calling on the minister to please take this feedback on board. Let’s work together to ensure families benefit from the Back to School Boost next year or, at the very least, sort out the misleading terms.

In a cost-of-living crisis, when the LNP has axed relief on electricity bills and car rego and they do not appear to support Labor’s push for cheaper fuel prices, the least they could do is follow through on their back-to-school election promise to Queensland families. Under the Crisafulli LNP government, I see household budgets being dragged backwards, expectations of truth and transparency in government being dragged backwards, and the performance and conduct in our state parliament certainly being dragged backwards. They are all being dragged backwards by this LNP government that is paralysed by its own failures.

### Buderim Electorate, Local Treasures

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.15 pm): There have been plenty of rumblings today with the announcement of the winners of the Queensland Day All the Best awards. While I commend and appreciate every winner across each category, I must say that we in Buderim have been overlooked. Therefore, tonight I want to take a moment to highlight some of Buderim’s own local treasures.

I refer to Cafe Harmony in Palmview. It is a great cafe with an ever-changing monthly burger menu that continues to delight locals. Amaze World in Tanawha remains a standout tourist attraction. Last term I had the pleasure of taking the then opposition leader and now Premier there. It has been providing exceptional fun for families, year after year. I acknowledge florists such as Buderim Floral Art, which have put together lovely wreaths and bouquets for me and many other locals for both commemorative and celebratory events.

I acknowledge the best pub, even if it may not be formally classified as one, but where else would you go for a good time, a hearty feed and a pint with your mates than the Buderim Bowls Club?

**Mr Purdie:** The bowlo.


**Mr MICKELBERG:** The bowlo; I take the interjection from the member for Ninderry. He knows it well. Located in the centre of Buderim, the Buderim Bowls Club brings together a wide range of people from our local community, from young families like mine to local legends such as 102-year-old Mr Alan Quartermaine. This year, the Buderim Bowls Club reached a remarkable milestone, celebrating 75

years of community, camaraderie and competition. It was a pleasure to attend their anniversary dinner two weeks ago and to celebrate alongside members and volunteers, including local councillor Ted Hungerford, all of whom truly embody the spirit of the club and our community.

The Buderim Bowls Club's first green was built by volunteers, as were its clubhouse, kitchen, bar and verandah. That same commitment and hard work have carried the club for three-quarters of a century, with volunteers still running competitions, supporting members and caring for the facilities. I refer to volunteers such as the current president, Brian Heinemann, and his dedicated committee and umpires such as Barry Ashby. I pay tribute to Barry in particular. Barry is undergoing palliative care at the moment. He was unable to attend the 75th anniversary but we remembered him with a tribute. My thoughts are with Barry and his family at this difficult time. All of our volunteers continue to uphold the club's strong tradition of service. The club has grown since its humble beginnings 75 years ago. Its facilities now proudly host social, championship and inter-club events while maintaining the welcoming spirit that defines Buderim.

It is my absolute pleasure to continue to support local clubs such as the Buderim Bowls Club as well as businesses and organisations that make our great state what it is. For me, Buderim is and always will be the best community in Queensland. It has the best sense of community. It is safe, friendly and engaged. It is a great place to live. However, we do not want to spread the word too much as we like it just how it is.

### **Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (9.18 pm): Queenslanders know the current trend from the Queensland government has been to walk away from many of the cost-of-living relief measures that Queenslanders need. I refer to relief measures like electricity rebates and rego discounts. Queenslanders know it because they are feeling it. They are feeling it in their hip pockets. At a time when families are under pressure, the government should not be making life harder.

Instead of seeing support from this government, what Queenslanders are seeing is a government distracted by its own problems. For weeks now, reports have been dominated by speculation about cabinet reshuffles, underperforming ministers and internal dissatisfaction within the government's ranks. While Queensland families are worried about how they will pay their electricity bill, pay their car rego or fill up their fuel tank, the government appears more focused on who will keep their ministerial job and who will lose it.

