



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 23 June 2026

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TUESDAY, 23 JUNE 2026

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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.

ASSENT TO BILLS



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from Her Excellency the Governor a letter in respect of assent to certain bills. The contents of the letter will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the letter for the information of members.

The Honourable P. Weir MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

I hereby acquaint the Legislative Assembly that the following Bills, having been passed by the Legislative Assembly and having been presented for the Royal Assent, were assented to in the name of His Majesty The King on the date shown:

16 June 2026:

A bill for an Act to amend the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Forestry Act 1959, the Geothermal Energy Act 2010, the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Act 2018, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Nature Conservation Act 1992, the Petroleum Act 1923, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006, the Regional Planning Interests Act 2014, the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014, the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011, the Water Act 2000 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes

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

These Bills are hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely

Governor

Date of assent: 16 June 2026

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 16 June 2026, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 16 June 2026 [\[1005\]](#).

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Photographs in Chamber



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise the House that I have approved for Parliamentary Service staff to take photographs in the chamber this morning during preliminary business for use in parliamentary social media. Photographs will be taken from the front and the rear of the chamber and from the gallery above. I further advise that television pool cameras and ministerial staff will be filming the Treasurer's budget speech this afternoon.

Record of Proceedings, Incorporation of Material



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, sessional order 10 provides that for the debate of the annual appropriation bills it is not necessary for members to seek leave of the House to incorporate material in the *Record of Proceedings* provided members have shown the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker the material sought to be incorporated and have obtained the Speaker or Deputy Speaker's consent as per standing order 25.

Before consent will be given, members must assure and undertake that, for a speech relating to the appropriation bills, the member's total speech must not exceed that which would normally be allowed in a 15-minute speech—thus no speech should exceed 2,600 words. Speeches should not include graphs, charts or other material; members must provide the Parliamentary Reporting and Broadcasting Service with their speech in electronic form prior to rising to give their speech; other members will be provided access, on request, to a member's speech prior to the publication of the *Record of Proceedings*; and speeches intended to be incorporated should not offend standing orders in any way, such as by containing personal reflections, imputations and the like.

SPEAKER'S RULINGS

Tabled Paper, Redaction



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 4 June 2026 the member for Bundaberg purported to table a document containing unparliamentary language during private members' statements. I ruled the paper out of order later the same day and ordered the document be returned to the member. In the adjournment debate that evening the member for Bancroft tabled a redacted version of the document. The unparliamentary language ruled out of order and later redacted was in fact an extract from a paper tabled in 2023. To ensure consistency between the two tabled papers, I have ordered the Table Office to redact the unparliamentary language from the 2023 document.

Alleged Unqualified Withdrawal of Unparliamentary Language



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 4 June and again on 18 June 2026 the Manager of Opposition Business wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Police and Emergency Services during question time on that day breached standing order 234(2) by using the word 'but' after his withdrawal, meaning that his withdrawal was not unqualified. The Manager of Opposition Business requested that I refer the matter to the Ethics Committee for its consideration.

For the benefit of the House, standing order 234 relates to personal reflections on members. Standing order 234(1) provides that all personal reflections on members shall be considered highly disorderly and subsection (2) states that if the offended member objects to the words used the words must be withdrawn by the offending member without qualification or further comment. In this instance, the minister was asked by me to withdraw the use of unparliamentary language, not a personal reflection on another member. Accordingly, standing order 234 clearly does not apply to those circumstances. Although standing order 234 does not apply, if I had suspected that the minister's withdrawal of the use of unparliamentary language in this instance was in any way qualified I would have applied the same principle and requested that he withdraw unconditionally.

The broadcast recording and the audio of the minister's answer both clearly indicate that the minister used the word 'but'; however, after advice, my assessment was that the minister's use of that word in this instance was not to qualify his withdrawal. Rather, the word 'but' was used as a connecting word to restart his response to the question—in effect, a false start to a sentence. That was how the acting chief Hansard reporter also assessed it. This, in turn, resulted in the word 'but' correctly being left out of the transcript, in accordance with the well-established Hansard editing rules in relation to false starts.

I note that this matter was first raised informally verbally and, when unsuccessful, attempted to be reprocessed by two lots of correspondence. I remind all members that all allegations of contempt and suggested referral to the Ethics Committee should be put in writing. It is not appropriate to seek a prior investigation or review in advance of raising a matter of privilege for formal consideration. Further, it is not appropriate to try to influence my decision during the consideration of a matter by indicating the matter would be taken further if not upheld and by sending additional correspondence. The original

complaint should set out all relevant details and evidence and leave it to the Speaker to decide. I will not be referring the matter to the Ethics Committee for further consideration. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 4 June 2026, from the Manager of Opposition Business and member for Springwood, Hon. Mick de Brenni MP, to the Speaker relating to an alleged unqualified withdrawal by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Hon. Daniel Purdie [1006].

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 18 June 2026, from the Manager of Opposition Business and member for Springwood, Hon. Mick de Brenni MP, to the Speaker relating to previous correspondence and an alleged unqualified withdrawal by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Hon. Daniel Purdie [1007].

Dissent from Deputy Speaker's Ruling

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, yesterday I was visited by the Manager of Opposition Business regarding the Deputy Speaker ordering the withdrawal of the member for Logan on 4 June 2026 following an interjection, the details of which can be found at page 1743 of the *Record of Proceedings*. The Manager of Opposition Business argued that the member for Logan did not disrupt proceedings, the withdrawal was contrary to previous statements, and if I did not intervene the opposition would move a motion of dissent from the Deputy Speaker's ruling.

Firstly, a decision by a Speaker to order the withdrawal of a member is a matter of order, not a ruling that is able to be dissented from, as per rulings by former Speaker McGrady and former Speaker Simpson. Secondly, the Deputy Speaker and the Panel of Temporary Speakers must be given the same respect in the chair as me at all times they hold the chair. Whilst guidance is provided to all Deputy Speakers, I will not be running an informal court of appeal to their decisions, especially on matters of order. Thirdly, the Manager of Opposition Business's statements about a motion of dissent had the strong flavour of threatening, intimidating or attempting to improperly influence an officer of the House acting in the discharge of their duty. I am giving the Manager of Opposition Business the benefit of the doubt that threats, intimidation and improper influence were not his intention, but the benefit of the doubt will not be given again. I want to make it clear to all members that it is highly inappropriate to foreshadow dissent or other motions if a complaint is not resolved to the member's liking.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Alleged Contravention of Parliament's Terms and Conditions of Broadcast; Alleged Publication of False or Misleading Account of Proceedings before the House

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 11 June 2026, the members for Waterford and Aspley wrote to me alleging that the Deputy Premier had breached the broadcast conditions of access and had published a false or misleading account of proceedings before the House with a social media post. Investigations revealed there was no use of broadcast footage. I have written to the members relating to that allegation and consider that matter closed.

Now I will address the allegation of publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings. Where a complaint is made to me, the member must provide evidence of each element required for a breach of privilege or contempt. I refer members to the rulings from Speaker Simpson on 11 September 2012 on page 1768 of the *Record of Proceedings* and Speaker Pitt on 19 March 2024. The complaint must make an attempt to apply evidence to each element or in some way provide sufficient particulars to enable the matter to be further progressed.

For a contempt of publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings, Ethics Committee report No. 240 has set out the elements to be proven. Element 1: has the member published an account of proceedings of the House? Element 2: was that account of proceedings false or misleading? Element 3: did the publishing of the false and misleading proceedings amount, or was it intended or likely to amount, to an improper interference with the free exercise by the Assembly or a committee of its authority or functions or the free performance by a member of the member's duties as a member? The members for Waterford and Aspley have failed to address these three elements of the alleged contempt. Accordingly, I have not considered the matter further and I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt of Parliament by the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations and member for Kawana [1008].

Parliament House, Artworks



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, two more works from the Regional Council Artwork Collection are on display this week. The collection was originally assembled in 1979 to celebrate the completion of the Parliamentary Annexe and features artworks representing communities across Queensland. The first work, *Virgin Rock*, is a bark painting by artist Ada Watkins. Born in Springsure in 1920, Watkins was largely self-taught and showed artistic talent from an early age. After raising a family of six she returned to painting in the 1970s, earning recognition for her distinctive bark artworks. Her works were exhibited across Central Queensland and gained admiration both locally and internationally. This artwork was donated by the Shire of Bauhinia.

The second artwork, *Railway Reserve*, is by Anne Goldsworthy. Originally from Jundah and raised in Charleville before settling in Gin Gin, Goldsworthy served as the Kolan Shire Council librarian for more than 17 years. During this time, she developed her artistic skills through adult education courses and study with renowned watercolourist Frederick J Robertson. This artwork was donated by the Kolan Shire Council. Next sitting week we will feature two more artworks from regional communities represented in this chamber.

Visitors to Public Gallery



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Morayfield State High School in the electorate of Morayfield, Eumundi State School in the electorate of Ninderry and Stretton State College in the electorate of Stretton.

PETITIONS

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

Yarrabilba, Hooning

Mr Power, from 1,930 petitioners, requesting the House to take decisive action towards the deterrence of large-scale hooning activities in Yarrabilba [\[989\]](#).

Coomera, TAFE Centre of Excellence in Health and Nursing

Mr Crandon, from 441 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise funding for a TAFE Centre of Excellence in Health and Nursing at Coomera [\[990\]](#).

School Curriculum, Digital Literacy

Hon. de Brenni, from 891 petitioners, requesting the House to address the lack of formal education in digital literacy and online safety and embed curriculum digital literacy and online safety in the Queensland School curriculum from primary to senior [\[991\]](#).

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

Hinterland Street, Playground

213 petitioners, requesting the House to do all in its power to ensure a playground is built on the grass area opposite Hinterland Street which is council land [\[992\]](#).

E-Mobility

1,229 petitioners, requesting the House to ban the sale of powerful e-bikes and imported parts used to upgrade them from safer models [\[993\]](#).

Child Sexual Abuse, Penalties

2,338 petitioners, requesting the House to review and strengthen sentencing laws for child sexual abuse offences to ensure stricter, more consistent penalties that prioritise victim protection and long-term justice [\[994\]](#).

Domestic Violence, Court Proceedings

567 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures to address the excessive length of time for domestic violence related matters to be determined by a court [\[995\]](#).

Environment and Natural Resource Regulation, Inquiry

1,699 petitioners, requesting the House to refer to the Queensland Productivity Commission an independent inquiry into whether the scientific assumptions underpinning environmental and natural resource regulation affecting Queensland's farming, fisheries and forestry industries remain supported by measurable outcomes [\[996\]](#).

Seatbelts, Fines

1,113 petitioners, requesting the House to amend relevant traffic regulations to ensure the driver of a vehicle is not fined or loses demerit points for an adult passenger wearing a seatbelt incorrectly [\[997\]](#).

Cats, Desexing

1,458 petitioners, requesting the House to develop a registry of cat breeders and laws enforcing all cats to be desexed unless they are from a breeder with a license [\[998\]](#).

Government Payments

1,067 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate making payments compulsory for Queenslanders who can demonstrate serious harm from departmental actions involving injustice, corruption, maladministration [\[999\]](#).

Public Trustee and Public Guardian

1,037 petitioners, requesting the House to mandate the Queensland Public Trustee and Public Guardian advertise their powers and to ensure the campaigns are clear, accessible and include guidance on preventative measures such as enduring powers of attorney [\[1000\]](#).

Mudgeeraba Market Shopping Centre, Car Park

106 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the development of a second level car park at Mudgeeraba Market Shopping Centre [\[1001\]](#).

Floodwaters, Drivers

1,284 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate to enact penalties for drivers who knowingly drive into flood waters [\[1002\]](#).

National Anthem

660 petitioners, requesting the House to persuade the federal government to change our National Anthem [\[1003\]](#).

Tapentadol

337 petitioners, requesting the House to persuade the federal government to consider adding the instant release version of tapentadol covered under the PBS [\[1004\]](#).

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

The Clerk informed the House that the following papers, received during the recess, were tabled on the dates indicated—

5 June 2026—

- [885](#) Education, Arts and Communities Committee: Report No. 17, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 11 February 2026 and 24 March 2026
- [886](#) Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 35, 58th Parliament—Oversight of the Queensland Ombudsman: Erratum
- [887](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Bleijie), to an E-Petition (4400-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,571 petitioners, requesting the House to recognise heat as a natural hazard in State Planning Policy
- [888](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Bleijie), to an E-Petition (4496-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 934 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures to save the Freshwater Raintree
- [889](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Bleijie), to an E-Petition (4513-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,265 petitioners, requesting the House to allow Victoria Park to continue its operations and develop its accessibility for our community through our active transport network

8 June 2026—

- [890](#) Ethics Committee: Report No. 244, 58th Parliament—Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 29 April 2025 relating to an alleged deliberate misleading of the House by the Leader of the Opposition, Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the member for McConnel: Erratum

11 June 2026—

- [891](#) Response from the Minister for Primary Industries (Hon. Perrett), to an E-Petition (4473-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 458 petitioners, requesting the House to mandate the removal of Cocos Palms from all urban areas and educate the community on safe methods of disposal of deceased wildlife
- [892](#) Response from the Minister for Primary Industries (Hon. Perrett), to an E-Petition (4366-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,051 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate that all animals rehomed through Queensland rescue centres must be desexed prior to adoption

- [893](#) State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 28, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 11 February 2026 and 24 March 2026
- [894](#) Response from the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Camm), to an E-Petition (4435-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 585 petitioners, requesting the House to create state initiatives that support employers in making workplaces more inclusive and accessible, specifically targeting the hiring and retention of autistic adults and ensure mandatory, specialised autism training for frontline professionals in health, education and the criminal justice system
- [895](#) Response from the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Camm), to an E-Petition (4474-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 928 petitioners, requesting the House to review and adapt laws in the best interest of victims of domestic violence, including limiting the number of reasonable adjournments to five adjournments per each domestic violence application
- [896](#) Response from the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers (Hon. Leahy), to an E-Petition (4459-26), sponsored by the member for Morayfield, Hon Ryan, from 419 petitioners, requesting the House to enhance sun protection at council owned, public pools in the Moreton Bay Region by installing more extensive shade covers
- [897](#) Health, Environment and Innovation Committee: Report No. 26, 58th Parliament—Consideration of Auditor-General Report 9: 2025-26—Health 2025
- [898](#) Response from the Minister for Education and the Arts (Hon. Langbroek), to an E-Petition (4326-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 2,322 petitioners, requesting the House to implement primary school level of road safety education for pedestrians and cyclists into the curriculum; and road safety education on the use of e-bikes and e-scooters in line with the current legal age of 16 years-of-age as part of the Year 10 curriculum
- [899](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. Nicholls), to an E-Petition (4351-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 678 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures to prevent smoke and vaping aerosol from drifting to neighbouring private properties
- [900](#) Response from the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation (Hon. Powell), to an E-Petition (4420-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 719 petitioners, requesting the House to reinstate the planned phasing out of flying fox culling by July 2026
- [901](#) Response from the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership (Hon. Janetzki), to an E-Petition (4346-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,035 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures to transition to a sustainable, low emission, renewable energy system
- [902](#) Response from the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership (Hon. Janetzki), to an E-Petition (4376-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 795 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures to update GST laws
- [903](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an E-Petition (4325-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 3,210 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures to ensure road safety rules include motorised and non-motorised road users
- [904](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an E-Petition (4439-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 2,193 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure a comprehensive community consultation is conducted for the proposed resumption of the Beerwah Co-operative/Shell Service Station site for a 4-storey car park
- [905](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an E-Petition (4440-26), sponsored by the member for Bundaberg, Mr Smith, from 513 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade the intersection of Elliott Heads Road, Sims Road and Churchward Street, Bundaberg
- [906](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an E-Petition (4462-26), sponsored by the member for Bundamba, Mr McCallum, from 1,093 petitioners, requesting the House to provide a safe pedestrian overpass over the Centenary Highway at South Ripley
- [907](#) Response from the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development (Hon. Last), to an E-Petition (4377-26), sponsored by the member for Maiwar, Mr Berkman, from 1,424 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures to preserve native woodland

12 June 2026—

- [908](#) Primary Industries and Resources Committee: Report No 21, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 4 March 2026 and 24 March 2026
- [909](#) Response from the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers (Hon. Leahy), to an E-Petition (4415-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 413 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures to redraft the Brisbane City Council's proposed law changes for short term accommodation
- [910](#) Education, Arts and Communities Committee: Report No. 18, 58th Parliament—Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026
- [911](#) Governance, Energy and Finance Committee: Report No. 25, 58th Parliament—Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026
- [912](#) Governance, Energy and Finance Committee: Report No. 26, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 11 February 2026 and 24 March 2026

- [913](#) Response from the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training (Hon. Bates), to an E-Petition (4425-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 336 petitioners, requesting the House to investigate, create and begin two-year guaranteed traineeships in Queensland for disability pensioners

15 June 2026—

- [914](#) Response from the Minister for Primary Industries (Hon. Perrett), to an E-Petition (4476-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 336 petitioners, requesting the House to review the current prohibition on ferrets and introduce a strictly regulated ownership framework
- [915](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity (Hon. Frecklington), to an E-Petition (4499-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 588 petitioners, requesting the House to protect songs and books from the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Act 2026
- [916](#) Response from the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training (Hon. Bates), E-Petition (4500-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 837 petitioners, requesting the House to pass laws to ensure former politicians and political party heavyweights are not appointed to any position in government owned and run facilities or entities
- [917](#) Response from the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training (Hon. Bates), to a paper petition (4531-26), presented by the member for Hervey Bay, Mr Lee, and an E-Petition (4436-26), sponsored by the member for Hervey Bay, Mr Lee, from 67 and 290 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to do all in its power to ensure a concept plan be developed for the creation of an expanded education precinct to meet the growing education needs of the Hervey Bay community
- [918](#) Response from the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation (Hon. Powell), to an E-Petition (4494-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 180 petitioners, requesting the House to reduce suburban noise pollution from powered garden and yard tools by establishing periods of no-noise in line with many European countries
- [919](#) Response from the Acting Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Hon. Powell), to an E-Petition (4501-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 663 petitioners, requesting the House to ban horse racing throughout Queensland
- [920](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an E-Petition (4485-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,267 petitioners, requesting the House to put an end to high-power scooters usage

17 June 2026—

- [921](#) Queensland Government: Report titled 'Review of the Family and Child Commission Act 2014', February 2026

18 June 2026—

- [922](#) Auditor-General Report 15: 2025-26—Education 2025

19 June 2026—

- [923](#) Auditor-General Report 16: 2025-26—Follow-up audit: Delivering social housing services
- [924](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Australian Institute of Building Surveyors Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2026, No. 75
- [925](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Australian Institute of Building Surveyors Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2026, No. 75, explanatory notes
- [926](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Australian Institute of Building Surveyors Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2026, No. 75, human rights certificate
- [927](#) Professional Standards Act 1994 (NSW): The Australian Institute of Building Surveyors Professional Standards Scheme
- [928](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Surveyors Australia Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2026, No. 76
- [929](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Surveyors Australia Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2026, No. 76, explanatory notes
- [930](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Surveyors Australia Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2026, No. 76, human rights certificate
- [931](#) Professional Standards Act 1994 (NSW): The Surveyors Australia Professional Standards Scheme

22 June 2026—

- [932](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on Official mission to New Zealand by the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Hon. Tim Mander, 19-21 May 2026

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Act 2026:

- [933](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 56

- [934](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 56, explanatory notes
- [935](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 56, human rights certificate

Weapons Act 1990:

- [936](#) Weapons Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 57
- [937](#) Weapons Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 57, explanatory notes
- [938](#) Weapons Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 57, human rights certificate

Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991:

- [939](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission (Fire Protection Licensing) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 58
- [940](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission (Fire Protection Licensing) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 58, explanatory notes
- [941](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission (Fire Protection Licensing) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 58, human rights certificate

Major Events Act 2014:

- [942](#) Major Events (Motor Racing Events) (Townsville 500) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 59
- [943](#) Major Events (Motor Racing Events) (Townsville 500) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 59, explanatory notes
- [944](#) Major Events (Motor Racing Events) (Townsville 500) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 59, human rights certificate

Contract Cleaning Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 2005:

- [945](#) Contract Cleaning Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) (Levy) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 60
- [946](#) Contract Cleaning Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) (Levy) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 60, explanatory notes
- [947](#) Contract Cleaning Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) (Levy) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 60, human rights certificate

Criminal Code Act 1899, Jury Act 1995, Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009, Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991:

- [948](#) Justice Legislation (Allowances) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 61
- [949](#) Justice Legislation (Allowances) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 61, explanatory notes
- [950](#) Justice Legislation (Allowances) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 61, human rights certificate

Motor Accident Insurance Act 1994:

- [951](#) Motor Accident Insurance Indexation Notice 2026, No. 62
- [952](#) Motor Accident Insurance Indexation Notice 2026, No. 62, explanatory notes
- [953](#) Motor Accident Insurance Indexation Notice 2026, No. 62, human rights certificate

Superannuation (State Public Sector) Act 1990, Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991:

- [954](#) Superannuation (State Public Sector) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 63
- [955](#) Superannuation (State Public Sector) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 63, explanatory notes
- [956](#) Superannuation (State Public Sector) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 63, human rights certificate

Government Owned Corporations Act 1993:

- [957](#) Government Owned Corporations (CopperString Restructure) Regulation 2026, No. 64
- [958](#) Government Owned Corporations (CopperString Restructure) Regulation 2026, No. 64, explanatory notes
- [959](#) Government Owned Corporations (CopperString Restructure) Regulation 2026, No. 64, human rights certificate

Electoral Laws (Restoring Electoral Fairness) Amendment Act 2026:

- [960](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 65
- [961](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 65, explanatory notes

Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991:

- [962](#) Uniform Civil Procedure (Fees) (CPI Multiplier) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 66
- [963](#) Uniform Civil Procedure (Fees) (CPI Multiplier) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 66, explanatory notes
- [964](#) Uniform Civil Procedure (Fees) (CPI Multiplier) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 66, human rights certificate

Public Trustee Act 1978:

- [965](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2026, No. 67
- [966](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2026, No. 67, explanatory notes
- [967](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2026, No. 67, human rights certificate

Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Act 2026:

- [968](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 68
- [969](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 68, explanatory notes
- [970](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 68, human rights certificate

Fire Services Act 1990:

- [971](#) Fire Services Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 69
- [972](#) Fire Services Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 69, explanatory notes
- [973](#) Fire Services Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 69, human rights certificate

Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995, Planning Act 2016:

- [974](#) Coastal Protection and Management and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 70
- [975](#) Coastal Protection and Management and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 70, explanatory notes
- [976](#) Coastal Protection and Management and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 70, human rights certificate

Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [977](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) (Daintree) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 71
- [978](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) (Daintree) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 71, explanatory notes
- [979](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) (Daintree) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 71, human rights certificate

Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [980](#) Nature Conservation Legislation (Cooktown Area) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 72
- [981](#) Nature Conservation Legislation (Cooktown Area) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 72, explanatory notes
- [982](#) Nature Conservation Legislation (Cooktown Area) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 72, human rights certificate

Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Act 2026:

- [983](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 73
- [984](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 73, explanatory notes
- [985](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 73, human rights certificate

Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000:

- [986](#) Police Powers and Responsibilities (Maryborough Designated Business and Community Precinct) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 74
- [987](#) Police Powers and Responsibilities (Maryborough Designated Business and Community Precinct) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 74, explanatory notes
- [988](#) Police Powers and Responsibilities (Maryborough Designated Business and Community Precinct) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 74, human rights certificate

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Budget

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.46 am): This afternoon the Treasurer will hand down the 2026-27 budget. This budget strengthens the foundations we have laid for a fresh start. It stays true to the things that we said we would do. It provides real cost-of-living relief. It backs Queensland families and businesses. Importantly, for the second year in a row our budget will contain no new taxes and no increased taxes. While other governments are finding new ways to tax you, we are finding new ways to make things a little easier for families. We are delivering the budget repair we outlined in our first budget and restoring respect for taxpayers' money.

Queensland is not immune to the challenges facing other states in Australia and countries across the world. There are national pressures outside our control and we continue to deal with the fiscal challenges inherited after a decade of Labor mismanagement, but it is important that we do our bit. That is why this budget will deliver structural long-term relief that Queenslanders can rely on—not one-off announcements and not temporary fixes but practical measures that make a difference every day.

Queenslanders know that household bills have been rising for too long. This budget will deliver lower power prices thanks to our Energy Roadmap and Electricity Maintenance Guarantee. For regional Queenslanders served by Ergon Energy, we are passing on the price drop in full. We have called on other retailers to do the same. We have also announced that this budget will freeze bulk water prices in South-East Queensland for the next two years. We made a deliberate decision to set aside indexation

proposals and freeze the charges. Now we demand that water retailers ensure these savings are passed on in full. These measures build on the cost-of-living support we have already delivered. The Back to School Boost, Play On! sports vouchers and permanent 50-cent fares are locked into this budget because we know they are making a difference.

Just like last year, this will be a budget that honours our commitment as we work to address the health, crime and housing crises left by Labor. We are continuing to deliver a record number of health workers, and our Hospital Rescue Plan is delivering more than 2,600 new beds statewide. We will back police by giving them the vital equipment they need to do their job while investing in early intervention measures to stop crime before it starts. We are bringing forward funding to double round 2 of our Residential Activation Fund, with \$1 billion to unlock new residential developments and deliver record funds to build new social and community homes.

The 2026-27 budget will strengthen the foundations we laid for a fresh start. We have taken a calm, methodical and responsible approach to ongoing budget repair while we continue to deliver on our commitments to Queensland.

Budget, Residential Activation Fund



Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.49 am): It is budget day, and the Crisafulli government will continue to deliver the fresh start that we promised Queenslanders. I am looking forward to the honourable Treasurer handing down the budget. As the honourable Premier just said, we are taking the decisive position in the budget to double round 2 of the Residential Activation Fund.

Mr Stevens: Build, build, build!

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection—build, baby, build! We are unlocking land right across the state with round 1: 98,000 blocks of land unlocked because we want people to have a place to call home in Queensland. The good news keeps going. This budget being handed down today by the Crisafulli government doubles the investment in the Residential Activation Fund round 2 from \$500 million to \$1 billion. That means trunk infrastructure of \$2 billion being spent across a matter of years, accelerating and unlocking blocks of land right across the state.

In the last three weeks I have spent a lot of time in regional Queensland. If I had more time, if it was not budget day, I would have a song for this, but alas we do not have time for another song today.

Mr Stevens: *I've Been Everywhere!*

Mr BLEIJIE: I have been everywhere! I will say this: in my travels across this great state we are turning sods and cutting ribbons on Residential Activation Fund round 1 projects. I was pleased to join the Premier and the members for Pumicestone, Redcliffe and Burpengary in meeting Alisha and Merrick, a young couple who, through our Residential Activation Fund, will be able to buy their very first home. This is why we do it: real Queenslanders with real homes. I was also pleased to be in Rockhampton, Yeppoon and Bundaberg last week turning more sods on some amazing RAF projects in Central Queensland and the Wide Bay, joining the members for Rockhampton, Keppel and Burnett to deliver homes in their regions. More than 50 per cent of the RAF is being spent outside of South-East Queensland, in rural, regional and remote Queensland.

I also visited the Fraser Coast, joining the members for Maryborough and Hervey Bay, turning sods and cutting ribbons, unlocking 20 new homes in Maryborough because of a new electrical substation put in place because of RAF. I want to say thank you to the members for Barron River, Cook, Mulgrave and Hinchinbrook, whom I also joined recently to turn sods on new trunk infrastructure in Atherton, Innisfail and Mareeba in the North and Far North. Labor put mandates on housing, stalling approvals and stifling investment in our state. Only the Crisafulli government has a real plan to unlock more land, giving more Queenslanders a place to call home.

TAFE



Hon. RM BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (9.51 am): I rise today because Queenslanders deserve honesty. For weeks now, the Albanese Labor government has been telling Queenslanders 'there's nothing to see here' when it comes to the proposed free TAFE agreement: no funding cut, no problems, no need to be concerned. The only real problem with that argument is that even the Commonwealth Department of Employment and Workplace Relations does not agree with it. The Commonwealth department has now confirmed what the Crisafulli

government has been saying all along: under Canberra's proposed new free TAFE agreement, Queensland would receive \$199 less in Commonwealth funding for each free TAFE place delivered—not more, less. The maths is simple. Let's go through it.

Today, Queensland receives \$1,958 per free TAFE student from the Commonwealth. Under Labor's proposed new deal, that falls to \$1,759. That is how we get to the \$199 reduction per place. Across the life of the agreement that is \$21 million less from Canberra in total. Under the proposed agreement, federal Labor wants Queensland taxpayers to pick up half of that bill. That shifts a \$187 million burden onto Queensland. Add the two together and Queensland is left \$208 million worse off.

That is what makes today's budget so important. While Canberra is looking for ways to contribute less, the Crisafulli LNP government is investing in the skills Queensland needs. We want more training. We want to deliver more training places. Today's budget backs that in. It backs TAFE, it backs apprenticeships and it backs the training pipeline Queensland needs for a stronger economy.

Canberra wants to contribute less and have Queensland taxpayers make up the difference. This is the same federal Labor government that loves standing in front of cameras talking about free TAFE, but when it comes time to pay the bill we do not hear a word. We already fund around 70 per cent of the cost of delivering free TAFE. We fully funded free nursing—2,000 places this year. We are fully funding free apprenticeships. We are training the nurses, tradies, care workers and skilled workers needed to build homes, strengthen communities and prepare for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. While Canberra talks about free TAFE, Queensland is delivering it.

While we are delivering for Queensland, the Albanese government is cutting funding. Since the May federal budget we have seen Canberra look to change not only TAFE but also NDIS and Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. The Albanese government's budget has come at the expense of Queenslanders. Every dollar Canberra takes off the table is a dollar that could have supported more training or more health services or given more support for disaster-affected communities. The Crisafulli government will not give up the fight for a fair deal and we will continue to call out the Albanese Labor government for continually trying to short-change our state.

Budget, Health Services



Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.55 am): The Crisafulli government is getting on with the job of doing what we said we would do: delivering better services through a stronger economy after Labor's decade of decline. Our second budget delivers a record \$35.5 billion investment in the delivery of health services, construction of new and expanded hospitals and more health workers to deliver quality care across the state. This record investment means easier access to health services closer to home for more Queenslanders.

While we continue to strengthen and expand health services across regional Queensland, the decentralised nature of our state means there will be times when patients do need to travel to access specialist treatment. Like the Deputy Premier, I have been travelling the state talking to patients in our hospitals. We know that travelling for medical care can be stressful and costly. As fuel prices continue to increase, the last thing patients should be worrying about is how they will afford to fuel their vehicle to travel for treatment. That is why the Crisafulli government is boosting the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme to a record investment of \$140 million—\$20 million more than the last time those opposite were in power.

Our second budget will increase the private motor vehicle subsidy by a third—from 34 cents to 45 cents per kilometre—providing much needed relief at the bowser. This is in sharp contrast to those opposite, who ignored rural Queenslanders and failed to increase PTSS subsidies for eight years. We know that rural dialysis patients are regular and ongoing users of the PTSS, typically required to travel long distances for dialysis three times per week. For example, an Emerald patient who travels to Rockhampton Hospital three times a week for dialysis will be better off under our scheme by \$180 per week thanks to this budget investment. Importantly, we are also investing in new technology and better processes to help speed up reimbursement timeframes for as many patients as possible.

The Crisafulli government is healing Labor's health crisis: we are bringing ramping down, we have stabilised the elective surgery waitlist and we are building the new hospital beds that Queenslanders need. Importantly, this budget delivers practical and permanent cost-of-living relief for regional and rural patients. This government is delivering for Queensland.

Budget, Road and Rail Infrastructure



Hon. BA MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.58 am): The Crisafulli government is delivering for the Gold Coast. I was very pleased to be joined by the Premier, the Treasurer and the members for Bonney, Southport, Currumbin and Burleigh yesterday as we announced city-shaping transport projects for this growing region. Our government will deliver an extension of Gold Coast Light Rail to Harbour Town and the delivery of the GC Surfer metro style services from Robina to Coolangatta via the Gold Coast Airport. The Gold Coast Light Rail network will expand with a 3.2-kilometre extension running along Labrador-Carrara Road—Olsen Avenue—and Hope Island Road—Oxley Drive. The extension will include three new stations at Musgrave Avenue, Labrador and Biggera Waters, additional light rail vehicles and essential light rail depot upgrades to ensure seamless operations.

On the southern Gold Coast, we will see a new GC Surfer roll out. It will allow us to provide mass transit quicker, cheaper and without the huge impacts of light rail that locals were so concerned about. Connecting Robina, Varsity Lakes, Burleigh Heads, the airport and Coolangatta, it is a transport solution that will not run roughshod over local communities.

I want to acknowledge that these projects would not be happening without the strong advocacy of local LNP members of parliament who have been fighting for their communities. It is their advocacy that has paid off for their communities. Those projects are an important part of the \$55.9 billion QTRIP program that is delivering much needed infrastructure right across Queensland after a decade of decline under Labor.

The biggest investment in the transport and road network in Queensland's history will see generational delivery, including our \$9 billion Bruce Highway targeted safety program, which already has 65 projects underway or complete and another 52 tenders set to be released in the coming financial year. Through the Country Roads Connect Program we will continue to partner with councils to deliver priority missing links along regional routes to keep communities connected. Investments in Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail, the Wave, the Rockhampton Ring Road and our large program of betterment works, in partnership with the federal government, are all progressing.

After a decade of decline, our government, the Crisafulli government, is getting on with the job of delivering the transport and road infrastructure that Queenslanders expect and deserve. Today's budget will build on that record of delivery with the investment needed to keep building the roads and the rail required to protect our way of life and to drive a stronger economy.

Budget, Police Resources



Hon. DG PURDIE (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (10.00 am): The Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland. We are delivering on our commitment to back the front line as we continue to make Queensland safer and turn the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis. Every day across Queensland, police officers put themselves in harm's way to protect our communities. They are often the first on the scene at serious incidents, responding to dangerous situations with little regard for their own safety. That is why it is critical that they have access to the best possible equipment to protect themselves, their colleagues and the Queenslanders they serve.

Today, I am proud to confirm that every frontline police officer across Queensland is now equipped with a life-saving tactical first-aid kit. This critical piece of equipment forms part of the Crisafulli government's \$147.9 million investment in the front line, following a decade of financial mismanagement under Labor. The kits have been specifically designed for high-risk operational environments and contain essential medical equipment such as tourniquets, compression bandages and chest seals. They are designed to treat life-threatening injuries where every second counts. Whether a fellow officer is injured in the line of duty or a member of the public is involved in a serious incident, these kits will help save lives. The successful statewide rollout of 12,500 kits was supported by a \$5.6 million investment in the Crisafulli government's first budget. It forms part of our broader \$147.9 million commitment to deliver to the Queensland Police Service critical equipment like Taser 10s, body worn cameras and tyre deflation devices.

Labor failed to adequately invest in the safety of our hardworking frontline police who continue to put their own lives at risk to restore safety where you live. The Crisafulli government has taken a fundamentally different approach. We are backing police with stronger laws, better resources and the support they need to keep Queenslanders safe. The results speak for themselves. For the first time in the state's history, Queensland police numbers have surged past 13,000. We have already exceeded our election commitment by swearing in more than 1,800 new police officers, which is a net increase of

more than 700 officers. Unplanned attrition has dropped below three per cent, which is in stark contrast to what we saw under Labor when officers were leaving in droves. The number of victims of crime in Queensland, which rose by 193 per cent under Labor, dropped by 7.2 per cent in 2025. However, we know there is still a long way to go to make Queensland safer after the former Labor government repeatedly watered down laws and created the youth crime crisis during their decade of decline.

Our police put themselves in harm's way every single day. They deserve the tools, equipment, laws and support they need to do their job safely and effectively. That is exactly what the Crisafulli government is delivering as we continue to make Queensland safer.

Budget, Social and Affordable Housing

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (10.03 am): The Crisafulli government's second budget will deliver the biggest investment in building social and community housing of any government in Queensland's history. Our record \$5.725 billion capital program will help deliver our commitment of 53,500 social and community homes by 2044. Queenslanders know that the housing crisis did not just happen overnight. For over a decade under Labor, supply went nowhere near keeping pace with demand. Their response was failed mandates and unfunded announcements. It was all about just looking like they were doing something to fix the crisis they created. Labor's policy stopped projects from even getting started, smashing supply delivery and leaving tens of thousands of Queenslanders without homes.

