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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 27 August 2026

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THURSDAY, 27 AUGUST 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.

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Contempt of Parliament

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 16 June 2026 the Deputy Premier wrote to me alleging that the Manager of Opposition Business and member for Springwood stood deliberately next to the member for McConnell while the Deputy Premier was speaking in the House on 14 May 2026. Such conduct could amount to threatening or intimidating a member or misconducting oneself in the presence of the House.

The Manager of Opposition Business submitted that he was asking the member for Jordan to take his seat as acting Manager of Opposition Business. I also note there was no interruption to proceedings and the deputy chair did not intervene in the matter at that time.

I consider the Manager of Opposition Business has made an adequate explanation and I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt of parliament by the Manager of Opposition Business and member for Springwood [1492].

I have circulated a ruling on this matter and I seek leave to incorporate the ruling.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

On 16 June 2026, the Deputy Premier wrote to me alleging that the Manager of Opposition Business and member for Springwood stood deliberately next to the member for McConnell while the Deputy Premier was speaking in the House on 14 May 2026. Such conduct could amount to threatening or intimidating a member or misconducting oneself in the presence of the House.

The conduct by the Manager of Opposition Business could not be seen on the Broadcast of Proceedings. However, on the Overwatch footage the Manager of Opposition Business can be seen standing in front of the member for McConnell and looking towards the Deputy Premier as he makes his speech. He then walks away and stands at the side of the Chamber.

The Deputy Premier argued that this behaviour was intimidating and threatening and done with an intention to disrupt the Deputy Premier's contribution to Private Members' Statement.

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

The Manager of Opposition Business submitted that his role in the Chamber made it necessary to move around while the House is sitting to speak with members and coordinate opposition business. He provided an explanation of what he was doing when he was standing next to the member for McConnell, advising that he was about to leave the Chamber so asked the member for Jordan to take his seat as acting Manager of Opposition Business. He then advised that he waited until she had taken her seat, before moving to depart the Chamber. He submitted that at no time did he address the Deputy Premier, stating he did not speak to, call across the Chamber at, gesture towards, or in any way impede or interfere with the contribution of the Deputy Premier.

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

I considered the Manager of Opposition's Business account with the Overwatch footage. They appear consistent. I also note that with respect to the alleged contempt of threatening or intimidating a member, I do not consider there is adequate material put forward to support that assertion. Also, it is important to remember that what is considered intimidation is subjective. In this case, the Deputy Premier is an experienced member of Parliament who continued his contribution.

With respect to the alleged misconduct in the presence of the House, I note that no proceedings were halted or interrupted and the Deputy Chair did not intervene in the situation.

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

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, in correspondence dated 30 June 2026 and received 1 July 2026, the Premier alleged that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition deliberately misled the House on 2 June 2026. The matter relates to a statement by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition relating to cost-of-living measures. This is clearly a political dispute on what is considered cost-of-living relief. It is not unusual that the Premier and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition would have opposing viewpoints on this subject. The matter is trivial. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and member for Woodridge [1493].

I have circulated a ruling on this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

In correspondence dated 30 June 2026 and received 1 July 2026, the Premier alleged that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition deliberately misled the House on 2 June 2026.

The matter relates to a statement made during Matters of Public Interest.

Specifically, the Leader of the Opposition said:

'The Premier has refused to offer Queenslanders a single cent of real cost-of-living relief.'

The Premier provided an excerpt from the Treasurer's 2025-26 Budget Speech and outlines what he considers to be cost-of-living measures provided in that budget. He notes the Deputy LOTO was present when the Treasurer made this speech in 2025 and that the Deputy LOTO himself has advertised one of the measures on his social media.

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

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition submitted that it is the view of the Opposition that the cost-of-living relief measures provided for in the Budget were not sufficient, tangible or real enough for Queenslanders to feel any positive impact from them. He provided quotes from various stakeholders and media to support his position.

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

This is a matter of the kind originally described by Speaker Simpson on 16 October 2014 and expanded on by Speaker Pitt on 6 April 2022 when he stated: 'The nature of political debate is that members engage in argument by discussing opposing viewpoints or different opinions, oftentimes using different expressions, statistics or methods of calculation.'

This is clearly a political dispute on what is considered cost-of-living relief. It is not unusual that the Premier and Deputy Leader of the Opposition would have opposing viewpoints on this subject.

The matter is trivial.

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

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 2 July 2026 the Minister for Education wrote to me alleging that the members for Waterford, Bulimba, Pine Rivers and South Brisbane deliberately misled the House on 25 and 26 June 2026. The minister alleged that each member made deliberately misleading comments relating to the uptake of the Back to School Boost. The members for Waterford, Bulimba and Pine Rivers provided statistics to support their statements in the House in the same way the minister has provided statistics to refute those same statements in the House. It is a dispute using

different statistics, not a matter of privilege. The member for South Brisbane was expressing what she had been told by parents in her community. None of these are matters of privilege. They are trivial. Accordingly, 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 and misleading of the House by the members for Waterford, Bulimba, Pine Rivers and South Brisbane [1494].

I have circulated a ruling on this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

On 2 July 2026, the Minister for Education wrote to me alleging that the members for Waterford, Bulimba, Pine Rivers and South Brisbane deliberately misled the House on 25 and 26 June 2026

The matter relates to statements by the members during their contribution to the Appropriation Bill 2026.

Specifically, the member for Waterford said:

"Over two-thirds of families are finding it difficult to access this back to-school bonus."

The member for Bulimba said:

"We find that the Back to School Boost has only been taken up by about a third of families, and the education minister did not seem to realise."

The member for Pine Rivers said:

"Less than half of Queensland families that have received the Back to School Boost are actually using this measure..."

The member for South Brisbane said:

"However, in talking to parents in my communities they tell me that, far from this helping with back-to-school expenses, they have only been able to access the money late in term 1..."