Queenslanders deserve a government focused on delivering for them, not a government consumed by internal politics. The reality is that, after more than a year and a half in office, Queenslanders are still waiting for many of the promises that were made by this government. In health, specialist waiting lists continue to grow. Hospital pressures are now more significant. Communities are being told things will be getting better, but many Queenslanders are not seeing that improvement in their daily lives. The same pattern is emerging when it comes to cost-of-living relief. The former Labor government delivered practical support measures like the \$1,000 electricity rebate and the 20 per cent rego discount—


**Mr Head** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Pause the clock, please. Member for Callide, you are warned. The member is not taking interjections. We will hear the rest of the member's contribution without any interjections, thank you.

**Mr RYAN:** Those measures made a real difference yet, instead of building on that support, the current government has allowed it to disappear. In just three weeks time the Queensland government will hand down its state budget. That budget represents an opportunity. It is an opportunity for the government to stop focusing on itself and start focusing on Queenslanders. It is an opportunity to recognise the pressures facing households right across our state.

In recent weeks I have been directly asking local residents about what cost-of-living relief they need to make a difference in their lives. They responded specifically with things like electricity rebates, car registration discounts, free hospital car parking and other measures to cap fuel price increases. The Queensland government should give serious consideration to this feedback from the local people in the Morayfield state electorate. Those local people are not asking for special treatment, but they are asking for a government that understands the pressures they are facing and is prepared to help. Queenslanders are doing it tough, and the government needs to step up in its state budget.

### Townsville Electorate

 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (9.21 pm): In recent weeks we have had several high-profile cases of youth crime in Townsville including vehicle thefts, weapons offences and volunteer organisations being targeted. This recent activity is devastating for our community. It was revealed this week by the *Townsville Bulletin* that the Townsville region has 71 serious repeat offenders—the most in the state. Further, 52 per cent of youth criminals are committing further offences while out on bail. This is Labor's legacy after a decade of decline and this is what we are trying to clean up.


Since being elected we have taken a strong stance on youth crime including introducing Adult Crime, Adult Time and expanding it to include 45 offences. We are backing our police by providing more boots on the ground and giving them the resources they need and we are investing in early intervention and rehabilitation. However, we know that there is more to do. That is why, along with my North Queensland colleagues, we are calling for an expansion of Adult Crime, Adult Time to fix Labor's flawed bail laws for serious repeat offenders. Bail is a privilege, not a right, and abusing that privilege should have immediate consequences. Put simply, if you breach bail you go to jail. That is why I am working hard to make bail reform the next step we take to make sure our community is safer and to reduce the number of victims.

Brain cancer is now responsible for more deaths of children and young adults under 40 than any other disease. A diagnosis is devastating, and families find their worlds turned upside down. The Townsville community once again demonstrated its incredible generosity and spirit in support of this year's NSS—Convoy for the Cure. This year's event was the largest in its 11-year history, with more than 300 trucks and over 90 motorcycles taking part, raising more than \$180,000 to fund research and clinical trials into childhood brain cancer.

I particularly want to acknowledge NSS, who proudly led the convoy for the third consecutive year as the lead truck sponsor and naming rights. It was great to be able to catch up with the NSS team and the lead truck ahead of the event. I also would like to personally thank every driver, rider, volunteer, sponsor and supporter who contributed to this year's NSS—Convoy for the Cure. Your efforts are helping drive research forward and bringing hope to families who need it most.

This weekend, Townsville residents can tackle one of our favourite local running events as we will see who will be crowned Castle Hill royalty at this year's King and Queen of Castle Hill. This will be the 55th year the community gathers for the King and Queen of Castle Hill. Whether you sprint for the crown or walk your way up to enjoy the view, the event is for everyone. Keep an eye out for rising star Ethan Kwa going for his third Prince of Castle Hill crown. Congratulations to Russell Jaycock for continuing to build upon his record as he participates in his 45th event. I say a huge thankyou to the Townsville Road Runners. If you would like to register, please check out their Facebook page.

### Minister for Health and Ambulance Services; Regional Infrastructure

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (9.24 pm): When debate was cut short last night, the KAP lost its ability to respond to many things said by the minister in the debate—some of his comments were very disparaging towards me. The minister said that I did not understand what I was talking about because there was training for certified people and what I had spent the majority of my speech last night saying was that it had to be approved by their employer. That was the point we wanted the minister to respond to, but he refused to do that and we did not get the opportunity to say anything further last night because the debate was cut short.