We are taking a different approach. Today's budget includes an additional \$1.024 billion investment in building social and community homes, taking our four-year capital program to a record \$5.725 billion. We are backing that investment with a permanent baseline funding commitment of \$500 million a year from 2030-31 onwards because solving housing challenges requires long-term commitment, not short-term announcements.

More importantly, we are delivering results. Compared to Labor's average of just 509 social homes being added each year over the past decade, we now have a record pipeline of more than 6,500 social and affordable homes under contract or construction. I am proud to say that nearly 70 per cent of that pipeline is being delivered in partnership with community housing providers, because we on this side of the House know that government cannot solve these challenges alone.

We also recognise that different Queenslanders need different housing responses. As part of that record investment into building social and community housing, we are continuing to expand supportive and other wraparound housing options for Queenslanders with complex needs. We are investing in 10 new or upgraded domestic and family violence shelters and more purpose-built temporary supported accommodation that provides a more appropriate environment than hotels or motels while people get on a pathway to long-term housing outcomes. After Labor opened just two youth foyers over the past 10 years, we already have eight new youth foyers underway across our state. We are investing in practical responses, long-term housing pathways and the services that help vulnerable Queenslanders get back on their feet.

This budget is about delivery. It is about more homes, more homelessness support and more certainty for frontline services. After a decade of decline, the Crisafulli government is turning around Labor's housing crisis. We are getting on with the job of delivering a place to call home for more Queenslanders.

Budget, Water; Federal Government, Disaster Response and Recovery Funding

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (10.06 am): This week the Crisafulli government is delivering a budget that strengthens the foundations for a fresh start. The bulk water price freeze is protecting Queensland households and businesses from further cost-of-living pain. We are beginning to turn around Queensland Labor's shameful legacy of the most expensive water in the nation. Our deliberate decision to set aside indexation proposals and freeze charges will mean savings for households and businesses. This budget is also delivering real progress on water security and funding to progress Emu Swamp Dam. We are delivering water security for our regions after a decade of Labor decline, delay and broken promises.

By contrast, as the Crisafulli government delivers for Queensland, we see the federal Labor Albanese government has turned its back on communities. The recently announced cuts to disaster response and recovery funding are sending a wrecking ball through disaster recovery arrangements. This will break our regional communities. The proposed 50-50 split will shift hundreds of millions of

dollars onto our councils, potentially bankrupting them. The disaster activation threshold has been raised tenfold, meaning communities that would have qualified for support will be left without, not because their disaster was less devastating but because Canberra changed the definition. Over 99 per cent of betterment projects funded in the past 13 years would have been ineligible under the new criteria. That means that a billion dollars in betterment investment across 770 projects would never have happened in Queensland.

Counter-disaster operations funding, which covers the cost of councils responding to a natural disaster, has disappeared from Labor's proposed new framework. Examples of counter-disaster operations include sandbagging, evacuation centres, drinking water quality tests, and debris and green waste removal. These are federal Labor's cuts to Queensland disaster impacted communities and we will call them out all the way.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 11.09 am.

Transport Infrastructure



Mr MILES (10.09 am): My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. The Premier said projects would be delivered on time and on budget. I table secret documents revealed on channel 7 news. Can the minister advise why an additional \$927 million is now required to deliver the LNP government's transport election commitments?

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from 7 News titled 'Secret Documents' regarding Department of Transport and Main Roads [1009].

Mr MICKELBERG: I thank the Leader of the Opposition—some of the opposition—for the question. They have gone missing. Just like they were in government, they have gone missing. I do not know where they are. Maybe they are in the lock-up.

Mrs Frecklington: They are doing the numbers.

Mr MICKELBERG: They are doing the numbers—I take the interjection from the Attorney.

Mr Nicholls: They missed the bus.

Mr MICKELBERG: They missed the bus! Oh, nice to see a few come back. We are getting on with the job of delivering the road and rail infrastructure that Queenslanders need and Queenslanders deserve. I inform the House in relation to the quantum of the investment and the delivery that is underway in the transport and main roads portfolio—\$55.9 billion to be invested—

Mr Mellish: Blowout!

Mr MICKELBERG: I tell you what, they have a thick skin! I take the interjection from the member for Aspley—the architect of \$6.7 billion in blowouts on his watch. QTRIP blowouts—\$6.7 billion under the member for Aspley, and not a single project on time or on budget. The member for Aspley's record is \$6.7 billion in blowouts. That is what he presided over in the just under 12 months that he was the minister for transport and main roads. Not a single project delivered on time or on budget; that is their record.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: He is only surpassed by one, and I can hear him interjecting as well—the overrun overlord himself, the member for Miller. Who can forget Cross River Rail and the member for Miller's record there? \$5.4 billion—that is what he said. 2024—that is what he said. What do we see now? It is \$19 billion in 2029. That is what we inherited from those opposite.

I am asked the question by the current Leader of the Opposition. What is his record when it comes to delivering major infrastructure? Let's talk about the Cairns Common User Facility, a \$387 million project that he announced when he was the minister for state development. Those opposite knew when they sat around the cabinet table in June 2024 that they could not deliver that inside that funding envelope—not even close. It was hundreds of millions of dollars more. They knew that. They did not tell Queenslanders.

By contrast, we are getting on with the job. In fact, just last week I stood with the federal member for Leichhardt, a Labor minister, to announce the opening of expressions of interest for the private sector to deliver the Cairns Common User Facility. There has been radio silence from those opposite on that. Presumably, it is because they are ashamed of their record—\$6.7 billion in QTRIP blowouts and a legacy of failure.

(Time expired)

Coomera Connector

Mr MILES: My question is to the Minister for Transport. On the Coomera Connector the Department of Transport director-general said there was 'a commitment to delivering a future stage by 2032'. I table leaked documents revealing the project has now been deferred.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from 7 News titled 'Secret Documents' regarding Coomera Connector Stage 2 [1010].

Will stage 2 of the Coomera Connector between Coomera and Pimpama be delivered in time for the Olympics?

Mr MICKELBERG: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. It is only the Crisafulli government who is investing in subsequent stages of the Coomera Connector. In fact, through our budget last year, we fully funded the detailed design for stage 2 from Shipper Drive to Yawalpah Road.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: I hear those opposite interjecting. Those opposite, when they were in power, had no ability to deliver. They did not even think about delivering Shipper Drive to Yawalpah Road. By contrast, we are getting on with the job of delivering Shipper Drive to Yawalpah Road. Those opposite know full well that there is only one level of government that stands between us and our ability to deliver subsequent stages of the Coomera Connector, and that is the federal Labor government—

Mr Miles interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you asked the question so allow the minister to answer.

Mr MICKELBERG: There is only one level of government that is standing between us and delivering these subsequent stages of the Coomera Connector and that is the federal Labor government. In fact, it is only the Crisafulli government who is investing in subsequent stages of the Coomera Connector. The federal government can do two things to help aid the delivery of the Coomera Connector: firstly, approve the EPBC which is still outstanding, as it is on so many transport and infrastructure projects across this state. The federal government are slowing down the delivery of major infrastructure projects because of their own legislative changes. They had to cut a deal with the Greens in the federal parliament and they are making it harder to deliver infrastructure, whether it is road or rail or for houses. It is only the federal Labor government that has made it harder to deliver those projects.

Secondly, if those opposite genuinely want to see the subsequent stages of the Coomera Connector delivered—Shipper Drive to Yawalpah Road—they should pick up the phone to the federal government—pick up the phone to Albo, pick up the phone to Catherine King—and ask the federal government to commit their fair share. We expect the federal government to work with us to fund the major infrastructure that Queensland needs and Queensland deserves. It is only the Crisafulli state government that is doing the heavy lifting when it comes to delivering road and rail infrastructure here in Queensland.

I do not blame the federal government for having doubts about the former government's ability to deliver infrastructure on time and on budget. A \$6.7 billion blowout in QTRIP told the Labor federal government everything they needed to know about the former state government. By contrast, if I look at the Bruce Highway Targeted Safety Program—a \$9 billion program that works—\$4.5 billion of that will be contracted by the end of the next financial year. Half of that \$9 billion program—\$4.5 billion—will be out the door by the end of the next financial year. I was speaking with the federal minister just last week and she indicated she thought that was considerably faster than she had seen in the past. I welcome their support. I call on those opposite to pick up the phone to Canberra and ask them to fund their fair share of the Coomera Connector.

Budget, Investment

Mr BAILLIE: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. How has the Crisafulli LNP government delivered for Queensland since our last budget, and is the Premier aware of any alternative approaches that failed to deliver for Queensland during a decade of decline?

Mr CRISAFULLI: It is a great question. I had hoped there would be another question for the transport minister, but alas I will answer this question because it is a good one from a member who is fighting very hard for his electorate and for the north, and I want to acknowledge that. The member asked me about investments. The last 12 months, and indeed today, will prove two things to the people of Queensland. The first is they are seeing improvements in service delivery and they are seeing the construction of things coming out. The second thing is it is a reminder of the scare campaign that failed so badly. They live and breathe it every day because Queenslanders are seeing a government that does as it says it will do.

I want to start with health. We all saw what happened during the campaign—both campaigns; I will get onto the second one in a moment. What are we seeing in health? We are seeing an investment pipeline like never before. Since the change of government there have been an additional 9,000 people working in Queensland Health—additional. We have seen ambulance ramping fall, we have seen waitlists stabilise—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take that laughter from those opposite because it is coming down. It is getting closer to 30 per cent. I cannot wait for the numbers for future quarters. We are seeing beds delivered and we are seeing services return to the bush. Compare that with the scare campaign of those opposite. There is a reason the member for Stafford, supported by the Greens and the Socialists, was able to come into this place with only 30 per cent: health workers saw through the campaign and they did not vote for him.

Look at police—a record investment. We said we would deliver 1,600 recruits, but we have already gone past that number in half the time—an increase of 700 officers on the front line. That is 10 times the number those opposite delivered and in less than half the time. Their scare campaign about resources did not eventuate. Today the minister has put another one to rest, and I congratulate him on it.

What did we hear from those opposite on housing, on investing in the RAF and on social and community housing? Do members remember the comments about youth foyers? He has delivered four times as many in less than half the time. Do members remember the scare campaign about the waitlists? He is delivering on reducing them.

On the cost of living there is the road map to drive down power prices, and we are locking in permanent relief. In the last 12 months Queenslanders have seen this government delivering for this state. Today they will see those foundations further strengthened for the fresh start we promised.

(Time expired)

The Wave

Mr MELLISH: My question is to the Minister for Transport. I table documents from the LNP's CBRC meeting leaked to Channel 7.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from 7 News titled 'Secret Documents' regarding the Wave Stage 2 [1011].

Can the minister confirm that stage 3 alone of the Wave is expected to cost \$5 billion?

Mr MICKELBERG: I thank the member for Aspley for the question. It is a courageous question from the member for Aspley, given his first act as minister was to roll over for the federal government. He rolled over and let them cut funding to the Mooloolah River Interchange on the Sunshine Coast. That is his record. The member for Aspley's record is \$6.7 billion in QTRIP blowouts and not a single project delivered on time or on budget. That is the member for Aspley's record.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! When I rise to my feet everybody is to stop talking. Member for Aspley, you are warned. You have had a fair run this morning. The warning is not just for that interjection; you have made a number of them.

Mr MICKELBERG: Just for the record, it is spelt with a 'B', not an 'M', Mr Speaker. Bart Bellish—

Mr Power interjected.

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

Mr MICKELBERG: I am asked about our record investment on the Sunshine Coast. We are delivering the Wave, which is something those opposite said they would deliver but never did. Before I came into this parliament, those opposite said that they would build heavy rail to Caloundra by 2015

and on to Maroochydore by 2020. Did they ever start that work? Never. In fact, only our government has awarded contracts to get that project going. I was very pleased to stand with the members for Caloundra and Kawana to announce the awarding of those construction contracts for stage 1 of the Wave.

What we are delivering on the Sunshine Coast, including through the Wave and the Mooloolah River Interchange, is a once-in-a-generation investment in major transport infrastructure for the Sunshine Coast. In fact, I was reminded the other day that when it comes to road or rail the biggest investment on the Sunshine Coast has been about \$960 million on the Caloundra Road to Sunshine Motorway upgrades.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was about a specific section of the project, which the minister is yet to address. I ask you to bring him back to a relevant answer.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you heard the question.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Deputy Premier!

Mr MICKELBERG: I welcome the opportunity to talk about our investment in the Sunshine Coast. As I was saying, the largest project ever delivered on the Sunshine Coast to date has been the Caloundra Road to Sunshine Motorway upgrades, which cost about \$960 million. We are delivering tens of billions of dollars for the Sunshine Coast, including on the Wave and the Mooloolah River Interchange.

Those opposite said that they were happy to roll over for the federal government and accept the funding cut from the federal government. That was the member for Aspley's first act.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: I take his interjection. The member for Aspley rolled over on a 50-50 funding split with the federal government. In fact, an allocation of funding was made by the Morrison government and those opposite tacitly supported the federal government cutting funding. By contrast, we are getting on with the job of delivering, including on the Wave, the Mooloolah River Interchange and the Caloundra congestion-busting plan. We are delivering for the Sunshine Coast—something those opposite never could.

To get this question from the member for Aspley, who presided over a litany of failures in his short time as the minister for transport and main roads, is galling for the people of the Sunshine Coast. They know that the member for Aspley rolled over on the Mooloolah River Interchange. Queenslanders had their say in October 2024.

(Time expired)

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister took an interjection from the member for Aspley, who was on a warning. I bring that to your attention.

Mr MELLISH: On the point of order: I did not interject. It is more rubbish from the minister.

Mr SPEAKER: I did not hear it, so I will take your word that you did not interject. There was so much noise in the chamber that it was a bit hard to hear.

Budget, Housing Supply

Mr STEVENS: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. The Crisafulli LNP government has a strong record of unlocking more homes for Queenslanders across the state, including on the Gold Coast. Can the Deputy Premier advise the House how the upcoming budget will continue to deliver more houses for Queenslanders, and is he aware of any alternative approaches during a decade of decline?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the honourable member for Mermaid Beach for the question. It is an important question for Queenslanders. We know that after a decade of decline we still have a housing crisis, which was caused by the failed policies of the former Labor government. We are unlocking so much land across the state. We have a 'Delivering for Queensland' blue shovel that many members would have seen. I have so many calluses on my hands now: the working hands—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! That was borderline misleading the House.

Mr BLEIJIE: These are the hands of a worker who has been in regional Queensland turning sods, delivering houses and unlocking land across the state. I assure you of that, Mr Speaker.

The member asked about the Gold Coast. Not only are we delivering the Residential Activation Fund, the Land Activation Program at Varsity Lakes—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I draw your attention to the clock.

Mr BLEIJIE: We are unlocking land through the Residential Activation Fund, through the Land Activation Program across the state and through the state facilitated development process. Those opposite initiated that process and put powers in place for the ministers to use, but how many homes did they approve under the SFD process? Zero. Zero homes were approved under the SFD process.

I can announce that within 48 hours of changing it based on feedback from the development industry, which did not have one home approved under Labor's SFD process, I approved 2,500 new homes to be developed by the Walker Corporation—2½ thousand homes. Did they oppose those homes? If the mandate had stayed in place, the Walker Corporation would not have been able to proceed with that development.

The question asked about alternatives. For a year and a half we have been turning sods and unlocking land. Not only are we turning sods; we are now cutting ribbons on infrastructure projects that are unlocking land across the state for Queenslanders to build homes on. Do members know what the Labor Party did last week? They had a housing summit round table. Where have we heard that before? The Labor Party's answer to the housing crisis was to have another housing round table.

The time for round tables was over a year and a half ago. We have to get on with the job and build the homes. Round tables do not deliver homes; development approvals deliver homes. That is what we are delivering. In Banyo we have approved affordable homes, aged-care homes and townhouses. Guess what? There are no mandates. We approved affordable homes and community housing at Banyo with no mandates. The Labor policy failures continue under their round tables.

(Time expired)

The Wave

Mr DICK: My question is to the Minister for Transport. It has been revealed that \$1.27 billion in funding for the Wave stage 3 has been brought forward to pay for stage 2. Can the minister advise how much will stage 2 of the Wave now cost?

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: I thank the member for Woodridge. I take the interjection from the Attorney-General: debt is a tool. It is not the only tool. Let's talk about the Wave stage 2—something those opposite could not commit to. They did not want to do it. In fact, they did none of the work required to meaningfully fund the infrastructure like the Wave stage 2 and stage 3 and the MRI. In fact, I just spoke about how they rolled over when the federal government cut funding to these major transport projects on the Sunshine Coast.

In contrast, we are getting on with the job. In fact, if anything, as a Sunshine Coast local member, the feedback that I get from Sunshine Coast residents is that there is that much going on in terms of construction on these big transport projects it is a bit confronting for locals, to be honest. They are not used to seeing the large-scale works that are happening on the Sunny Coast. I explain to them that that is because we have had 10 years of a Labor government. They do not build things; they just talk about them. Then the budget blows out—\$6.7 billion. I explain to them that the member for Miller was the minister responsible for an extended period of time. Then his apprentice, the member for Aspley, took over. They really did not want to build things. They wanted to slow them down and talk about them but not actually build them. In contrast, we want to get on with the job.

We are really pleased to be investing in major infrastructure projects on the Sunny Coast, whether it is the Wave stage 2, whether it is the MRI, whether it is important projects in my own electorate like the Sugar Road-Mooloolaba Road intersection. I have acknowledged this in the House before: when the member for Miller was the former transport minister, to his credit, he came and had a look at that intersection with me when I was a back bencher. I give credit where credit is due.

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

Mr MICKELBERG: Wait, there's more.

Mr de BRENNI: The minister is not being relevant to the question. The question was specifically about cost.

Mr SPEAKER: Your point of order is on relevance?

Mr de BRENNI: Yes, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, it is a fair point of order. The question was specifically about stage 2 and cost, if you could come to that in the minute you have remaining.

Mr MICKELBERG: I will continue contrasting the record of those opposite who did not fund the Wave stage 2.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister—but remember the question.

Mr MICKELBERG: Indeed, Mr Speaker. As I was saying, those opposite failed to fund the Wave stage 2. In contrast, we are getting on with the job of funding the Wave stage 2 and stage 3 and the Mooloolah River Interchange upgrade stage 1 and projects like Sugar Road-Mooloolaba Road and the Caloundra congestion-busting—

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: I take the interjection from the member for Bonney. The member for Miller came out and had a look at a project in my electorate. He acknowledged it was dangerous. He acknowledged it was congested. To his credit, he committed funding in the budget. Then fast forward 12 months and he cut that funding and abolished the program.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That is in no way relevant to the question. You have instructed the minister—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I am listening to the point of order on relevance.

Mr de BRENNI: If he has nothing more relevant to say, I submit that he should conclude his answer.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister has answered the question directly and he also took an interjection from the member for Bonney which he was responding to.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I have not heard an answer to the question. You can either answer the question or conclude.

Mr MICKELBERG: I was asked directly about reallocating funding from projects on the Sunshine Coast to other projects on the Sunshine Coast. I am making the contrast that those opposite just cut the funding rather than reallocate funding—whether it was the Mooloolaba River Interchange; whether it was Sugar Road-Mooloolaba Road; whether it was the Wave stage 2, which had zero funding allocated for construction by those opposite. That is their record. All those opposite have to rely on is that we are allocating too much funding to build these projects. We will get on with the job of delivering the infrastructure that the Sunny Coast needs because those opposite never could.

(Time expired)

Health System

Mr BENNETT: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. How has the Crisafulli LNP government delivered improvements to the Queensland health system since our first budget, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches that have neglected our health system after a decade of decline?

A government member: Great question.

Mr NICHOLLS: It is a great question from the member for Burnett, who continues, as he has done for many years now, to advocate relentlessly in relation to health matters for the people of Bundaberg. We all remember Bundaberg because we remember Dr Jayant Patel, who was allowed free rein under those opposite. It is very important that the member for Burnett continues to advocate in a very effective way in relation to the ongoing health crisis being experienced by those in the Wide Bay as a result of Labor's decade of decline.

Labor did fail the Bundaberg community and the Wide Bay community with their poorly developed plan for the new hospital. They ignored clinical advice and had a split-campus approach. As we know, my good friend the book of 'Labor's Hospital Failures', which continues to grow, indicates that there

was more than a billion dollar blowout from \$1.2 billion and delay by at least 18 months. That is the outcome of those things. That book is not big enough anymore, so I now have the 'Big Book of Blunders', which contains more blunders—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! That is a prop. Minister, no more props. That is a deliberate use of props.

Mr NICHOLLS: You are right, Mr Speaker. It is deliberate because that book has got bigger and bigger as the blunders from those opposite have continued to grow. We know those blunders because of their failures.

Another example of Labor's failure is their failure to fund the expansion and opening of the Mater Springfield Hospital. They failed to put \$600-plus million into the budget. We would have had a *Yes Minister* situation where we would have had an empty shell and no doctors and no nurses. We also know they failed Bundaberg because they let ambulance ramping get to 45.5 per cent. The member for Burnett will be happy to know that the current figure for Bundaberg Hospital ramping is now at its lowest level at 34.5 per cent—34.5 per cent when those left it at over 45 per cent—and the elective surgery waitlist is down to 682 from over 1,100 under those opposite.

We are delivering services to the Wide Bay including a master plan for the Bundaberg Hospital. The member for Burnett will be happy to know that piling rigs arrived yesterday on the Bundaberg Hospital expansion site and they will be piling from Friday. We are delivering the health services to Bundaberg that those opposite failed to do. We are delivering our 410-bed rescue plan for the Bundaberg Hospital—more than those opposite delivered—fully functioning from one campus and out of the flood zone, delivering acute services. We are delivering when those opposite failed to do so for a decade.

The Wave

Ms FENTIMAN: My question is to the Minister for Transport. I tabled leaked documents that show fleet and other enabling infrastructure works like depots will need further funding as part of the Wave.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from 7 News titled 'Secret Documents' regarding the Department of Transport and Main Roads awarding further contracts to complete core civil infrastructure works [\[1012\]](#).

Will the minister guarantee that complementary Wave works will be delivered on time and within the \$5.5 billion budget for stage 1?

Mr MICKELBERG: I appreciate the question from the member for Waterford. It looks like a bit of a stitch-up of the member for Miller, to be honest. Who can remember their announcement in relation to the fleet required for Cross River Rail and projects like the Wave? The member for Miller had a little bit of a multibillion dollar revision between press releases when it came to their own rolling stock purchases. Perhaps if we look at Cross River Rail, they conveniently ignored really important enabling infrastructure like Clapham Yard and the signals that would be required to operate within that network. That is why those projects blew out so disgracefully under those opposite from \$5.4 billion to more than \$19 billion. That is their record when it comes to delivering major infrastructure.

In contrast, we will deliver major projects, including the Wave, in a calm, considered and methodical way. We will consider all of the aspects that are required to deliver that infrastructure, including rolling stock and our most recent investment, announced yesterday on the Gold Coast, in relation to the light rail extension between the hospital and Harbour Town. In my ministerial statement I spoke about the fact that we are including investment in depots and the rolling stock required. We will continue to do the work required to deliver major projects on time and on budget. In contrast, their record is abysmal.

Mr Bailey: What about the question?

Mr MICKELBERG: I hear the interjection again from the member for Miller. He is a slow learner. It is little wonder the CCC described him as foolish. He has still not learned. I will not use a prop. If you were the member for Miller and you were sitting there listening to questions about cost overruns, would you sit there in silence or would you interject? I reckon I would sit there in silence if my record looked like his: Cross River Rail, failure under the member for Miller; QTRIP blowouts left, right and centre under the member for Miller; projects cut, deliberately deceiving people when it comes to the cost of major rolling stock purchases. I know the CCC described him as foolish—

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I obviously take personal offence and ask that it be withdrawn.

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

Mr MICKELBERG: I withdraw. The member opposite has a guilty conscience because he knows that under the—

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and ask it be withdrawn.

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

Mr MICKELBERG: I withdraw. Do you know who takes personal offence as well, Mr Speaker? Queenslanders take personal offence at Labor's record when it comes to delivering major infrastructure projects. There were \$6.7 billion in blowouts under Labor—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The answer should be relevant to the question around the project and the \$5.5 billion budget.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have 20 seconds left to conclude your contribution. You were talking about the project earlier in your contribution. You have 20 seconds left to conclude your response.

Mr MICKELBERG: As I said, whether we are talking about the Wave or any other major transport infrastructure projects, we will deliver all of the infrastructure required in a calm, considered and methodical way. We will not preside over a litany of failure that results in \$6.7 billion in QTRIP blowouts. That is their record; Queenslanders know it. That is why they were turfed out in October 2024—

(Time expired)

Natural Disasters, Recovery and Resilience

Ms JAMES: My question is to the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers. Will the minister provide an update on the delivery of recovery and resilience projects in my community following the Jasper floods, and is the minister aware of any proposals that threaten Queensland's disaster recovery?

Ms LEAHY: I thank the member for the question and acknowledge the hard work the member for Barron River has done for her community. She was there after Jasper working really hard for her community. She is a tireless advocate for the community. One of her key priorities during the 2024 election was to get Kamerunga Villas back onto the grid and back onto power. She had to drag Labor kicking and screaming to put generators at Kamerunga Villas. After coming to government we fast-tracked the complex electrical repairs that were needed to restore reliable power to the villas.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Pine Rivers is warned.

Ms LEAHY: In another win for the member for Barron River, we recently announced critical upgrades to the Kuranda water treatment plant. I was pleased to join the member there on the Barron River. This funding comes through our betterment program, which is a key focus of the LNP. These arrangements are done under disaster resilience funding arrangements that are critical, especially to North Queensland, to build more resilient infrastructure and help those communities get back on their feet. We are delivering that support.

The member asked about other proposals that threaten disaster recovery in Queensland, so let's look at how in recent weeks the federal Labor government has proposed to cut disaster funding. Funding has been slashed to our local government sector. Critical support for sandbags, evacuation centres, swiftwater rescue and emergency fodder relief all went under Labor. They slashed the Disaster Ready Fund from \$200 million to \$142 million. Under Labor's cuts, betterment funding under categories of the DRFA was abolished. The QRA advises that 90 per cent of betterment works since 2013 would not be eligible under Canberra's proposals. In the Cairns Regional Council area this means that upgrades to Lake Morris Road, Goldsborough Road, Barron Gorge Road and the ambulance access road would not happen under Labor's cuts to disaster funding.

We are in the fight of our lives to protect the disaster impacted communities of Queensland. We are fighting for the future of communities against the federal Labor government's cuts, which are cutting to the bone the most impacted communities after disasters. We will not stop until we reverse the cuts that the Albanese Labor government is making to Queensland. This will cost Queenslanders billions and billions of dollars.

The Wave

Mr KING: My question is to the Minister for Transport. The Premier promised projects would be delivered on time and on budget. Can the minister confirm that the Wave project has blown out to more than \$12 billion, as reported by 7News?

Mr MICKELBERG: I thank the member for Kurwongbah for the question and welcome his interest in delivering infrastructure for the Sunny Coast. If only there had been more people around Labor's tables when they were in power considering the needs of the Sunshine Coast. Whether it is the Wave, the Mooloolah River Interchange or all of the other projects that were not built under the Labor government over the last decade, the people of the Sunny Coast know full well who is responsible for the legacy of transport infrastructure that simply has not kept pace with the population growth we are experiencing on the Sunshine Coast. They know full well that those opposite frequently announced things and did not deliver them.

The contrast could not be greater. It is not long now until the budget is handed down. Queenslanders will see us invest actual funding in actual projects that are in delivery and underway—not announcements about rail rolling stock, not announcements that then had to be doubled because they got the number wrong. I am focused on rolling stock; they are focused on rolling the leader. Our side is focused on delivering while those opposite are focused on throwing stones and trying to white-wash what we are doing.

Mr Bleijie: They had to cancel it. Did they cancel it?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, if you would come to the question, please.

Mr MICKELBERG: I take the interjection from the Deputy Premier. It begs the question: given we are investing the quantum of funds needed to build the Wave stages 1, 2 and 3 and the Mooloolah River Interchange, what are those opposite proposing? Would they see the need to cut funding? Do they want to remove those projects? Those opposite have been silent in advocating for the federal government to come to the party and fund those projects, particularly the Wave stages 2 and 3 and the Mooloolah River Interchange. We know their record when it comes to those major infrastructure projects on the Sunny Coast. Those opposite roll over on the federal government doing their fair share and contributing their fair amount of funding for the Sunny Coast.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was on the cost at \$12 billion.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, the question was around cost and increased cost. If you could come to that response, you have 49 seconds to respond to that question.

Mr MICKELBERG: I will make one very clear observation. The budget will be handed down very soon. Those opposite can have a read and do the work required. We will get on with the job of delivering for Queenslanders. It begs the question as to what those opposite propose if investing in heavy rail on the Sunny Coast, the Wave and the Mooloolah River Interchange is not on their priority list. Are they going to cut those projects? The people of the Sunny Coast deserve to know. We are getting on with the job of delivering. Whether it is the Caloundra Congestion Busting Plan, the Wave stages 1, 2 or 3 or the Mooloolah River Interchange, we will fund those projects and deliver those projects as Queenslanders expect. All we ask is that the federal government does its fair share as well.

Small and Family Business

Miss DOOLAN: My question is to the Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business. How has the Crisafulli LNP government delivered certainty for small and family businesses since our last budget, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches that failed small and family businesses during a decade of decline?

Mr MINNIKIN: From the outset, I would like to congratulate the member for Pumicestone. Last month during Small Business Month there were over 200 different functions throughout the state. I literally started on 1 May and ended on 31 May and went to every part of the state. I have to say that, of all the different functions I attended, I found the one held by the member for Pumicestone—which I attended with the Premier—absolutely outstanding. It is in her DNA, like many members on this side of the chamber—

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Miller, you are now warned.

Mr MINNIKIN: The member for Pumicestone embodies what most members on this side of the chamber do: in our DNA we have a real empathy for small and family business. The month of May was almost a tale of two different parts of the month. There were the people I visited, along with many members on this side of the chamber, who were buoyed with business confidence, but then something happened during May and I do not need to cue the scary music: it was the Chalmers federal budget and literally the dial changed.

On the weekend, I was at the Kenrose Bakery in my own electorate with the Premier and the Treasurer and we met with Laura and Ian. They welcomed the initiatives we have announced with our Energy Roadmap, which is working towards dropping electricity prices for small and family businesses between eight and 14 per cent. They were overjoyed at the announcement by the Treasurer last weekend about the freezing of bulk water prices

When we compare what our budget will deliver with what has been on offer in Canberra, the contrast is literally stark; it could not be any plainer. The fact is that the member for Pumicestone absolutely gets small and family business, but I can tell the House who does not get small and family business, and that is the opposition leader. During his 60-minute budget reply speech this time 12 months ago, he did not mention small business once—not once in a 60-minute budget reply speech. We have a member on this side of the chamber who has worked in small and family business and she gets it, but the opposition leader has absolutely no ticker and no appetite when it comes to small and family business. He is absolutely clueless.

Police Service, Counsel Fees

Mr BERKMAN: My question is to the Attorney-General. Leading barrister Jonathan Horton KC was briefed by QPS to maintain suppression orders protecting the identity of a high-profile Queensland man, as reported by the *Australian*. I table that report.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Australian*, dated 11 June 2026, titled 'Top Silk Jonathan Horton hired to protect identity of high-profile man in extortion case' [1013].

Did the Attorney-General approve the payment of fees for Mr Horton above the maximum cap, in accordance with the whole-of-government policy for barristers?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I thank the member for his question. As the member knows, this is a matter before the courts; it would be highly inappropriate for me as the first law officer and a member of parliament to comment. Important law enforcement agencies like the QPS undertake their operations independently of the minister. They are operational matters for the Police Commissioner. I would not have thought it was unusual for Queensland police to engage silks from time to time, particularly when it relates to victims of domestic violence. Agencies engage counsel as needed at standard government rates. In relation to this matter, my approval has not been sought to pay external counsel above usual rates. This is a matter for the Queensland Police Service.

Primary Industries

Mr LISTER: My question is to the—

Mr Healy interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Cairns is warned. Member for Southern Downs, could you start again, please?

Mr LISTER: My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries. How has the Crisafulli LNP government delivered the right conditions for primary producers to prosper since our first budget, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches that failed our primary producers during a decade of decline?

Mr PERRETT: I welcome the question from the member for Southern Downs. He is a great advocate for his region. We know his passion around Emu Swamp Dam and his ongoing advocacy for that and what it would deliver not only for his community but also for the primary producers of that region more broadly. I joined him recently in the Southern Downs electorate where we visited the Hermitage Research Facility and saw the great work that continues there. We then travelled through his electorate to Goondiwindi to catch up with the council and talk about the issues that relate to my portfolio there. While I have this opportunity, I want to acknowledge the challenges that the primary producers in the Southern Downs are going through with below average summer rainfall and how that has impacted the pasture growth and crops in that region over that period.

I am asked about the importance of primary industries to his electorate and the state. Strong biosecurity underpins everything we do within primary industries across this state. It does not matter if it is in the Southern Downs region or in the member for Gregory's area or in North Queensland with some of the challenges we have been experiencing in the Torres Strait. In the lead-up to the 2024 election, we committed to putting on 100 additional biosecurity officers because this issue is at the forefront of the government's mind and we want to acknowledge the importance of our primary

producers across the state. We are delivering on that, because 44 of those additional 100 biosecurity officers are in place across rural and regional Queensland and another seven are under active recruitment and will be appointed shortly.

The challenges within biosecurity continue to grow. We do not underestimate the challenges around invasive weeds and feral animals across this state. They are real and they are ongoing.

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr PERRETT: The member for Bundaberg is interjecting over there but he needs to pay attention to this. One of the great challenges we have is the detection of H5N1 avian influenza in this country, as we have seen in news reports. The national government have been preparing for some time, and we have been working cooperatively with them to make certain that our response meets the needs of industry. We have brought together industry and we have briefed them on the potential issues, and they know what they are, and particularly the biosecurity that sits around that.

We also have varroa mite, which I will touch on very quickly. We have treatment resistant varroa mite in this state, and we are working very closely with industry and the Queensland Beekeepers' Association to make certain that the response is what is needed. We have a round table coming up, and I will continue to update the House as we bring these people together to make certain we deal with the issues.

Gold Coast Light Rail, Property Resumptions

Ms SCANLON: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. The member for Bonney has said that 'the team are confident they won't be impacting any dwellings', and I table that post.

Tabled paper: Extract from social media, undated, featuring a comment from the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth, Hon. Samuel O'Connor, regarding resuming homes or land for car lanes [\[1014\]](#).

Will the minister rule out property resumptions as part of the Gold Coast Light Rail's Biggera Waters spur line?

Mr MICKELBERG: I thank the member for Gaven for her question. I would welcome her joining with us and backing light rail for the northern Gold Coast from the hospital to Harbour Town. This is a game-changing investment in public transport—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

Mr MICKELBERG: This is a game-changing investment in public transport in her part of the world. I would expect that she would join with us, as the local community did yesterday. We are delivering a game-changing investment for the northern Gold Coast. We will do the work required to ensure that we can deliver those projects on time and on budget. I made it very clear yesterday that that project will be finished by 2032. It is an important project to support movement around the games, as hockey is just off that route. More importantly, it is a very fast growing part of our state. We have seen a considerable uplift in housing density through that corridor, and we look forward to delivering the infrastructure required to support that population growth. That is exactly what our announcement yesterday does with light rail from the hospital to Harbour Town.

I want to acknowledge the advocacy of the members for Bonney, Southport and Broadwater, who have advocated for this particular project. I want to draw a contrast between that and the approach taken by the member for Gaven, who, rather than backing investment for the northern Gold Coast, is trying to find reasons she cannot support it.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was around resumptions.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, the question was asking about any property resumptions. If you address that in your response, it would be much appreciated.

Mr MICKELBERG: Let me make something very clear. The question was specifically about property resumptions in relation to dwellings, and they are two different things. Routinely, as transport infrastructure is built, there are property resumptions.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I am trying to listen to the minister.

Mr MICKELBERG: There are property resumptions and, importantly, we will seek to minimise those wherever possible. We will also seek to ensure that we provide certainty to those affected landowners and residents wherever possible and make those decisions early and provide clarity. All we ask from those opposite is that they do not spread fear in the community without any basis of fact. The member for Bonney is backing his community and I would ask the member for Gaven to do the same, rather than spread fear, as we have seen time and time again before the election and since the election.

Mrs Frecklington: Their playbook.