The Minister argued that this was deliberately false and misleading. He explained that the members for Waterford, Bulimba and Pine Rivers were relying on outdated figures from earlier in the year, when the funding does not have an expiry date and can be used throughout the school year. The Minister submitted that the members were aware of this because it had been the subject of three Questions without Notice earlier in the day. During Question Time, the Minister advised that the current uptake was 58%. The Minister also noted the speech was preprepared, being a contribution to the Appropriation Bill, and this evidenced an intention to mislead.

With respect to the statement by the member for South Brisbane, the Minister provided a media release stating the Back to School Boost would be commencing on the first day of term 1 of 2026.

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

The members for Waterford, Bulimba and Pine Rivers submitted that they used the answer to Question on Notice 280. They further explained that the amount expended in April, out of the total allocation for the Back to School Boost in the budget papers, equated to approximately one third which supported each of their statements.

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

This is a clearly a political dispute of the kind first described by Speaker Simpson on 16 October 2014 where she stated:

'the nature of political debate is that members engage in argument by discussing opposing viewpoints or different opinions, oftentimes using different statistics or methods of calculation'.

This ruling was expanded on by Speaker Pitt on 6 April 2022 where he stated:

'It is reminiscent of an observation by Speaker Simpson in a ruling on 16 October 2014 about a complaint against the then Leader of the Opposition alleging that there had been 'massive budget cuts' in relation to Education. The nature of political debate is that members engage in argument by discussing opposing viewpoints or different opinions, oftentimes using different expressions, statistics or methods of calculation.'

In this matter, the members for Waterford, Bulimba and Pine Rivers provided statistics to support their statements in the House, in the same way the Minister has provided statistics to refute those same statements in the House. It is a dispute using different statistics, not a matter of privilege.

The member for South Brisbane was expressing what she had been told by parents in her community.

Both matters are trivial.

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

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 2 July 2026 the Minister for Education wrote to me alleging that the members for Pine Rivers and Macalister deliberately misled the House on 25 and 26 June 2026. The minister alleged that the members made deliberately misleading comments relating to the Moreton Bay special school and the Beenleigh Special School not having line items in the budget. In this matter the minister provided evidence that there was a 'new schools' line item and a footnote referenced the aforementioned schools. The members submitted that a footnote does not equate to a line item and that other proposed schools had individual line items. This is a trivial matter based on semantics and differing opinions. Accordingly, 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 and misleading of the House by the members for Pine Rivers and Macalister [1495].

I have circulated a ruling on this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

On 2 July 2026, the Minister for Education wrote to me alleging that the members for Pine Rivers and Macalister deliberately misled the House on 25 and 26 June 2026.

The matter relates to a statement by the member for Pine Rivers during her contribution to the Appropriation Bill 2026.

Specifically, the member for Pine Rivers said:

"My community is continuing to hold out for details around the Moreton Bay South Special School... There is not one line item that I can locate in the budget documents for this project..."

And the member for Macalister said:

"All the other special schools announced last year have line items in this year's budget. All of them, except for the Beenleigh Special School's new campus."

The Minister argued that these statements were deliberately false and misleading. He provided the line item in the budget for 'New Schools' that has a footnote referencing both the Moreton Bay and Beenleigh Special Schools. The Minister noted this was publicly available information in the budget papers that the members would have been aware of. The Minister also noted the speech was preprepared, being a contribution to the Appropriation Bill, and this evidenced an intention to mislead.

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

Both the member for Pine Rivers and Macalister submitted that there was no individual line item for the Moreton Bay South and Beenleigh Special Schools, despite other new special schools having their own line item. The member for Macalister also argued that a footnote in the budget papers does not equate to a line item in the budget papers.

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

This is clearly a dispute of the kind first described by Speaker Simpson on 16 October 2014 where she stated:

'the nature of political debate is that members engage in argument by discussing opposing viewpoints or different opinions, oftentimes using different statistics or methods of calculation'.

This ruling was expanded on by Speaker Pitt on 6 April 2022 where he stated:

'It is reminiscent of an observation by Speaker Simpson in a ruling on 16 October 2014 about a complaint against the then Leader of the Opposition alleging that there had been 'massive budget cuts' in relation to Education. The nature of political debate is that members engage in argument by discussing opposing viewpoints or different opinions, oftentimes using different expressions, statistics or methods of calculation.'

In this instance, the matter comes down to differing expressions being used to support a position.

The Minister provided evidence that there was a 'New Schools' line item in the budget and a footnote referenced the aforementioned special schools. The members submitted that a line item does not equate to a footnote and that other proposed schools had individual line items.

This is a trivial matter based on semantics and differing expressions.

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

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 7 July 2026 the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition deliberately misled the House on 25 June 2026. The statements made by the Leader of the Opposition related to an alleged decrease in demand for some health services in the budget papers based on a reduction in weighted activity units. This is a matter of semantics related to health policy. The figures quoted from the budget papers are accurate. However, the minister and the Leader of the Opposition disagreed with how they have been presented. I consider the matter trivial. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Leader of the Opposition and member for Murrumbidgee [1496].

I have circulated a ruling on this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

On 7 July 2026, the Minister for Health and Ambulance wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition deliberately misled the House on 25 June 2026.

The matter relates to statements made by the Leader of the Opposition during his budget reply speech.

Specifically, the Leader of the Opposition said:

'It assumes that demand for specialist outpatient appointments will be lower than this year, down by approximately 3,710 weighted activity units. And it assumes that demand for emergency departments will be down by 3,411 weighted activity units.'

The Minister submitted that these statements were deliberately misleading because the Leader of the Opposition was equating weighted activity units, or WAUs, with patient demand. He explained that WAUs are a technical pricing and activity measure, not a simple count of demand. The Minister noted that he immediately rose on a matter of privilege to advise the Leader of the Opposition was misconstruing the budget papers, but the Leader of the Opposition continued. He further noted the Leader of the Opposition is a former Health Minister and ought to be aware of WAUs.

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

The Leader of the Opposition submitted that it is clear from definitions contained in Auditor-General reports that a reduction in WAUs would represent a reduction in the number and complexity of services provided to patients. He further submits that a reduction in WAUs translates to an assumption that the provision of said service or activity would be reduced or at a lower level.