I was trying to be polite during the debate last night when I said, 'I'm not sure where the minister's coming from. I'd like him to explain.' He did not respond with the same politeness. He said that I did not know what I was talking about, but I did. I knew full well what he was saying. The truth is I knew exactly what he was saying when he did not acknowledge that an element had been taken out. That needed to be addressed because we were not given that opportunity last night. It was very misleading of the minister to indicate that we had not considered that and to avoid answering the very precise question we asked last night. I was very disappointed in this House. It is fine if he wants to make decisions like that, but he should stand by them and own them. He should not try to pretend he is not obfuscating. The people would be better served if we would be more honest about our positions.

I attended the mineral conference in Townsville last week. It was a terrific event hosted by Townsville Enterprise Ltd. It was very informative. Dr John Coyne spoke about things that are very important in the national debate right now. He is the director of the National Security Program in Canberra. He said that a one-size-fits-all policy out of Brisbane or Canberra does not work. That is something those of us in regional areas know all too well. We cannot apply competition authority guidelines to our utilities—like rail and water—thinking that because they work in this free market

ideology they will work well up there where there are no market competitors. It does not work, and it has not. He said that until we treat northern Australia like a developing country and stop trying to apply these conditions we will all be constrained.

I do not think it is our job as politicians to pat ourselves on the back when a mine opens up and say, 'What a great job we're doing.' Our job is to seek out the barriers and constraints to more things being built and work out how to address those. There are plenty of those at the moment. The sorts of things we should be looking at are why we are not building CopperString and why these things are not being done.

### **Andreatta, Ms S; Burdekin Electorate, Queensland Spirit**

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (9.27 pm): On Thursday, May 14 the Bruce Highway between Home Hill and Bowen claimed another life when a bus ran off the road and overturned. One of the 28 tourists travelling to Airlie Beach was 26-year-old Argentinian Serena Andreatta. Despite the efforts of emergency services, her fellow passengers and even passers-by, Serena could not be saved. I am sure I speak for all members and all Queenslanders when I offer my condolences to Serena's family and friends and my best wishes for a speedy recovery to those who were injured.

The response to this tragic incident called on emergency services from Bowen, Home Hill, Ayr and Townsville. Facing a horrific scene, our first responders undertook technical rescues, provided medical support for the victims of the incident and, without doubt, saved lives. On behalf of the community, I thank our responders for their efforts and their professionalism.

As we approach Queensland Day, the true Queensland spirit was on display when members of the public came forward to assist our emergency services. Two passing doctors provided what was described by Queensland ambulance staff as lifesaving treatment and a Burdekin local assisted by transporting victims to hospital, allowing paramedics to focus on those who most needed their assistance. These are just two examples of Queenslanders stepping up to help, and I am proud to advise the House that in the following days the support for victims and our emergency services continued.

It is not just during difficult times that the Burdekin electorate showcases that famous Queensland spirit. Last week the North Queensland Field Day provided a range of opportunities for students, farmers and businesses alike, thanks in no small part to Burdekin business Tracpower. Earlier today we celebrated the best of Queensland. Again, the mighty Burdekin electorate punched above its weight with Meraki Whitsundays in Bowen securing second place in the race for Queensland's best café, while the legendary Birds Fish Bar in Bowen narrowly missed claiming the title of Queensland's best fish and chip shop two years in a row.

It has been a huge week for Lily and the team from Fiorella Florals in Bowen. It is a thriving business—a wedding last week and today confirmation that Fiorella Florals in the mighty Burdekin is Queensland's best florist. Not only do they do fantastic floral arrangements; they also make a mean coffee.

In news just to hand, the Pirrone Brothers in collaboration with Reef Distillers have won the World's Best Botanical Vodka award with their Zucchini Flower Vodka. From soil, to harvest, to distillation—it can only happen in the Burdekin. We are certainly proud of the efforts of all of those businesses in the Burdekin. These awards certainly recognise that talent.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.30 pm.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Asif, Bailey, Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Chiesa, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, de Brenni, Dick, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Field, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Grace, Hatcher, Head, Healy, Hunt, Hutton, James B, James T, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly G, 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, Richmond, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stoker, Vorster, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Young