Mr MICKELBERG: It is the Labor playbook. We know they do not have a record of their own to stand on. They could never deliver this infrastructure, so instead they want to throw rocks from the sidelines. The member for Gaven is a past master when it comes to throwing rocks but not delivering, and the people of the Gold Coast know that. They know of the advocacy of LNP members like the members for Surfers Paradise, Bonney, Southport, Mermaid Beach, Currumbin, Burleigh, Broadwater, Coomera and Theodore. They are delivering when Labor never could.

(Time expired)

Road and Rail Infrastructure

Mr MOLHOEK: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. How has the Crisafulli LNP government progressed generational road and rail infrastructure projects since the last budget, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches that failed to deliver road and rail projects during a decade of decline?

Mr MICKELBERG: I thank the member for Southport for his question—finally, a transport question that genuinely backs in a plan to deliver the infrastructure required for Queensland's growing population. Last year we handed down a QTRIP budget of \$41.7 billion and we announced yesterday that today's budget, when it is handed down by the Treasurer—not too long now—will be a record \$55.9 billion, delivering the roads and the rail and the transport infrastructure required for Queensland's growing population.

I am asked how we have delivered between the last budget and now. The first one that comes to mind is the Bruce Highway Targeted Safety Program, a \$9 billion investment in safety on the Bruce Highway, and we are getting on with the job of delivering that. As I said earlier, \$4½ billion of that work will be contracted by the end of the coming financial year. Labor rolled over. They said they could not even get an 80-20 funding deal. We got an 80-20 funding deal: \$7.2 billion of federal government money and \$1.8 billion of state funding—all achieved within the first four months of coming to office when those opposite said they could not do it. Now we are getting on with the job of delivering that infrastructure. There are 65 projects underway or completed, and another 52 tenders are coming out next financial year. We are getting on with the job of delivering.

We can look at Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail, which will benefit residents on the Gold Coast to get faster, more reliable connections to Brisbane. It was promised by Labor for \$2.6 billion and then it was \$5.75 billion under their watch. Work is now underway to deliver that project under a Crisafulli government. Let's look at what we announced yesterday. As I said in my previous answer, we announced light rail from the hospital to Harbour Town. I want to acknowledge the member for Southport for his long advocacy, going back to before he was in this place when he was on the council. We are getting on with the job of delivering off the back of that strong advocacy of local MPs.

Let's have a look at the contrast. Labor wanted to force light rail stage 4 onto residents of the southern Gold Coast. They wanted to force something that the people of the southern Gold Coast did not want. We know it could not have been delivered by 2032, we know it probably would have cost at least \$10 billion and we know it would have taken twice as long as stage 3 of the Gold Coast Light Rail, where we saw the incompetence of Labor ministers writ large. They signed off on that blowout quietly just two or three days before the caretaker period. They did not tell anyone, but they signed it off. That is one of those \$6.7 billion QTRIP blowouts they talk about. Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3 was done under their watch.

We are getting on with the job of finishing those projects and we will deliver the major infrastructure required. Whether it is on the Gold Coast with our light rail extension, the GC Surfer, the Bruce Highway or Country Roads Connect, we are delivering for every part of Queensland with our record investment in road and rail.

(Time expired)

GC Surfer

Ms McMAHON: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. I table comments made by the member for Burleigh revealing the Surfer will not have a dedicated bus lane. Can the minister advise what the total travel time will be on the Surfer bus between the Burleigh Heads light rail interchange and the Coolangatta airport?

Tabled paper: Extract from social media, undated, featuring a comment from the member for Burleigh, Mr Hermann Vorster MP, regarding major roads upgrades [1015].

Mr MICKELBERG: I thank the member for Macalister for her question, and I welcome her renewed interest in delivering transport projects for Queenslanders. If only the member for Macalister had the same interest on Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail when the Labor Party were in power, when we saw that project double under Labor—not start but double—before it was even started. We know Labor’s record. By contrast, we are getting on with the job. Whether it is the GC Surfer or the extension to light rail between the hospital and Harbour Town, we will do the work required in a calm and methodical way and we will—

Government members: And considered.

Mr MICKELBERG: I take the interjection—a calm, considered and methodical way. I know it is anathema to those opposite, who like to put out a press release and pretend they have something to announce. Whether it is the Gabba, Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail or QTMP, they are all about the photo-op but they forget the follow-up.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have one minute and 55 seconds on the clock.

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Gladstone, I had just called the House to order. You interjected. You are warned.

Mr MICKELBERG: They did not build infrastructure; they built excuses and reasons for why the cost had tripled. They did not build infrastructure; they built black holes for taxpayer dollars. Whether it is Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail in the member for Macalister’s electorate, whether it is the GC Surfer on the southern end of the Gold Coast, whether it is the Wave on the Sunshine Coast or whether it is Cross River Rail for that matter, we will get on with the job of actually building and delivering the infrastructure required and we will do that by doing the work required. We will do the planning work required, we will do the detailed design work required and we will deliver infrastructure that local communities want and local communities need. We will not impose—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. To resolve the apparent confusion, it was a very simple question on travel times. The minister has not gone anywhere near that issue of travel times.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have one minute left to respond.

Mr MICKELBERG: Let’s be very clear: what we would have seen under those opposite is them imposing Gold Coast Light Rail stage 4 on a local community that did not want it. It could not have been built by 2032, let’s be very clear, so they would have had nothing before 2032. It would have cost in excess of \$10 billion. That is their record.

With the GC Surfer, we will have services every 10 minutes servicing the southern Gold Coast from the airport through to the light rail and on to Robina. This is a game-changing investment by our government for the people of the southern Gold Coast. Those opposite are just upset because they did not think of it beforehand. They could have put out a release and then not built it. They could have punched out a press release; they still would not have built it. We know that they do not care about the Gold Coast. That is obvious. The people of the Gold Coast know that and that is reflected by the representation on this side of the House. I will continue to listen to the voices of the people of the Gold Coast and deliver what they need.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (11.09 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders:

1. following the introduction of the appropriation and associated bills and motions by the Treasurer, proceedings be suspended for 30 minutes until the ringing of the bells;
2. upon resumption, government business takes precedence until the adjournment is moved by the Leader of the House at 6.30 pm, with no adjournment debate;
3. if the House does not adjourn before 6.30 pm, the House will break for dinner from 6.30 pm until 7.30 pm.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Order of Business; Allocation of Time Limit Order



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (11.10 am): Noting the motion that has just been agreed to by the House and in accordance with sessional order 3A, I now move—

1. That the following business will be considered this sitting week within the times as specified:
 - (a) the Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill:
 - (i) minister to be called on in reply by 2.20 pm on Wednesday, 24 June 2026;
 - (ii) all stages to be completed by 3 pm on Wednesday, 24 June 2026.
 - (b) the Regional Planning Interests (Condamine Alluvium) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill:
 - (i) minister to be called on in reply by 8.20 pm on Wednesday, 24 June 2026;
 - (ii) all stages to be completed by 9 pm on Wednesday, 24 June 2026.
 - (c) a government motion to be moved by the Leader of the House in relation to the 2026 estimates process—a total of two members, with five minutes for each member.
2. If all stages of the bills have not been completed by the specified times, Mr Speaker:
 - (a) shall call on a minister to table any explanatory notes, any statement of compatibility or any override declaration to their circulated amendments; and
 - (b) shall put all remaining questions necessary to either pass that stage or pass the bill or motion including clauses and schedules en bloc and any amendments to be moved by the minister in charge of the bill without further amendment or debate.

This motion sets out the proposed program for government business before the House during this state budget sitting week and provides members with a clear and transparent framework for the consideration of legislation and other parliamentary business. Importantly, this motion follows the passage of a separate motion dealing with the sitting hours of the House for today. That motion provides certainty to all members regarding today's arrangements, including that the House will be sitting until 6.30 pm this evening, giving all members clear notice of the proposed program before the House. Budget sitting weeks are amongst the most significant weeks in the parliamentary calendar. They are substantial weeks of debate, scrutiny and legislative activity. Extended or adjusted sitting arrangements during budget sitting weeks are not unusual, extraordinary or unexpected; they are a longstanding feature of parliamentary practice and are entirely consistent with ensuring the House has sufficient opportunity to consider the matters before it.

Whilst this week will rightly be focused on the delivery of the Crisafulli state government's second budget, it is also important that the parliament continues to progress other government business. Queenslanders expect their parliament to continue its work and this motion ensures important legislation can be debated and considered in an orderly and timely manner alongside budget proceedings. The bills outlined within this motion deal with important matters of public policy. This motion provides dedicated timeframes for consideration of the respective bills whilst maintaining the efficient management of parliamentary business across the week.

This motion also contains the provision for the Leader of the House to move a further motion regarding the 2026 estimates process, which I am sure many members are eagerly anticipating. It is important to note that the inclusion of such a provision is neither novel nor extraordinary. Previous leaders of the House have included similar provisions within business program motions to facilitate the orderly conduct of parliamentary business and the management of estimates processes and proceedings. The provisions simply ensure the House has an appropriate mechanism available to deal with those matters when required. At its core, this motion is about transparency, certainty and good

parliamentary administration. It provides members with a clear understanding of the proposed business before the House, establishes a framework for the progression of important legislation and supports the effective conduct of proceedings during one of the busiest and most significant sitting weeks of the year. As such, I commend the business program motion to the House.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.14 am): This morning I rise in the House to express the state Labor opposition's absolute opposition to the consistent and persistent way the LNP government abuses its power in this House to limit members of this parliament to properly examine legislation and, in doing so, limits the right of Queenslanders to properly examine legislation through their elected members, and this business program motion is yet another example of it. I particularly want to speak to the Condamine Alluvium bill, which has been an absolute debacle by this government from beginning to end, and the central person—part of that debacle, the author of the debacle—has been the member for Kawana. Let me start with three words about the Condamine Alluvium bill: we feel betrayed.

Mr Dalton interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Mackay, as if the member for Mackay has any right to talk about anything when he is obsessed with restricting the rights of women in this state.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order relates to pre-empting debate. What we are talking about is the business program motion.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Is your point of order relevance?

Dr ROWAN: My point of order is on relevance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes; thank you. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I was listening to what you were saying and I fear that you may have been straying into irrelevant territory. This is a business program motion. Would you speak about that, please?

Mr DICK: Landowners feel betrayed by the bill and they will feel betrayed by this motion before the House today. Landowners across the Western Downs will feel betrayed by their LNP members of parliament and their heartland will feel betrayed by the way the LNP government has done this. Forty minutes—

Mr LISTER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order relates to the bill that is already on the table of the House and pre-empting debate on that as well as—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Anticipation; is that your point of order?

Mr LISTER: Anticipation, yes.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Southern Downs. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I will give you the call. I have cautioned you about relevance under the previous point of order. You are entitled to make that connection in the context of the business program motion, but I would ask you to come back to the motion, please.

Mr DICK: Residents of the Western Downs expect the parliament to spend time properly considering legislation. We know the committee has reported that this bill needs to be amended and the RIDA needs to be restored. Members on this side of the House have absolutely no idea what the intention of the member for Kawana is when it comes to amending this legislation—we have no idea—but if the members of the government on that committee, including the member for Mackay, are to be listened to by their own government then those opposite will necessarily need to move amendments. All we know is that after a very short period of examination by the House we have, I think, three hours or maybe a bit longer for consideration of the bill and then 40 minutes for consideration in detail. I correct that: it is five hours, so that is 2½ hours for members of the non-government benches to consider the bill and 40 minutes to consider substantial amendments.

As I said, this motion represents everything that is wrong with this government—everything that is wrong—and I intend to move an amendment so that members of this House get an opportunity to properly examine and speak to the Condamine Alluvium bill. Therefore, I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'as specified' in clause 1. be removed and the following inserted, with the original clause 2. of the motion remaining unamended:

'(a) the Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill:

- (i) minister to be called on in reply by 11.40 am on Wednesday, 24 June 2026;
- (ii) all stages to be completed by 12 pm on Wednesday, 24 June 2026.

- (b) the Regional Planning Interests (Condamine Alluvium) Amendment Bill 2026:
 - (i) minister to be called on in reply by 7.40 pm on Wednesday, 24 June 2026;
 - (ii) all stages to be completed by 9 pm on Wednesday, 24 June 2026.
- (c) a government motion to be moved by the Leader of the House in relation to the 2026 estimates process—a total of four members, with five minutes for each member.'

Can you imagine the debate on the motion around the estimates committee process? Two members, five minutes—that is what this Premier and this government thinks is appropriate accountability and transparency for the process that sets up the most significant committee process that this parliament deals with each year. Ten minutes is what this parliament will have to deal with whatever the government wants to force on it when it comes to the estimates process. This motion is a betrayal of the people of Queensland and it represents a complete debacle. It is control of the parliament by the executive. I have said it time and time again: every LNP government in this state tends to authoritarian control of the Legislative Assembly. This is another example.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Before I give the call to the member for Callide, we are speaking to the amendment moved by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and we will come back to the primary motion after that.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (11.20 am): It is a bit rich for members opposite to come in here and make out that they care about farmers in Queensland and talk about the need to ensure appropriate parliamentary debate and consider what is before the House. We know that the record of those opposite is completely atrocious when it comes to guillotining debate. This is a sensible motion from the Leader of the House to ensure we have appropriate time to go through the process and give members of parliament appropriate time to debate the important matters at hand. I will save my contribution on how important these matters are for the debate of the bill, because I appreciate that we are debating the technical details of the time for the debate rather than the substance of the bill. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition, for all his experience in the House, maybe does not appreciate the standing orders of the parliament because it was quite clear that he could not stick to the motion and the debate at hand.

When it comes to Labor's record on amendments to the business program motion—a very sensible proposal by the Leader of the House—the history of those opposite raises eyebrows. They have talked about the need to extend debate time in previous weeks, but then their speakers go missing. Their speakers drop off the speaking list—they vanish into thin air—and then, time and again, it is left to members of the government to place on record the elements of the legislation we are proposing. Those opposite make a big song and dance about guillotining debate and restricting debate but then they vanish. They leave the field vacant, as we have seen at other times.

There is history as well. We know that they do not like the long sitting hours we have brought in to ensure we have reasonable time to get through legislation. Extended sitting hours ensure members who have to travel from regional Queensland not only have the ability to spend more time in our communities but also do not sacrifice important debate time. Members opposite promoted family-friendly hours. Well, they were family-friendly for the handful of members who live within a stone's throw of Parliament House, but for the majority of the 93 members of this parliament they were far from family friendly because it meant we had to travel down a day earlier and forgo other business. When it comes to their legacy, they are having a go at us for restricting debate but we know the history of those opposite and the history—

Mr Stevens: Eighteen minutes.

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection. We know that they have a record of bringing substantial legislation into this House, including with regard to the Queensland voting system—and they gave us only 18 minutes notice of that. That is how atrocious the history of those opposite is. Every sitting week I was in this House when those opposite were in power I saw them guillotine debate. Some of the guillotining of debate was, frankly, atrocious. There were numerous times that I was on the speaking list and intended to speak, with a speech written, but was not given the opportunity to do so. Time and again we see members opposite complain that they are not getting a go, and then they just go wandering. They leave the field vacant and members of the government have to contribute to debate on behalf of their communities without an opposition.

I will not mention his name in the parliament, but the other day a very senior and well-respected journalist made the comment that he appreciates the work of the government. He did say that you cannot be perfect, but he did query where the Queensland opposition was. I think that is a fair comment. The legacy of the current opposition leader is one that is hard to stand by. His historically low vote in the Stafford by-election—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Callide, I have been listening. You have been giving context. Come back to the amendment and the motion, please.

Mr HEAD: We have a contrast between a government that is delivering for Queensland and ensuring we are giving members of parliament the appropriate opportunity to debate legislation in this House, to put forward their views—

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time for debate has expired.

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

AYES, 37:

ALP, 36—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richmond, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

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 Dick) negated.

Division: Question put—That the motion 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, 37:

ALP, 36—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richmond, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Resolved in the affirmative.

EDUCATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 23 April (see p. 1178).

Second Reading



Hon. JH LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (11.33 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

On 23 April 2026 I introduced the Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 into the Legislative Assembly and it was referred to the Education, Arts and Communities Committee for examination. On 12 June 2026 the committee tabled its report on the bill and made one recommendation: that the bill be passed. I would like to acknowledge the work of the committee and all stakeholders in the review of the bill. I particularly wish to express my appreciation to those stakeholders who made a submission or appeared before the committee to inform the committee's deliberations and for the work of departmental witnesses who assisted the committee's inquiry. This bill continues the work of the Crisafulli government to reduce administrative red tape and regulatory burden, strengthen governance and deliver meaningful reforms across the education and arts portfolios to deliver a brighter future for Queensland.

Under the chaos and crisis of the former Labor government, teachers, principals and schools were left frustrated and suffocated by red tape, burdened with unnecessary regulations and students fell further behind. Queensland students were failing to meet national maths and literacy standards. Under the former Labor government, schools, parents and students were actively discouraged from participating in NAPLAN, while school attendance rates declined and more students failed to meet national standards.

These reforms continue to ensure Queensland students can succeed no matter where they live. The reforms in this bill back up the Crisafulli government's on-the-ground actions to support teachers, including the \$221 million More Teachers, Better Education plan that actively addresses workforce shortages, improves classroom support and delivers better outcomes for students across Queensland. The Crisafulli government will invest more than \$2.5 million over the next 12 months to support schools to release teachers to undertake essential professional development. Our new professional development program will build teachers' capability and help support students living with a disability and diverse learning needs. We have partnered with two universities to provide placements for teachers to obtain a Graduate Certificate in Autism Studies, a Graduate Certificate in Special Education or a micro-credential in Inclusive Education Essentials. This was a key election commitment of the Crisafulli government and we are delivering what we promised.

In addition, the Crisafulli government has already strengthened Queensland's teacher workforce by delivering more than 1,000 additional teachers to Queensland state schools in our first year of government. After a decade of decline under Labor, the Crisafulli government is delivering on its Behaviour Boost commitment, which has seen behaviour improvements in every school region across Queensland. Just 12 months on from its introduction, data shows reported behaviour incidents have decreased by an average of eight per cent across the state, with some regions recording an 11 per cent improvement. The \$45 million annual funding injection provides principals with autonomy to make behaviour changes that best suit the individual needs of their school. Other measures such as the Crisafulli government's flagship Back to School Boost—a timely and targeted cost-of-living support measure—has put more than \$15 million in the pockets of Queensland mums and dads.

As the minister for both education and the arts, I would also like to remind the House that the Crisafulli government recently invested nearly \$1.8 million through the inaugural Queensland Arts Project Fund. This fund will support arts groups, organisations and individuals across the state to grow the state's vibrant arts scene ahead of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games under our 10-year arts strategy, Queensland's Time to Shine.

To support the deliberation of the bill by the House, I will speak to key aspects of the reforms. Firstly, I would like to examine the education reforms under the bill. The Department of Education is supported by statutory bodies such as the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board, the board; the Queensland College of Teachers, QCT; and the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority, QCAA, with each playing a vital role in supporting the quality and accessibility of education across Queensland.

Turning to the non-state schools accreditation framework and the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board, the final report into the independent review of the Queensland non-state schools accreditation framework made recommendations under four key themes: culture, collaboration and communication; clarity and consistency; compliance; and community confidence. Reforms in this bill respond to certain recommendations of this report, address operational issues identified by the board and the Department of Education and support a proportionate and risk-based regulatory approach.

I turn to risk-based assessments for changes in accreditation attributes. Presently, the legislative framework requires the board to undertake a full accreditation assessment even for minor changes in a school's accreditation attribute. The bill instead allows for a risk-based approach to assessing changes to accreditation attributes for non-state schools that modernises the existing accreditation assessment provisions. When the governing body of a school applies to change an accreditation attribute, this will allow the board to take a risk-based approach and determine whether to undertake a targeted assessment or a full assessment. This means the board will have operational flexibility to tailor assessments to the complexity and risk of the proposed changes, reducing unnecessary administrative burden on both the board and non-state schools.

I turn now to the use of temporary sites by all non-state schools. The bill supports continuity of education and provides greater certainty for non-state schools by extending the existing temporary site framework so that all non-state schools can operate from a temporary site if an emergency has affected the school. Currently, only special assistance schools can apply to operate from a temporary site. As

Queenslanders, we are all too familiar with natural disasters that can impact our schools. This reform will support all non-state schools to operate responsively in the event of an emergency. The bill also clarifies the accreditation status of non-state schools during the site inclusion application process, which will provide certainty for schools that their accreditation status is maintained during this application process.

I turn now to the ministerial statement of expectations. The bill introduces a ministerial statement of expectations mechanism for the board, improving clarity about performance expectations and priorities. This means that in my role as the Minister for Education I can issue a statement of expectations about the board's alignment with government priorities. This will operate alongside, but separately to, an existing power of direction that I have under the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2017.

I turn to information sharing between the board and the department. The bill also enables timely information sharing between NSSAB and the Department of Education. Currently, the board can share particular information with me as the minister but not with the department. This reform will support timely information sharing with the department, ensuring swift responses to regulatory actions that may impact students, communities and funding administration.

I turn now to the board's power to delegate certain functions. The bill provides the board with a power to choose to delegate certain appropriate low-risk functions to a board member or the chief executive. These amendments allow the board to carry out its functions and powers with improved operational efficiency and administrative responsiveness, increasing its ability to focus on strategic priorities. It is common for Queensland statutory bodies to have a delegation power. To support transparency, as with all education delegations, delegations by the board to the chief executive or appropriately qualified officers of the Department of Education will be publicly available on the department's website. Additionally, these amendments are consistent with recommendation 4.2 of the final report, which proposed the board be provided with legislative power to delegate functions as part of a contemporary delegation model, including to the chief executive of the department.

When it comes to stakeholder views, I note that some non-state-school sector stakeholders were concerned that the proposals about delegations, information sharing and a ministerial statement of expectations may impact the independence of the board. These amendments do not undermine the independence of the board and I would like to make this very clear. While the legislation enables me to give the board a direction in the public interest, a ministerial statement of expectations will provide the board with transparency about my expectations for the board in the delivery of its functions and strategic or operational priorities but will not impact the board's independent decision-making.

Similarly, amendments for information sharing with the Department of Education will not impact the independence of the board but will ensure the department can support the non-state sector effectively and provide timely responses to any matters that affect students, communities or government funding. In response to a request from the non-state sector peak bodies Catholic Education Queensland Ltd, CEQL, and Independent Schools Queensland, ISQ, I have asked the department to consult with them on the development of an information-sharing framework that defines clear information-sharing protocols that will be in place before any information is shared under the current legislative proposals.

Finally, the power to delegate functions does not impact the independence of the board. This is because the board itself will decide the delegations of functions as provided for in the bill. I note that these amendments will commence by proclamation to allow for continued engagement with the sector for a period of up to 12 months from passage of the bill before implementation. I want to thank the relevant stakeholders, notably the board, CEQL and ISQ, for their input during the committee process and their readiness to work productively with the department and support the board in the implementation of these important amendments.

I turn now to expanding international delivery of the Queensland Certificate of Education, QCE. This is an exciting reform that will further showcase the QCE, which is a globally recognised qualification that provides pathways to further education and employment. The amendments in the bill will enable non-state schools, including grammar schools, to partner with recognised overseas schools to deliver the QCE internationally. The bill does this by expanding the model for international delivery of the QCE through a new framework. This new framework will enable accredited non-state schools, including grammar schools, in Queensland to partner with overseas schools under the governance of the QCAA.

Since 2011, Department of Education International has partnered with overseas schools to deliver the QCE. The reforms provide that QCAA will become the authorising entity to assess and approve recognised overseas schools. Administration and governance of the international QCE

program will transfer from the Department of Education International to the QCAA. The Department of Education International will continue its existing relationships with its overseas school partners. The bill does not change this. The QCAA will undertake the initial and ongoing due diligence and quality assurance and support the Department of Education International as well as any non-state schools that wish to participate in the program. This reform will strengthen approval, assurance and oversight arrangements, ensuring the continued quality and reputation of the QCE on the global stage.

I note the strong support that the non-state sector provided for these amendments during the committee process. ISQ and its schools have long advocated for this reform, and the amendments create opportunities for our non-state schools in the international arena. They will also help to advertise the quality and value of Queensland's education programs around the world. In the lead-up to the Brisbane 2032 Olympics, this will be an exceptional opportunity.

I turn now to supporting continuity of education and re-engagement. This bill takes important steps to support the re-engagement of children and young people who are disengaged or are at risk of disengagement from education. I will first speak to reforms clarifying that the Department of Education and prescribed non-government providers or NGOs may deliver education re-entry and transition service programs. Currently, the legislative framework is not explicit about the status of these programs in meeting compulsory schooling or compulsory participation requirements where a child or young person is not immediately capable of being in a school or another option.

The Department of Education currently operates a range of programs to assist students to remain engaged in education, including services that support schools to reconnect disengaged students and that help families to access support across government and community services to remove barriers to attendance. The Department of Education is also delivering specialised alternative learning programs in partnership with NGOs. These programs have been co-designed with the local community and stakeholders in Cairns, Townsville, Ipswich and Mount Isa. Specialised alternative learning programs support young people of compulsory school age who have been in contact with youth justice, particularly those exiting detention, who require additional support in order to re-engage in school or further training or employment pathways. The importance of these programs and their value for children and young persons at risk of being disengaged from education is clear. It also highlights the significance of being able to share information appropriately to ensure these children and young people can access the support they need.

This leads me to speak about necessary reforms in the bill that facilitate information sharing to enable referrals into these programs and ensure seamless transitions for students. I want to set out this issue in some detail as it is essential to the success of these programs. I acknowledge that stakeholders supported the intent of these amendments but also raised questions about the proposed information-sharing approach.

The bill prescribes information that may be disclosed by the Department of Education to help in arranging for a child or young person to participate in a program. This is a child or young person's name, date of birth, address, information relevant to their education and re-engagement with an educational program, and information about the most recent school or other education the child or young person attended. The bill also provides that the chief executive of the Department of Education can request that a prescribed program provider give particular information relating to a child or young person's participation in a prescribed program and to support continuity of education for the child or young person when enrolling in school or another eligible option. This recognises the critical benefits this information provides for successful participation in a program and transition to school or another eligible option. In practice, when eligibility for engagement with a program is being considered, regional departmental staff, in accordance with best practice principles, seek to obtain consent for information sharing.

The bill provides for circumstances where consent cannot be obtained, to ensure the young person's critical educational and support needs can still be met. The sharing of such information is necessary to support continuity of education and address any barriers to engagement. It will also help to ensure both providers of a program and schools are well prepared to support the child or young person. Information-sharing provisions in the bill also support the intent of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse regarding the importance of proactive and proportionate information sharing when a vulnerable student, or a student with a complex background, commences at a school. The bill does not change existing arrangements that are already in place for more sensitive information sharing in relation to child safety concerns and young people in contact with youth justice.

It is hard to understate how important these programs, and keeping children and young persons engaged with education, training or employment, is. These programs work. We see children and young people re-engaging and thriving with improved attendance, improved educational outcomes, improved behaviour outcomes and reduced interaction with youth justice.

The bill also provides legislative recognition of education and training centres, often referred to as ETCs, in youth detention settings as educational institutions. This reform also supports continuity of education and engagement. ETCs provide education in youth detention settings delivered by approved teachers. These settings have unique characteristics such as shorter enrolments and tailored delivery. While the legislation clearly provides for the establishment of state schools, for example, it is not as clear for ETCs. This reform will clarify the authority for delivering education programs in these settings. It will also ensure approved teachers working in ETCs are not required to hold a blue card or exemption card, consistent with requirements for teachers in other state educational institutions.

I now turn to the reforms in the bill that introduce operational and governance improvements for the Queensland College of Teachers, also known as the QCT. These improvements include updating the title of its director to 'chief executive officer', aligning the financial year with the broader Queensland government financial cycle of 1 July to 30 June, and correcting various references to ensure the QCT Act remains accurate and contemporary. These operational amendments ensure legislation remains relevant, effective and supports our statutory bodies.

I now turn to the arts statutory bodies' reforms. As I mentioned earlier, Queensland's arts sector is a vital part of our cultural identity and economic prosperity. The Queensland Performing Arts Trust Act 1977, the Queensland Art Gallery Act 1987, the Libraries Act 1988, the Queensland Theatre Company Act 1970, and the Queensland Museum Act 1970 provide the governance framework for our arts statutory bodies. This bill delivers amendments to these arts enabling acts to foster a vibrant arts sector by improving governance arrangements and delivering administrative efficiencies. The governance amendments will modernise appointments, strengthen probity and integrity settings, and align operational provisions with contemporary governance practices.

One of the more significant amendments will assist the Queensland Performing Arts Centre to deter unauthorised reselling of tickets or 'ticket scalping' to reduce the possibility of financial loss and consumer disappointment. These reforms will enhance the performance and accountability of Queensland's arts statutory bodies, ensuring they continue to deliver exceptional cultural and artistic experiences for our community.

I close by noting that the bill also makes minor and technical amendments across education and arts legislation. These include correcting typographical errors, updating outdated references and clarifying legislative provisions to support the effective operation of the legislation. For example, the bill provides a contemporary approach to the collection of criminal history check fees, shifting the publication of fees to relevant websites to reduce the administrative burden and ensure consistency with fees set by the Queensland Police Service. As previously noted in relation to the QCT amendments, these amendments may be technical, but they are important to ensuring an effective contemporary legislative framework.

In conclusion, the Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 represents another significant step forward for the Crisafulli government in reducing regulatory burden, strengthening governance and delivering meaningful reforms across the education and arts portfolios. It reflects the Crisafulli government's commitment to improving educational outcomes, supporting teachers and the re-engagement of students, fostering a vibrant arts sector and ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of our statutory bodies. Together, we can ensure Queensland continues to lead the way in education and the arts, delivering lasting benefits for our communities and future generations. I commend this bill to the House and urge all members to support its passage.



Hon. DE FARMER (Bulimba—ALP) (11.56 am): I rise to speak on the Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. I thank the Education, Arts and Communities Committee with whom I shared the task of examining this bill, and the committee secretariat who always do an excellent job, the public servants on whose expertise and hard work we so rely, and the stakeholders who took the time and trouble to submit their views to the committee with some also appearing before us. I acknowledge that a number of these stakeholders engage frequently with the parliamentary committee process, such is their commitment to getting good outcomes for this state, though they must be often very disappointed under this government. I thank them for their diligence.

This is largely a housekeeping bill which is generally endorsed by stakeholders, and a significant portion of it emanates from the independent review by Cheryl Vardon AO, which was commissioned by the former Labor government in 2023, of Queensland's non-state schools accreditation framework. The Vardon recommendations were always to be rolled out in a sequential and orderly fashion with many already in place before this bill. NSSAB confirmed to us that amendments align with the broad objectives of the review.

The shadow minister for the arts will address those aspects of the bill related to the arts, so I will not cover those myself, except to say that we do welcome the ticket scalping provisions to prevent Queenslanders from getting scammed. For all of these reasons, the opposition will be supporting the bill.

I do want to articulate, however, some concerns about appropriate resourcing for the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board—NSSAB—in the operationalising of these amendments, as much of their success seems contingent on NSSAB undertaking a significant amount of work. We would like to hear the minister's reassurance that resourcing challenges will be addressed. I note he referred slightly to this overall issue, but I will speak to this further.

I also wish to reflect on the concerns raised by some stakeholders around information sharing, both for non-state schools and also for young people at whom various amendments are aimed. I will also speak to these further.

First and foremost, whilst we acknowledge these amendments are important to a number of key stakeholders, in the general business of running government you must do these bills to improve governance and to make things as streamlined as possible for all concerned. Let's face it, it will not be the minister who thought of all of these things; it will be the truly excellent public servants of his department who have the bill to this point. The fact that a general housekeeping bill is what the minister is attending to while he has critical issues facing him in almost every other aspect of the education portfolio says a lot about his priorities—someone who is looking to bow out while the eager backbenchers and the member for Moggill are lining up for his cabinet position.

What are those issues, many of which the minister spruiked about in his introductory speech to this bill? He talked about them a little there despite the fact that he has achieved very little. How about we put to the very top of the list the fact that Queensland teachers have not had a pay rise for two years and are facing a possible additional two years before they see another one, and that the minister knocked back an application from the Queensland Teachers' Union—

Mr LANGBROEK: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. This speech has nothing to do with the long title of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): That point of order is relevant, member for Bulimba. I ask you to stick to the subject of the bill, please.

Ms FARMER: I mean no disrespect, but the minister was referring to these matters. I am responding to what the minister said in his speech. I mean no disrespect at all.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bulimba, I just gave you a very clear instruction to stick to the long title of the bill.

Ms FARMER: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I turn to some of the issues that were raised by the stakeholders. As I said earlier, we acknowledge that stakeholders generally support the amendments contained within this bill. However, in almost every instance, either in their submissions or when they appeared before the committee, they sought further clarity or guidance, said that clear guidance would assist or noted the importance of clear and transparent criteria et cetera. These are very professional people. They were apparently assured by the department—if the department said it I would be absolutely confident that it would happen, not so much if the minister said it—that clarity and guidance, along with clear and transparent criteria, would be provided.

These are some of the matters that require clarity, transparency or guidance. On international delivery of the QCE, stakeholders asked: what transparency measures does the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority intend to adopt in relation to recognising overseas participants; and what is the sourcing, eligibility, application and approval process for offshore delivery partners? On accrediting changes in school attributes, they said that further advice should be provided around proposed risk criteria and that schools should have clear guidance as to how risk will be assessed under the proposed framework.

On temporary sites, they asked for clear transitional guidance for schools operating under temporary arrangements or requiring urgent approvals in response to emerging events. On the delegation of NSSAB functions, they said that schools should be provided with advice regarding which functions will be delegable, supported by guidance on what constitutes routine or low-risk matters. On the ministerial statement of expectations for NSSAB, they requested confirmation that a ministerial statement is only intended to elicit high-level performance and governance expectations and will not extend to direction in relation to individual schools, accreditation decisions or regulatory outcomes. They also sought assurance that consistency of decision-making will be maintained where functions are delegated, including safeguards to ensure confidentiality will be applied for students. The list goes on.

These are just a few examples of the issues that were respectfully raised by the stakeholders. We asked and were assured by stakeholders and by the department that they did not believe that this long list of matters which they raised for clarification and guidance should be addressed in the bill itself but that they could be dealt with at implementation by NSSAB and the department. However, there is a huge amount of work to be done in that list alone. These are just a few of the matters that were raised, and many of them will require extensive consultation. There will be pressure on NSSAB to deliver, and it begs the question: are they adequately resourced to do so?

I asked Mr Mountford from Independent Schools Queensland and Mr Blagaich from Catholic Education Queensland Ltd about the extent of work required from NSSAB to ensure all matters were dealt with as they desired. I stress that both of them are excellent people and extremely diplomatic and professional. Both of them are on the NSSAB board. I do not wish to imply anything from their evidence; however, Mr Mountford said in response to my question—

... NSSAB is asked to do quite a complicated regulatory task. It is not massively resourced to undertake that task.

Mr Blagaich said—

Sure, NSSAB could certainly do with more funding ...

I want to specifically talk about the matter of privacy, as there was a lot of concern about it on several levels. In raising this matter I acknowledge the reason for these amendments, as outlined by the QFCC commissioner, particularly in reference to recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. In relation to information-sharing provisions and obtaining consent from a child, where possible, before sharing their personal information, Katherine Hayes from the Youth Advocacy Centre said in YAC's submission—

YAC has observed that successful participation in pro-social activity by any children, including those with complex backgrounds and behaviours, has involved their voluntary consent. Failing to attempt to obtain their consent in the first instance can be counterproductive in a child's engagement.

The submission also states—

The disclosure of highly personal and sensitive information without the child or young person's consent can result in a distrust of the education system.

On the information-sharing issue for non-state schools, CEQL states—

CEQL had pointed out that there is a risk that sharing information prior to opportunities for non-state schools to respond could inadvertently erode trust between schools and the regulator. Under the Bill, the Department of Education and non-state schools will receive the information at the same time, therefore no opportunity for response by schools is provided.

We thank submitters for raising these very important issues. We pursued these concerns both with NSSAB and with the department. The department has assured us that this will be dealt with appropriately. It stated—

Of course, best practice principles around information sharing are to seek consent, so where the student has been engaged or is engaging with a worker then they would have a conversation and seek the consent or advise the student that this information will be shared back to their school or from the parent. It does enable information sharing where we are unable to get that consent, just like it does between state schools and non-state schools at the moment.