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

This is a matter of semantics related to health policy. The figures quoted from the budget papers are accurate, however, the Minister and the Leader of the Opposition disagree with how they have been presented. It is of the kind first described by Speaker Simpson on 16 October 2014 where she stated:

'the nature of political debate is that members engage in argument by discussing opposing viewpoints or different opinions, oftentimes using different statistics or methods of calculation'.

This ruling was expanded on by Speaker Pitt on 6 April 2022 where he stated:

'It is reminiscent of an observation by Speaker Simpson in a ruling on 16 October 2014 about a complaint against the then Leader of the Opposition alleging that there had been 'massive budget cuts' in relation to Education. The nature of political debate is that members engage in argument by discussing opposing viewpoints or different opinions, oftentimes using different expressions, statistics or methods of calculation.'

I consider the matter trivial.

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

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 10 July 2026 the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition deliberately misled the House on 25 June 2026. The statement made by the Leader of the Opposition referenced the waste levy, or bin tax, as being a new tax. I considered the material put forward by the

minister and the Leader of the Opposition and consider the Leader of the Opposition has made an adequate explanation. Accordingly, 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 and misleading of the House by the Leader of the Opposition and member for Murrumbidgee [1497].

I have circulated a ruling on this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

On 10 July 2026, the Minister for Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition deliberately misled the House on 25 June 2026.

The matter relates to a statement made by the Leader of the Opposition during his budget reply speech.

Specifically, the Leader of the Opposition said:

'The promise of no new taxes was shut down immediately as the LGAQ confirmed the bin tax will be passed on directly to ratepayers.'

The Minister submitted that these statements were deliberately misleading and provided evidence that the bin tax, or waste levy, was introduced by the former government and cannot be considered a new tax. He advised that he had alerted the House to this earlier in the day and that as a former Minister for Environment, the Leader of the Opposition would have been aware of the origins of the levy.

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

The Leader of the Opposition submitted that the government had promised there would be no new or increasing taxes in the budget and his statement was related to this promise. The Leader of the Opposition also submitted that the government has made changes to the waste levy, including reducing the rebate that was provided to councils and increasing the levy by a greater amount than proposed by the former government. He submitted that the impact of these changes was that the waste levy would now be passed on to ratepayers and was an increased tax.

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

The Leader of the Opposition argued that he was refuting the government's claim that there were no 'new or increased' taxes in the budget. He submitted that by altering the waste levy from indexation to \$10, and reducing the rebate to councils, the waste levy will be increasing.

Accordingly, I consider the Leader of the Opposition has made an adequate explanation for the basis of his statement and I **will not** be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

REPORT

Register of Members' Interests

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I table the 39th report on the Register of Members' Interests.

Tabled paper: Thirty-Ninth Report on the Register of Members' Interests [1498].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Table Office, Run Sheets

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, the Table Office prepares run sheets for all stages of a bill, including consideration in detail and moving of amendments and other questions necessary to facilitate the passage of a bill. I have circulated a statement explaining this process and the desirability for members to authorise their amendments early to enable the timely preparation and circulation of those run sheets and the consequences of late circulation. I seek leave to incorporate my statement.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT—TABLE OFFICE PRODUCTION OF RUN SHEETS

The Table Office prepares run sheets for all stages of a bill, including consideration in detail and moving of amendments and other questions necessary to facilitate the passage of a bill.

These run sheets are invaluable tools for members and the Chair. They ensure that amendments are considered in the correct order, and all questions necessary are properly put. They save the House time, rather than everyone scrambling to work out the next question.

Any amendments proposed by a minister or a member to a bill are generally supplied by the Office of Queensland Parliamentary Counsel (OQPC) to the Table Office.

All amendments to bills are under strict embargo until they have been authorised by the minister or member for circulation.

The Table Office provides a stamped copy of each set of amendments to the Attendant Supervisor, who will give the stamped copy to the relevant minister or member for signing. Once signed the amendments are authorised for circulation and are no longer subject to embargo.

Until the amendments are authorised for circulation, the Table Office cannot release any run sheet that foreshadows a minister's or member's amendment; as this would breach the embargo.

The difficulty arises where there are two or more members who have amendments and not all of those members have authorised their amendments for circulation. Members who have authorised their amendments for circulation may want the run sheet but are delayed in obtaining that run sheet until all other amendments are authorised for circulation. This obviously obstructs members who have authorised their amendments for circulation, from getting an early copy of the run sheet.

If a member authorises release of their amendments very late in proceedings, it can dramatically change the run sheets.

The run sheets require careful construction and checking by multiple Clerks at the Table. Creating multiple run sheets creates much more work and the potential for errors.

The late production of run sheets not only places an unreasonable burden on Table Office staff but disadvantages those members who have authorised the release of their amendments early, have an early copy of the run sheet and have prepared on that basis, only to find the entire progress of consideration in detail will change at the last moment.

Moving forward, any amendments not authorised for circulation before the Minister rises to reply to the Second Reading question will not be included in a run sheet. This may result in lost time and confusion and will disadvantage the mover of the amendments—as their amendment will not feature on the run sheet.

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 Mango Hill State School in the electorate of Murrumba, Hillcrest Christian College in the electorate of Mudgeeraba, Wisdom College in the electorate of Algeester, Kingaroy State High School in the electorate of Nanango and Rochedale State High School in the electorate of Mansfield.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Sullivan, Mr JA, MP



Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.37 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record the loss of one of its members following the death of James Anthony Sullivan, lately serving as the member for the electoral district of Stafford.
2. That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the Members of the Parliament of Queensland, in the loss they have sustained.

James Anthony Sullivan, or Jimmy as he preferred to be known, was born on 5 January 1982. He was educated at Our Lady of the Angels school at Wavell Heights and Padua College in Kedron before studying law at the University of Queensland. He was raised in the community he went on to represent.

As a qualified lawyer, Mr Sullivan worked as a judge's associate in the District Court of Queensland and across government and law reform in both Queensland and Canberra. He also spent time in Washington, DC, where he worked in the office of the United States Senator for Oregon, Ron Wyden. In April 2012 Mr Sullivan began working for the then leader of the opposition here in Queensland, the Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk.

When Labor came to government in 2015, Mr Sullivan was appointed chief of staff to then minister Yvette D'Ath. He stayed in that role until August 2020, when the then member for Stafford, Dr Anthony Lynham, announced that he would not be contesting the next election. Mr Sullivan was subsequently selected by the ALP to contest the seat, which he won in October 2020. From May last year Mr Sullivan sat in this House as an independent member.

Mr Sullivan passed away on 5 April, aged 44 years. His passing is a matter of sorrow, especially for his family and friends. On behalf of the government I extend my sympathy and that of this House to his family and friends.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumbidgee—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.39 am): I have been here for many condolence motions in my time, usually for members who served well before me. Some I have known well but most I had only heard about. Most had left this House decades ago to pursue other careers, retire, see their kids and grandkids grow up. It is unusual to speak on a condolence motion for someone who passed whilst serving as an MP—even more unusual to lose them early in their service to their community, at a relatively young age. For me, the most unusual thing is to be speaking about someone I knew pretty much all of our adult lives. In the case of Jimmy Sullivan, all those things are true.

When we were younger, Jimmy was the one we all agreed would make it. While most of the rest of us scrapped our way to get ahead, Jimmy seemed set up. Charming, funny, smart, popular: he had a way of drawing people to him. None of us today want to dwell in any way on the troubles he faced in more recent years. The fact is: few of us will travel through our lives smoothly, with no troubles at all. For those of us who knew James when he was younger though, who knew the promise of that young man, observing his struggles was even more tragic. I found it gut-wrenching. Jimmy was, though, successful in so many ways—in his studies, as a lawyer, in his progression through our great party, as a senior and trusted staffer to the previous Labor opposition and successive Labor governments. He was successful in achieving his ambition to represent the Stafford community and in the two beautiful children he has left behind.

Many of us were at Jimmy's funeral in the Little Flower Catholic Church, attached to his beloved Padua College. Every funeral is sad and moving in its own way but this one especially so. I was struck by, and I want to acknowledge here, the incredible generosity of Jimmy's family in how they organised the funeral and what they said to those of us gathered. It showed, I think, a degree of kindness that should inspire all of us to be a bit kinder to each other. I know that every one of us there was reflecting on our time with Jimmy—reflecting back on our interactions, wondering if we had done the right thing at various times, questioning if we should have done something more or differently. You would not be human if you did not, and I know I was. The eulogies, though, captured what we were all feeling and thinking. They put those feelings in words so eloquent, so touching, that I cannot do them justice here today. I wish that I could. To James's parents in the gallery today, Terry Sullivan and Trish Bartlett: I want to thank you for that. To them and Carolyn and the rest of Jimmy's family who could not be with us today, I want to again express my condolences and sadness from Kim and myself and also on behalf of the entire Queensland Labor family.

When dealing with people in life, we have to grapple with all of the parts of them. In death, we can choose what we remember. I will always remember Jimmy as that young man who dreamed of following in the great Labor tradition of his father—a young man with a social conscience and a sense of right and wrong, a sense that working people deserved every opportunity and every support. I will remember the Jimmy of good intentions, the Jimmy with the infectious smile and the encouraging word, Jimmy the dad who would talk to me so proudly about his children.

Life can be many things. It can be messy and challenging and rewarding and satisfying and wonderfully uplifting, and its arc is shaped by every person we come in touch with, especially those we know for a long time, who we work with, socialise with, campaign with, share friends with—people we see through various stages of our and their lives. Mine has certainly been touched by Jimmy's. Vale, Jimmy Sullivan. Rest in peace, mate.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (9.45 am): I rise to contribute to the condolence motion as moved by the Premier in relation to the former member for Stafford, James Anthony Sullivan. Jimmy Sullivan's life was shaped by his family, his education and a strong commitment to public service. In his first speech to this House, Jimmy identified his family and his education as two important influences on his world view. I can certainly appreciate the lasting influence that both can have upon a person's life and values. Jimmy spoke with great appreciation and affection for his parents, both of whom were teachers by training. He reflected upon the example they had set through their hard work and commitment to social justice. Both Terry and Trish taught at St Laurence's College with my late mother, Virginia Rowan, in the 1970s. I did not know that fact until this morning, and I am very appreciative of that discussion I had with Trish.

Educated at Our Lady of the Angels school, Padua College and the University of Queensland, Jimmy Sullivan trained as a lawyer and served as an associate in the District Court of Queensland. That legal work, too, took him throughout our state, including to Cooktown and Thursday Island, and brought him into contact with community justice groups including in Cape York and Woorabinda. Jimmy had previously spoken about how those experiences shaped his understanding of government services, law reform and the diverse need of Queensland communities. He later worked in government and law reform, both in Queensland and Canberra, and also gained international experience in the office of United States Senator Ron Wyden, as the Premier has mentioned. He went on to work for the then state leader of the opposition, the Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk AC, before serving for more than five years as chief of staff to the Hon. Yvette D'Ath across a number of ministerial portfolios.

Elected as the state member for Stafford in 2020, Jimmy represented his local community with passion. He was an ardent advocate for the Stafford electorate and understood the responsibility entrusted to him as its elected representative. Beyond his service to the people of Stafford, Jimmy also contributed to the work of this parliament through a number of appointments. From November 2020 until February 2024 he served as a member of both the Education, Employment and Training Committee and the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee. In December 2023 he was appointed Assistant Minister for Justice and Veterans Affairs, a position he held until October 2024.

As the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for education from 2020 to 2024, my responsibilities naturally brought me into contact with Jimmy through his work on the Education, Employment and Training Committee. Whilst we approached education policy from different political perspectives, those respective roles gave me an appreciation of his commitment to parliamentary committee work and his interest in education and training.

My impression and knowledge of the former member for Stafford was of someone who was deeply loyal to the Labor Party and the broader labour movement. Whilst our political beliefs differed, I acknowledge the conviction with which he pursued his cause and remained committed to the principles in which he believed, both before and during his representative career.