We had quite a discussion with stakeholders about this. It is a serious concern. Again, I absolutely trust those departmental officials. I do not know how interested the minister is, but I trust that there will be adequate consultation to make sure those children's rights are observed and the important foundations underpinning the reasons for the amendments are addressed. On the issue of the exchange of information for non-state schools, NSSAB reassured us—

Stakeholders have highlighted the need for clear safeguards to protect sensitive school and student information when it is shared with the department. The board is committed to ensuring strong protections are in place to secure data. The board acknowledges the constructive input provided during consultation by Catholic Education Queensland Ltd, Independent Schools Queensland, Australian Christian schools and non-state schools and their representatives.

We trust NSSAB to ensure the right processes are in place and thank them for their commitment to ensuring this is addressed appropriately.

Regarding re-engagement into education and improving legislative clarity, the bill amends the E(GP)A to clarify that the Department of Education and prescribed non-government providers may support and manage the participation of children and young people in re-engagement programs until they are ready to transition back into school or other eligible option. This will satisfy the E(GP)A requirement that a child of compulsory school age must be enrolled at and attend a state or non-state school and that a young person in the compulsory participation phase can participate in school or other eligible option.

It is good to see that this bill, even if the minister is not conscious of it, inherently recognises the need for alternative education options for our kids. There are many students who are disengaged. There are many who are not able to cope with mainstream school. Every Queensland child deserves access to a high-quality education no matter who they are, where they live or their ability. The previous Labor government placed a high priority on addressing this, which is why we planned and budgeted for 10 Queensland pathways colleges, and 100 per cent of the students at those amazing campuses attained their QCE last year. That is amazing for any school, but it is particularly so for students who are disengaged.

We got seven of those 10 pathways colleges done before we lost government. There was a budget for the final three in Cairns, Central Queensland and Logan. Unfortunately, this government has done absolutely nothing about them—not one thing. It is avoiding answering any questions about them. We know that the non-state-school providers who run alternative education programs across the state and the pathways colleges are reporting their waiting lists are absolutely bursting at the seams.

This government is ignoring those young people in Cairns, Central Queensland and Logan. They were allocated the funds. While this amendment deals with transitions for those young people, what it is not dealing with is the fact that they need those alternative education places in the first instance. We know that the youth justice minister likes to talk a lot about alternative education. She does love to talk. Unfortunately, she just does not deliver very much. Over and over again she talks about how important education is for children in the youth justice system. We know that every child in the youth justice system has been disengaged from education but not every disengaged child enters the youth justice system. There is an integral link between education and entry to the youth justice system. That is why we place such an emphasis on it.

The Minister for Youth Justice is going to get all these kids back into school with their crime prevention schools and their youth justice schools. I guess these amendments will apply to them. They talk and talk about them, but we have been waiting for it to happen. It is all very slow. We are nearly halfway through the term. Men of Business just got their crime prevention school going. I think they just started this term. Who knows what happened with the tender process that she put in place for the other three crime prevention schools. They abandoned the tender process. Then she said she was going to hand-pick them all. She has just announced a crime prevention school for Ipswich. She says that was a tender. If it was, nobody else knew about it. Were they hand-picked, what was the process? I am not reflecting on Y Schools, who actually got the tender. I note they refuse to call it a crime prevention school. It is instead called the Futures Academy. If you want a kid to be rehabilitated, you do not say they are going to a crime prevention school, do you? That makes sense.

I note there are some close personal connections between a couple of the schools involved in the process and prominent members of the LNP. We still do not know about the crime prevention schools in Rocky and Townsville. Crime statistics are rocketing in Townsville—absolutely rocketing. If the minister is true to her word then she should be getting that school in Townsville up and running really quickly.

Mr KEMPTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am wondering about relevance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Yes, I have been following this. I note the member started talking about the principle of re-engagement of students and continuity of education. That is also in the report on page 10. The member has continued along those lines. The member can continue but please make sure you stick within the parameters of the bill.

Ms FARMER: As you say, Mr Deputy Speaker, the amendment deals specifically with transitions for those young people to be re-engaged, which is exactly what the alternative education options are about. It is the youth justice minister who talks about it all the time and talks about youth justice schools and crime prevention schools. I just talked about the crime prevention schools. We still do not know what is happening in Rocky and Townsville. Goodness knows when we will hear about them.

When it comes to the youth justice schools, we have one location in Griffith run by Ohana, with enrolments to be taken maybe in 2027. It changes a bit with this minister. We want to see young people in the youth justice system transitioning and re-engaging but, when it comes to the youth justice school in Cairns, there has just been such a debacle about where it is going to be. The minister announced a couple of weeks ago that it will be in the city. Businesses went absolutely spare about it because no-one talked to them about it. Crime is going absolutely through the roof in Cairns as well. We still do not have any approval for the Ohana school in Cairns. That still has not been through NSSAB, even though the minister says there has been approval and it is ready to take enrolments. I trust NSSAB perhaps more than the minister. The whole thing has been so badly handled. We are nearly two years in. These schools are such a key plank of their early intervention and prevention programs and they are still not even off the ground. This government is all talk and no action—all photo-op and no follow-up. That is them.

Let's go to the recognition of education and training centres as state educational institutions. I thank the department officials for clarifying that this is essentially about clarifying the blue card status of staff teaching in the youth detention centres. To be honest, I did not think that the explanatory notes were totally clear on that. I absolutely accept what the department said about there being an issue for teachers about their blue card status. For those staff teaching in education and training centres in youth detention centres probably the biggest issue for them is actually getting access to those young people to deliver education in the first place for whom they must have appropriate blue card status.

We need the minister to come clean about what is really happening in those centres. Those teachers are doing an amazing job. This is just another example of the youth justice minister saying one thing while another completely different thing is happening. She tells us so often about how wonderful it is there are so many kids going to those education centres and how they are loving it and there are just so many extra hours being spent there, but we know from whistleblowers that in fact education hours have been cut back in those centres. We saw youth detention centre workers actually walk out—

Mr LANGBROEK: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. We are getting constant references to youth justice—another minister—not relevant to this bill. I draw your attention to the fact that those references are just not relevant.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: As I have said, in looking at the greens, the policy objectives are about strengthening governance, improving educational outcomes and supporting re-engagement of students and continuity of education. The member's contribution is along those themes. I have gone through the explanatory notes—the few number of pages we do have.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Excuse me. The member is giving a contribution in accordance with the greens and also the report. I would say to the member that if you are going into specifics that are not in the report and the greens, that can be dangerous for you, but continue along those themes.

Ms FARMER: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. As you say, it is actually in the bill. I am wondering whether the minister has read it. It is actually about education centres in youth detention centres and they are teachers in his employ. That is a bit embarrassing really. Those teachers are doing a great job. As I say, if there has been a concern about clarifying blue card status then it is very good that the amendment is addressing that. This amendment is about recognising education and training centres as state educational institutions—that is, employed by the state education minister.

Mr Deputy Speaker, you might recall that the youth detention centre officers recently stood down to protest unsafe working conditions, with some young people regularly locked down for up to 23 hours every day as a result. With this happening on a regular basis, tell me how is the minister providing access to the education that is so frequently referenced by the youth justice minister because it is impossible to deliver education when a child is locked up for 23 of the 24 hours every day.

As I said, the opposition will be supporting this bill. We know that it is supported by stakeholders. It is important to do some tidying up and to make things as streamlined as possible. However, I would urge the minister, in addition to doing housekeeping, to address those critical priorities of teachers' pay, teachers' working conditions, workforce shortages, what is happening to staffing in special schools, red-tape reduction—all the things he talks about. They are critical. There is nothing more important than educating our kids and ensuring their future. We need to know that this minister is attending to housekeeping but that he is also attending to those critical priorities.



Mr HUTTON (Keppel—LNP) (12.19 pm): I am grateful for the opportunity to sit here today and listen to the longest non-apology by a failed former education and youth justice minister who oversaw a decade of decline in our classrooms, our schools and our communities. We do agree that this tidying up and cleaning up the ALP mess—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Member for Keppel, do you withdraw?

Mr HUTTON: I withdraw. I am proud to be part of the Crisafulli government and to have an education minister who is listening to our teachers, our students and the people in our sector who wanted a partnership to clean up the mess of the failed Palaszczuk-Miles former Labor government. There is an old saying that every child is one caring adult away—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: One moment. Please take a seat, member for Keppel. Members, you know the standing order about arguing across the chamber. Please cease. Member for Keppel, please resume.

Mr HUTTON: There is an old saying that every child is one caring adult away from a successful future. For Queensland children, our schools are integral to that success. It is our schools that notice when a student is struggling and encourage a child to keep trying when they are ready to give up, and it is our schools that help young people discover talents and opportunities they never knew they had. When Queensland parents send their children to school every morning they want something very simple. They want their children to be safe, they want their children to learn and they want them to be supported. They want our schools to be empowered to focus on teaching rather than having to navigate unnecessary bureaucracy.

I acknowledge the work of my colleagues on the Education, Arts and Communities Committee in examining this legislation. I thank committee members both past and present and acknowledge the committee secretariat for their professionalism and commitment to supporting us as we undertook this inquiry. I also acknowledge the many stakeholders who contributed to the inquiry, including: Independent Schools Queensland, Queensland Catholic Education Commission, Queensland College of Teachers, Non-State Schools Accreditation Board, Queensland's major arts institutions, school communities, educators and service providers from across the state. Our committee made one recommendation: that the bill be passed.

We know that education is one of the largest and most important enterprises of a society. In my own region of Central Queensland, around three-quarters of students are educated in our outstanding state schools while around one-quarter attend Catholic and independent schools. We are fortunate to have a strong cross-sector learning community where educators work together, families have genuine choice and the focus remains firmly on the needs of students. Whether a child attends a state school in Emu Park, a Catholic college in Rockhampton, an independent school in Yeppoon or one of our smaller regional schools like Cawarral, every parent wants the same thing: a quality education that prepares their child for life.

This bill will make our education and arts systems work better for Queenslanders. It supports the Crisafulli government's commitment to reduce unnecessary regulatory burden, strengthens governance, improves educational outcomes and ensures our institutions remain contemporary, accountable and focused on delivering for Queenslanders. This legislation recognises that good systems should support people, not frustrate them. Whether we are talking about a teacher in a classroom, a principal managing a school, an organisation helping disengaged young people reconnect with education or a cultural institution serving our community, our legislative framework should help them succeed rather than place unnecessary obstacles in their path.

Non-state schools play an important role in this sector, including in Central Queensland and the Keppel electorate. They educate thousands of students, support families and contribute to the diversity of educational opportunities available to our communities. Currently, when a non-state school seeks to make a relatively straightforward change such as adding year levels, introducing boarding facilities or modifying another accreditation attribute, the process can require an extensive assessment similar to when they are seeking full accreditation, regardless of the level of risk related to this exercise. The reforms contained in this bill introduce a much more proportionate and risk-based approach. The Non-State Schools Accreditation Board will be empowered to undertake either a simple assessment or a complex assessment, depending on the nature of the proposed changes. Importantly, the assessment

will focus on the matters relevant to that change rather than reopening every aspect of a school's accreditation. This is a practical reform that reduces unnecessary administrative burden while maintaining appropriate oversight and accountability.

The bill also improves arrangements relating to temporary school sites. Those of us who represent regional Queensland communities understand how important flexibility can be when communities face unexpected challenges. Whether it is severe weather, natural disasters or damage to facilities, the priority should always be ensuring that students can continue their education with minimal disruption. Under current arrangements, special assistance schools currently have access to temporary site provisions but other non-state schools do not enjoy the same flexibility. This bill extends that framework to all non-state schools and provides greater certainty around accreditation arrangements while temporary sites are being used. For parents this means continuity of learning, for schools it means certainty and for students it means fewer disruptions during what can already be incredibly difficult circumstances.

This bill also strengthens governance arrangements for the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board through modern delegation powers, a ministerial statement of expectations and improved information-sharing arrangements between the board and the Department of Education. While these provisions may appear technical, they are important. Strong governance supports better decision-making and provides for greater transparency and more responsive administration. Ultimately, that benefits our students, families and school communities.

One aspect of the bill that particularly resonates with me is the element concerning young people who have become disengaged from education. Every member of this House will have met young people whose educational journey has not followed a straightforward path. Some face challenges at home. Others struggle with mental health issues. Others have experienced trauma, instability or circumstances that make participation in traditional education difficult. Across Queensland there are dedicated educators, community organisations and service providers working every day to reconnect young people with education, training and employment pathways. Their work is often transformational.

This bill provides greater legislative clarity for education re-entry and transition service programs that support these young people. Importantly, it recognises that re-engagement is a process rather than a single event. It ensures the Department of Education and approved providers can continue to support young people until they are ready to transition back into school or another suitable pathway. The bill also provides clear authority for appropriate information sharing between providers and educational institutions to ensure that our students receive coordinated support throughout that journey. For many young Queenslanders these reforms will help create a bridge back to education or employment and an opportunity for a brighter future.

The bill also clarifies the legislative status of education and training centres operating within youth detention centres. By formally recognising education and training centres as state education institutions, this legislation provides certainty regarding the delivery of education programs by ensuring that teachers who can work in state schools because of their Queensland College of Teachers registration do not have to have separate registration to serve and provide appropriate arrangements within education and training centres.

The bill also expands opportunities for the international delivery of the Queensland Certificate of Education. The QCE is a qualification of which Queensland can be proud. It is recognised nationally and internationally and provides pathways to further education, training and employment to our international community. The reforms contained within this bill will allow eligible Queensland non-state schools, including grammar schools, to partner with overseas schools under the oversight and quality assurance arrangements of the QCAA. This reform strengthens Queensland's reputation as a provider of high-quality education and creates new opportunities to showcase our educational excellence to a global audience while maintaining rigorous standards and oversight.

This bill is ultimately a practical bill. It reduces unnecessary red tape, it strengthens governance, it supports young people, it provides continuity of learning during times of disruption, it enhances opportunities for Queensland education to be recognised internationally and it ensures our cultural institutions remain strong and ready for the future. I commend the bill to the House.



Ms McMILLAN (Mansfield—ALP) (12.29 pm): I rise to speak to the Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. At the outset, let me make the opposition's position clear: this bill is largely technical in nature and the Queensland Labor opposition will be supporting it. We welcome the provisions relating to ticket scalping which will help protect Queenslanders from being ripped off and

scammed when purchasing tickets for events at QPAC. Queenslanders deserve confidence that, when they buy tickets to enjoy our arts and cultural institutions, they are not being exploited by unscrupulous resellers.

Most submitters and witnesses who appeared before the committee indicated that any concerns they had regarding the bill could largely be addressed through implementation frameworks, operational guidance and other clarifying measures. For that reason, Labor will support the legislation. However, while this bill contains a range of technical amendments, it also highlights a much larger problem. This is yet another general housekeeping bill from a minister who has failed to deliver anything meaningful for Queensland teachers, teacher aides and school staff and who is dragging Queensland's education standards backwards.

Queensland schools are facing significant challenges. Teachers are struggling with workload pressures, school staff are dealing with increasing levels of occupational violence, and recruitment and retention remain ongoing concerns; yet, instead of addressing these real and urgent issues, this government brings forward another bill focused largely on administrative and technical amendments.

One area that deserves scrutiny is the proposal relating to temporary sites for special assistance schools. The bill will allow special assistance schools to provide education at a temporary site on a temporary basis, even where no emergency event has affected the school. One would ask why this would be needed. The department was unable to clearly articulate during the committee process why this special exemption was necessary. Every other category of school can only operate from a temporary site because of an emergency event, yet under this bill special assistance schools will effectively be permitted to operate from temporary sites for any reason. Given the importance of stability and certainty for vulnerable students attending these schools, it is reasonable to ask why this change is necessary and what safeguards will exist to ensure educational outcomes are protected.

The bill also significantly expands information-sharing arrangements between several entities, including the Department of Education, the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board and non-state schools. While information sharing can improve efficiency and support decision-making, it must be balanced with transparency, procedural fairness and privacy protections, particularly as it relates to information about young people who rightly expect the government to protect their identity and their safety. Some stakeholders, including Catholic Education Queensland Ltd, raised concerns that the proposed arrangements may undermine the ability of schools to respond appropriately to accreditation matters and show cause processes before information is shared with the department. They argued that the amendments may inadvertently weaken consultation and procedural fairness.

The Office of the Information Commissioner also provided valuable advice during the inquiry. The commissioner suggested the government consider formalised memorandums of understanding to clearly define the purpose of information sharing, establish compliance with Queensland Privacy Principles and outline appropriate processes for information exchange. That is a sensible recommendation. The opposition calls on the government to adopt this recommendation and ensure the privacy and personal information of schools, parents and students are properly protected.

The bill also substantially expands the role and responsibilities of the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board. The board will be required to undertake additional functions, provide greater clarity across a range of regulatory matters and oversee significant implementation responsibilities arising from these amendments. The success or failure of these reforms will ultimately depend on whether the board is properly resourced. During the committee process, witnesses repeatedly raised concerns about the board's capacity. The Chief Executive Officer of Independent Schools Queensland told the committee that the board is being asked to undertake a highly complex regulatory task and is not massively resourced to perform that function. Other witnesses stated quite directly that the board could certainly do with more funding. These concerns should not be dismissed.

The government is asking the board to carry greater responsibility, provide additional regulatory oversight and develop new frameworks, yet there is little confidence that the resources will follow. Why should Queenslanders have confidence? In recent weeks we have seen Public Service positions removed, temporary contracts across government not renewed and uncertainty created throughout departments. If Queenslanders cannot trust this government to properly resource our Public Service today, why should they believe the government will adequately resource the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board tomorrow?

The reality is that this bill serves as a distraction from the minister's failures. It fails to address the issues keeping teachers awake at night, it fails to address the challenges confronting teacher aides and it fails to address the growing concerns of school staff across Queensland. This minister has failed

to deliver meaningful pay and conditions for Queensland teachers. His handling of negotiations led to the historic double strike by Queensland teachers in 2025. Rather than resolving the dispute through genuine engagement, teachers are now being forced into arbitration because the Crisafulli government refuses to provide the pay outcomes that they deserve. Even more astonishingly, the government could not bring itself to provide a modest three per cent interim wage increase, despite that funding already being budgeted for. What message does that send to the profession, what message does it send to the teachers who work tirelessly in classrooms every day, and what message does it send—

Mr LANGBROEK: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The matter of the teachers' wage claim is not part of the long title of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Member, could you bring your comments back to the issues addressed within the bill.

Ms McMILLAN: I am also concerned that we are facing an immense shortage in the number of teachers in Queensland. This is certainly discouraging university students from considering a teaching career.

The minister also promised a 25 per cent reduction in red tape. It sounded impressive at the press conference and it sounded impressive in the media release; however, when questioned about how this reduction would actually be measured, there was no detail, no methodology, no benchmark and no accountability. When Labor members speak with teachers right across Queensland—and I know that our shadow minister spends a lot of time speaking with fully employed teachers right now—and when we examine school opinion surveys and hear directly from staff in our communities, the message is clear: teachers are not feeling that there is any reduction in workload whatsoever. The promise exists; the results do not.

Perhaps of most concern is that teachers and school staff continue to face unacceptable levels of occupational violence. This is one of the most serious issues confronting Queensland schools today. Every teacher deserves a safe workplace, every teacher aide deserves a safe workplace and every school staff member deserves a safe workplace; yet this minister continues to treat the issue as an afterthought rather than a priority. While Labor will support this legislation because it contains a range of sensible technical amendments, we will not allow the government to pretend that this bill represents meaningful educational reform or cuts red tape. It does not. I heard the member for Keppel speak about the reduction in red tape. He is a qualified, registered teacher and I do not understand how he thinks this bill cuts red tape.

This is another administrative bill from a minister who is failing to address the fundamental challenges facing Queensland's education system. Queensland's teachers deserve better. Queensland's school staff deserve better. Queensland's students deserve better. The shadow minister raised numerous concerns that she has with the bill. The opposition supports the bill, but we remain deeply concerned about the government's failure to tackle the real issues affecting our schools and the people who work in them every single day.

 **Ms HATCHER** (Caloundra—LNP) (12.39 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. This bill is practical, it is sensible and, most importantly, it is focused on getting the system working better for the people who actually rely on it: students, parents, teachers, principals, schools and our wider communities. I can say that not just as the member for Caloundra but also as someone who cares deeply about education. I was a teacher before I came into this chamber. I know what a classroom feels like when it is working. I also know what it feels like when teachers are drowning in administration—at times for little purpose. Streamlining things that make little sense is also a function of good government, and this bill is doing just that.

I should also note that I am a proud parent of four children in Queensland state schools and a state school advocate. This year my eldest daughter will graduate from year 12. I give a big shout-out to the amazing team at Caloundra State High School, who are providing these children of mine and many others with a fantastic opportunity to learn and thrive.

Education should never be about paperwork first and children second, but under the former government that is too often what it became. Teachers were suffocated by red tape and schools were left with more administration, more behavioural issues, more occupational violence and not enough practical support. Parents were told the system was working—

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

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Order, members. When I am taking a point of order we will have silence. I understand your point of order, but the issues of delivering those key reforms and the regulatory burden and the violence have been mentioned previously during this debate. I urge members to stick within the policy objectives, the explanatory notes and the long title of the bill. Bear in mind, too, that this is the Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, so it is pretty broad.

Ms HATCHER: In Caloundra I speak to parents all the time who want basic things. They want their children to be safe at school and the teachers able to teach. They want young people who have disengaged from education to be brought back in, not written out. That is not asking too much. From Caloundra to Golden Beach, from Beerwah to Landsborough and to Pelican Waters, families want an education system that is clear, accountable and focused on outcomes. That is what this bill helps deliver.

The former Labor government had 10 years to fix these problems and reduce the burden on schools and facilities—10 years to address the things that have been brought to our attention time and time again. They left Queensland with no new schools opening in 2026 and classrooms with a repair bill of more than \$400 million. They left behaviour incidents and bullying soaring. They left teacher occupational violence skyrocketing by more than 200 per cent. It is not a record to be proud of. I will say this very plainly: when teachers are spending too much time on paperwork, when principals are trying to navigate unnecessary regulatory burden or when parents feel like no-one is listening, it is not a small administrative problem; it is a system problem.

The Crisafulli government was elected to deliver a fresh start for Queensland and in education that is exactly what we are doing, step by step. In six months this government has delivered what Labor could not deliver in 10 years: a deal with the federal government to fully fund Queensland state schools with the largest injection of funding for Queensland students. We have delivered the \$100 Back to School Boost for primary school students, have delivered a nation-leading antibullying plan and are investing \$45 million each year through Behavioural Boost so schools can engage school-based behaviour specialists, increase teacher aide hours and respond to real challenges they are facing. That is what delivery looks like.

As a member of the education committee, I have had the opportunity to look closely at this bill. The committee made one recommendation: that the bill be passed. There was no statement of reservation from the opposition. I would like to thank my fellow committee members for the work they have done on this bill and also the team of the parliamentary secretariat and the team at the minister's office. This matters because this bill is not some wild ideological reform; it is a practical package of amendments designed to improve governance, reduce unnecessary burden, strengthen clarity and make education and arts bodies operate more efficiently.

The bill makes important changes to the non-state schools accreditation framework and the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board. At the moment, when a non-state school needs to make a change to an accreditation attribute—perhaps adding year levels or introducing boarding facilities—the current framework can require a full accreditation style assessment. That is not always necessary and it can create uncertainty, delays and administrative burden for schools and for the board. This bill introduces a risk-based assessment process. In plain English, that means the assessment can match the actual risk and complexity of the change. If a proposed change is simple, the process should also be simple. If it is complex, it should be assessed properly. That is just common sense.

The bill also supports continuity of education when schools need to operate from a temporary site. This is particularly important for special assistance schools but it is also important for other non-state schools that may be affected by natural disasters or emergency events which, in Queensland, we can be prone to. We know what emergency events look like. We know what heavy rain, flooding, storms and cyclones can do. We know that sometimes a school site may become unsafe or unsuitable. When that happens, students should not be left in limbo because the legislation has not kept up. This bill gives schools greater certainty. It extends the temporary site framework so all non-state schools can operate from a temporary site when needed and it clarifies accreditation status during the process. That is practical and responsible and it keeps students learning.

The bill also gives NSSAB a clearer power to delegate appropriate functions and powers to suitable people. Again, this is about making sure routine regulatory processes can happen in a timely way while maintaining accountability for key decisions. It also introduces a ministerial statement of expectations for NSSAB that will allow the minister to clearly outline performance and strategic expectations separate from formal direction powers. This improves transparency, alignment and accountability. The bill also improves information sharing between NSSAB and the Department of

Education. This is important because when accreditation decisions affect students, communities and funding administration, the department needs timely information. We should not have agencies operating in silos when children's education is involved.

One of the most important parts of this bill is the way it supports re-engagement in education, training and employment. Not every young person's path through education is simple. Some children and young people become disengaged. Some are at risk of falling out of the system entirely, and once a young person is disconnected from education it can be very hard to bring them back. That is why the bill clarifies that the Department of Education and prescribed non-government providers may support and manage participation in education re-entry and transition service programs. These programs are for children and young people who are disengaged or at risk of disengagement and who need extended support to address barriers to school attendance and engagement.

This matters because a young person who is struggling should not be treated as a statistic. They should not be pushed from one part of the system to another until everybody simply gives up. They need a pathway back. They need adults who will not write them off. They need a system that recognises that re-engagement can take time, support and coordination. This bill provides clearer legislative recognition of those programs and supports appropriate information sharing so referrals can occur and participation can be managed, which is exactly the kind of reform that we need.

This bill also explicitly recognises education and training centres in youth detention centres as educational institutions. These centres provide education to young people in youth detention settings. Their students often have complex needs. The enrolments may be shorter. The education delivered must be tailored to the circumstances, but there should be no uncertainty about the authority to deliver education in these settings. The bill clarifies that the working with children requirements for approved teachers in these education and training centres are consistent with requirements for teachers in other educational institutions. Education should not stop because a young person is in detention. In fact, for many of these young people, education is one of the most important tools we have to change the direction of their lives.

It has been an amazing opportunity to work with the committee on this bill. I thank the minister and his team. I commend this bill to the House.



Mr RICHMOND (Stafford—ALP) (12.50 pm): It is a privilege to have been appointed to the Education, Arts and Communities Committee and I am proud to rise to speak to the Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Despite being a member of the committee, I can in no way take credit for the work of the committee and want to pay tribute to all of the members of the committee, including the member for Ipswich West, for their work in scrutinising this legislation and for the work of the committee secretariat.

Education has the capacity to be a singular, propulsive force in a person's life. For some children whose home life is a place of chaos, anger or danger, school can be a place of refuge and respite. A quality education gives life to the dreams and aspirations of the individual, allowing them to fulfil their potential, to enjoy the dignity of work and to contribute fully to the economic and civic life of our state. By delivering the best possible education to every Queenslanders, we give businesses and investors the confidence that they need so that they know wherever in our state they choose to operate they will have a workforce capable of delivering high-quality services. That is how a strong education system underwrites our economic growth.

I am incredibly fortunate to have so many schools in my electorate. One of the first priorities I set myself as the member for Stafford was to visit as many of them—public and private—as I could. While it was already well known to me, each school visit has reinforced just how dedicated our educators are, how important access to education is, how much more resourcing our schools need and how desperately our teachers need a pay rise. The impact a teacher can have on the life of a student has been brought home to me again as I returned to my own schools, OLA and Padua. On my first visit to OLA I was able to see the very first teacher I ever had—Ann-Marie Flynn. She was absolutely fantastic and I remember she had a particular skill at building the literacy of every student she taught, whatever their starting point. At Padua College—a place that holds so many fond memories for me—I was able to reacquaint myself with the teachers who shaped not only my education but also the values that animate me to this day, in this place and in the community.

My belief in the fundamental importance of a properly funded education system is clearly shared by the people of Stafford. There is no better evidence of that than the outstanding commitment of our P&Cs. In the last week I met with members of the Stafford Heights State School P&C at its regular

meeting and attended the Stafford State School P&C's Under 8s Day. The efforts of these community members to keep their school communities vibrant and properly funded are a testament to them and to the importance of our education system.

The opposition does not oppose this bill. It is a largely procedural one. That said, there are several elements of it that I want to comment on. This bill seeks to enable an expanded model for the international delivery of the Queensland Certificate of Education by allowing accredited non-state schools in Queensland to partner with overseas schools to deliver it. This is welcome. It reflects the fact that the Department of Education already works with overseas institutions to deliver the QCE and is an affirmation that our education system is held in high regard right across the world. I draw the House's attention to this part of the bill, because it stands in stark contrast to so much of the prevailing rhetoric we see, particularly at a federal level. Our future prosperity depends on using our international standing to attract skilled workers through a well-managed migration system. This bill recognises that and it is a rejection of the desire of some to build a monocultural society here in Queensland and across our country more broadly.

I turn now to the amendments dealing with the re-engagement and transition of children and young people. These are commonsense changes. I note the comments of the principal commissioner of the Queensland Family and Child Commission who said—

Engagement with education is widely recognised as a critical protective factor for children and young people. Maintaining connection to education through flexible, supportive and trauma-informed approaches can act as a stabilising force, providing routine, access to supportive adults, and pathways to future employment and community participation. In this context, reforms that strengthen continuity of education and provide realistic pathways for re-engagement are critical components of early intervention and harm prevention.

I agree. I welcome the fact that this bill properly recognises the educational services delivered in our youth detention facilities, but as we deliver those services it is vital that the people delivering them are kept safe. That is plainly not happening today. We have seen members of the Australian Workers' Union walk out of youth detention facilities out of fear for their safety and, rather than those concerns being taken seriously, they were dismissed by the government as a bargaining tactic. During the Stafford by-election I knocked on thousands of doors. A fair few of them were answered by teachers. A common refrain was that they were sick to death of the growing incidence of occupational violence that they were exposed to. The factors that give rise to this violence are complex and no-one expects the government to have a silver bullet, but teachers do expect their concerns to be taken seriously. That is not happening under this government. Instead, we have an education minister who is trying to give the impression that violence is falling while the rest of the education system looks on in abject disbelief. This is yet another example of a recurring habit of this government—cherry-picking data to spin its case, reportedly backed by tens of millions of dollars of taxpayer money in a way that is detached from the reality confronting ordinary Australians.

A through line of this bill is the increased requirement for information sharing between the Department of Education and other agencies. The transmission of this information is both desirable and necessary, but it places a burden on our teachers and our public servants, and both of the unions representing our teaching workforce have said so clearly. The Queensland Teachers' Union told the committee—

The QTU is concerned that teachers will become recipients of sensitive and potentially highly confidential information without clear guidance on their legal obligations, accountability if information is incomplete or misused, or protections if they act on that information.

The Independent Education Union raised the same concern but went further. It warned that the amendments may mean that schools—

... receive students with complex behavioural and social needs, who require intensive support; without a parallel commitment to ensure those schools are able to access additional staffing, specialist services or targeted support.

These concerns go to the heart of whether these reforms will work in practice or whether they will simply add to the load already being carried by our educators.

This bill reflects the crucial role our education staff play in our civic and economic life, and that is exactly why the government's refusal to deliver a fair deal for our teachers is so galling. Not only is it refusing a proper pay rise; it is refusing even an interim one. That is a mark of this—

An honourable member interjected.

Mr RICHMOND: I take that interjection asking whether or not a pay rise for teachers was relevant to an education—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): One moment. I will hear the point of order—on relevance?

Mr LANGBROEK: As I have raised before, a pay rise for teachers is not part of the long title of this bill.

Mr RICHMOND: Mr Deputy Speaker, on a point of order—

Mr Langbroek interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Through the chair, please. Thank you, member; you were saying?

Mr RICHMOND: I seek your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker, on whether or not talking about the ability of teachers to deliver these reforms is disconnected from the ability to attract teachers by giving them a pay rise.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for that; I am going to take some advice. The member may continue. May I point out that we have talked about other issues, including behaviour, violence and antibullying. Pay has been mentioned before. I understand your point of order, but it is a marginal one, so please keep that in mind if you want to go down that track.

Mr RICHMOND: Mr Deputy Speaker, doesn't that tell you absolutely everything that you need to know about that side of the House? When talking about an education bill, they somehow think that it is irrelevant to talk about the pay and conditions of our educators. I doorknocked thousands of doors during the Stafford by-election and those who answered all told me the same thing—that they were sick of the spin and the lies of those opposite. It is not just about pay.

Mr LANGBROEK: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member has used unparliamentary language and I ask that you ask him to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I ask you to withdraw.

Mr RICHMOND: I withdraw. Teachers want to feel safer at work. They want relief from the administrative load that they carry. The government has talked a good game on both but it simply has not delivered, just like it has not delivered the 93 beds at the Prince Charles. I fear that, with recent reports that the LNP is putting public servant jobs on the chopping block, there will be more administrative work that falls on the shoulders of our educators.

Debate, on motion of Mr Richmond, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

Message from Governor



Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.00 pm): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

Mr SPEAKER: The message from Her Excellency the Governor recommends the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL 2026

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

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

A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for the Legislative Assembly and parliamentary service for the financial years starting 1 July 2026 and 1 July 2027

GOVERNOR

Date: 23 June 2026

Tabled paper: Message, dated 23 June 2026, from Her Excellency the Governor recommending the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2026 [\[1016\]](#).

Introduction



Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.00 pm): I present a bill for an act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the Consolidated Fund for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service for the financial years starting 1 July 2026 and 1 July 2027. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights.

Tabled paper: Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2026 [\[1017\]](#).

Tabled paper: Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2026, explanatory notes [\[1018\]](#).

Tabled paper: Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[1019\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2026. The bill provides appropriation for the 2026-27 financial year and interim supply for 2027-28 to continue normal operations of the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service until the 2027-28 appropriation bill receives assent. The government remains committed to the independence of the Legislative Assembly. We are adhering to the longstanding convention that the Legislative Assembly's appropriation be contained in a bill separate from the appropriation bill for the other activities of government.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Clerk, Mr Neil Laurie, and the entirety of the Parliamentary Service for the important function they play in our democracy and for the support they provide to all members of this House. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.02 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Mr SPEAKER: In accordance with standing order 177, the bill is now set down for its second reading.

BUDGET PAPERS



Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.02 pm): I table the budget papers for 2026-27.

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Appropriation Bills [\[1020\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Budget Speech—Budget Paper No. 1 [\[1021\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Budget Strategy and Outlook—Budget Paper No. 2 [\[1022\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Budget Capital Statement—Budget Paper No. 3 [\[1023\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Budget Measures—Budget Paper No. 4 [\[1024\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Service Delivery Statements—Department of the Premier and Cabinet [\[1025\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Service Delivery Statements—Queensland Treasury [\[1026\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Customer Services, Open Data and Small and Family Business [\[1027\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Education [\[1028\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety [\[1029\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Housing and Public Works [\[1030\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Justice [\[1031\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers [\[1032\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development [\[1033\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Primary Industries [\[1034\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games [\[1035\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Service Delivery Statements—Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning [\[1036\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Service Delivery Statements—Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation [\[1037\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Trade, Employment and Training [\[1038\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Transport and Main Roads [\[1039\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism [\[1040\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support [\[1041\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Service Delivery Statements—Queensland Corrective Services [\[1042\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Service Delivery Statements—Queensland Fire Department [\[1043\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Service Delivery Statements—Queensland Health [\[1044\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Service Delivery Statements—Queensland Police Service, Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management [\[1045\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Service Delivery Statements—Legislative Assembly of Queensland [\[1046\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Regional Delivery Plan—Brisbane Central [\[1047\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Regional Delivery Plan—Brisbane East [\[1048\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Regional Delivery Plan—Brisbane North [\[1049\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Regional Delivery Plan—Brisbane South [\[1050\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Regional Delivery Plan—Brisbane West [\[1051\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Regional Delivery Plan—Central Queensland [\[1052\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Regional Delivery Plan—Darling Downs [\[1053\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Regional Delivery Plan—Far North Queensland [\[1054\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Regional Delivery Plan—Gold Coast [\[1055\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Regional Delivery Plan—Ipswich [\[1056\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Regional Delivery Plan—Logan [\[1057\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Regional Delivery Plan—Mackay Whitsundays [\[1058\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Regional Delivery Plan—Moreton Bay [\[1059\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Regional Delivery Plan—North Queensland [\[1060\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Regional Delivery Plan—North West Queensland [\[1061\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Regional Delivery Plan—Redlands [\[1062\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Regional Delivery Plan—Scenic Rim [\[1063\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Regional Delivery Plan—South West Queensland [\[1064\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Regional Delivery Plan—Southern Downs [\[1065\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Regional Delivery Plan—Sunshine Coast [\[1066\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Regional Delivery Plan—Western Queensland [\[1067\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Regional Delivery Plan—Wide Bay-Burnett [\[1068\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Budget Overview [\[1069\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2026-27: Women's Economic Security Statement [\[1070\]](#).

APPROPRIATION BILL

Message from Governor



Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.03 pm): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

Mr SPEAKER: The message from Her Excellency the Governor recommends the Appropriation Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

APPROPRIATION BILL 2026

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

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

A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for departments for the financial years starting 1 July 2026 and 1 July 2027

GOVERNOR

Date: 23 June 2026

Tabled paper: Message, dated 23 June 2026, from Her Excellency the Governor recommending the Appropriation Bill 2026 [1071].

Introduction



Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.02 pm): I present a bill for an act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the Consolidated Fund for departments for the financial years starting 1 July 2026 and 1 July 2027. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights.

Tabled paper: Appropriation Bill 2026 [1072].

Tabled paper: Appropriation Bill 2026, explanatory notes [1073].

Tabled paper: Appropriation Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights [1074].

Our first budget laid the foundation for the fresh start Queenslanders voted for: respect for taxpayers' money; respect for our public servants—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr JANETZKI: It is on!

Mr SPEAKER: Members, that is highly disorderly. The Treasurer traditionally will be heard in silence.

Mr JANETZKI:—respect for taxpayers' money; respect for our public servants who work to heal the sick, teach and care for our young and protect our citizens; respect for the industries that underpin our prosperity; and respect for hardworking Queenslanders who deserved better than what a decade of Labor government gave them. Today we strengthen those foundations, in challenging times, both here and abroad, by delivering what we said we would and honouring our election commitments, by investing in the jobs and services that would have ended under Labor, by funding the infrastructure and projects to build our state's future, by providing certainty and stability through another budget with no new or increased taxes—not taking the easy option other governments have taken, damaging confidence and aspiration across the country.

Twelve thousand kilometres away lies the Strait of Hormuz. War in Iran and blockages in the strait have impacted roughly 20 per cent of the world's oil supply, reverberating through all markets to all corners of the global economy. One of the most significant geopolitical economic shocks in our lifetime will linger long across the world, and Queensland lies at the very end of this global supply chain, downstream of the global chaos—the nation's largest user of diesel; oil reliance buried deep into our economy; products embedded across industries, in ways obvious and subtle, driving prices higher, now and into a still uncertain future.

One thousand kilometres away lies Canberra—a federal Labor government budget of broken promises that threatens not just political stability but the confidence and aspiration of everyday Australians, young and older, and businesses, small and family. But that is just the beginning. Canberra's approach to federal-state financial arrangements threatens the very stability of the federation: National Disability Insurance Scheme cost-shifting in the billions; inexplicable changes to natural disaster funding after a year in which 74 of 77 Queensland local governments have been disaster declared; uncertainty regarding previously struck 80-20 Bruce Highway funding agreements; Queensland inland rail funding sent to Victoria, depriving our nation of its long-held promise; more than 1,000 stranded Queenslanders lying in hospital awaiting federally responsible aged-care places; ill-defined and ill-conceived intervention in the Queensland supplied east coast gas market; TAFE funding cuts jeopardising more than 10,000 placements; and, of course, the inequities of the GST carve-up penalising Queensland for its decentralisation and commitment to the national wealth-creating gas industry. Despite the national pool increasing by almost 20 per cent over the past three years, Queensland will be allocated less GST in real terms in 2026-27 than in 2023-24, and those opposite said nothing.

Just metres away—not 12,000 kilometres and not 1,000 kilometres but just metres away—sit those opposite: their legacy of debt, deficits and deceit; record debt, worsening deficits, broken tax promises; state owned service stations, state owned GP practices, state sliced school lunches; projects unscoped, ungoverned and undeliverable—Pioneer-Burdekin, hydrogen, Borumba, CopperString; budget papers as advertising hoarding with nothing inside them to support Queenslanders who desperately needed it—not 50-cent fares, not Play On! Sports Vouchers, not even bill relief for vulnerable Queensland households; unfunded jobs and services in health, child safety and homelessness; a credit rating downgrade not just highly likely but inevitable. Turning around the ship from the careless course charted by those opposite will take time. These are the challenges, both near and far, that faced the Crisafulli government as we started preparing our second budget, and today I present a budget to the House that strengthens the foundations of our first budget to address these challenges and delivers strengthened fiscal results.

Today I can announce an operating surplus in the last of the budget years of 2029-30. As foreshadowed last year, this surplus is possible because of stable revenue improvements, the careful management of expense growth and a growing Queensland economy. The operating deficit for 2026-27 has improved to \$6.2 billion following this year's expected operating deficit of \$8.8 billion. Again, this improvement has been achieved through careful expense growth management, with a forecast 4.9 per cent increase in expenses in 2026-27 compared to 5.3 per cent in last year's budget and Labor's historic growth of 6.6 per cent. We have avoided the easy decisions seen in other jurisdictions—higher taxes, reducing services and projects ended.

I can advise the House that total state debt will be lower each year across the forward estimates than previously forecast. Debt this year will be \$142.4 billion, a \$5.4 billion reduction on last year's budget. Total state debt is now forecast to reach \$216.5 billion at the end of the forward estimates in 2029-30. Labor's debt trajectory at the same time would have been \$290 billion. We promised that debt would be lower under our government—and it is. We are delivering a further reduction in the cap on the number of non-frontline senior executives employed under the Public Sector Act from 842 to 793. This reduction is being achieved following a review of unfilled positions that would have otherwise cost around \$54.2 million across the forwards.

Our Productivity Commission will continue to lead policy debate across the state after its first inquiry into building and construction sector productivity and the provision of advice relating to energy and the GST distribution methodology. The Productivity Commission recommendation to terminate Best Practice Industry Conditions is delivering savings of \$20.6 billion to the community. Together with the ongoing commission of inquiry into the CFMEU, they are reminders of the vigilance necessary to drive productivity to deliver better living standards for future generations.

The hard work of strengthening the foundations of budget improvement will continue, this term and the next—just as we promised—respecting Queenslanders' money, helping Queenslanders through the tough times and making responsible decisions for now and in the future: lower debt; improving deficits, with a surplus forecast; and no new or increased taxes. We are delivering what we promised.

This budget delivers what we said we would. We are doing our bit to help Queenslanders through tough times. We know many families are doing it tough right now as they face the national affordability crisis, rising inflation and price spikes driven by war in the Middle East. This budget delivers the largest ongoing cost-of-living relief support package in Queensland's history, with nearly \$9.3 billion supporting Queenslanders in 2026-27. This is a 5.4 per cent increase on last year's cost-of-living relief package, a total of \$700 million. It is targeted and timely, recurrent and responsible.

This budget increases the Back to School Boost by 50 per cent to \$150 for every primary school student in Queensland. This will support families to pay for schoolbooks, uniforms and excursions to help with expenses at the start of the school year. We are delivering easier access to healthcare services for regional and remote Queensland by boosting the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme with faster reimbursements and increasing the fuel subsidy by 11 cents to a nation-leading 45 cents a kilometre.

We have locked in Play On! sports vouchers to support families that would have otherwise ended under those opposite last year. Likewise, the LNP's permanent 50-cent fares will be legislated.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: It will be locked in. The LNP's permanent 50-cent fares will be legislated so those opposite can never ever leave the Crisafulli government's permanent 50-cent fares unfunded. That is what we are delivering. The vulnerable household electricity rebate, cruelly frozen by the former

government, will again increase by 3.4 per cent to almost \$400, providing an uplift in support to around 700,000 Queensland households. The government indexation rate has been set below inflation for 2026-27, which reduces cost pressures flowing through to Queensland families. Bulk water prices in the south-east will be frozen for two years, giving households certainty that their water bill will not skyrocket, saving households around \$130. We are expanding free kindy health checks, with \$37.5 million over five years to help families with cost-of-living pressures and give Queensland kids the support they need as they start their educational journey. We have extended the boosted first home owner grant to \$30,000 for another four years, incentivising young people to get into the market in a new build, encouraging more supply.

In opposition, the now Premier and I would often speak in relation to the need to deliver structural cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders. In Labor's last full year of office, Queensland had some of the sharpest cost-of-living increases in the country. In one year alone power was up 19.9 per cent, three times the national average. Insurance was up 18.5 per cent in the same year. We are working to address these structural cost-of-living challenges and, while there will be ups and downs, there are green shoots appearing.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: Stand by!

Mr Crisafulli: You don't want power price reductions?

Mr JANETZKI: You don't want lower prices? The Insurance Council of Australia recently reported that car theft insurance claims fell 12 per cent in Queensland during the last 12 months—the biggest reduction on record—which should put downward pressure on insurance premiums.

But there is more to do. In the first year after Labor released its Energy and Jobs Plan, power prices rose 29 per cent in regional Queensland. In the first year after we released our Energy Roadmap, they dropped 6.9 per cent. For small and family businesses, it is down 8.1 per cent. I have directed Ergon to ensure these savings are passed on. In the south-east, the decreases detailed in the Australian Energy Regulator's Default Market Offer—between 7.2 per cent and 10.7 per cent for households and between 10.4 per cent and 14 per cent for small businesses—must also be reflected in Queenslanders' power bills. We have done our bit and now it is time for retailers to do theirs. But this work is just beginning.

This budget, through the Energy Roadmap, increases our Electricity Maintenance Guarantee to \$1.8 billion over five years. This builds on an investment of almost \$400 million in 2025-26, including four major overhauls at Callide C3 and C4, Tarong and Wivenhoe power stations. In 2026-27, government owned corporations will undertake four major unit overhauls at the Wivenhoe, Stanwell, Tarong and Kogan Creek power stations, investing more than \$520 million to ensure the continued delivery of power into the network. By properly maintaining generation assets through our Electricity Maintenance Guarantee and boosting private sector investment in new generation and storage, we are putting downward pressure on power prices, just as we said we would, and that is real, tangible cost-of-living relief.

Economic confidence has been battered by volatility in the Middle East and Canberra's chaos. While the outlook is uncertain, there is no better place to weather the storm than Queensland. Queensland's economy remains resilient to global pressures and continues to outperform many other states. Queensland's taxation per capita is extremely competitive compared to other jurisdictions. It is estimated Queenslanders will pay about \$650 less tax per person than the average of other jurisdictions in 2026-27 and are estimated to pay less tax going forward.

Reflecting our open-for-business approach, gross state product is forecast to grow by 2.5 per cent in 2025-26, easing to 1.75 per cent in 2026-27 as higher inflation, interest rates and fuel costs moderate economic activity before pushing past two per cent for the rest of the forward estimates. Employment growth is expected to moderate to 1.5 per cent in 2025-26, while the unemployment rate is forecast to remain consistently low by historical standards. Inflation is forecast to ease from 4.75 per cent to 3.75 per cent in 2026-27 before returning to more moderate levels over the medium term.

Again, this budget categorically disproves the base scare campaign and deception of those opposite when it comes to the public sector. It is over. I can announce today that the Public Sector Commission's State of the Sector report shows an increase of 8,693 full-time-equivalent roles in Queensland. Queensland taxpayers will be happy to know that only 34 of those roles are in corporate roles. Some 99.6 per cent of the 8,693 new FTEs employed in Queensland are on the front line. That is just 0.4 per cent of the FTE increase in the past year related to corporate roles, down from an average of 17.5 per cent and 6.5 per cent in Labor's last two years in office.

With a record \$35.5 billion health budget, we are continuing to restore health services for Queenslanders as we heal Labor's health crisis. The investments we made in last year's budget are healing the ailing system, with ambulance ramping down to a half-decade low and the elective surgery waitlist stabilised. Operational funding black holes left by Labor have been filled.

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Lytton is warned.

Mr JANETZKI: Labor's hospital announcements were not funded, were not deliverable and simply were not real. As the Sangster review revealed, it was a mirage of media releases.

Throughout Queensland, new hospitals are being opened or are reaching construction milestones, and existing facilities are getting the upgrades they did not receive under the former government. We are ending the blowouts and properly scoping projects, with the fully funded Hospital Rescue Plan delivering three new hospitals, in Toowoomba, Coomera and Bundaberg, and 10 expanded hospitals throughout the state to deliver more than 2,600 new hospital beds.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Miller is warned.

Mr JANETZKI: We are delivering a health workforce to operate them, with new CTs, MRIs, transit lounges and step-up step-down services boosting health services in regional and remote Queensland.

The budget invests \$74 million to continue delivery of the Closing the Gap Priorities Fund to provide better health and essential infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and their communities, with 21 new projects to improve drinking water supply, wastewater management, waste infrastructure and social infrastructure.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Pine Rivers is warned.

Mr JANETZKI: Finding a place to call home—whether you are a renter, a buyer or someone facing homelessness—has become a genuine challenge for many. It is not a problem confined to Queensland, but it has been exacerbated here by the policy choices of the former Labor government. It led to fewer homes being built, more people on the social housing waitlist, rents going up and home ownership rates going down.

While Labor built the housing crisis, we are creating the conditions for more homes to be built. At the heart of it all is a single word: supply. That simple watchword applies to all of Queensland—from the regions to the city—and for all Queenslanders. We know there is a long way to go to reverse Labor's decline, but we are seeing progress. Under the Deputy Premier, we have unlocked land for more than 98,000 new homes through the Residential Activation Fund, with round 2 doubled to \$1 billion in this budget process. Through its Land Activation Program, EDQ has identified and released to market underutilised government land to boost housing supply. Three new priority development areas have been declared since April last year. The Infrastructure Activation Fund, with a cumulative \$2.4 billion in funding available to Queensland including federal funding, will unlock development-ready land to deliver 20,500 homes for first home owners to be built in Queensland. And the numbers show progress. There have never been more homes under construction in Queensland than there are right now. The latest ABS data revealed 48,044 homes under construction in Queensland. That is a record. Dwelling approvals hit 45,391, up 19.4 per cent compared with the same period one year ago.

Queenslanders want to achieve the dream of home ownership, and we are helping them get there. We terminated two taxes last year, and the abolition of stamp duty on new homes for first home buyers has helped 3,501 Queenslanders into their first home sooner. In the past year, the first home owner grant has also helped 3,411 Queenslanders get the keys to their first home and it will be extended for a further four years. We are boosting home ownership for Indigenous Queenslanders through the rent-to-buy program on Palm Island, with \$2 million over 10 years, and the Boost to Buy home ownership scheme has opened the door for new home owners throughout the state, with more than 100 settling on their dream home and thousands of Queenslanders registering interest in the first six months alone.

Increasing housing supply also benefits renters as well as those needing extra support through social or community housing. Labor built an average of 509 social or community homes every year. Today there are 6,500 social and affordable homes underway in Queensland. That is an all-time high. This budget maintains the momentum with a record \$5.7 billion investment over four years as we work towards our target of 53,500 new social and community homes by 2044. With a 20 per cent locked-in

funding uplift to specialist homelessness service providers in the budget last year, we are providing more support for vulnerable Queenslanders than ever, with an additional \$450 million over four years for specialist homelessness services and crisis support.

We are providing more teacher aides and chaplains to support students and removing red tape to free up teachers from administration as part of a record \$23.1 billion education budget. We are making classrooms safer, with an extra 139 workplace health and safety officers in our schools as part of an \$83.9 million investment.

We have already hit No. 1 in the country for screen production, and our \$391.9 million arts budget is boosting Queensland's big-screen presence and the jobs that come with it. We are also investing in festivals and events across the state, activating regional and rural communities and promoting cultural tourism, no matter where you live in Queensland.

We are investing \$50 million to grow the agriculture industry that has for so long underpinned our state's economy. By investing in on-farm innovation and projects to boost production, we are growing Queensland's primary production output to \$30 billion by 2030.

We are protecting the Great Barrier Reef for future generations with \$330 million over four years to boost water quality and minimise run-off impacts. It is the state's biggest investment to preserve and protect the Great Barrier Reef, which supports 77,000 jobs and contributes \$9 billion annually to the national economy. We are preserving our unique environment by expanding national parks and protected areas, with \$126 million over four years.

We are working with councils and industry in relation to the waste strategy, continuing Labor's waste levy trajectory and increasing investment into recycling and resource recovery as part of a \$975 million investment over five years.

Tourism is a major employer throughout Queensland, from the coast to Cameron Corner, and we know tourists love our stunning natural attractions. As we prepare to showcase Queensland to the world in 2032—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr JANETZKI: Get the map out for them.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! It has always been convention to hear this speech in silence. It has been pretty ordinary, the performance, so far today.

Mr JANETZKI: I do not mind, Mr Speaker. As we prepare to showcase Queensland to the world in 2032, we are unlocking our national parks with more environmentally sensitive and nature-based tourism opportunities. It is part of our plan to deliver 45 new ecotourism experiences by 2045 and strengthen our rural and regional economies with new tourism opportunities.

To strengthen the workforce of the future, we are building a pipeline of skilled workers and supporting small businesses with assistance to cover the cost of apprentice wages during offsite training under the Small Business Apprenticeship Pilot Program, with \$19 million over four years. We have invested \$100 million to support small businesses to grow and access government procurement through training and support under the Small and Family Business First Action Statement. We are rebuilding Queensland's skilled workforce, with a record number of apprenticeship completions and a surge in Queenslanders getting on the tools to start their trades. Our \$201 million investment to establish four new TAFE centres of excellence will see works start in the coming year in Rockhampton, Caloundra, Petrie and the Southern Moreton Bay Islands.

An economy is stronger and more productive when every Queenslander has a chance to participate in it. Queensland women are at the centre of our communities, our economy and our future. Across Queensland, women are contributing every day as entrepreneurs, professionals, tradies, healthcare workers, teachers, emergency volunteers, farmers and community leaders. That is why this budget continues funding, with \$10 million to assist women returning to work from a career break. We are supporting female founders to build investment capability and connect with investors through the Backing Female Founders Program with \$2.8 million in 2026-27.

These strengthening investments in services are built on a stronger economy. We are building new industries, including critical minerals, while benefiting from our competitive advantage in our traditional strengths in resources, agriculture and tourism. We cannot be any clearer: Queensland is open for business.

This budget invests \$146 million into accelerating extraction, processing and export of high-quality critical minerals to the world, driving investment in new projects and reopening mothballed mines that remain rich in resources. That includes \$100 million for the Queensland critical minerals fund, managed through Queensland Investment Corporation, to accelerate strategically important projects and attract global partners to co-invest. Critical minerals are not just rocks in the ground; they are the building blocks of advanced manufacturing. Queensland is home to at least 51 critical minerals, and our budget invests in processing facilities, common user facilities and rail line investments to accelerate the industry's development.

We are investing \$19 million over two years in the Queensland Fuel Security Plan to restore sovereign capability, with a plan to fast-track development of the Taroom Trough, optimise production in the Cooper-Eromanga Basin and increase refining capability on Queensland soil. Never again will Queensland be left so exposed to international shocks, and our plan to drill, refine and store will build sovereign capability and a stronger nation.

We have released 18 new prospective petroleum and gas, coal, and mineral exploration areas to secure a pipeline of future energy and minerals projects. We are attracting renewed interest in Queensland's world-class metallurgical and thermal coal assets, underpinned by streamlined approvals and a stable operating environment. We are working hard to repair Queensland's international reputation, establish new relationships abroad, welcome investors back to our state and support our exporters by providing investment certainty and stability. Our \$180 million Sovereign Industry Development Fund is backing innovation and developing state and national capability, particularly in the areas of biomedical, defence and biofuels, creating new jobs across Queensland. We are boosting advanced manufacturing with a new manufacturing hub in Maryborough to resource small business manufacturers, developing skills capability and build local supply chains. And we are committing \$410 million in 2026-27 for the first train to be manufactured in Maryborough under the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program.

We are building Queensland's future. The 2026-27 capital program will deliver \$119.2 billion over four years to 2029-30, supporting investment in critical infrastructure across the state including transport, health, education, energy and water assets.

Central to a better lifestyle and a more productive economy is the transport system and infrastructure that Queenslanders need. We are building generational projects now and for the future—improvements to make the journey home safer and sooner.

This budget invests in a record infrastructure pipeline including the Wave stage 1 progressing through design, continued rollout of Country Roads Connect and ongoing targeted Bruce Highway safety upgrades. Several major projects under the \$9 billion joint program have already been completed and dozens more are underway or ready to commence shortly. It is about building a safer, more resilient Bruce Highway to support communities and industries, getting you where you need to be sooner and safer—Barron River Bridge, Bribie Island Bridge, Mooloolah River Interchange, Back Creek Bridge, Rockhampton Ring Road, Coomera Connector—right across Queensland from the Far North to Coolangatta. That is just the beginning. We are developing a new Gold Coast Transport Plan to help futureproof our state's second largest city for decades to come, supported by the continued delivery of faster rail.

We are seizing the generational opportunity presented by the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games to create legacy infrastructure for all Queenslanders that will drive tourism and support grassroots sports throughout the state. After 1,200 days of delay and mayhem under the former government, we are getting on with the job of delivering the games. Preparatory earthworks have begun at Victoria Park for the centrepiece of the games—the new Brisbane Stadium—as part of the \$7.1 billion joint venue funding. We are progressing work on athlete villages and other games venues including Barlow Park upgrades, Sunshine Coast Stadium, Sunshine Coast Mountain Biking Centre, Redland Whitewater Centre, the Moreton Bay Indoor Sports Centre and the Toowoomba Equestrian Centre.

The \$300 million Queensland Legacy Fund is investing in upgrades for grassroots sporting facilities throughout Queensland including a major upgrade to Suncorp Stadium to ensure this sporting hub is games-ready and can continue to provide memorable Queensland moments for decades to come. We are taking our youngest Queenslanders on the games journey too by delivering the second round of the \$250 million Games On! program to invest in generational grassroots sporting infrastructure for community clubs across the state.

We are delivering new, modern infrastructure for the racing industry under the Racing Future Fund, which includes a \$25 million investment to begin work on new spectator facilities at Queensland's premier racecourse, Eagle Farm. Infrastructure improvements will be delivered across all three codes including a new Racing HQ at Albion Park, new harness infrastructure at Marburg and Toowoomba, new lights for the Toowoomba Turf Club and a new track for Bundaberg greyhounds.

We are strengthening the future of our youngest Queenslanders by building 22 new schools including four new primary schools, three new high schools and nine new special schools. We are strengthening the future of the state and the nation with a record \$3.2 billion investment to build the CopperString energy project. It is a project of national strategic significance that realises the potential of the north-west region—also backed by the \$200 million North West Energy Fund—unlocking new resources and critical minerals projects.

In rural and regional Queensland, water is life, lifestyle and livelihoods. To give farmers and communities access to the water security they need, we are investing in capacity-restoring upgrades to existing dams, starting with works to restore North Pine and Lake Macdonald towards full service levels, with \$545 million over six years. We are rebuilding Paradise Dam to support Wide Bay-Burnett agriculture and strengthen the region's future, with \$59.8 million in 2026-27 to continue planning. And we are investing \$324 million in 2026-27 to progress investigations to increase the capacity of Borumba Dam for additional water supply for farmers and families, alongside progressing the delivery of the Borumba pumped hydro project.

We are increasing water storage and capacity to protect agriculture and deliver water security, with five new weirs along the Thomson River in Longreach, delivering the Barlil and Cooranga weirs, improving water supply reliability along the Burnett's Boyne River and Barambah Creek, as well as advancing the business case for the Water for Warrill irrigation project.

The budget invests \$31.4 million for new fire stations in Hervey Bay, Kingaroy and Ayr, thanks to the strong advocacy of local members. We are modernising our firefighting fleet to keep Queenslanders protected from bushfires, with a \$43.4 million investment in 2026-27.

Labor's youth crime crisis was created over a decade of decline, and it will take more than two budgets and a single term of government to fix. Under Labor's decade in government, victims of crime increased 193 per cent. There was a 91 per cent increase in the number of stolen vehicles and a 101 per cent increase in the number of robberies. But we are doing what we said we would do to make Queenslanders safer.

We are delivering stronger laws and more police to provide a harder deterrence to would-be criminals and repeat offenders. The Crisafulli government has delivered on its election commitment of 1,600 new police recruits and we did it twice as fast as we said we would, surpassing 13,000 officers for the first time in the state's history. But there is more to do. We are investing \$23 million in recruiting more frontline officers to keep Queenslanders safe. We are delivering new and upgraded police stations, facilities and police beats, including stage 2 of the Kirwan Police Facility, with a \$495.9 million investment. We are funding the expansion of the Woodford Youth Detention Centre to increase capacity and keep dangerous, repeat offenders off our streets.

We know that early intervention and rehabilitation also plays an important role in turning young people away from crime, which is why we are delivering new crime prevention schools and youth justice schools as well as the ongoing delivery of targeted programs to break the cycle of reoffending, including \$80 million for a remote rehabilitation focused program for youth offenders.

While we are targeting crime prevention, we are also assuring victims of crime that they are not alone. We are protecting victims of domestic and family violence with the ongoing electronic monitoring trial program for high-risk domestic violence offenders. We are providing additional funding of \$37.1 million over four years to clear the DNA backlog and continue forensic testing at the state's forensic laboratory.

Crucially, after the commission of inquiry lifted the veil on Labor's decade of failures in child protection and child safety, this budget delivers major reform for a broken system to better protect and support our youngest and most vulnerable. We are implementing recommendations of the inquiry with a \$200 million investment in 2026-27 and establishing a new Queensland Protection Commission to implement the reforms, with more than \$250 million over four years to implement the *In plain sight* response. As the Attorney-General said last week, it takes a village to raise a child but a society to protect them.

When we came to government we uncovered the true state of the state's finances: unfunded service programs, fake savings programs, thousands of unfunded positions, poorly scoped projects with blowouts and overruns. Under Labor, the 2026-27 operating deficit would have been \$9.2 billion. We have made a nearly \$3 billion improvement. From day one we laid—now strengthened—the foundations of the state's fiscal position. We have strengthened this fiscal position while growing services and frontline jobs, without new or increased taxes. We showed a new way to do things: steady improvements to fiscal outcomes while delivering improvements to services; a particular focus on what matters—not by taking the easy choice and lifting taxes, damaging confidence and creating uncertainty but by doing what we promised.

It is sometimes said that budgeting is turning strategy into numbers, and our strategy could not be clearer: delivering the hospitals and health services Queenslanders need to heal the health crisis; delivering more police officers and support programs to make Queenslanders safer; delivering new homes and helping open the door for first home buyers so more Queenslanders have a place to call home; delivering investments into long-term structural reform to put downward pressure on Queenslanders' cost of living.

The foundations were laid last year and this budget strengthens them, despite the economic headwinds at home and abroad. We could have been distracted by events in Canberra and the Middle East, but we were not. We remained mindful of the impacts and at all times we stayed focused on Queenslanders: looking through the immediate noise and looking at what lay beyond; providing certainty in the face of volatility; determined to make Queenslanders' lives simpler—not complicate them further like other governments. We are doing what those opposite did not, would not and could not: respect for taxpayer money—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: They do not like hearing it, Mr Speaker—respect for taxpayer money; stability and certainty for households, business and industry; doing our bit helping Queenslanders through tough times and delivering on our commitments; strengthening the foundations we have laid—delivering the fresh start Queenslanders voted for.

First Reading

Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.49 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Mr SPEAKER: In accordance with standing order 177, the bill is now set down for its second reading.

REVENUE (COST OF LIVING RELIEF LOCKED-IN LAW) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.49 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Duties Act 2001, the First Home Owner Grant and Other Home Owner Grants Act 2000, the Payroll Tax Act 1971, the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994 and the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Regulation 2018 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Revenue (Cost of Living Relief Locked-in Law) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 [1075].

Tabled paper: Revenue (Cost of Living Relief Locked-in Law) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes [1076].

Tabled paper: Revenue (Cost of Living Relief Locked-in Law) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights [1077].

I am pleased to introduce the Revenue (Cost of Living Relief Locked-in Law) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. The bill contains amendments to the Duties Act 2001, the First Home Owner Grant and Other Home Owner Grants Act 2000, the Payroll Tax Act 1971 and the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994. These amendments implement the 2026-27 budget measures and lock in law the Crisafulli government's commitments to provide ongoing cost-of-living relief, including the Crisafulli government's permanent 50-cent fares.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Treasurer has the call.

Mr JANETZKI: Budget measures contained in the bill include the continuation of the \$30,000 first home owner grant and the extension of the 50 per cent apprentice and trainee payroll tax rebate. A further measure ensures transfer duty home concessions are targeted to Australian citizens and permanent residents, with temporary residents to be generally ineligible for these concessions from 1 August 2026, noting Queensland's current settings are inconsistent with other states, the eligibility requirements of the first home owner grant and with the application of additional foreign acquirer duty.

Finally, amendments to the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act will enshrine 50-cent fares in legislation. Whether it is the Crisafulli government's permanent 50-cent fares, abolishing transfer duty for first home buyers on new homes or putting downward pressure on healthcare costs by abolishing Labor's patients tax, we are delivering relief Queenslanders can rely on. Our cost-of-living relief is not only fully funded through this bill; it will be locked-in law. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

The Duties Act currently provides transfer duty relief for eligible home buyers purchasing a home, first home or vacant land on which to build their first home, subject to meeting the relevant conditions.

A policy measure of the 2026-27 Budget is targeting of transfer duty home concessions to Australian citizens, permanent residents and specified foreign retirees.

The Bill amends the Duties Act to give effect to the changes to transfer duty home concession eligibility from 1 August 2026.

The boosted First Home Owner Grant of \$30,000 for eligible first home owners buying or building a new home expires on 30 June 2026.

In the 2026-27 Budget, I announced that the increased First Home Owner Grant will be continued, to help deliver a place to call home for more Queenslanders sooner and support the delivery of more new homes across our State.

The Bill amends the First Home Owner Grant and Other Home Owner Grants Act to provide that the amount of the First Home Owner Grant will be \$30,000 from 1 July 2026 going forward.

The Payroll Tax Act currently provides a 50 per cent rebate for wages of apprentices and trainees. The rebate expires on 30 June 2026.

The Bill amends the Payroll Tax Act to extend this rebate for the 2026-27 financial year. This will provide a continued, additional payroll tax rebate for businesses employing trainees and apprentices.

The amendments to the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act will enshrine 50 cent fares for particular public passenger transport services in legislation.

Enshrining 50 cent fares into legislation secures cost of living support for communities right across the state into the future.

When the government's investments in generational rail and bus infrastructure and services come online, Queenslanders will be able to make even more fulsome use of a frequent, accessible, reliable, and affordable public transport network.

The Crisafulli Government's Permanent 50 Cent Fares have delivered over \$600 million in savings to the hip pockets of Queenslanders, with patronage boosted by over 23%, and over 280 million trips taken.

The Crisafulli Government is not just delivering cost of living relief, the Crisafulli Government is delivering relief Queenslanders can rely on, locked-in law.

I commend the Bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.53 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to Governance, Energy and Finance Committee

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

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

REVENUE (COST OF LIVING RELIEF LOCKED-IN LAW) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Declared Urgent; Cognate Debate; Allocation of Time Limit Order

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.53 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. That, under the provisions of standing order 137, the Revenue (Cost of Living Relief Locked-in Law) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be declared an urgent bill and not stand referred to a committee and be set down for its second reading to enable the bill to be passed through all remaining stages at this week's sitting;
2. in accordance with standing order 172, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill, having already been treated as cognate bills under the provisions of standing order 176, be also treated as cognate with the Revenue (Cost of Living Relief Locked-in Law) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill for the second reading debate, but with separate questions being put with regard to the second reading of (a) the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill and (b) the Revenue (Cost of Living Relief Locked-in Law) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill;
3. the Revenue (Cost of Living Relief Locked-in Law) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be completed within 30 minutes of the Treasurer having finished his contribution in reply to the cognate debate; and
4. if all stages have not been completed by the time specified in (3), Mr Speaker shall put all remaining questions necessary to complete consideration of the bill, including clauses en bloc and any amendments to be moved by the Treasurer, without further amendment or debate.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Mr SPEAKER: Pursuant to the motion agreed to by the House this morning, the House will now be suspended for 30 minutes until the ringing of the bells.

Sitting suspended from 2.55 pm to 3.25 pm.

EDUCATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 1880, on motion of Mr Langbroek—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Before I call the member for Stafford, I remind the members for Lytton, Miller and Pine Rivers that they are on a warning.

 **Mr RICHMOND** (Stafford—ALP) (3.25 pm), continuing: I began my contribution by saying that education can be a singular, propulsive force in a person's life, and it is our teachers and school staff who provide that force day in and day out. They deserve a government that backs them, resources them, keeps them safe and pays them fairly.

While the opposition will not stand in the way of this bill, the government should be in no doubt that the people who deliver our education system deserve far more than this government is giving them. The budget was an opportunity for the LNP and the Treasurer to change course, to ensure our teachers were properly valued and respected. Instead, we got an hour-long diatribe attacking the Labor Party rather than funding the schools and funding the teachers who actually make a difference in the lives of Queensland children, who make a difference in the economy of Queensland, who ensure every child has an opportunity to a quality education. Instead, all we heard was more of the same—which is the LNP promoting themselves. They cannot find the money to give our teachers a pay rise, but they can find reportedly tens of millions of dollars—

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

Mr RICHMOND:—to send glossy brochures—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member!

Mr RICHMOND:—around the state—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member!

Mr RICHMOND:—promoting themselves.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member! If you could pay attention to the chair, I have called you several times now. Please take your seat.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, in relation to the contribution by the member for Stafford, I ask your guidance in relation to relevance and remaining within the long title of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There has been quite a bit of tolerance around this. I think you are straying from the long title of the bill. I ask you to return to it, please.

Mr RICHMOND: I simply conclude my contribution to this debate by repeating the fact that our educators, our teachers, are deserving of a pay rise. They are deserving of respect, and that is something that the LNP are refusing to provide them. Instead, it seems the only thing that the LNP respect and value is themselves and their own political fortunes. We will remind them of that fact each and every day.

 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (3.28 pm): I rise today in strong support of the Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 and to highlight the positive impact that this legislation will have for school students, parents and teachers right across my electorate of Redcliffe.

Education is one of the most important investments we make as a government. Every parent wants to know that when their child starts school each day they will receive a quality education in a safe and supportive environment. Every teacher deserves to spend more time teaching and less time battling unnecessary administration. Every student deserves the opportunity to succeed and shine, regardless of their circumstances.

As a mother of a daughter and a son-in-law who are both teachers, this bill affects not only my electorate and Queenslanders but also my family, and this bill reflects practical reforms that support these goals. Importantly, this is a part of the Crisafulli government's broader commitment to improving educational outcomes, reducing red tape, strengthening governance and ensuring no student is left behind.

In Redcliffe we are fortunate to have outstanding schools and dedicated educators who work tirelessly every day to support our young people. Redcliffe State High School, of which I was vice-captain a few years ago—celebrating 40 years post graduation—Clontarf Beach State High School, Scarborough State School, Humpybong State School, Kippa-Ring State School, Hercules Road State School, Woody Point Special School, Redcliffe Special School, Grace Lutheran Primary and Southern Cross Catholic College all play a vital role in shaping the future of our children and community. This bill will help each of these schools focus on what matters most: teaching and learning.

Recently I hosted a principals round table to hear from our school leaders on what challenges and successes they are having. They all reported their concerns in relation to administrative burdens, so one of the most significant parts of this bill is the reduction of unnecessary regulatory burden. For too long teachers have told us they are drowning in paperwork and administration. They entered the profession because they want to educate young people, not spend countless hours completing forms and navigating bureaucracy. When we reduce unnecessary administrative requirements we give teachers more time to prep lessons, support students, communicate with families and focus on educational outcomes.

Parents consistently tell me they want strong literacy and numeracy outcomes for their children, and this bill complements the government's broader investment in education to help ensure our system operates more efficiently and effectively. I also hear this as a member of the Humpybong State School council. It is great to hear that numeracy and literacy outcomes are heading north at this primary school. They are celebrating their 150th anniversary this year. As a former Humpybong student, I was there when they celebrated their 100th birthday. I am looking forward to the celebrations later this year with a bush dance, which I am sponsoring, and morning tea. Thank you to the organising committee for all of their hard work.

Importantly, this legislation strengthens support for young people who are disengaged or at risk of disengaging from education. These reforms support education so re-entry and transition programs help vulnerable students reconnect with learning and build pathways to employment and future

success. This bill also improves information-sharing arrangements between relevant agencies and education providers—better coordination means better outcomes—so we all work together to help our young people shine and succeed.