As I conclude my contribution I reflect on how the finality of death is deeply confronting. It leaves family and loved ones to endure extraordinary grief, heartache and loss. As a doctor, I have always struggled with the inevitability of death and the profound toll it takes on those who are left behind. The complexity of the human condition means that every life is marked by both challenges and successes. Every human life has inherent value and each person should be cherished for their unique individuality. Jimmy Sullivan made a notable contribution through his professional career and service to the labour movement and his time as a member of the House. I extend my condolences to Jimmy's parents, his siblings, his wider family, his friends and all those grieving his loss. Vale, Jimmy Sullivan.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (9.48 am): I rise to support this condolence motion for Jimmy Sullivan, a friend, a colleague and a son of Stafford in every sense of the word. Jimmy was elected to this place in 2020, but, in truth, his connection to this House began long before that. As a boy he sat in the public gallery—where his parents sit today—and watched his father take his seat on the same benches that all of us in this House now share. Few members arrive here carrying a deeper understanding of what it means to serve community than Jimmy Sullivan did. Jimmy grew up watching what that service costs—what it gives and what it takes. Before he was elected in his own right, Jimmy served in the office of the then leader of the opposition, Anastacia Palaszczuk, and as chief of staff to Yvette D'Ath—years of long hours and hard work in the service of the party that he loved. When he did stand for election in 2020, he did so as a candidate who had already given years of dedicated service to the Labor Party, and Stafford elected him as their own.

As a local member, Jimmy was known for being exactly where you would expect to find him—at the school fete, at the local sporting club, on the phone to a constituent who needed help, at multicultural events and celebrations welcoming Stafford's newest residents. Jimmy carried forward the tradition established by his father of an office that was genuinely open to the community it served. As the assistant minister for justice and veterans affairs, Jimmy brought that same instinct for service to a portfolio that matters enormously to Queenslanders who have worn our nation's uniform, and he did that work with care and with respect.

We cannot speak of Jimmy's service without speaking of his family's service because in the Sullivan family public life, serving a cause greater than your own, was never a solitary pursuit; it was a shared family calling. Jimmy's father, Terry, gave this parliament 15 years of service as the member for Nundah, then Chermside, then Stafford, including years as government whip under then premier Peter Beattie. Before politics Terry was a schoolteacher, and that instinct to teach, to guide and to invest in

the next generation never left him, in this chamber or outside of it. Jimmy grew up watching his father do that work and it shaped him as it shaped many of us—myself included—and the way Jimmy engaged with his community.

Behind those public lives stood Jimmy's mother and Terry's wife, Trish Bartlett, a teacher in her own right who spent her career shaping the minds and lives of northside kids while raising a family for whom public service would become the family business. Trish's contribution rarely made the headlines, but anyone who understands how these lives are built knows that the load she carried and the values she instilled sit underneath everything the Sullivan men achieved in this place. I pay tribute to Trish today.

I also pay tribute to a beautiful family who spoke so honestly and lovingly about their son and brother at Jimmy's funeral earlier this year. On this most painful and difficult of occasions, the words of remembrance delivered by Trish and Terry, Jimmy's brother Daniel and his best mate Jakub spoke powerfully and profoundly of love, loss, suffering and forgiveness. At the conclusion of the funeral service at the Sullivans' family church, the Little Flower at Kedron, Father Stephen Bliss reminded all who were present that 'God sees the whole story'. So it should be for Jimmy. To Terry and Trish and to Jimmy's family: two generations of your family gave very large parts of their lives to our party, to this institution and to the people of Stafford. To Terry and Trish, today we remember your son—a son of Queensland, a son of Labor and a son of Stafford.

 **Mr RICHMOND** (Stafford—ALP) (9.53 am): Looking back on it, I do not think Jimmy ever introduced himself to me; he just spoke to me like we were old mates, and that is how Jimmy spoke to everyone. In those early days of knowing Jimmy, I was struck by the way that he articulated and lived his Labor values. He would speak regularly about social justice, a term I had not heard used earnestly since my time at Padua. He took great pride in the fact that, despite being the chief of staff to the attorney-general in a reformist Labor government, he still made time to engage in the grassroots activism of the Labor Party—pounding the pavement, knocking on doors and dialling phones. I was also struck by the fact that he always seemed to be in a hurry. No matter the time or the place, he always seemed like he was short of time—rushing around with his Spirax notebook stuffed with papers, scribbling on post-it notes.

When we first met each other I was firmly on the periphery of Labor politics. That did not stop Jimmy taking a genuine interest in my progression within the party. As a young lawyer I made the decision that I wanted to try to contribute to the cause of social justice within the labour movement. My first call was to Jimmy. I asked him if he knew about any potential opportunities to contribute to the policy agenda of the state Labor government. Jimmy's response was underwhelming. He said that he could not think of anything but he would ask around and get back to me—no promises. A couple of hours later he texted me: could I come to 1 William Street the next day for an interview with him and Yvette D'Ath; they were in the market for a new policy adviser. It was classic Jimmy. While others might promise the world and never follow through, he underpromised and overdelivered. Fortunately, I did not stuff up the interview and was shortly thereafter appointed as an adviser working with Yvette and Jimmy.

Working with Jimmy, I got a greater understanding of him as a person. As a chief of staff, Jimmy could never be accused of being a micromanager. He was a big-picture guy. The thing I remember and appreciate about Jimmy was that he never meddled in your work as an adviser but he was always there to provide advice and analysis when you needed it. On multiple occasions there were issues I had been grappling with that I felt completely stuck on, and on multiple occasions I would walk into Jimmy's office, wading through the piles of post-it notes, to seek his advice. Invariably, he would glance up at me and ask a couple of questions that completely crystallised the issue. I would walk out wondering why the obvious answer on how to proceed had eluded me for so long.

Another thing I remember from my time working with Jimmy, and that I continue to admire about him, was his selflessness in his role of chief of staff. It was clear that Jimmy had an ambition to run for elected office, but he never let that interfere with his loyalty to Yvette. He would often adopt positions that imperiled his personal standing within the party and made the prospect of being endorsed as a candidate more complicated, but that never stopped him from doing his duty.