Another important aspect of this legislation is the recognition of education and training centres within youth detention settings as state educational institutions. Education remains the most powerful tool for breaking cycles of disadvantage and creating opportunities for rehabilitation, so I am proud to support Redcliffe Area Youth Space, Edu Space, and give a shout-out to all of the staff there who do provide an alternative pathway for those at risk with a \$2 million commitment for more classrooms for Redcliffe Edu Space.

This bill also includes measures that support the continuity of education during emergencies and disruptions. Greater flexibility for temporary school sites will help students continue learning when unforeseen circumstances impact school operations. This legislation also expands opportunities for international delivery of the Queensland Certificate of Education. The bill further improves governance requirements for key educational bodies, ensuring accountability, transparency and efficient decision-making.

This legislation should also be viewed alongside the broader reforms the Crisafulli government is delivering for our schools including full funding for state schools, additional teachers, behaviour support initiatives, antibullying programs and investments in teacher capability. Parents want schools to be safe, teachers want classrooms where they can teach effectively and students want learning environments where they can thrive. This bill supports all three of those objectives.

In my office recently I met with members of the QTU from schools in Redcliffe to hear their concerns directly, and I have escalated these to the education minister. As the member for Redcliffe I regularly visit our peninsula schools. I love attending all of their events, including under-eights days. I host Free Fruit Fridays and attend P&C meetings. I sponsor Scarborough State School wellbeing breakfasts, listening to parents, teachers and students. I give a shout-out to Kippa-Ring State School music students on their recital last week. It was a delight to attend. The talent at your school is very encouraging. From sports to music to academics, our schools are hitting it out of the park. Thank you also to Redcliffe State High School, which recently hosted our Chappy Breakfast to support our four peninsula chaplains. Thank you once again to the fabulous grade 11 and 12 Redcliffe High State School students who cooked up a five-star buffet breakfast.

What I hear consistently is that everyone wants practical reforms that support learning, improve student wellbeing and reduce unnecessary bureaucracy. Last week I attended Clontarf Beach primary school to see the wonderful new upgrades to their pool area. Through the Gambling Community Benefit Fund we have delivered new marine carpet and painting. Principal Penny and P&C President Lisa were so excited to take me for a tour. It was also fantastic to announce the Premier's Reading Challenge at Clontarf Beach primary school with the education minister, John-Paul Langbroek, in early May. I remind students and parents that they have until 28 August to become a Reading Hero. I was at Humpybong State School last week to see their new bus shelter. It will provide better protection from the sun and rain for students before and after school at their drop-off zone in Ernest Street. This is thanks to the School Transport Infrastructure Program.

The Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 is about creating a more responsive, efficient and student focused education system. It is also about supporting teachers, families and Queensland students to achieve their full potential.

In my remaining moments, with the budget just delivered, I also want to give a shout-out to: Woody Point Special School, which is getting a brand new learning development centre; Clontarf primary school, which is getting a new kiss and drop; and Redcliffe State High School, which is getting a brand new kitchen. I commend the bill to the House.



Ms PUGH (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (3.37 pm): I rise to speak today on the Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I begin by thanking the other members of the committee who worked on this bill and the secretariat, who did such a wonderful job in assisting in the consideration of the bill and its provisions. As a member of the committee, I also thank the many stakeholders who provided really valuable feedback about the legislation and how it would be enacted throughout the committee process. As the deputy chair mentioned in her contribution, their written feedback and appearance before the committee outlined how concerns could be addressed without changing the legislation itself. That is important to highlight, because some of the concerns they initially had were quite significant.

As many members have already outlined, this bill is quite technical and housekeeping in its nature. That said, there is no doubt in my mind that the feedback provided by these stakeholders has improved not only the legislation and the consideration of the legislation as it moved through the committee process but, importantly, the implementation and rollout around the procedures that will underpin this legislation. It really goes to show the critical importance of engaging with stakeholders on all legislation, even legislation that is considered to be technical in nature.

I will firstly deal with the arts aspect of the bill, particularly the ticket-scalping provisions, which I am sure all Queenslanders will be pleased to see. In thinking about it this morning, it really struck me that there is just nothing more un-Australian than somebody who scoops up as many tickets to a popular event as they can, only to turn around and try to rip off hardworking Queenslanders by reselling those tickets at an inflated price. In a cost-of-living crisis, this provision is more important to everyday Queenslanders than ever.

It is already hard for people to make room in their budgets to pay for these tickets for the acts they want to see. It is usually a special occasion for a lot of people. It is not cheap to put on a quality production of the type that we put on in this theatre, and I cannot imagine how frustrating it would be for the creatives and production teams to see money for their work go into the pockets of scalpers—the people who have done nothing to contribute to the cultural and social fabric of Queensland.

It is important, both ethically and from a financial perspective in terms of the continued health of Queensland's cultural and arts scene, that the funds generated by the sale of tickets for events held at these facilities do not go into the pockets of unscrupulous scalpers but instead are returned into the pockets of the creatives and the teams that support them in bringing these productions to life. As I said, this enables those creatives to continue to create the art that makes Queensland and Brisbane the cultural attraction that it is.

I turn now to some of the provisions in this very wideranging bill. As the committee report notes, the bill covers the following issues: expanding offshore education delivery by non-state schools; information sharing between the department and education providers; the re-engagement of young people in education, training and employment opportunities; information sharing between NSSAB and the Department of Education; and reforms to NSSAB's functions and powers. I want to recognise the large body of work that NSSAB will be required to undertake as a result of this legislation. I thank them for that work.

When it comes to working with young people who are disengaged, I was lucky to be invited to visit the Barrett school very early in my time as a member of parliament. This school is aimed at assisting students who are disengaged from the schooling system, and it is where I got to know the member for Inala, who was a teacher at that school at the time. I was given the opportunity to meet with the teachers, the students and, importantly, the parents and hear from them about the challenges they faced in keeping their young people engaged in education. For a lot of those young people and their families, the Barrett school was their safe place. It provided a pathway back into mainstream schooling for those who needed the support to continue their schooling. I note that this visit took place pre COVID, and we have certainly seen an escalation in recent years since I undertook that first visit. I acknowledge that many students find it incredibly challenging to stay engaged in schooling for a lot of reasons, and that is why these parts of the bill are so important. I also recognise that there are provisions in the bill around privacy and information sharing.

There are also provisions in the bill around severe weather impacts and in particular being able to transfer off site. The example I am about to use is from a state school—so not from a non-state school—but it gives a clear example of how fast schools need to move sometimes in order to address these severe weather events. Last year one of my state high schools—Centenary State High School—was severely affected by the October storm that swept through. Obviously, Centenary is a state school not captured under that specific provision. That school is high on a hill and it has never been flooded before or suffered those kinds of impacts, but the school was rendered unsafe after that October storm due to the huge gum trees that came down all over the school and smashed through pathways onto buildings—pretty much everywhere all over the site. In a horrific stroke of bad timing, final senior exams for students were due to start the very next day. It was less than 24 hours before the senior students sat their school exams for their final assessments. In addition to educating 2,000 young people each and every day, our state schools and private schools have to grapple with these kinds of challenges.

In this case, our school was lucky that the neighbouring state school, Corinda, came to the rescue and provided a site for those students to sit their exams so they were able to go ahead as planned, although the students were obviously distressed at having to move locations at the last minute. If this

school had been a private school, the provisions in this bill would have allowed them to set up a temporary site. However, the opposition notes that the bill also makes amendments to the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act to allow special assistance schools to provide education at a temporary site on a temporary base, whether or not an emergency has affected the school. In essence, special assistance schools can operate from a temporary site, as I understand it, for any reason. It also removes the current requirement for that accreditation to comply with section 19 of the act, which is to comply with the conditions outlined in their approved form.

That is just a bit of an overview of the bill, as it is a very broad-ranging bill. We also heard about the significant ongoing concerns that other members raised in their contributions. I have certainly had concerns raised in my community by my teachers in Mount Ommaney. We have around 1,000 teachers in the state school and non-state school system. Teachers right across Queensland have raised issues around ongoing occupational violence, the lack of a pay rise despite fighting hard for it and the ongoing stress and pressure placed on our hardworking teachers.

I think we all agree that our teachers look after our most precious resource, our children, each and every day. We deliver our children into our schools every day and we ask that the teachers do their very best to send them home safe, happy, healthy and with the high-quality education that Queensland schools are known for. These issues need to be addressed in order to ensure our teachers are fully resourced and fully looked after so they can continue to deliver for our Queensland kids.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.46 pm): I rise to address the Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. Education is one of the most important responsibilities of any state government. It shapes opportunities for young Queenslanders, supports families and communities, and helps build the skilled workforce our state needs into the future. While this legislation contains a range of legislative amendments across both the education and arts portfolios, what sits behind it is a broader commitment by the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government to strengthen our education system, support our teachers, improve outcomes for students and ensure Queensland schools are well equipped for the future.

Importantly, these reforms are practical reforms. They seek to improve governance, reduce unnecessary administrative burden, support continuity of education, strengthen pathways for students who may be disengaged from learning, and ensure our legislative framework remains contemporary and fit for purpose. This legislation comes at a time when Queensland's education system is benefiting from significant investment and renewed focus.

The Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government delivered in its first six months what the former Labor state government failed to achieve in a decade: that is, securing an agreement with the Commonwealth to fully fund Queensland state schools. I heard the earlier contribution from the shadow minister for education, the Labor member for Bulimba, and I remind her that that was achieved by the member for Surfers Paradise and it is very important for students, parents, families and teachers here in Queensland. This agreement represents the largest investment in Queensland state schooling and provides certainty for schools, teachers, students and families well into the future.

Queenslanders have also seen a net increase of more than 1,000 additional teachers in Queensland state schools in a single year, surpassing the growth achieved over Labor's final four years in office. In fact today Queensland has the highest number of state school teachers in its history and the lowest teacher vacancy rate in five years. These are important and remarkable achievements made under the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government because educational outcomes ultimately depend on having great teachers in our classrooms and ensuring schools have the support they need to focus on teaching and learning.

One of the consistent messages I hear from teachers, principals and school leaders is that they want to spend more time teaching and less time dealing with unnecessary administration. Teachers enter the profession because they want to educate young people, inspire learning and help students succeed into the future. They do not enter the profession to spend countless hours navigating unnecessary bureaucracy. That is why the Crisafulli LNP state government's commitment to reducing red tape by 25 per cent is such an important initiative. Through the Red Tape Reduction Plan, practical steps are being implemented to reduce administrative burden and allow teachers to focus on what matters most: supporting student learning and achievement.

Similarly, teachers and school leaders have consistently highlighted the increasing complexity of classroom environments and the growing need for additional support for student behaviour and wellbeing. The reality is that teachers deserve safe and respectful workplaces. In fact, everyone deserves a respectful and safe workplace. Students deserve safe and orderly classrooms and parents

deserve confidence that their children can learn in environments that are conducive to educational success. That is why the Crisafulli LNP state government is delivering a nation-leading antibullying action plan and investing an additional \$45 million each year through Behaviour Boost funding. These initiatives provide schools with greater flexibility to engage—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Members, there is way too much chatter in the House. If you must persist, could you take your conversations outside.

Dr ROWAN: These initiatives provide schools with greater flexibility to engage behavioural specialists, strengthen support services, increase staff capability and respond to the individual needs of these school communities.

The LNP state government is also delivering on its commitment under the More Teachers, Better Education plan by investing in additional professional learning and specialist training opportunities for teachers supporting students with disability and diverse learning needs. This includes support for teachers undertaking further qualifications in areas such as autism studies, special education and inclusive education. These are practical investments that support teachers whilst delivering better outcomes for students.

As the local state member for Moggill, I see firsthand the extraordinary work undertaken by our schools, teachers, support staff and school communities. The Moggill electorate is fortunate to have excellent local state primary schools, Catholic and independent schools, and of course Kenmore State High School, which continues to play a vital role in educating young people from across Brisbane's western suburbs. I regularly have the opportunity to engage with principals, teachers, students and parents throughout the electorate. Whether it is attending school events, speaking with student leaders, visiting classrooms or discussing future infrastructure needs, I continue to be impressed by the professionalism and dedication of those working within our local education sector and various schools across the electorate of Moggill. I particularly want to acknowledge Moggill State School, which this year celebrates its 160th anniversary. That is a remarkable milestone for any institution, let alone a state school. For generations, Moggill State School has educated local children, supported families and served as an important part of the social fabric of the local community. I certainly look forward to joining with local residents, students, teachers, staff, former students and the wider school community next month in celebrating this significant anniversary and recognising the school's significant contribution to our local area.

As I conclude my contribution I want to emphasise how a number of the reforms contained within this legislation are sensible and overdue. This legislation provides greater flexibility and clarity for non-state schools, including the ability to operate from temporary sites when necessary following emergencies or natural disasters, and we have heard about that as part of the debate this afternoon. Importantly, this helps ensure the continuity of education for students and provides greater certainty for school communities when unforeseen events occur.

This legislation also strengthens pathways for young people who are disengaged or at risk of disengaging from education, recognising that not every student follows the same journey. An important part of the debate of this legislation is around ensuring there are opportunities, because when young people are engaged in education they are less likely to fall into other circumstances which may lead to problems not only in their individual lives but in their families and across society more generally.

The legislation and the intent of the framework that is being provided around this work provide greater clarity around re-engagement options, improve governance across education and arts bodies, and support the international delivery of the Queensland Certificate of Education, further showcasing the quality and reputation of Queensland education. Internationally, the system here in Queensland is well regarded. I know there are many students in other countries within our region who have had the opportunity to study the Queensland curriculum and they are certainly grateful for those opportunities that are provided through the leadership of the state government and obviously by the Department of Education as well.

Taken together, the measures contained within this legislation reflect a Liberal National Party state government that is focused on practical reform and continuous improvement. They complement the significant investments already being made by the Crisafulli LNP state government to support teachers, strengthen schools, improve student outcomes and reduce unnecessary bureaucracy. Education remains one of the most important investments that any government can make. By supporting teachers, empowering school leaders, reducing administrative burden and ensuring our legislative framework remains fit for purpose, we create better outcomes not only for today's students but also for future generations of Queenslanders.

I also acknowledge the committee, and I know there are members from both sides of the House who scrutinise legislation. They undertake very important work for the Queensland parliament on behalf of Queenslanders. I want to acknowledge the members of the committee who provide that input and oversight and also the committee secretariat. In the preparation of reports that come before the Queensland parliament they do an amazing amount of work. They show great diligence, skill and expertise when it comes to compiling those reports. I commend the legislation to the House.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (3.55 pm): Isn't the passion palpable from the member for Moggill! I, for one, was sitting here listening to that very passionate contribution thinking to myself what a great education minister he would, in fact, have made. I think it would have been one of those—

Mrs Frecklington: No-one's ever going to think that about this woman.

Ms BOYD: I take the interjection from the member for Nanango.

Mr O'Connor: No-one's going to think that after accepting that interjection.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Members! Just because the member takes the interjection does not mean you can keep interjecting.

Ms BOYD: I take the interjection also from the member for Bonney. I particularly mention the education minister's speech where he speaks directly about the LNP's landmark reforms around bullying in schools. It is really interesting to come into this House and to have these contributions from the first law officer of the state and the housing minister of the state. When we are making reflections—

Mrs Gerber: Coming from the biggest mean girl in this chamber.

Ms BOYD: I take the interjection from the member for Currumbin. Mr Deputy Speaker, I raise a point of order. I take personal offence at her interjection and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Take your seat, please. I will have silence. You have taken exception to words from the member. Could you tell me what those words are, please?

Ms BOYD: Yes, I am happy to repeat them to you, Mr Deputy Speaker. It was, 'Coming from the biggest mean girl in the chamber.' They were her direct words.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, will you—

Government members interjected.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mrs GERBER: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry, member for Pine Rivers, you are on a warning. I would hate to throw you out in the middle of your speech. Member, you have made reference to the member to which she—

Mrs Gerber: I withdrew. I will do it—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me finish—to which she has taken offence and I ask you to withdraw.

Mrs GERBER: I withdraw.

Ms BOYD: I find it astounding that this is the conduct of the government of the day in this House. When I am reflecting upon the previous speaker's contribution and his passion in this area, this is the kind of response that I get. It certainly would not be something—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, is this relevant to the bill?

Ms BOYD: It certainly would be—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would ask you to be relevant to the bill.

Ms BOYD: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for your guidance. As I am saying, it is certainly something that would be appropriate—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is quite clear that we are now almost two full minutes into the speech and the member has not even reflected upon the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, what is your point of order?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is on relevance, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I have just called an issue of relevance. Member for Pine Rivers, please proceed but please be relevant to the main matters of the bill before the House.

Ms BOYD: Yes. I specifically reference that provision that was contributed to the House through the minister's second reading speech; that is the reflection that I am making. It is really telling that this is where we are at currently in terms of legislation in the education space—that all the minister has to offer our hardworking teachers, principals, school staff and school communities is this. This bill is a distraction from the minister's failures and it is telling that this bill does not incorporate meaningful reform and action that our education system needs over time.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I again rise to a point of order. The member has been in this place long enough to know that she must be relevant—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Sorry, but what is your point of order?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON:—to the bill that is before her.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Relevance; thank you. Just let me take some advice on this.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry, but I cannot even hear the advice I am getting because of all of the chatter in the House. There is only one person who needs to make this decision. Member for Pine Rivers, could you explain how this is relevant to the long title of the bill, please?

Ms BOYD: Sure, Mr Deputy Speaker. I am talking about the education system and reflecting on the second reading speech that was made by the Minister for Education where he talked about a number of provisions that back up the bill. I am literally sentences into my speech, Mr Deputy Speaker. I have taken interjections and been interrupted.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Pine Rivers, I am not asking you to debate my ruling; I am asking you to explain how what you are putting forward is relevant to the long title of the bill. Here is your opportunity. If you do not do that, I will sit you down.

Ms BOYD: I am happy to move on, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let's move on and let's remain relevant, please.

Ms BOYD: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is striking that we are in a position right now where we are talking about initiatives from this government, so let us talk about some of those. The Back to School Boost was raised by the minister in his second reading speech, in which he referred to it as a timely and targeted Back to School Boost. However, I can inform the House that it in fact was not timely. It came through to parents after school went back—many weeks into the school term. People were desperate to receive it. I can report to the House that I have been contacted by many parents who were hanging out for that money to purchase uniforms for their children. They were desperate to receive it, yet this government left them hanging. Schools were left with an administrative burden and expense to discharge it and families were let down. It was not timely. Families had been counting on this and have been let down by this government.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, we will not be squabbling across the House, please. Could you proceed?

Ms BOYD: Yes, I would be happy to. Thank you for your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker. When it comes to the reforms in this bill around temporary sites, I want to pick up on the contributions of previous speakers, including the shadow education minister who talked about the fact that through committee hearings there were questions around the need for these provisions to be changed. These questions were directed to the department. At the moment an event is classified as an incident, a deliberate act or a natural disaster for temporary school sites for non-state schools to be developed, but one query that still remains is why these provisions need to be met, and the timeliness issue is something that has certainly pricked up the ears of those in my community. There are questions around school locations and school sites and how that will work in the community. They are issues that we have to have further examination of into the future.

Many speakers from the government side have talked about the fresh start that this bill provides, but it is important to look at the timeframes. The previous examination of this bill lapsed on 1 October 2024 and only now—almost two years later—is it back before the House for us to consider today after the minister's second reading speech. A report was originally tabled in April 2024, so almost 800 days have lapsed before we find ourselves debating this legislation. This is not a fresh start. It is not an effective start. It is not an efficient start. It is a false start. If only there were more arts provisions in this bill it may well have received more of the minister's attention.

There is a real and obvious need through our education sector. Our educators talk to me each and every day about their working environment. When it comes to red tape, there are still questions that remain unanswered by the minister. We were promised that a 25 per cent reduction in red tape would happen across the education system. Straight out of the gates the minister guaranteed it, but everyone is still waiting for detail on how this will be provided and how it will be measured, because no teachers that I talk to in my community are seeing it and the survey data from the workforce right across Queensland indicates that teachers are not feeling any changes in their workload—they are not seeing that improvement, they are not seeing less burden on them. This bill does not acknowledge our teachers or support them to the extent that they deserve. It does not address challenges like occupational violence or workload, supports and more.

There is so much work to do and I want to commend those strong voices that are advocating for it, because they should not continue to be silenced or diminished or shouted down by those opposite for putting a contrary view forward, yet that has so often become the case in this House and outside of this House. Our teachers do an absolutely remarkable job, as do the rest of the support staff across our schools. I want to acknowledge all of the government and non-government schools throughout my community. There is a Steiner school, several primary schools, a high school and an amazing special school. They are doing a phenomenal job day in, day out. I want to thank them and the community that supports them, and I have noted the P&C feedback on the bill.

This is very much a housekeeping bill, as the shadow minister pointed out, and I look forward to more reform in this space, I look forward to more respect in this space and I look forward to better outcomes for our teachers in what they are fighting for and better outcomes for our students through their education. Everyone in this place would agree that we would all strive for our communities to have world-class education delivered regardless of postcode, regardless of economic status and regardless of all of the things that make us different, special and unique. Having a system that caters to that is difficult, but being able to have continuous reform, as this bill does and other measures can do, is the way that we get a system that truly works for everyone throughout our communities. With that, I commend the bill to the House.



Mrs YOUNG (Redlands—LNP) (4.07 pm): At the heart of every education reform we undertake in this place should be one simple principle: ensuring every young Queenslander has the opportunity to succeed while allowing teachers and schools to focus on what they do best—teaching and supporting students. That is why I rise in support of the Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. This bill delivers practical reform that strengthens governance, reduces unnecessary red tape, improves educational outcomes and ensures young people who need additional support remain connected to education.

After a decade of inaction, Queensland's education system was burdened by unnecessary administration, workforce shortages, declining educational outcomes and growing behavioural challenges in our classrooms. The Crisafulli government is taking a different approach. In just six months, this government has achieved what Labor failed to achieve in 10 years—a deal with the federal government to fully fund Queensland's state schools. We have delivered a net increase of more than 1,000 teachers and the lowest teacher vacancy rate in five years, and we are delivering on our commitment to reduce red tape by 25 per cent so teachers can spend more time teaching and less time filling out paperwork. These reforms matter in communities like mine in Redlands.

I regularly visit the schools across my electorate—from Victoria Point State School to Victoria Point State High School to Redland Bay State School, Scenic Shores State School, Russell Island State School and Macleay Island State School. With the budget being handed down today, I am happy to see a further \$1.4 million being invested in those schools. When I speak with principals, teachers and support staff, I hear a consistent message: they want to spend more time helping students learn and less time navigating administrative processes that add very little value to educational outcomes.

Only recently I attended an assembly at Victoria Point State School to congratulate students who had completed the Premier's Reading Challenge. Looking around the room and seeing the students excited about books and learning, I was reminded that education is ultimately about giving every child the skills and confidence to reach their potential. Our teachers play a critical role in that journey, and they deserve a system that supports them rather than burdens them. That is why the provisions in this bill that reduce regulatory burden and introduce more practical risk-based approaches are so important.

One aspect of this legislation that particularly resonates with me is the reform relating to re-engagement in education. Across Queensland there are young people who, for many reasons, become disengaged from mainstream schooling. Sometimes it is because of family circumstances; sometimes it is mental health challenges; sometimes it is bullying; sometimes it is trauma or other complex personal situations that create barriers to attendance and participation.

In Redlands, I recently attended the Redlands Youth Future Expo organised by Kowhai Connect. The event brought together employers, training providers, educational services, community organisations and wellbeing supports—all focused on helping young people identify pathways into education, training and employment. Walking around that expo and speaking with young people, it was clear that not every student's journey looks the same. Some young people need additional support to reconnect with education, build confidence and find a pathway that works for them. What struck me most was the number of organisations working together to ensure young people do not fall through the cracks. That collaborative approach is exactly what these reforms seek to support.

The bill provides greater clarity around education re-entry and transition programs and ensures children and young people who are disengaged, or at risk of disengagement, can receive the support they need until they are ready to return to school or move into other suitable education, training or employment pathways. Importantly, it also provides greater certainty around information sharing between support providers, schools and the Department of Education, ensuring students do not fall through the cracks. These reforms recognise that successful education outcomes are not always achieved through a one-size-fits-all approach. By providing greater clarity and support for re-engagement programs, we are helping more young Queenslanders remain connected to education and positioned for future success.

The bill also includes important provisions that ensure continuity of education during emergencies. As the member for Redlands, I know firsthand the importance of maintaining educational continuity when communities are impacted by severe weather events. Whether it is on our island communities, coastal communities or schools affected by natural disasters, the ability for non-state schools to operate from temporary sites when required provides commonsense flexibility and ensures students can continue their education with minimal disruption. These are practical reforms that put students first.

The bill also delivers important governance improvements across the non-state-schooling sector, allowing more proportionate and risk-based accreditation processes. Instead of forcing schools through lengthy, resource-intensive assessments for relatively minor operational changes, the legislation allows the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board to focus on the level of risk involved. That means less unnecessary administration and more efficient decision-making while maintaining appropriate oversight and accountability. The same philosophy underpins many of the reforms in this legislation. It is about removing unnecessary barriers, modernising outdated processes and ensuring the system works for students, teachers and school communities.

Beyond education, the bill delivers important governance reforms across Queensland's arts sector. The arts play a significant role in communities like mine in the Redlands. They contribute to our cultural identity, support local jobs and create opportunities for community participation and creative expression. By modernising governance arrangements and reducing administrative burden on arts institutions, these reforms will help ensure organisations can focus on delivering high-quality cultural experiences for Queenslanders. Importantly, the bill also strengthens protections against ticket scalping, helping protect consumers from inflated prices and ensuring fair access to performances and events.

This bill reflects the broader approach of the Crisafulli government. We are focused on practical reform. We are focused on reducing unnecessary red tape. We are focused on supporting teachers, strengthening educational outcomes and ensuring every young Queenslander has the opportunity to succeed. Most importantly, we are focused on delivering real outcomes for students, families and communities—communities like mine in Redlands and communities right across Queensland.



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (4.14 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, with most of the amendments contained in this bill largely technical in nature and largely implementing reviews and other bills undertaken by the former Labor government. The Queensland *Non-state schools accreditation framework review*, conducted by Cheryl Vardon, was delivered in August 2023. The bill first became an act in 2017, and this was a five-year review of that relevant act. It was a Labor government that actually brought in the NSSAB act. The review was publicly released in March 2024 alongside the then Labor government's response, which agreed in principle to

21 of the 24 recommendations, with three recommendations requiring further consideration and possible legislative amendment. That is the history of the bill before us. It is nothing to do with the Crisafulli government, which has taken Labor's homework and developed it into the bill that we are debating today.

Mrs Frecklington: 2023 we put it in.

Ms GRACE: It was five years after. It was made public. I take the interjection and repeat what I said: it was released in March 2024. There was a recommendation to do that. We went to an election in October, and this bill is now implementing Labor's hard work. The amendments in the bill we debate today are largely as a result of the work of the previous government. Once again, the government is delivering the previous Labor government's homework—literally.

It is important that public confidence involving non-state schools—including issues around student wellbeing, governance and community expectations—was addressed in the review. I thank Cheryl Vardon for her hard work and thank the dedicated implementation taskforce within the Department of Education that brought about this bill. I actually welcome the bill, which allows NSSAB to delegate routine and low-risk functions to officers within the Department of Education. It was an issue that was raised with me when I was education minister. I agree with NSSAB and Catholic Education Queensland Ltd that the delegation should be narrowly defined to enable transparency and probity to take precedence.

In relation to the sharing of information between the department and NSSAB, there were concerns raised by stakeholders—particularly CEQL—that discretion be afforded in some circumstances. I support the Office of the Information Commissioner in their submission, which outlined that consideration be given to a formalised MOU to set out a process to be followed for sharing information under the arrangement. The minister in the second reading speech may have alluded to something being put in place in relation to that, and I support the minister working on that.

More importantly, it is imperative that resources are funded by the government for this work to be carried out. Let us hope that there will be additional funding in the budget for this purpose. I know that we have another record education budget. I think every education budget is a record one, with the growth in our schools. It would be nice—I do not think it is outlined necessarily, and I hope to find it in the budget papers—if there were additional resources for the implementation of these additional responsibilities. It is absolutely necessary, and I hope the minister is able to find the money to give them the resources they need to do their job properly. There is a need for an appropriate level of resourcing for NSSAB to ensure they can carry out these new responsibilities and communicate effectively with all stakeholders, including of course ISQ and CEQL.

The bill also amends the act to clarify that detention centres—this is the only part of the bill that may actually touch on something to do with state schools—are state educational institutions. This is an important step, but I must admit, as a former education minister, I believe that Education Queensland always treated them as such. That clarification has been made in this bill. The department suggested that that be done. I have no problems with that. I note that the department indicated this amendment was purely to ensure that teachers and staff working in those centres are employed on the same basis as teachers in other settings in relation to blue card requirements. It is a minor technical clarification in case somebody were to challenge that in the future.

The bill also makes changes to allow non-state special assistance schools to provide education at a temporary site—a fairly straightforward recommendation that was good to be picked up—whether or not it was as a result of an emergency that affected the school. In essence, these schools can operate from a temporary site for any reason. I do not believe that there was the ability for them to do that, so introducing a provision that enables that is certainly not a problem.

I know that the independent and Catholic education sectors welcome the model to expand international delivery of the QEC by enabling eligible Queensland non-state schools to partner with overseas schools. We have a great relationship with some overseas schools that use the Queensland curriculum, which is one of the best. Schools in Dubai went around the world to choose a curriculum and they picked Queensland's curriculum. They have been delivering that curriculum in two schools in Dubai for many years and they could not be happier. The student numbers keep improving in that area. Giving the non-state school sector the ability to partner with overseas schools, after we have experimented with it and seen how it works, is supported. When the ISQ and QECL were here recently they were very much in support of that.

As outlined in the introductory speech of the minister, the arts amendments introduced by the former Labor government lapsed. He supported these amendments being brought forward as part of this bill. There is nothing new here. It was a bill introduced by the previous government around improvements in governance and stopping QPAC ticket scalping, and that is much welcomed. Once again, this is Labor's homework. The minister said in his introductory speech that this is merely the amendments in the bill which lapsed now being introduced as part of this bill that bring in those protections.

When it comes to schooling agreements and funding, they are generally done every five to 10 years. During the 10 years that Labor was in government from 2015 we negotiated a couple of those agreements. To somehow suggest that there were never any funding agreements is misleading and incorrect. Of course there were funding agreements. That is how we were able to transfer the money through the state to the non-government schools and how the state government was funded through the federal government. In 2018 there was one that was negotiated. In 2024 there were issues and there was one 12-month agreement going forward because we were very close to negotiating the great agreement that finally dropped when the new minister came in. The states were negotiating that for three years before that happened. To somehow suggest a couple of cannoli were able to deliver the funding agreement is insulting and incorrect.

These changes largely relate to non-state schools and technical clarifications for education training centres. They do nothing to address the issues raised by the minister in his introductory speech: behaviour supports, antibullying, extra teachers, occupational violence. We need to do more. If the minister is coming into this House and somehow suggesting that these have all been solved in the short time that he has been minister, he is either misleading the House or deluding himself. I see the posts on his social media page and the comments by teachers. I have been to Mackay; I have been to Bundy; I have been to my own electorate. I visit my schools all the time. Not one of them is saying that they do not have a teacher shortage. Not one of them is saying that all behaviour issues have been solved.

Mr O'Connor: Sorry, you just said he had been minister for a short time—so whose fault is it?

Ms GRACE: Not one of them is saying that bullying has been corrected.

Mr O'Connor: The short time he has been minister, you just said.

Ms GRACE: Not one of them is saying that occupational violence has been stopped or has improved—far from it. I will take the interjection from the minister, the member for Bonney. Yes, do not claim things that are not correct, because teachers will correct you. Let me quote: 'a confident, professional state school workforce'—that is one that is well paid, that is respected, that is listened to and that is valued. I say to the minister, 'Get the agreement done.' Striking twice in 2025, leaving teachers' pay and conditions in limbo—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member, I have given a lot of leeway with the background. I think you are straying from the bill. Could you come back to the long title of the bill, please?

Ms GRACE: I am addressing exactly the quote by the minister in his introductory speech.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I was not asking for an argument. I asked you to come back to the long title of the bill, thank you.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. AJ STOKER** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (4.25 pm): This is a practical bill that is needed to make our education system function better for students, for teachers and for parents. It is about making systems clearer, reducing unnecessary red tape and supporting students to stay connected in learning. This matters locally because I know that I and my fellow Redlands MPs have been so focused on ensuring we are delivering essential practical support for students who learn in the Redlands. It has been pretty interesting to see the member for Bulimba, the member for Mansfield and others get up here and describe this bill as just a bit of housekeeping—just housekeeping!

Let us first say that it is worth a whole lot more than that in my neck of the woods, but, even if we accepted for a moment that they are right, it is still housekeeping that needs to be done because those opposite did not clean house during the time that they were in government. They did not keep the educational system and its frameworks tidy and up to date. In fact, Labor did not pass any legislative reform in this space since 2016. If we go back to the housekeeping style of 2016, maybe they have the big, bold chevron print cushions that were all the rage. Maybe they have a 'live, laugh, love' sign in the

kitchen that was the peak of fashion around 2016. But I can tell members they did not keep the legislation for Queensland's education system, whether public or private, on the cutting edge. When, after chronic underinvestment in maintenance, record numbers of teachers quit the profession—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member, keep to the long title of the bill if you can, thank you.

Mrs STOKER: It is really good to see that there is some much needed housekeeping happening because when those opposite were at the helm they entirely botched the one belated, half-hearted attempt they made at housekeeping in 2024. When in 2024 the former Labor government, perhaps on the eve of an election, decided they better put forward a bill in this field, they made a mess of it. The consultation was so poor, the content of the bill so disconnected from the needs of parents, students and schools that over 2,000 submissions flooded into this place from seriously impacted members of our wider community—those in traditional schools, independent schools and homeschooling. They were hit hard by a failure to consult, a failure to plan—a failure to do the very housekeeping that those opposite come in here and knock today. Perhaps those opposite should not sledge those who do decide to keep the legislative house tidy given they have demonstrated a complete inability to do it themselves.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mrs STOKER: I will take that interjection.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, you will not. He is not sitting in his seat.

Mrs STOKER: I take your point, Deputy Speaker. Behaviour in Queensland schools has been boosted enormously by this government. We have delivered more than \$361,000 in Behaviour Boost funding across local schools. That funding is making a big difference in Redlands classrooms. Across Queensland, if we take the big picture first, reported behaviour incidents have fallen by an average of eight per cent since the program was introduced. It really was just a little over 12 months ago. In the Redlands, the metro south district, there has been an enormous improvement.

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The bill is in regard to the non-state school board, so my point is on relevance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I will allow you some background but I hope that you will get back to the main title of the bill. Everyone has had a fair run with some good background, so I will give you a little more leeway.

Mrs STOKER: It is just that I am so passionate about the way this has improved behaviour across the Redlands. Thank you very much for your understanding, Mr Deputy Speaker.

There have been incredible investments across the Redland education system, including in dealing with the incredible maintenance backlog that Labor allowed to fester. We are putting over \$800,000 into maintenance and minor works as we continue to tackle the decade of decline we experienced in Redland schools under Labor. However, we are not just dealing with the failure to maintain; we are charging forward both in this regulatory space as well as with the infrastructure on the ground.

I make no apologies to the education minister, who I know is in the chamber, for shamelessly seeking ever-better facilities for our region. I am pleased to report to the House that he is always really interested in what is going on in Redland schools and really receptive to hearing about their needs. Whether that is \$73,000 for shaded seating, water fountain upgrades and musical instruments at Ormiston State School, \$1 million for upgraded amenities at Birkdale South State School—

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. None of this is in the bill. My point of order is on relevance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will get some advice. Member, given that the bill relates to private schools, could you perhaps help me with how this is relevant?

Mrs STOKER: What I am coming to is the way that some of this is helping in schools across the board, including in independent schools. For instance, we are making investments at Redlands College for capital works as part of the program this government is supporting across the board in the regulatory sense and in the physical sense. I can move on if that is helpful.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do move on, but try to remain relevant to the bill and we will have fewer interruptions.

Mrs STOKER: A key part of the bill is about making sure we are supporting young people who are disengaged or at risk of disengaging from education to stay connected to training and employment. Deputy Speaker, you will no doubt be aware of the way the bill facilitates the delivery of education and training centres as state educational institutions where they are provided in youth detention. When a person falls out of education, it does not just affect their report card; it seriously affects their family, their future, community safety and the future skilled workforce that we are investing so much in here in Queensland. This bill's focus on re-entry and transition supports is really important because the goal should always be to get young people back on track rather than let them drift further away.