The other thing that defined my time working with Jimmy was the delight he had in being around people and sharing in the office banter. I can still hear his laugh erupting across the office and see that broad grin spreading across his face. I think his greatest regret in being chief of staff was that he had to sit in his own office. The moment that someone in the open-plan office so much as chuckled, you could sense Jimmy creeping out of his office ready to share in the joke. Despite the joyous times we shared together in that office, it was at this time that one of the greatest tragedies that can befall a

person befell Jimmy. As I said in my first speech, the Little Flower Church, which I had once associated with school masses, will forever be associated with the funeral of Frankie Sullivan. It was the worst day of my life and it is a day that will stay with me forever. I can only imagine the toll it would have taken on Jimmy.

Despite that untold tragedy, Jimmy persevered and sought election as the member for Stafford. Being a local MP came naturally to Jimmy. He had a natural touch with people and he loved being involved in local community groups. Being Jimmy's successor has been a heavy burden. I have genuinely lost count of the number of times people have raised with me Jimmy's involvement in their school, in their community group or even in their local street. If nothing else, Jimmy's memory will live on in my neurosis to live up to his standard of local representation.

Stanley Baldwin once spoke of the many-sidedness of truth. It is true that upon being elected Jimmy was a tireless worker for his community. It is also true that he was struggling with PTSD and addiction. In this place, we know that addiction is a disease; it is uneven in the way that it impacts people. I am sorry and somewhat ashamed to say that I did not notice it soon enough. It is my deep regret that when I did find out I did not do enough.

The vicissitudes of life zig and zag, but in Jimmy's life there was one straight line, one constant. It was the love he had for his family. Terry and Trish, Jimmy was so proud to be your son. When he spoke of you, he spoke with warmth and tenderness. Terry, in your capacity as a local member, and as just a local, it was clear that he took his cues from you in how to represent his community and to give life to his Labor values. Trish, Jimmy constantly spoke about the scale and significance of your contribution to the education of generations of kids. In many ways, Jimmy's connection and commitment to his community was inherited from you.

Olly and Edie, I cannot tell you how much Jimmy loved you. Jimmy was an incredibly private person. The conversations that we had were primarily political in nature—they would be sardonic, cutting, sarcastic—but when Jimmy's kids came up he softened. I remember Jimmy boasting to me about how smart and kind and good-natured Olly was. I remember meeting Jimmy's daughter Edie for the first time. Jimmy was not there. A few hours later I got a call from Jimmy. To say that he was gushing is an understatement. Olly and Edie, you were loved by your father. Your precious time with him has been cut devastatingly short, but I hope that if you ever review these pages of *Hansard* you get an understanding of the significant and meaningful life your father lived, and at the centre of that life were the two of you.

While he is gone, he will live on in the memories that we share. For me it is the memory of the bloke who took a punt on a kid from Young Labor, who ran up to me at the 2016 Lilley federal election party with the biggest smile and gave me a bear hug, who drove me home from work talking about how our Labor government could be the best version of itself and who, even when it was hard, tried to live up to the best of his Labor values. Jimmy, vale.



Mr JKELLY (Greenslopes—ALP) (10.01 am): Jimmy Sullivan was a good man. He was a friend and, even though he was many years my junior, he mentored me, encouraged me, inspired me and reminded me constantly why we serve our communities in the way we do. Whenever it felt like the world had beaten you, Jimmy would put a smile on your face, utter a few unparliamentary expletives to the world and encourage you to get back out there and keep trying.

Jimmy was a man who loved his family deeply. He was barely a teenager when I first met him. He came to work at our union office. We bonded quickly over our family connections, our love of the Irish—in particular the Irish in Australia—and the values we shared as a result of growing up in families and communities driven by a desire for social justice. Of course, we bonded over our commitment to the union and the labour movement. He believed in the power of community to care for and empower every individual. Jimmy believed utterly in this institution and spent his life trying to serve it in various capacities for the good of his community.

I want to thank the many people who reached out with concern over the last few years of Jimmy's life and after his passing, many I had no idea had a connection with Jimmy. Dave from the Annerley soccer club, James from Parkrun, Martin from Rogalski Lawyers, Bonny Barry, Brett McCreadie, Bruce Cousar and even my cousin Patty McCourt are just a few of the people who contacted me to inquire after Jimmy's welfare, offering support, happy memories, prayers and a hope for better days. I particularly acknowledge the member for Logan. I acknowledge Anthony and Pam Lynham for their efforts and their love for Jimmy. It was unwavering.

Jimmy was so proud to be a member of this parliament. He was not proud in a boastful manner, that exalted in the title or the supposed power; he was truly proud of the opportunity to represent and serve his community, the opportunity to live true to his values. During most sitting weeks we would talk policy, family, politics and malarky. Jimmy talked passionately about his community and the pride he had in achieving wins, big and small, for the people who came to him for help. He became most animated when speaking about his family. The last conversation I ever had with Jimmy was about his son, Olly. It had been a pretty rough day. When we had a cuppa he had a huge smile on his face. It was a smile that was big even by his standards. He was absolutely beaming because he had been to Padua that morning and been up on stage as a member of parliament to congratulate his son. He spoke of how proud he was to stand in front of his community with his son.

I want to finish by offering my sincere condolences to the entire Sullivan family. I know how big a hole any loss can punch in your life, but certainly for someone as loved as Jimmy I know this hole will be great. There have no doubt been some very dark and tough times, but I know there have been a lot more moments of happiness and light. I know that your family is strong and sustained by faith. I sincerely hope you find peace and can celebrate the truly good things about Jimmy's life and the joy he has brought to your lives and so many others.