In the Redlands we know the value of early intervention. This is probably a good opportunity to take a moment to commend the hard work of Sandy, Annabel and the many mentors who serve at Traction in Alexandra Hills, in the electorate of Capalaba. From that location they service the entirety of the Redlands, including by engaging with many students from Oodgeroo. With the benefit of a kickstarter grant, they do vital work across the Redlands to keep really vulnerable teens connected with education, engaged and making good choices so they can be on paths that will lead them to a great future. I give a shout-out to the team at Traction. I love your work and your passion for turning around young lives.

This bill recognises education and training centres in youth detention settings. That matters because when a young person has done the wrong thing then they need to cop the consequences of that sweet, but education and an opportunity to do better in the future have to be part of the answer for them. Accountability and opportunity have to go hand in hand. If we want to have fewer victims and fewer repeat offenders then education has to be a really important part of breaking that cycle.

The non-state school reforms in the bill are also really important because Redlands families rely on a mix of state, independent and special schools. The laws that we have should support parental choice and diversity in our educational selection without unnecessary administrative burden. These reforms to the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board are about giving better governance, clearer expectations and a more practical approach to regulation. The bill also allows non-state schools to partner with overseas schools to deliver the QCE, with oversight being in place through the QCAA. This really is a vote of confidence in the quality of the educational offering that is available in the many schools across Queensland. It is an exciting opportunity for it to become another growing Queensland export. That really matters at the school level but it is also important for students who choose a Queensland senior high school education as it is a way of making their pathway into Queensland's vocational and tertiary education smooth and successful.

At its heart, this bill reflects a really simple principle: it is our commitment, in every area of policy and service delivery, to reduce red tape and bureaucracy and to free up valuable human capital to be able to do its best work, whether that is at the front of the classroom, as a school administrator or as a student in a class. In doing so, it is about helping Redlands kids and all Queensland kids to get an even better education in this state. It even sets a framework to share the gift of a Queensland education with students around the world with benefits to our VET and tertiary sectors. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (4.36 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. At the commencement of my speech I would like to acknowledge the work of the Education, Arts and Communities Committee in its examination of the bill, the many stakeholders who made submissions and the witnesses who appeared before the committee to provide evidence. This bill is a broad piece of legislation that seeks to make amendments across a range of education and arts portfolios. It includes reforms relating to the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board, student re-engagement and transitional programs, education delivery in youth detention centres, governance arrangements for the Queensland College of Teachers, the offshore delivery of the Queensland Certificate of Education and governance reforms affecting Queensland's arts statutory bodies.

The opposition recognises that many amendments in the bill are administrative in nature and seek to modernise the existing frameworks and reduce unnecessary red tape in particular. These aspects of the bill have received broad support from stakeholders. The proposed introduction of a risk-based accreditation assessment process for non-state schools has been welcomed by the sector. It makes little sense to require a school seeking a minor accreditation change, such as adding year levels or expanding facilities, to undergo the same extensive process as a completely new school seeking accreditation.

The proposed amendments to allow all non-state schools to operate from temporary sites during emergency events are sensible and practical. As Queenslanders, we know all too well the impact that cyclones, floods and other natural disasters can have on school communities. The opposition notes the additional flexibility provided to special assistance schools and encourages the government to ensure appropriate safeguards and clarity around its application. These amendments will help ensure continuing education in schools affected by extraordinary events.

The opposition also acknowledges the reforms that provide legislative recognition for education re-engagement and transitional programs for vulnerable young people. Managing a connection to education is one of the strongest protective factors available to children and young people facing disadvantage, trauma and disengagement. The Queensland Family and Child Commission provided compelling evidence to the committee that re-engagement in education is not simply about learning outcomes; it is about safety, wellbeing and future opportunities.

I agree that young people who have become disconnected from mainstream schooling require flexible pathways and tailored support to reconnect with education and achieve their potential. Similarly, recognising education and training centres within youth detention centres as state educational institutions will help ensure continuity of education for young people in detention and support their successful reintegration into the community. However, while there is broad support for many aspects of the bill, the committee process also highlighted important concerns raised by stakeholders, concerns that deserve careful consideration by this House.

The first of those concerns relates to the proposed delegation powers of the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board. Throughout the inquiry, stakeholders consistently expressed support for the principle of reducing administrative burden and allowing routine matters to be dealt with more efficiently. However, they also made it clear that the independence of the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board must be preserved. The board itself acknowledged that stakeholders had expressed potential risks to the board's independence through delegation of functions.

In evidence to the committee, the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board chair stated that only routine and low-risk functions should be delegated and that robust safeguards and clear criteria would be required. Catholic Education Queensland and Independent Schools Queensland similarly argued that there must be a clearly defined delegation framework, with transparent thresholds and explicit safeguards governing what can and cannot be delegated. That confidence depends on the board remaining independent, impartial and accountable. The bill expands the responsibilities of the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board. The government must ensure the board is adequately resourced to maintain the high standards of oversight expected by school communities. The opposition, therefore, encourages the government to work closely with the board and the sector to ensure any delegation framework is transparent, proportionate and consistent with the board's statutory responsibilities.

The second major concern raised by stakeholders relates to information sharing between the board and the Department of Education. Again, the opposition acknowledges the rationale behind these provisions. There are circumstances in which timely information sharing is necessary. Where regulatory decisions may affect government funding arrangements, student welfare or the operation of schools, the Department of Education needs access to relevant information to fulfil its responsibilities. However, stakeholders repeatedly emphasised the importance of ensuring sensitive information is appropriately protected. The concern was with the scope, timing and safeguards surrounding information sharing.

Independent Schools Queensland, Catholic Education Queensland and other sector representatives highlighted concerns regarding show cause processes and the potential sharing of information before schools have had a reasonable opportunity to respond. The board itself acknowledged that strong protections and secure processes would be necessary to safeguard sensitive school and student information. The opposition believes these concerns warrant serious attention. Parents, students and schools must have confidence that confidential information will be handled appropriately. Any information-sharing framework must strike the right balance between transparency, regulatory effectiveness and procedural fairness.

The government has indicated that implementation frameworks and protocols will be developed in consultation with stakeholders. We welcome that commitment and encourage meaningful engagement with the sector as those arrangements are finalised.

The committee process also highlighted concerns regarding privacy protections associated with information sharing in education re-engagement programs. A number of organisations, including the Youth Advocacy Centre, Traction for Young People, the Queensland Council of Social Services and

the Office of the Information Commissioner, raised questions about the handling of personal information relating to vulnerable young people. The opposition recognises that effective information sharing can improve outcomes for vulnerable students, provided appropriate safeguards remain in place and information sharing is limited to what is necessary.

Legislation is always strongest when it balances efficiency with accountability and reform with appropriate safeguards. Many of the measures contained in this bill seek to improve the operation of Queensland's education and arts sectors. The opposition acknowledges the positive intent behind those reforms. However, we also believe that the concerns raised by the non-state school sector should not be dismissed as minor implementation issues.

The two key concerns identified throughout the inquiry—the preservation of the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board's independence through appropriate delegation arrangements and the protection of sensitive information through robust information-sharing safeguards—go to the heart of trust in our regulatory framework. As this bill is implemented, it will be important that the government honours its commitment to consultation and works together with stakeholders to ensure these concerns are properly addressed. Queensland students, families and school communities deserve a regulatory system that is efficient, accountable and trusted. While this bill contains a number of administrative and technical reforms, it does little to address the real challenges facing Queensland schools.

(Time expired)



Mr LEE (Hervey Bay—LNP) (4.46 pm): I rise to speak to the Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. This bill reflects an important principle that resonates strongly in my electorate of Hervey Bay that every child, no matter their background or circumstance, deserves access to a quality education system that is responsive, practical and focused on outcomes. Education is and always will be one of the most powerful tools we have to shape the future, not just for individual students but for entire communities like ours throughout the Fraser Coast.

Education has a long pedigree in Hervey Bay with the first public primary school—Pialba State Primary School—established in 1884, followed by a private school in 1888. We have at least 9,000 Hervey Bay students enrolled in public and private schools.

This legislation is an omnibus bill that amends multiple acts across private education, libraries, museums and the arts. The Crisafulli government is delivering substantial reform to Queensland education. This reform follows a decade of neglect. Labor had not passed any legislative reform to education since 2016, save for a botched attempt in 2024—just before the 2024 election.

The main purpose of this bill to strengthen governance across the education, arts and museum portfolios, reduce unnecessary red tape, deliver risk-based regulation, improve educational outcomes and ensure better continuity of education for Queensland students. Importantly, the bill provides contemporary education system responses to challenges such as student disengagement, information sharing between the non-state school accreditation framework and the Department of Education, timely management of emergency situations affecting schools and expanding international opportunities for Queensland education.

Firstly, I want to address one of the key objectives of this bill: reducing the regulatory burden while strengthening governance. We know that across Queensland, including Hervey Bay, school leaders, teachers and administrators are under immense pressure. They are expected to manage complex compliance systems while still delivering high-quality teaching in the classroom. This bill responds to findings from the 2023 Queensland non-state school accreditation framework—the Cheryl Vardon review—and it moves toward a more risk-based and efficient regulatory model. That is sensible reform. For the non-state sector, which includes many schools in my Hervey Bay electorate, that means clearer processes, improved communication and a regulatory system that is more proportionate to risk rather than a one-size-fits-all compliance regime. Ultimately, when we reduce unnecessary administrative burden we give educators more time to do what matters most: teaching our children.

A second key component of this bill is its focus on continuity of education, particularly for vulnerable and disengaged young people or those at risk of becoming disengaged. The bill introduces recognition of education and training centres in youth detention settings and establishes a clearer framework for re-engagement and transition programs back into school or other training options. This is significant reform. We know that education disruption, whether due to disengagement, behavioural challenges or involvement in the youth justice system, can have lifelong consequences. In regional communities like Hervey Bay, where support services can be more limited than in metropolitan areas, it is critical to ensure no young person falls behind.

The bill also clarifies information-sharing arrangements to support early referral into these programs. This may sound technical, but it is vital. Too often, structural and functional barriers between services prevent timely intervention. Removing those barriers provides a greater chance of re-engaging young people before disengagement becomes permanent. For families in Hervey Bay, this reform has the potential to provide earlier and coordinated support to young people, lifting educational participation and improving long-term outcomes.

Another practical reform included in this bill is expanding the ability for schools to operate from temporary sites in emergency situations. For communities like ours, this is particularly relevant. Last year we experienced ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred, and Hervey Bay is no stranger to severe weather events. When school infrastructure is impacted, the disruption to learning can be significant. By allowing both state and non-state schools greater flexibility to continue operating from temporary sites when their primary facilities are unusable, the bill provides a commonsense solution. It ensures learning can continue with minimal disruption, giving certainty to students, parents and teachers alike.

The bill also addresses Queensland's role in the global education landscape. It enables accredited non-state schools to partner with overseas institutions to deliver the Queensland Certificate of Education with strengthened oversight from the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority. This reform brings both opportunity and responsibility. On the one hand, it enhances Queensland's reputation internationally and opens new pathways for the education sector. On the other hand, it requires robust governance to ensure standards are maintained and the value of the Queensland Certificate of Education is protected. For schools in Hervey Bay, this may not have an immediate or direct impact on the classroom, but it will contribute to the broader strength of the Queensland education brand, which ultimately benefits all students.

This bill provides a consistent theme: modernising our Queensland education system to better support students and educators. The bill supports improved governance across statutory bodies in the education sector, more efficient accreditation processes, better coordination of services for vulnerable students, increased flexibility for schools in challenging circumstances and strengthened oversight by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority in emerging areas such as international education. These are sensible and practical reforms.

I want to take a moment to bring this back to the local level because ultimately legislation like this must be translated into real outcomes on the ground. In Hervey Bay we have a diverse education landscape, with a mix of state and non-state schools serving thousands of students and families. We also face regional challenges such as distance, workforce pressures and access to services that require policy settings to be flexible and responsible. The reforms in this bill have several potential benefits for our community: less red tape for the school leadership, allowing them to focus on improving student outcomes; better support for disengaged youth, helping to reduce long-term social and economic costs; improved continuity of education, including disruptions, which is critical in regional areas; and stronger coordination between agencies, ensuring students receive timely support. These are not abstract benefits; they are tangible improvements that can make a substantial difference in classrooms across Hervey Bay.

The Crisafulli government is taking a balanced and careful approach in implementing education system reform. For example, where the bill introduces new powers, particularly around information sharing, it must be accompanied by strong safeguards to protect privacy and maintain public trust. Where there is an expansion in international education, there must be a concomitant quality assurance process that ensures Queensland's standards are not compromised. These are matters that deserve ongoing oversight.

In closing, this omnibus bill takes decisive and constructive action to modernise Queensland's education framework. The bill recognises that our education system must reduce unnecessary regulatory burden to better support vulnerable students and to ensure continuity of education in an increasingly complex world. In my electorate of Hervey Bay, these progressive reforms have the potential to deliver practical improvements supporting our schools, our teachers, our teacher aides and, most importantly, our students. Education is about creating opportunities for intellectual curiosity and social and emotional growth. Education is about ensuring every child in Hervey Bay, regardless of their circumstances, has the chance to succeed. Education is about building a future for our entire Fraser Coast community. I commend the bill to the House.



Hon. LM ENOCH (Algeria—ALP) (4.55 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Before I begin, I acknowledge the committee, all of the public servants and the hardworking submitters who provided such great input to the hearings. As a former high school teacher, I know how important this subject matter is to so many people.

As we have heard from others, much of this bill before the House is technical in nature and contains a range of administrative, operational and governance amendments affecting both Queensland's education system and several of our arts statutory bodies. During the committee process, we heard that many submitters considered the practical concerns arising from the bill could be addressed during implementation through clear guidelines, appropriate frameworks and further clarification. For those reasons, as the House has already heard, the opposition will be supporting this legislation; however, support for this bill should not be mistaken for satisfaction with the government's performance in either education or the arts.

Turning firstly to the education provisions, this legislation does little to address the major challenges facing Queensland schools. One of the amendments contained within the bill relates to temporary sites for special assistance schools. The bill proposes to allow these schools to operate from temporary locations even when they have not been affected by an emergency event. Although I support the idea of temporary locations—of course, it is absolutely essential for the continuity of a child's education—we did note that during the committee process the department was unable to clearly explain why that particular aspect of the change was necessary, particularly given that other categories of schools are generally only permitted to relocate temporarily during emergencies such as floods, cyclones or other natural disasters.

The bill also expands information-sharing arrangements between the Department of Education, the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board and non-state schools. Several submitters raised concerns regarding these provisions, particularly around accreditation decisions and show cause processes. There were concerns that affected schools may have fewer opportunities for consultation and fewer opportunities to respond to matters that could have significant consequences. Importantly, the Office of the Information Commissioner recommended the use of formal MOUs to ensure information-sharing arrangements comply with privacy principles and contain appropriate safeguards. Parents, students and schools deserve to be confident that sensitive information will be properly managed and, of course, appropriately protected.

The bill also expands the role and responsibilities of the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board. Additional powers and responsibilities must be matched by adequate resourcing. That remains an open question. Queenslanders have seen vacancies remain unfilled, temporary positions disappear and public sector agencies being asked to do more with less. If this government cannot properly resource services today, there is every reason to question whether new responsibilities created by this legislation will receive the support they require.

Ultimately, however, this legislation serves as another reminder of what the minister and this LNP government have failed to deliver. It does not address teacher shortages. It does not address escalating workloads. It does not address occupational violence. It does not address workforce pressures, and it does not restore confidence among teachers and school staff.

Queensland teachers took the extraordinary step of industrial action because they felt ignored. Teachers sought meaningful improvements to wages and conditions. Instead, they found themselves forced into arbitration after the government refused to provide the outcomes they had been seeking. The minister could not even provide an interim wage increase despite those funds already being budgeted.

Mr POWELL: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This has no relevance to the long title of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member, I invite you to come back to the long title of the bill. I have allowed a lot of background today. If you can keep that in mind, thank you.

Ms ENOCH: Thank you so much, Mr Deputy Speaker. I appreciate your guidance. I now turn to the arts component of the bill. The governance provisions contained within the bill are, in large part, sensible and proportionate. The requirements relating to board member suitability, disclosure obligations, criminal history checks and conflict-of-interest provisions reflect the significant responsibilities that come with serving on the boards of Queensland's major cultural institutions.

Queenslanders rightly expect that those entrusted with the stewardship of our galleries, libraries, museums, theatres and cultural institutions meet high standards of integrity and accountability. The provisions relating to the disclosure of indictable offences, insolvency, disqualification from managing corporations and conflicts of interest are reasonable. Likewise, the confidentiality provisions surrounding criminal history information appropriately balance privacy rights with the need to ensure suitable appointments.

The opposition also supports the ticket-scalping provisions relating to QPAC. Queensland audiences should be protected from predatory resale practices, inflated prices and fraudulent ticket sales that damage both consumers and our cultural institutions. These measures are appropriate. In fact, these measures were in large part included in the Arts (Statutory Bodies) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill that I introduced in 2024 before it lapsed at the end of last term. They are measures that had been consulted on two years ago, so it is pleasing to see the government hand in Labor's homework. It is a great pity, however, that the minister did not extend his attention to the rest of that lapsed bill and embed First Nations voices in our cultural institutions.

While this bill speaks extensively about governance, accountability and proper conduct, it arrives at a time when the government's own conduct in the arts portfolio raises serious concerns, because the greatest threat to the independence of Queensland's cultural institutions is not found within this legislation. It is found in the actions of this government itself. Queensland's arts statutory bodies exist because successive governments recognised that cultural institutions must operate independently from political influence. Governments provide funding. Governments establish legislative frameworks but governments do not direct artistic decisions.

Mr POWELL: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am seeking your ruling on relevance. I do not believe that what the member is referring to pertains to the bill at all.

Ms ENOCH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think it absolutely pertains directly to the bill given that it is all about governance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): I am going to take some advice. I ask you to stick to the key principles of the long title of the bill. That would be very much appreciated.

Ms ENOCH: Thank you so much, Mr Deputy Speaker. The bill talks directly about the embedding of particular governance structures and strengthening those governance structures in our cultural institutions. I am making the point that arts statutory bodies exist because successive governments have recognised that cultural institutions must operate independently from political influence. That is why it is welcome that these measures have been put in place in this legislation. Of course, it does not mean, and it is not ideal, that governments direct artistic decisions. Governments should not determine cultural legitimacy and governments should not interfere with independent board processes. Yet increasingly we are seeing precisely that.

There is also growing concern regarding ministerial overreach. The decision by the minister to override the position of the QPAC board, which is being discussed in this legislation, regarding the naming of the new theatre raises significant concerns about the independence of one of Queensland's premier cultural institutions.

Mr POWELL: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That is a long stretch. I would like your ruling on relevance, please.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I did say before to ensure you stick to the long title of the bill and the governance structures around that.

Ms ENOCH: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I appreciate that. Independent boards exist for a reason. That is why we are supporting this legislation because this legislation strengthens that independence and of course strengthens the ability of everyone to feel confident that that independence exists. Their expertise on boards should matter. They should carry weight. Likewise, we should not see ministerial interference or political interference of any kind in this.

Just as concerning is the ongoing disappearance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices from the boards of our arts institutions. It has been reported that highly regarded artist Bianca Beeton AM and business founder David Williams were removed from the QAGOMA board partway through their board terms. Respected elder Aunty Cheryl Buchanan was given 24 hours notice of her removal from the State Library of Queensland board.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am going to take some advice. Member, I have been going through the greens here. Can you demonstrate to me where that is relevant to this bill? If you can, I will allow you to continue. Otherwise, I will ask you to move on.

Ms ENOCH: Of course. There is actual reference to the requirements—

Ms Bates: A board, not all boards.

Ms ENOCH: Sorry, Mr Deputy Speaker. I am not taking interjections. I am speaking directly to you.

Mrs Frecklington: Well, speak sense.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms ENOCH: That is so offensive, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Member, I am asking you to continue. If you are going to speak then you need to make it relevant to this bill.

Ms ENOCH: Yes, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is very clear there are changes to the actual boards and the governance of the boards. The governance of boards talks about the legitimacy of those members on the boards. There are a whole heap of criteria that are now being set as part of this legislation. That is what I am talking to.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for explaining that to me, member for Algester. Again, it may be a board but it is not a board contained in this bill. I am asking you to stick to this bill that we are currently debating.

Government members interjected.

Ms ENOCH: I appreciate your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker, and your protection from the very rude interjections I am hearing. It is obviously just another attempt to try to silence and make Aboriginal voices invisible.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member on her feet has been in this chamber for long enough to know that she needs to be relevant to the bill before the House.

Mr POWELL: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I actually take personal offence at what the member just said and ask that she withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am taking some further guidance. Member for Algester, it is fine to make a broad point or to put things in context but it has to be relevant to the bill. That is what I ask you to do. The member did take personal offence. I ask you to withdraw.

Ms ENOCH: I withdraw, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is the convention of the House if somebody takes personal offence.

Ms ENOCH: I understand. I did not name anybody but I withdraw. For the sake of the House and your authority, I withdraw.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! Member for Algester, you have the call. Please be relevant to this bill.

Ms ENOCH: Whilst the opposition supports the bill, I do place on record our serious concerns about the government's approach to the arts, the apparent growing centralisation of decision-making and what many are calling project invisibility, fundamentally diminishing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices across Queensland's cultural institutions. While I support the strengthened governance measures, which were in the original bill that I brought to the House in 2024—so I do support that—I do not support any attempts by this government or others to lay the foundation for what is basically a monoculture by ensuring who is in various cultural institutions and who is on boards.

 **Mr CHIESA** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (5.09 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. This is a bill about reducing unnecessary red tape, strengthening governance, improving clarity, supporting students who need help to re-engage with education, and ensuring our education and arts institutions are operating under modern and effective legislation.

Education is one of the most important responsibilities of any government. It shapes opportunities, it support families and it gives young people the skills, confidence and discipline they need to build a future. In regional areas like Hinchinbrook, schools are more than places of learning; they are part of the fabric of our communities. I know that personally. I attended Ingham state primary school and Ingham State High School, and I remain very proud of that.

Mr Vorster: Great schools!

Mr CHIESA: Great schools; I take the interjection from the member for Burleigh.

Mr Stevens: The best 15 years of your life!

Mr CHIESA: That is right. Those schools, like so many schools across Queensland, have played an important role in shaping generations of young people across the Hinchinbrook electorate, from the northern suburbs of Townsville through to Tully. From our small rural communities to our larger regional centres, our schools sit at the heart of community life. That is why legislation like this is important. Practically, it is about making sure the system works better for schools, teachers, students, families and the wider community.

The bill forms part of a broader reform agenda being delivered by the Crisafulli government. After years of pressure on the education system, this government is focused on getting the basics right—supporting teachers, lifting literacy and numeracy, improving behaviour and safety in classrooms, reducing red tape and ensuring students do not fall through the cracks. The former Labor government had 10 years to address many of these issues. Instead, Queensland was left with teachers burdened by administration, schools dealing with significant maintenance pressures, increasing concerns about bullying and behaviour, and students not always receiving the support they needed early enough. Labor failed to secure a full funding agreement for Queensland state schools during its time in government. It also left Queensland with a repair bill of \$400 million across Queensland. Teachers were under increasing pressure and many were frustrated by unnecessary administration and red tape.

The Crisafulli government has taken a different approach. In six months this government has delivered what Labor could not deliver in 10 years: a deal with the federal government to fully fund Queensland state schools. That is a significant achievement and an important investment in the future of Queensland students. We are also delivering more teachers, better classroom support with the Back to School Boost for primary school students—it got a boost just today—a strong focus on literacy and numeracy, a nation-leading antibullying plan, and Behaviour Boost funding to give schools more practical support. This bill sits alongside that broader agenda. It is not the only reform, but it is an important one.

One of the key areas of the bill relates to temporary school sites. This is important because in Queensland, particularly North Queensland, we know that natural disasters and severe weather events can disrupt communities very quickly. Cyclones, floods and major weather events are common in communities like Hinchinbrook. They are part of life in the tropics. When a school site is affected by an emergency, the priority must be continuity of education and student safety. This bill extends and clarifies temporary site arrangements so non-state schools can continue operating from a temporary site where needed. This is particularly relevant in regional Queensland. When families are already dealing with the stress of an emergency or disruption, the education system needs to be flexible enough to respond. Students need stability, parents need certainty and schools need clear rules. This bill helps provide that clarity.

Another significant part of the bill relates to re-engagement in education, training and employment. This is one of the most important aspects of the legislation. Not every young person follows a simple or straightforward path through school. Some students become disengaged. Some face complex family, social, behavioural or personal challenges. Some are not immediately ready to return to a conventional classroom setting, but that does not mean they should be written off. This bill clarifies that the Department of Education and prescribed non-government providers may support children and young people through education, re-entry and transition service programs until they are ready to return to school or move into another eligible education, training or employment pathway. This is an important reform.

We know that education is one of the strongest protective factors in a young person's life. It provides routine and it provides structure. It connects young people with supportive adults. It builds confidence and gives them a pathway to employment and participation in the community. When a young person disconnects from education, the consequences can be serious. It can affect their future work prospects, their wellbeing and their connection to the community. In some cases it can increase the risk of further disengagement or offending. That is why re-engagement matters. This bill recognises that some young people need a pathway back. They need support, structure and accountability. They need a system that does not simply say, 'You're either in or out' but instead works to bring them back into learning. This is good education policy and it is good social policy.

The bill also clarifies the status of education and training centres in youth detention centres as state educational institutions. This is important because even when a young person is in detention education must remain part of that response. If we are serious about rehabilitation, if we are serious about accountability and if we are serious about breaking cycles of offending, then education must be

part of that process. Young people in detention still need access to structured learning. They still need pathways. They still need the opportunity to build skills that may help them make different choices in the future. This bill provides greater legislative clarity around that.

The bill also makes practical amendments relating to information sharing. Of course, when information is being shared about children and young people, privacy matters and safeguards matter but the system has to work. Too often young people fall through the cracks because different parts of the system are not connected. If a student is moving through a re-engagement program and then transitioning back to a school or another pathway, the right people need the right information at the right time. This bill helps enable that while still recognising the need for proper safeguards.

The bill also expands the model for international delivery of the Queensland Certificate of Education. The QCE is a strong and recognised senior secondary qualification. This reform will allow eligible Queensland non-state schools to partner with overseas schools under QCAA oversight and quality assurance arrangements. This is an opportunity to promote Queensland's education system internationally while maintaining standards and oversight. It shows confidence in the quality of Queensland education and provides a framework for appropriate international delivery.

The bill also makes a number of important changes across the arts portfolio. Queensland's major arts statutory bodies play an important role in our cultural life, our economy and our communities. They support artists, audiences, education, tourism and livability. As we look towards the Olympics in 2032, Queensland's cultural institutions will have an even greater role to play in showcasing who we are. This bill modernises governance arrangements for a number of arts statutory bodies, strengthening accountability, improving consistency and reducing unnecessary administrative complexity.

It also includes reforms to help protect consumers from ticket scalping at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre. Ticket scalping can lead to inflated prices and disappointment from patrons who unknowingly purchase invalid or unauthorised tickets. Queenslanders deserve confidence when they buy tickets to a performance or event. These reforms are about fairness, transparency and consumer protection.

Importantly, this bill has been through the committee process. The committee received submissions, had a public briefing and public hearing and recommended that the bill be passed. For the people of Hinchinbrook, the most important test is whether the legislation helps deliver better outcomes in the real world. This bill does. It reduces red tape, it strengthens governance, it improves clarity for schools, it supports continuity of education during disruptions, it helps young people reconnect with learning, it modernises important education and arts bodies, and it protects consumers. Most importantly, it forms part of the broader commitment by the Crisafulli government to restore focus, discipline and support to Queensland's education system. Our teachers deserve support, our students deserve opportunity, our families deserve confidence and our schools deserve a system that works with them, not against them.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (5.18 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. At the outset I acknowledge the committee, the committee secretariat and all of the people who made submissions. It is such an important part of the process.

The Labor opposition considers the bill to be largely technical in nature and we support it; however, this bill distracts from the minister's failure to address the urgent challenges teachers and support staff are facing in our schools every day. We are talking about a failure to deliver meaningful pay and conditions for Queensland teachers and a promised 25 per cent reduction in red tape. The minister could not even give teachers a three per cent interim wage increase—an increase that had already been budgeted for.

Teachers have also seen no meaningful reduction in their workload caused by excessive red tape. This is in addition to the other issue the minister keeps ignoring: that is, the high rates of occupational violence that our teachers, school leaders and school staff experience frequently which is leading to rising rates of psychological distress and burnout. The Queensland Teachers' Union have reported that seven in 10 of their members have experienced a serious physical assault in their workplace, that more than 80 per cent of those report psychological stress and anxiety from this experience and that close to 67 per cent of them are considering leaving the profession because of safety concerns. I think probably all of us in this House have met with teachers and have witnessed that firsthand.

This is a growing crisis that the minister can no longer ignore, particularly given that it has the potential to impact children and young people. I would like to remind the House that David Crisafulli said he would sack ministers if they did not achieve their KPIs; well, this bill does not get close to achieving any of the education minister's KPIs. The opportunity to receive a quality education, no matter what school you go to, is a value that the Labor opposition will always fight for.

I will turn to some of the amendments in this bill. There are amendments relating to recommendations made in the 2023 review of the Queensland non-state schools accreditation framework which address operational issues and support for a more proactive, risk-based regulatory approach. There is further clarity around education and training centres in youth detention settings and education re-engagement supports for children and young people.

Another amendment relates to the use of temporary sites by special assistance schools and other non-state schools. This would extend the temporary site framework so all non-state schools can operate from a temporary site in an emergency event, and it clarifies that special assistance schools can operate from a temporary site whether or not there is an emergency event. It will also clarify the accreditation status during the temporary site application process, including extending the period a school may operate at a temporary site. In addition, the bill will also allow the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board to delegate routine and low-risk administrative functions and powers to Department of Education officers so that the board can focus on regulatory decisions and strategic priorities.

It must be noted that, during consultation and the committee process, stakeholders, including the board, had concerns that the powers given to the department were too broad, advising that they should be more narrowly defined. Catholic Education Queensland Ltd advised in their submission that this would mean the Department of Education would be 'authorised in the regulation of other providers of education in the non-state school sector'. They described this as 'not a sound regulatory outcome from a transparency and probity perspective'.

The bill gives the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board an expanded role and greater responsibility. During the public hearing, the opposition queried the large number of items that NSSAB will be required to define for greater clarity and whether they should be more clearly defined in the bill, as opposed to relying on NSSAB. Some stakeholders told the committee that NSSAB is not massively resourced to undertake that task and that NSSAB could certainly do with more funding.

The government must ensure NSSAB is properly resourced to clarify responsibilities under the bill, but the explanatory notes stated that 'any potential costs will be met from existing budget allocations'. As reported in the media recently, the LNP government has decided to cut Public Service roles by discontinuing temporary contracts in the QPS and other departments. How can Queenslanders trust that the LNP government will provide the appropriate level of resources to help the NSSAB fulfil their increased responsibilities if they cannot even resource other public services appropriately?

Supporting young people to stay connected to education, particularly those facing challenging circumstances, is something Labor genuinely believes in. The bill does take some steps in the right direction. It formally recognises education and training centres within youth detention centres, which acknowledges that young people in detention still have a right to an education and a future beyond those walls. I want to ask for some indulgence because I have some flexi schools in my area and one of them has produced the Ipswich Youth Parliament member for the year, Claire Jenkins. She is a fantastic young Indigenous woman in year 12 who is getting an opportunity to achieve her goals through those schools.

This bill also introduces re-engagement supports for children and young people who have fallen out of the education system and seeks to clarify the information sharing needed to connect them back into education re-entry and transition services. However, these information-sharing provisions have raised some serious concerns among stakeholders. Traction for Young People made it clear in their submission that these provisions will fall hardest on Queensland's most vulnerable young people—that is, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth, young people with disability, those from low socioeconomic backgrounds and children who have already endured trauma and hardship. These young people—who, let's face it, deserve the most protection—will not be able to consent to agencies sharing their information. This risks further harm to the young person and adds to their further distrust of these agencies.

Teachers too are being placed in an impossible position. The Independent Education Union has warned that educators could become recipients of highly sensitive and confidential student information with no adequate training or safeguards to support them. P&Cs Qld, QISPN, ICPAQ and the QTU all agree: the safeguards simply are not there. QCOS cut to the heart of the matter and said that these arrangements are not fit for purpose.

Perhaps most alarming is the government's decision to allow additional organisations to be prescribed as providers through regulation, bypassing proper parliamentary scrutiny altogether. This government is quietly leaving the door open to expand the reach of these provisions with minimal accountability, and this is not good enough. Vulnerable young people, their families and their teachers deserve better legislation that truly understands and respects their needs. We will support this bill, but Queenslanders deserve a government that does more than just the bare minimum. Right now, that is simply all we are getting.

 **Ms JAMES** (Barron River—LNP) (5.26 pm): The Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 is about ensuring our education system works for every child no matter where they live. It delivers practical reforms to strengthen re-engagement pathways, support continuity of education during disruption, reduce red tape and ensure education remains central even for young people in the youth justice setting. These are practical reforms designed to deal with real problems, and these problems impact my region daily. It is no secret that disengagement from education from our youth in Cairns is quite high. Disengagement is often the first warning sign that a young person is falling through the cracks. When a young person disconnects from school, they lose structure, support and a sense of direction. No young person sets out to disengage; it is usually a sign of something deeper that is not working for them. If we do not re-engage them early, that gap can quickly turn into long-term disadvantage.

Across Australia, around one in five students, or 20 per cent, is disengaged from school in some form. In Queensland, among students who leave school early, more than 27 per cent are not in education, employment or training at all. That is more than one in four young people at risk of being left behind, which is a really sad statistic. When kids miss out on education, it is not just a gap in learning; it is a gap in opportunity and future pathways. We know where this can lead: stolen cars, vandalised buildings, broken storefront windows and brazen break and enters. Without purpose or direction, too many young people drift onto the wrong path. Too often, that path leads straight into the justice system. This is the reality that we are determined to change.

One of the biggest problems we have faced is that our education system has not always kept pace with reality. For too long, it has operated in silos. Programs existed, schools worked hard, community organisations stepped in but the system did not properly connect those efforts, and that is where too many young people have fallen through the cracks. In places like Cairns, we already have excellent re-engagement programs. The BUSY School, the Open Learning Campus, Catholic education's Holy Spirit schools and community-based services are doing an incredible job reconnecting young people to education. Under the previous legislative framework, these pathways were not always clearly recognised. A young person could be actively participating in a program, rebuilding their confidence and engaging with learning again and still be counted as disengaged, simply because they were not in a traditional classroom. This bill fixes that.

It does not replace those programs; it strengthens them. It recognises that re-engagement is a legitimate and essential part of the education journey. It allows schools, government and community organisations to work together to support students back into education, training or employment. Our government is serious about breaking the cycle of disadvantage and offending, and we are serious about education as a part of that solution.

We are already seeing that approach reflected on the ground in Far North Queensland. The new Ohana youth justice school being delivered in Cairns is a clear example of that. In Cairns we have close to 60 serious repeat youth offenders continuing to cycle through the system. Many have grown up without stability, without support and without a clear sense of purpose, and many have the education of an eight-year-old. We cannot accept that as inevitable. Education offers another pathway. It provides structure, opportunity and, more importantly, hope. It gives young people a reason to turn up, to try and to believe that there is a different future for them. That is what the Ohana youth justice school, the Regional Reset programs and the Kickstarter programs are all about. That is why our government is investing so heavily into those programs for our region.

This bill provides the legislative foundation to support that work because re-engagement is only part of the solution. We also have to make sure that when young people are in the classroom they are supported to succeed. We are taking action to lift literacy and numeracy, including stronger participation in NAPLAN and the introduction of early phonics and numeracy checks in year 1. At the same time, we are tracking behaviour and safety in schools. A \$33 million antibullying action plan, Behaviour Boost funding, rapid response teams and expanded wellbeing support are helping create safer classrooms.

We are backing principals and teachers with the tools they need to manage increasingly complex classrooms. This stands in stark contrast to the situation we inherited from the former Labor government where behavioural issues were escalating and teachers felt unsupported.

Another key part of this bill is reducing unnecessary red tape. Across Queensland more than 57,000 teachers and 19,000 teacher aides support our students. In Far North Queensland alone that means thousands of educators working across vast distances in challenging conditions. They do not have large administrative teams or spare capacity. This bill reduces regulatory burden and gives teachers back time, their most precious asset.

We have delivered more than 1,000 additional teachers and reduced vacancy rates to their lowest level in five years. More students are choosing teaching as a career, with applications increasing by over five per cent since we came into government. Through the \$221 million More Teachers, Better Education plan we are strengthening the workforce and supporting teachers to build specialist capability. We are also investing in wellbeing, behaviour support and workplace safety. We are embracing tools like Corella AI to help reduce administrative burdens. These tools support teachers; they do not replace them.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the arts reforms within this bill. As the Assistant Minister for Creative Industries, I know that in regions like Far North Queensland the arts are not an add-on. In Far North Queensland the arts are central to how we build identity, connection and opportunity. Participation in music and the arts helps young people engage in education and connect with their school and their community. That connection is critical because when students feel engaged they are far more likely to succeed. Venues like CPAC and events like the Cairns & District Junior Eisteddfod are an important part of our community. This week thousands of students are taking part in the eisteddfod across music, dance, speech and writing, and I wish them all the very best of luck.

While this bill focuses on governance, it supports the system that allows these opportunities to exist and thrive. As we head towards the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games it is essential that regional Queensland is ready to perform. This bill may not make the headlines this week, but it will impact communities right across Queensland. It strengthens the system, connects the gaps and supports young people to stay engaged. No matter where a child lives, whether in Brisbane or in the Barron River, they deserve the opportunity to succeed. I support this bill.

 **Ms BOURNE** (Ipswich West—ALP) (5.33 pm): I rise today to speak on the Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I would like to begin by thanking the committee that worked on this bill and the secretariat who so ably assisted us in our consideration of these amendments. I would like to thank all of the various stakeholders who briefed the committee and also all of those community members who put in submissions. I am sure the member for Stafford, Luke Richmond, will enjoy his new role on this very important parliamentary committee.

The bill talks about reducing regulatory burden and delivering key reforms across the education portfolio to strengthen governance, improve educational outcomes, support re-engagement of students and the continuity of education, and improve the efficiency of education statutory bodies. However, this bill is largely a technical bill—a housekeeping bill, a bill that had the opportunity to do so much more. The bill does not support our teachers. Teachers in my community certainly are not speaking to me about this bill. They are talking to me instead about their pay, about increased classroom violence, about severe staffing shortages across schools—and this is all about improving educational outcomes, as mentioned in the explanatory notes. They are talking about the mounting challenges they face, and this government hesitates with technical jargon and red tape. This bill is a distraction, a smokescreen thrown up by this minister to mask his inaction in the education sector and in the parliament.

This bill greatly increases the role and responsibilities of the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board. However, the key to all of these amendments is for this government to ensure that the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board is appropriately resourced to fulfil their duties. As we have seen in recent weeks, it has been reported that there have been several Public Service roles taken away, with temporary contracts in Queensland Police Service and other departments not continued or refilled. If Queenslanders cannot trust this government to properly resource our Public Service to fulfil their duties now, how can they expect that when the bill passes?

This bill also expands information sharing between several entities including the Department of Education, the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board and non-state schools. Submitters raised concerns about information sharing between the Department of Education and the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board. They claimed that, in relation to accreditation decisions for non-state schools and show cause processes, these changes potentially undermine their abilities to respond and be properly

consulted in relation to the matters. The Office of the Information Commissioner has suggested that the government consider formalised memorandums of understanding to ensure the information sharing is compliant with privacy principles. We call on the government to accept this recommendation to protect the information of schools, parents and students because of what we have seen recently where thousands of Australian students and teachers were impacted by a major global cyber attack on online learning platforms. That particular incident compromised names, email addresses and school locations. The privacy of students' information is paramount and not something that should be taken lightly.

This bill will allow special assistance schools to provide education at a temporary site on a temporary basis, even if they are not affected by an emergency event. The department, however, did not make clear during the committee process why this was necessary, given that all other types of schools can only operate from a temporary site due to an emergency event. We welcome the ticket-scalping provisions to prevent Queenslanders from being scammed. This is a bright spot in an otherwise technical bill.

Though the opposition will be supporting the bill, we do not do so without being aware of its many shortfalls. Witnesses at the committee indicated that the bill's issues will have to be managed during implementation, meaning that after the bill passes the government will wash its hands of it. This bill has problems and Queenslanders have voiced them. Sadly, teachers and support staff are leaving the profession in droves and it is students in this state who suffer from this deficit of experience and care. There is no added incentive to become a teacher, as everyone knows the environment that our graduate teachers are entering and this is putting people off. Classrooms are becoming overcrowded; teachers are overworked and underpaid. The minister promised a 25 per cent reduction in red tape, but teachers across Queensland feel there have been no changes to their workload. This is unsurprising as the minister did not provide detail on how this reduction would be measured.

This bill misses an opportunity to make a material difference for our communities. We all know the minister has many challenges facing him in the education sector. I would have thought a largely technical bill would not be at the top of the minister's to-do list. I would have thought that supporting our hardworking teachers would be more of a priority. As I indicated, the opposition will be supporting this bill, but it really could have given some of our hardest working teachers, particularly those in Ipswich West, the break they so deserve.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (5.39 pm): I am absolutely appalled at the contributions from members opposite saying, 'It's just a housekeeping bill. It's just procedural matters. It doesn't matter.' Even the former education minister and member for McConnel said, 'We started this in 2017. It was a five-year review,' which takes it to 2022, 'and then we did some more work in 2024 just before the election,' trying to justify the fact that those opposite did something in education in their 10 years of government before that wipe-out in October 2024—a great thing to happen. I can tell members how good it is being in government and supporting good bills like this one that come forward from the education minister to make teachers feel better, and I will tell members why I want to make teachers feel better. I am married to a teacher, my daughter is a teacher and my son-in-law is the principal of a very important special assistance school that has been mentioned here called Men of Business in Southport. The Men of Business school in Southport, which I visited the other day to see what good work it is doing, is a very important part of the education for kids who have a tougher road in the education system.

With regard to cyclones and floods—hopefully not in Southport and the Gold Coast but more particularly the northern areas of Queensland—this bill addresses matters for those special assistance schools when they get into trouble through floods and cyclones, so I cannot understand the words that those opposite used that this is a housekeeping bill and not important. This legislation is important, and it is important to teachers. I had a meeting with local representatives from the Queensland Teachers' Union on matters about teaching and they said, 'No.' As we have heard Labor members say, 'It's all about a pay rise. Give them three per cent.' The representatives I met with said, 'No, that's not the important thing.' The important thing is making their work environment safer. This bill offers more safety for teachers and students. This bill also offers more protection and promotion of specialty teaching for disabled students in particular, and those are important issues that we should be addressing. Therefore, this bill is not just about housekeeping, as those opposite said to try to diminish the bill and diminish the work of the education minister. I congratulate the education minister for getting a grip on matters that were left behind and failing to keep pace under the previous government.

There are other matters that those opposite raised such as the duality of the education system with overseas schools. In particular, the former education minister and member for McConnell mentioned a school in Dubai. I have the great pleasure in that the former principal of Varsity College, Steve McLuckie, has run that Dubai school for the last six or seven years now.

Mr Vorster: That's right.

Mr STEVENS: I take the member for Burleigh's interjection, because he knew Mr McLuckie as well because of his involvement in that school. The member does a great job for all of the people at Varsity College. We share duties at that school and he does a great job, so thank you, member for Burleigh, for assisting me in that school. There are some great schools in my electorate that will be benefiting from this bill—Merrimac high, Miami high, Varsity College and junior schools such as Broadwater, Miami and Robina. I have also kept in very close contact with Robina State High School, despite it being in the member for Mudgeeraba's electorate, after representing it in my previous life as the member for Robina last century.

This bill is not just a procedural housekeeping bill, as was so dismissively put by Labor members, mainly because they had not done anything themselves. Rather, it is a very important bill which expands the model for international delivery of the QCE and improves operational and governance for the QCT.

Part of this bill also addresses the arts sector. That is a very important part of our community, and the minister will not stop. He loves the arts. He will not stop improving opportunities for the arts sector—a very important sector in the Queensland economy. It has to be supported and this bill, rightly so, goes towards assisting more and better work in that area. Far from being a little housekeeping, procedural bill, this is a very important bill for the future of the education system in Queensland and for the future of the arts sector. I will be supporting the bill, as members opposite have dismissively said they will. They have just been whingeing and moaning as per their wont about different issues and they just cannot help themselves.

Mr J Kelly interjected.

Mr STEVENS: I take the interjection from the member for Greenslopes. He is one of the worst culprits in terms of criticising positive government outcomes. The member for Greenslopes who is usually mild-mannered has turned into a vicious attack dog.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr STEVENS: Yes, the shark. The shark was an old wobbegong; now he has become a great white pointer. This is a great bill and it should be supported. I thank the education minister for bringing it forward in the House.

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (5.46 pm): Today I also rise to speak on the Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. Because I love talking about the schools in my electorate and our world-class education system here in Queensland, I will take any opportunity to do it. I echo the acknowledgements of the committee, the secretariat and the stakeholders who put in submissions on this bill. A lot of people go to a lot of work and it should be acknowledged.

I know my last speech on education upset the minister a little bit when I pointed out that a government media release mentioned that less than half of eligible Queensland parents had spent their Back to School Boost. I am glad the minister mentioned this program in his second reading speech because I want to take the opportunity to acknowledge that the minister's office did get in touch with me and my office after my speech, and I understand that the department is now providing support to help schools that did not have systems in place for parents to use their boost money for uniforms to set up those systems. It is a win for any parent struggling with the cost of living. I again look forward to working with the minister to fix up the name of the program or create more pathways for parents to use their Back to School Boost when—not after—their kids go back to school. It is not called the 'back at school boost'; it is the Back to School Boost.

What does this bill do today? It is largely an administrative bill, as acknowledged by the previous member who spoke, with its explanatory notes introducing the usual buzzwords like 'reducing regulatory burden' and 'improving efficiency'. Usually that means changing a word. In this bill we are changing the term 'director' to 'chief executive officer' for the Queensland College of Teachers in line with the more modern language used across other statutory education bodies. It is also aligning reporting periods, hence 'improving efficiency'. With regard to the reduction in regulatory burden, it always makes me laugh: when we bring in new laws to reduce regulatory burden it is often laws that involve a lot of work, from consultation to drafting to briefing to debating in here, and laws that require a relearning and application of regulation by those they purport to lessen the load on. In this instance it will bring in a

risk-based system for NSSAB to make decisions without accreditation attributes rather than all assessments following a complex process. If, in the end, it does make the jobs of people working in the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board and non-state schools easier, that is great.

The big thing this bill does is provides better continuity between education and training delivered in youth detention settings and other recognised education training programs, facilitating—in theory—easier re-entry and re-engagement supports. I am all for education and training for kids at risk or already in trouble with the law. I hope the gold standard programs will work, but they have to be set up first. I would suggest to the LNP and the Premier that a big blue billboard does not actually do that. We recently had a big blue billboard at Petrie station in my electorate, interestingly in a spot that I as a member of parliament cannot spend taxpayer funds to rent because it is QR land, but the current government can use taxpayer funds to advertise its education and training program for troubled youths on that billboard—that is, advertise a program that is not even happening in the Kurwongbah electorate where it is advertised. That is not very useful in a cost-of-living crisis and a little bit of a waste of money.

This bill does another couple of things. It provides the same exemption from blue cards for teachers in the education and training programs I have mentioned; it extends the provisions that exist for special assistance schools to operate in temporary sites—for example, in the case of damage to their usual premises from flooding or fire—to other non-state schools; and it clarifies that capital funds cannot be used for temporary sites. The bill also shores up the information-sharing pathways between the Department of Education and providers of education and training centres in youth detention settings and sets up faster information-sharing pathways between NSSAB and the Department of Education beyond the narrow focus on facilitating funding which currently exists.

Talking about facilitating funding to non-state schools, I want to give a plug for the excellent facility upgrades at Genesis Christian College in my electorate, executed through the funding that Labor delivered for their school. I also want to congratulate the Younity School on their success in a recent funding round for some improvement facilitation works on their site in Burpengary. I am lucky in my electorate to have a great mix of state and non-state schools. I have mentioned Genesis and Younity. I want to give a shout-out to St Eugene's Catholic college in Burpengary, Mt Maria College in Petrie and Our Lady of the Way primary school, also in Petrie. Hopefully there is something in this legislation that helps them out.

The last thing this bill does is facilitate the expansion of offshore delivery of the Queensland Certificate of Education, QCE, enabling more non-state schools to develop partnerships with international schools. That sounds great to me. I am just wondering if the LNP have consulted with their federal leader, Angus Taylor, on that one. He might have an issue with that.

I want to quickly acknowledge the awesome work of our schoolteachers and school staff in Queensland in non-state and state schools alike. We all know that they need a pay rise. It is not talked about in this bill, but I will say—I know there are some former teachers in here—that all of our teachers deserve thanks and appreciation. They turn up every day to shape our kids, including our future leaders who will one day run the show. Anything we can do to make their jobs easier we should do. While it is not a pay rise, I will be supporting this bill today.

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (5.51 pm): I rise to support the Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. It has been an absolute privilege to work alongside my committee to make sure this bill did, in fact, deliver important reforms across Queensland's education and arts portfolios. While some of the amendments are technical in nature, the objective is clear: reducing unnecessary red tape, strengthening governance, supporting teachers, improving educational outcomes and ensuring our institutions are equipped to meet the needs of Queenslanders.

As the member for Pumicestone, education is one of the issues raised with me frequently. I regularly visit schools across my electorate and speak with principals, teachers, support staff, parents and students. Whether I am at Beachmere State School, Bribie High, Banksia Beach or St Michael's College, the message is often consistent: teachers want to spend more time teaching, parents want their children to learn in safe and supportive classrooms, students want the opportunity to reach their full potential and school leaders want a system that supports them rather than slows them down. This bill helps deliver that.

One of the greatest privileges of representing Pumicestone is seeing firsthand the incredible work our educators do every single day. Teachers are often the first to arrive and the last to leave. I know this because I grew up with two teachers—my parents. I remember my dad preparing lesson plans on weekends and my mum providing pastoral care and supporting families. Teachers are frequently going above and beyond what is expected of them, yet for too long teachers have told us they have been

drowning in admin. Every hour spent navigating bureaucracy is an hour that cannot be spent helping a child learn. Every unnecessary form is time taken away from lesson planning. Every duplicated process is time taken away from supporting students who need extra assistance. That is why I welcome the Crisafulli government's commitment to reducing red tape for teachers by 25 per cent. This government understands that teachers entered the profession because they wanted to educate young people, not because they wanted to spend their evenings buried in paperwork. These reforms are about putting teachers back where they belong—back in the classroom.

The government has also taken significant steps to strengthen Queensland's teaching workforce. In Pumicestone, like many growing communities across South-East Queensland, attracting and retaining teachers is critically important. As more young families choose to call our community home, the demand for quality education continues to grow. That is why I am proud that this government has delivered more than 1,000 additional teachers in Queensland state schools in a single year. That achievement exceeds the total growth delivered under Labor between 2020 and 2024. The teacher vacancy rate is now at its lowest level in five years. Applications for teaching degrees are increasing, and through the More Teachers, Better Education initiative we are continuing to invest in the future of the profession.

Importantly, we are also delivering on our commitment to support students with disabilities and diverse learning needs. I appreciate this because I spent two years working with students with disabilities as a teaching assistant across the Moreton Bay region. I know that every child learns differently and every child deserves support. Every family deserves confidence that their child will have access to the assistance they need to succeed in school. The government's investment in specialist education pathways and teacher capability will ensure students with additional needs receive the support they deserve.

I would like to spend some time discussing behaviour in schools, because this is an issue that I know concerns many Queensland families. Every child deserves to learn in a safe classroom, every teacher deserves to work in a safe classroom and every parent deserves confidence that when they send their child to school each morning they are entering an environment that supports learning. Unfortunately, over many years behaviour incidents have increased significantly across Queensland schools. Teachers repeatedly raised concerns. Parents raised concerns. Students raised concerns. The statistics showed a worrying trend, with behaviours incidents and teacher occupational violence increasing dramatically.

The reality is that when serious behaviour issues go unaddressed everyone suffers. Teachers are distracted from teaching, students are distracted from learning and the entire classroom can be disrupted. That is why the Crisafulli government has adopted a zero-tolerance approach to violence in schools. It is why we delivered a nation-leading antibullying action plan and it is why we are backing schools with practical support rather than simply hoping the problem will resolve itself. The antibullying action plan includes rapid support teams that can respond quickly to serious incidents; it includes expanded specialist wellbeing support; it includes additional support for parents; and it includes an expert stakeholder reference group to guide future action. Importantly, it recognises that bullying is not something that should be accepted as a normal part of growing up. Young people deserve to feel safe and respected and every child deserves the opportunity to learn free from intimidation and harassment.

I am also pleased that the government is continuing to invest \$45 million each year through Behaviour Boost funding. What I particularly like about this initiative is that it empowers principals to determine how the funding is used within their school community, because school leaders understand their students better than anyone else. A school on Bribie Island may have different challenges to a school in regional Queensland. A primary school may require different interventions to a secondary school. Giving principals flexibility means support can be tailored to local needs rather than dictated from Brisbane. That is common sense.

As one of the youngest members of this parliament, I am particularly passionate about the provisions relating to student re-engagement. Not every young person follows a straightforward educational pathway. Some face family challenges. Some may struggle with mental health issues. Some disengage from mainstream education. Others find themselves involved in the youth justice system. No matter their circumstances, every young Queenslander deserves hope, every young Queenslander deserves opportunity and every young Queenslander deserves adults who refuse to give up on them.

The reforms contained within this bill strengthen the frameworks surrounding re-engagement programs and provide greater legislative clarity. That may sound technical, but the practical outcome is incredibly important. It means better support for vulnerable young people, it means stronger coordination between agencies and it means clearer pathways back into education, training or employment. Education remains one of the most powerful tools we have to change the trajectory of a person's life. When we help a young person reconnect with education, we are not simply helping them complete a qualification; we are helping them build confidence, we are helping them develop skills, we are helping them create opportunities and we are helping them build a brighter future.

I also support the provisions recognising education and training centres as state educational institutions. These centres provide education to some of Queensland's most vulnerable young people, including those in youth detention settings. The amendments provide legislative certainty and ensure education programs can continue to be delivered effectively. Education should never be an afterthought; it should be a priority. If we are serious about reducing reoffending and creating better futures, education must be part of that solution.

The bill includes reforms relating to non-state schools and the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board. Many families in my electorate choose non-state education. These families deserve confidence that accreditation processes are practical, efficient and focused on outcomes. The risk-based assessment framework introduced through this bill will reduce unnecessary administrative burdens while maintaining appropriate oversight and accountability.

Importantly, the bill also provides greater flexibility for schools operating from temporary sites during emergencies. This may seem like a small change, but it is an incredibly practical one. Queenslanders understand the disruption that natural disasters can cause. In Bribie Island we definitely know that. Whether it is severe storms, flooding or cyclones, school communities can face significant challenges. Allowing schools greater flexibility to continue operating when their normal facilities are unavailable supports continuity of education and provides certainty for families.

Another important reform contained within the bill is the expansion of offshore delivery opportunities for the Queensland Certificate of Education. The QCE is a world-class qualification. It is recognised across Australia and increasingly recognised internationally. These reforms provide opportunities for Queensland schools to partner with overseas institutions and expand access to Queensland education. This not only strengthens the reputation of our education system internationally but creates new opportunities for students and educational institutions alike. Queensland has an excellent education system. We should be proud of it. We should be ambitious about sharing that success with the world.

This bill also includes several reforms relating to Queensland's arts sector. Arts organisations play an important role in communities across our state. They enrich our lives. They support jobs. They attract visitors and they help tell Queensland stories. The governance reforms contained within this bill modernise arrangements for Queensland's major arts institutions and ensure they remain fit for purpose. Strong governance matters. It promotes transparency and it strengthens accountability. It allows organisations to focus on delivering outcomes rather than navigating unnecessary administrative complexity. I also welcome the provisions designed to combat ticket scalping. Queenslanders deserve confidence when purchasing tickets to events. Consumers should not be forced to pay inflated prices because of unauthorised resale practices. These reforms will strengthen protections for audiences and improve consumer confidence.

When I look at this bill, I see practical reform. I see a government focused on reducing bureaucracy so teachers can teach; I see a government focused on supporting students who need help the most; I see a government focused on safer classrooms; I see a government focused on stronger governance and better educational outcomes. Most importantly, I see reforms that will benefit communities like Pumicestone. I commend the bill to the House.



Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (6.01 pm): I rise to speak to the Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. At the very outset I would like to pay tribute to every educator and every Queenslander who supports the education system in Queensland and also pay the same tribute to every artist and those who support them in delivering the rich tapestry of Queensland culture. Much of this bill and the debate goes to the education sector. I take this opportunity to pledge to stand with Queensland educators as they continue to pursue real reform, as they continue to pursue real support and continue to pursue real resourcing.

The bill is not a terrible bill. We will not oppose it. It is not offensive. Upon reading the explanatory notes and the committee's report it becomes clear—and many members have mentioned it—that this is a bill about efficiency, governance and administration. They are very nice words. We have heard government members complain throughout this debate that the opposition has been too harsh about the bill being too focused on that. I want to address the concerns they have raised throughout the debate.

The explanatory notes say one of the objectives of the bill is to reduce the regulatory burden. That is what the bill is supposed to do. We know the government has set its own target of reducing the regulatory burden for educators by 25 per cent. We have a bill that is about administration, governance and reform—important things; nice words—but I fail to see how it makes any meaningful contribution to a 25 per cent reduction in the regulatory burden for Queensland teachers. I think educators might have liked to see some additional words contained in this bill or contemplated by the committee examining it. They might have liked to see some additional words around support for the workforce, what might be done to improve educational outcomes; perhaps some words around, as we have heard other members touch on, initiatives that would address teacher shortages; words and measures that might address occupational violence or reduce workload. Those are the sorts of issues that teachers are saying matter to them most.

The committee report spends several pages examining the reforms to the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board. It talks about its delegation powers and ministerial statements of expectations. They are very useful and necessary matters, but they are not the matters, I would submit, that are keeping Queensland teachers awake at night and they are certainly not the matters that are keeping Queensland parents awake at night. The government promised a 25 per cent reduction in red tape. Teachers are still waiting. School staff continue to see violence in the workplace. Workplace pressures remain. I cannot see how anything in this bill makes any meaningful contribution to addressing those matters or a reduction of 25 per cent in regulatory burden.

Labor does support measures that help reconnect young people with education. The explanatory notes say the bill supports the re-engagement of students and the continuity of education—very important measures in this bill. The committee heard evidence from the Queensland Family and Child Commission that engagement with education is a critical protective factor and that realistic pathways for re-engagement are important components of early intervention. We absolutely agree. Keeping young people connected to education matters at every single level. Early intervention matters, helping young people back into education, training and employment matters. That is why we support those provisions. Even on those measures the committee report makes clear that the bill is principally about clarifying existing arrangements and information-sharing provisions—administrivia.

When they talk about efficiency and governance they are very nice words. The question is: does this bill make a difference? I do not think it provides enough necessary support for teachers in classrooms. I do not think it provides enough of the measures that deliver safer workplaces. I do not think it delivers the reduced workloads that educators were promised. It certainly does not deliver measures like additional teacher aides.

We see in the bill and the explanatory notes that education and training centres in youth detention settings are recognised as state educational institutions. Stakeholders supported those changes. We support them. Again, that is not a response to addressing the issues that keep Queensland teachers, educators and those who support them awake at night. That is not a response to the workforce crisis. The department told the committee in its inquiry that the measures would provide operational clarity around the Queensland College of Teachers. They are nice words: clarity, efficiency, reform. Where are the reforms for teachers themselves—reforms like real measures to eliminate bullying in schools and real new money to support those initiatives? The Queensland education system has just experienced something unprecedented: two rounds of industrial action; the first double strike in almost 30 years. This government has somehow masterminded the most significant discontinuance of education because they simply wanted a fight with hardworking teachers. Well done, government!

Mrs Frecklington: Rubbish.

Mr de BRENNI: I take the interjection from the member for Nanango who says that teachers demanding and being forced into taking industrial action is somehow rubbish.

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

Mr de BRENNI: I withdraw. The government could not even bring themselves to provide the educators who are involved in the delivery and implementation of this bill a three per cent interim wage increase that had already been budgeted for. They could not bring themselves to give those Queenslanders who will implement this legislative reform the wage increase that had been budgeted for and instead wanted to have a fight with them. Well done, government! The government refuses to provide the pay and conditions that those teachers deserve.

Mr POWELL: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I appreciate the ruling has been to give some latitude, but this is straying a long way from the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): I was paying close attention to the member for Springwood. He was talking about an alternative priority. I think he has made that point now and can continue to talk about the bill.

Mr de BRENNI: I thank you for your guidance and your latitude, Mr Deputy Speaker. Many Queenslanders are passionate about that issue, as am I. Yes, there are provisions in the bill that we support: measures supporting re-engagement, measures supporting continuity of education and measures providing certainty around educational and training centres. However, let us not pretend that this bill addresses the major challenges facing Queensland education, and that is the point I am seeking to make.

There are plenty of provisions, but the bill should have gone further. The explanatory notes do not talk about addressing the major challenges facing Queensland education. The committee report does not address those issues. Instead, the words that appear in here time and time again are these: 'operational', 'administrative', 'governance'. That says everything about the government's priorities, because while teachers are desperately crying out for support this government is giving them administration. While school staff are asking for safer workplaces, this government is giving them administration. While teachers are asking for relief from workload pressures, this government is giving them administration. I think Queensland teachers deserve better and I know that Queensland students deserve better than this.

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (6.10 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I will focus my speech on the education side of the bill. At the outset, I thank the minister and the committee for the work they have done in preparing this bill. Secondly, I thank all of our teachers. We all appreciate everything they do for our future leaders each and every day. For me, education is very personal. I always wanted to be a teacher. I know this might surprise members, but school was a very social occasion for me and I never got the tertiary entrance score that I needed to be a teacher. In my lunch breaks I spent a lot of time picking up papers or writing, 'I will not talk in class'—many times. Whether we are talking about state schools, non-state schools or state education facilities, education is personal.

When I think back to my school days, I do not think about the legislation, I do not think about the regulations and I do not think about the policy documents. Like others here in the chamber today, I think about the teachers who helped to shape who I am today. At Aitkenvale State School, schoolteachers such as Mr Hughes, Mrs Gilfillen, Mrs Street and Mr Finlay encouraged and challenged me and they helped to build my confidence, just as our teachers do today. At the Heatley state high school, Mr Emery, Mr Duncan and Mr Hamilton continued that journey. They were not just teaching subjects; they were helping young people to discover their strengths, build resilience and believe in themselves.

Looking back now, I can see just how much influence teachers had on my life and on the lives of my fellow students. They see the potential in their students before those children actually see it in themselves. They encourage, guide and support young people through some of the most important years of their lives. That is why I get frustrated when I hear people talking about education without talking about our teachers and the amazing work that they do day in, day out. Our teachers are the backbone of our education system. Unfortunately, for too many years they were not given the support they deserve.

After a decade in government, Labor left Queensland teachers facing shortages, growing behavioural issues in the classrooms, increasing violence against teachers and a mountain of maintenance backlogs. Teachers were telling us that they were drowning in paperwork and spending more time behind a computer than doing what they were actually trained and joined to do—that is, teach. The reality is that Labor had a decade to get this right. They had 10 years to fully fund our schools. They had 10 years to support our teachers and 10 years to tackle the behavioural issues in our classrooms, yet Queensland still fell behind.

Mr Field: They did nothing.

Mrs POOLE: I take that interjection; they did nothing. One of the things I am most proud of is that our government delivered in six months what Labor could not achieve in 10 years—that is, a fully funded schools agreement with the Commonwealth. That means more resources flowing into Queensland schools and better opportunities for our students right across the state. We have also put more teachers into Queensland classrooms, we have reduced the vacancies and we have started cutting the red tape that teachers had been complaining about for years. When teachers spend less time on administration—it is not rocket science—they can spend more time helping our students learn.

As a former police officer, I understand fully the importance of keeping our young people connected to education. Through my role as a school-based police officer at two local state high schools and also as the officer in charge of the Townsville Stronger Communities Early Action Group, I have seen firsthand how, sadly, when our young people disengage from school they fall through the cracks and they need support to get back on track. They need support, they need structure and they need a pathway back into education. They need that guidance. That is why I welcome the provisions in this bill that will strengthen and clarify re-engagement programs for our young people who have become disconnected from education. Not every child follows the same path, but every child deserves the opportunity to get back on track and build a positive future. We know that education and re-engaging in education will break the cycle for many of our young people.

The bill also contains practical reforms to improve how our education system operates. It reduces unnecessary bureaucracy, it strengthens governance and it supports continuity of education during emergencies. These are sensible and practical changes that allow schools and education providers to focus on what really matters, which is our students.

I also welcome the government's continued focus on behaviour and bullying in schools. Teachers should never have to accept violence as part of their job, parents should never have to worry about whether their child feels safe at school and students should be able to focus on learning without fear of bullying or disruption. For too long teachers were expected to manage increasingly complex behavioural issues without the support they needed. Our government is taking steps to change that through the Behaviour Boost funding, antibullying initiatives and additional support services for schools.

In Mundingburra we are fortunate to have outstanding teachers working in our schools every single day. Their dedication reminds me of the teachers who helped shape my journey at the Aitkenvale State School and the Heatley state high school. The lessons those teachers taught me stayed with me throughout my policing career and they continue to guide me today as the member for Mundingburra. The truth is that great teachers rarely get to see the full impact they have on a student's life. To Mr Hughes, Mrs Gilfillen, Mr Finlay, Mr Emery, Mr Duncan, Mrs Street and Mr Hamilton: you probably had no idea that one day one of your students would be standing in this chamber speaking on education legislation that would help you to do your job. I thank you for that. I acknowledge the late Mr Cutler, a deputy principal from Aitkenvale State School, and Mrs Wilcox, a principal of Heatley state high school, who helped shape my journey and in whose company I spent a lot of time in their offices. They also helped shape my journey, and for that I am indebted to them both. They played a part in getting me here, and that is the power of a good teacher.

A good teacher deserves the backing of a good government. This bill delivers practical improvements to our education system. It supports our students who need additional help. It reduces unnecessary bureaucracy and it recognises the critical role that teachers play in shaping our next generation of leaders. Most importantly, it sends a clear message that our teachers are valued. I thank them for the valued work they do in shaping our young people each and every single day. For those reasons, I commend the bill to the House.



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (6.19 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. At the outset, I indicate that the opposition will not be opposing this legislation. We do not oppose it because, when stripped back to its essentials, this bill contains a range of practical amendments that improve administrative processes, modernise governance arrangements and provide greater clarity in several areas of Queensland's education framework. There are measures within this bill that are very worthwhile. There are measures that stakeholders generally support, and there are measures that in some cases just simply update legislation to reflect contemporary practices and expectations. Of course, the opposition is supporting those measures.

In many ways, this legislation tells us, though, disappointingly, as much about what the government is not doing as it does about what it is doing. While the government has found time to bring forward this bill dealing with governance structures, delegation arrangements, accreditation processes, information-sharing provisions and technical amendments, it avoids some of the very major issues affecting Queensland schools, including Queensland non-state schools.

The people who work in our education system are asking for more than just the technical amendments contained in this bill. They are asking for extra support and leadership. They are asking for understanding about the pressures they face every day. They are asking for action on teacher shortages and teacher workload. They are asking for action on occupational violence. They are asking for action on the attraction and retention of teachers and other educators. They are also asking for government to value them and the teaching profession. Unfortunately, those issues remain unresolved by this bill. That is why this debate should not just focus on what is in the bill; it should also focus on what is missing, because that is the priority about this bill and the lack of priority about what is most important in Queensland schools, particularly Queensland non-state schools. There is a growing disconnect between the priorities of this government and the priorities of Queensland educators.

Every parent wants their child to have a quality education, every teacher wants the opportunity to provide that quality education, and every school leader wants the resources and supports necessary to create that environment for the educators within their school. Every community wants confidence that the next generation is being equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed.

It is disappointing that the government's education agenda has been characterised by missed opportunities, broken promises and an inability to address the challenges facing frontline staff, and this bill highlights that because this bill goes nowhere near being what is necessary to address those problems. It does focus on administrative and regulatory matters, and whilst that is not a criticism of the bill, it is a criticism of the priorities of this government.

Legislation has a role to play and laws require updating. Governance needs to be refined and administrative systems always need to be improved, but the government cannot point to this bill and pretend it is the reform agenda that our educators are demanding because, quite simply, this bill does not do that. The reality is Queensland teachers continue to face significant pressures. There are workforce shortages. There are concerns about workload. There are concerns about wellbeing, violence and aggression directed towards staff and there is a level of frustration being demonstrated by those in the profession. This should be a wake-up call for the government. Instead, the government appears more comfortable talking about the administrative processes in this bill than addressing concerns raised by people who actually deliver education in schools.

The government promised a reduction in red tape and the teachers were told that administrative burdens would be reduced, yet everywhere I go teachers continue to tell me that workload, paperwork and the pressures of school life remain excessive, that reporting requirements continue to be extensive and compliance obligations continue to grow. This government promised to address those issues and concerns, yet this bill does not achieve that. Many feel that they are spending too much time dealing with bureaucracy and not enough time focusing on teaching and learning, and the government has repeatedly spoken about reducing those workloads. The profession wants to see meaningful evidence of those reductions and the teachers are waiting—they are waiting to be valued.

Turning to the bill specifically, one area that warrants discussion relates to the amendments concerning special assistance schools and the use of temporary sites. I want to use this opportunity to highlight the special assistance schools in and around the Morayfield state electorate. There is Arethusa College, Horizons College, Alta-1 College and Younity School, as well as a number of other schools in the region. They all do outstanding work. Every time I visit those schools, I am always impressed by their dedication and their support for young people in the community. Certainly, when I engage with the parents of the young people who attend those schools, they value the opportunity for choice that comes with having special assistance schools. Also, I have to say that when I visit Horizons College, for instance, I do love Pancake Friday, particularly when they have the extra scoop of ice-cream, although I am trying very hard to avoid the carbs.

Special assistance schools perform a critically important role in our education system. They work with young people who sometimes have additional complexity in their lives, who are facing sometimes significant challenges, and they require the tailored educational support that special assistance schools provide. I acknowledge and respect that work, and I know many in the community do as well.

This bill provides greater flexibility for these schools to operate from temporary locations. It is still not clear, as a number of speakers have mentioned, why this special carve-out is required. We are not opposed to this particular provision, but it is good to understand the basis for it because, certainly in the dealings I have had with these special assistance schools in and around the Morayfield state electorate, they have not mentioned this being an issue. In fact, they often operate from flexible sites anyway, so I am not quite sure why this particular provision was required, notwithstanding there is no opposition from the opposition to the provision.

I also want to talk about another significant aspect in the bill which relates to the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board. Of course, it gives me an opportunity to highlight the great non-state schools which are accredited by the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board in and around the Morayfield state electorate. I want to particularly highlight Carmichael College, St Paul's School, Grace Lutheran College at Caboolture, St Peter's, St Columban's College and St Eugene College, my old primary school and the school that my boys attend. All of those schools are delivering outstanding educational opportunities for young people in and around the Morayfield state electorate. These schools are accredited by the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board which gives communities, parents and other people who are concerned about young people the confidence that those schools are appropriately regulated and delivering an appropriate standard of education in the community. The board provides that important role in the education system around accreditation, contributing to public confidence, and supports appropriate oversight. It is important to ensure the administrative processes around the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board are modernised and that they are always fit for purpose.

The government must, however, ensure the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board receives the appropriate support to continue those roles and the expanding roles that are foreshadowed in this bill. I do acknowledge that, whilst the budget has only just been delivered, I do not see in the budget any additional funding for the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board. Hopefully the minister can address that in his response around funding for the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board, given the expanded roles that are foreshadowed in this bill.

As I mentioned at the beginning, the opposition will not be opposing this bill, and I call on the government to be more ambitious with its education agenda and support teachers in Queensland.

Debate, on motion of Mr Lister, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (6.30 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 6.30 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, Howard, Hunt, Hutton, James B, James T, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly G, Kelly J, Kempton, King, Kirkland, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Linard, Lister, Mander, Marr, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, Nightingale, O'Connor, O'Shea, Pease, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richmond, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stoker, Vorster, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Young