Vale, mate. Go n-eiri an bothar leat. May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields and, until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (10.05 am): I first met Jimmy on the 2009 state campaign, maybe slightly before—full of energy, full of smiles and always going a million miles an hour. I worked with him as a fellow staffer for a couple of stints. I have memories of good times, good policy wins, good political wins and good outcomes fought hard for. I acknowledge Jimmy's friends and family here today, Terry and Trish in particular. I acknowledge the eulogies they gave at Jimmy's funeral, something no parent should have to give. I could not imagine having to speak in those circumstances. They were probably the hardest speeches I have ever seen given. I acknowledge the raw openness shown by Trish and the kindness shown by Terry, particularly in speaking to anyone at the funeral questioning themselves, wondering if they could have done any more—telling them to relieve themselves of that burden. I know that I fall into that category at times. It was an incredibly full-of-grace thing to say.

Jimmy loved his family deeply and he loved his community relentlessly. Not everyone makes a positive contribution to their local area; Jimmy did. Not many people get the chance to represent the community they grew up in; Jimmy did. Not everyone gets into politics for the right reasons; Jimmy certainly did. His family and friends should be very proud of his accomplishments and remember fondly the many good deeds he did, fighting for our causes, fighting for what he believed in. Vale, Jimmy Sullivan.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (10.07 am): I rise to make a contribution to this condolence motion. Unlike so many in this chamber, we did not really know Jimmy, the member for Stafford, before he came to the crossbench. We appreciated listening to more about him at the service and this morning. Previous to him coming to the crossbench we said the usual hellos, how-are-yous—the normal chitchat. Over the last year before his passing we got to know him better. He was a kind and caring man. Regardless of what he went through in this chamber, Jimmy was always polite and never complained. He never said a bad word about anyone.

He spoke lovingly about his family, his electorate, school events and volunteers. When we chatted about what was to be his last adjournment speech, it was again about community and the 40th anniversary of the Common Good, part of the Prince Charles Hospital Foundation. He always had a smile and would ask how I and the other crossbenchers were—all of this while battling serious health challenges. I can only hope that Jimmy's passing will be a catalyst for change. I appreciate that care was offered through the Speaker, the Clerk and others. However, we do need to do more.

To Jimmy's family and loved ones, his staff, electorate and community, on behalf of the crossbench I send our deepest, heartfelt condolences. We are very sorry that we were not able to do more. May you continue to receive much love and support in your grief and be comforted that the man you love loved you greatly and is no doubt watching over all of you and the community that he adored and worked so hard for. Vale. Rest in peace, Jimmy.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (10.09 am): Today I rise to honour the life and service of Jimmy Sullivan and to extend my deepest condolences to his family. Jimmy Sullivan dedicated his life to serving others. Whether through his work before entering parliament or as the member for Stafford, he was guided by a deep commitment to fairness, social justice and the belief that government can make

a positive difference in people's lives. Those values were instilled in Jimmy from an early age. He often spoke of the influence of his parents, both teachers, who taught him the importance of hard work, compassion and service. He was proud of his family and the example they set. He carried those lessons with him throughout his life.

Jimmy was also immensely proud of the Stafford community. In his first speech to this parliament, he spoke warmly of the people who make the electorate such a special place: its health workers, volunteers, local organisations, businesses and families. He understood that strong communities are built by people looking after one another and he worked every day to support and strengthen those connections.

Those who knew Jimmy remember not only his intelligence and dedication but also his warmth, humility and genuine kindness. He never lost sight of the people he served and the values that brought him into public life. He understood that politics is ultimately about people, their hopes, their struggles and their aspirations. In his inaugural speech, Jimmy reflected on the importance of being—in the words of a close friend—a good person doing good things. It is a simple phrase but it captures the essence of the man we remember today.

Jimmy sought to make a positive contribution, to serve with integrity and to leave his community better than he found it. Queensland has lost a dedicated public servant, Stafford has lost a passionate advocate and many have lost a colleague, a friend and a loved one. May we remember Jimmy Sullivan for his service, his compassion and the values he lived every day. May his legacy endure in the community he loved and served so faithfully. Vale, Jimmy.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (10.11 am): Today I rise to speak on this condolence motion to honour Jimmy Sullivan, a former member of the House, a proud Labor man, a loving father and a decent human being. Jimmy's passing earlier this year has left a deep sadness for many people across Queensland, particularly in the Stafford community that he served with such dedication and affection.

When I think of Jimmy, I think first of family. His love of family was never an afterthought. It was central to who he was. He spoke often about those he loved. He was immensely proud of his kids, his wife, his parents and family, and the generations of the Sullivan family that shaped him. Family grounded Jimmy. It gave him purpose and perspective.

I often reflect on a very special day that we shared many years ago. We were on a boat travelling to Saint Helena Island for the 125th anniversary of the shearers' strike, a defining moment in the formation of the Australian Labor Party. On that journey there were three generations of Sullivans: Jimmy; his dad, Terry, a former member of this place; and Jimmy's little boy, Olly. As I look back, it strikes me that that moment was far more than history. It was about legacy. It was about the passing of values from one generation to the next. It was about family, community and Labor traditions.

Jimmy's mum and dad, Trish and Terry, both worked at Iona College, a proud Catholic school in my electorate and arch rival of Padua College, Jimmy's alma mater. The Sullivans have strong Catholic roots, and values of service, compassion, humility and community were instilled in Jimmy from an early age. They remained with him throughout his life.

Jimmy was also unapologetically a northsider, something I do not understand. He loved his electorate. He knew it intimately. He understood its streets, its sporting clubs, its schools, its community groups and, most importantly, its people. The people of Stafford knew him. In politics, that is not something that can be manufactured. It cannot be faked. It can only be earned through genuine connection, hard work and authenticity, and Jimmy had those qualities in abundance. He represented his community with pride because he was part of that community. He was not playing a role; he was simply himself.

Politics can be a brutal business. Every member of this chamber knows that. Politics can and, indeed, should be civilised. We should be able to fight hard for our beliefs, which Jimmy did, and we must still respect those who have a different view or a different backstory. We should win the argument, not destroy the person making it. As the saying goes, we should play the ball, not the man. I believe that Jimmy understood that.

Jimmy knew that politics was about people. He knew that, long after the votes are counted, long after the speeches are forgotten and long after the headlines fade away, what remains is how we treat each other. That is part of Jimmy's legacy. It is a legacy of service, a legacy of family, a legacy of community and a legacy of respect.

To Jimmy's family and friends and all those who loved him, I extend my deepest condolences. To his family, I can only begin to imagine your pain. Thank you for sharing Jimmy with the people of Queensland. He made his community better and he leaves behind memories that will endure. Vale, Jimmy Sullivan.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (10.16 am): Sometimes when we go through rituals in this place we do it without reflection. Today, we reflect on a life lived but especially lost. We reflect on ourselves, as has been so eloquently put, on this institution and especially on the life and contribution of our friend Jimmy Sullivan. Sometimes we will say, 'There's a condolence on today,' but we do not really reflect on what those words mean. 'Con' is the Latin for 'with' and 'dolence' comes from 'dolere', meaning 'to suffer', 'to grieve' or 'to be torn asunder', in this case with the pain of loss. We cannot feel this as keenly or as profoundly as Terry, Trish and the family, but we are with you in your loss in some small way.

My heritage and my faith mean that I know how my tribe gathers to mark the stages of my life: my baptism, my confirmation and, ultimately, the gathering in our church to mark my last journey. I reflect on the service at the Little Flower Church—such a delicate name for a strong saint who was tortured by guilt and doubt but who ultimately triumphed. We are told in those places that to everything there is a season and for everything a reason. For the Sullivans, it must seem that this is the season of darkest winter, storms and raining stones. I pray that there will be a point when this season has a reason and this time is lifted.

At the funeral, Jakub spoke of the phases of Jimmy's life. None of us in this place knew him in the early phase so it was good to have that shared with us. I first met Jimmy in 1997, in the second phase of his life. I saw a passionate man full of energy, compassion and sharing. I think he had the values of his parents, who were teachers, and wanted to give to others, sharing his journey in politics.

Sometimes in loss we turn to poets. Brecht wrote in a very imperfect situation and calls us out: 'For all that lives needs help from all the rest', needs love from all the rest. I pray that I never, as Jimmy did, experience the loss of a child. I know that I did not want to comprehend it. I did not want to deal with it. I did not want to understand how deep and engrained in his soul that loss was, partly because I did not want to imagine the pain that that would feel to me, and I was not there as well as I could be during that moment.

We also have the third phase—truly imperfect, truly not the shining star we once saw. I tried to spend some time with him, and it was not always easy. There were moments, though, where that young man who spent time at the Little Flower Church shone through. I was lucky enough, by chance, to ask him to have lunch with me on the very last day he spent in this place. He was shy and distant, and I think it was a moment of rare reflection of where his life was at. As Joe said, he spoke of Olly and Edie and especially spoke of the small joys he was sharing with them.

I think that, with these condolences, there will be some time in the future when a child or a grandchild will take the time to look at what we said about their parent or grandparent. I hope that this is some comfort to you: you did not have him with you but know that he was loved—even though we do not shy away from the difficulties at the end of his life. He also spoke of those on all sides who reached out and tried to express something to him. You know who you are, and it meant something to him.

At the funeral I looked at the photos and was reminded that as we go through these rituals we do not think of people, but I was reminded by those beautiful files of how great a smile he had, what energy he had, and I was reminded of the Jimmy I knew at the beginning of that second stage.

There is a Hebrew phrase that resonates with me, and I hope it does with you, Terry, Trish and the family: 'may his memory be a blessing'. May you remember that second stage—that bright smile, that love for his family and that enthusiasm for greater and better social justice. May we all be blessed by his memory and take something forward in reflecting on everything we do in this place.

 **Ms McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (10.23 am): I rise to make my contribution to the condolence motion. At the outset, I pass on my thoughts, feelings and prayers for the family of Jimmy and also for his community because, whilst we have lost a good friend in Jimmy and the family have lost a beloved son, friend and father, the community of Stafford has also lost a giant.

I have reflected on many of the contributions that people have made here this morning and how they knew Jimmy from such a young age and the early days within the Labor Party. I met Jimmy for the first time only once I was elected. Our paths to politics were clearly two very different paths. We both had in common growing up in a family of public service. For us both, our parents were public servants.

However, the background Jimmy had with his family, the experience that he had, meant that his future in politics was an inevitability. His desire for public service was always going to drive him here. For me, I came very late to politics.

My first dealing with him in this House was as a member of the justice committee when Jimmy was working for the attorney-general at the time, Yvette D'Ath. He would come in on a Monday and he would brief us committee members on what was happening in legislation. I remember him as a young man so full of energy, passion and desire to gain the best legislative outcome for Queensland in this House. We did not always agree on how we were going to do things. Through him, I genuinely gained the understanding that governing is difficult. When you must make the decisions for an entire state, sometimes you have to put yourself to the back and know that what you are doing is for the bigger picture of Queensland. I learned that through Jimmy. However, I also knew in seeing him there that he was a young man who was going to be sitting in this place. I was also very careful because I figured at some point he would likely be a colleague as well. You could see it writ large on everything he did that he was driven.

The one thing which stood out in working alongside Jimmy, particularly once he had his seat in this House, was his absolute passion for his community. Much like the member for Lytton, I know nothing about the north side of Brisbane. As far as I am aware, Brisbane stops at Edward Street. It was through Jimmy that I learned so much about the everyday goings-on and what was happening in Stafford. I will forever associate Jimmy with the schools, specifically Padua, the community groups and the sporting organisations. At every opportunity he had in this House he would mention his community groups and his love of his community and the fact that he knew it inside and out.

We are all here for the right reasons. We all join for the right reasons. At the core of it is a love for our community and a want to see our community for the better, and Jimmy reflected that in every single ounce. Obviously we all differ on how we represent our community and what we prioritise, but I know that every decision Jimmy made was for the benefit of his community.

I got to work really closely with Jimmy in a rather long and lengthy PCCC inquiry. He was the deputy chair. There were long days, long weeks, with very complex matters to consider, and I really appreciated the legal brain that he brought to that. The work that we did together on that really heightened my absolute appreciation for what Jimmy brought to this House.

Sometimes you do not really know someone until you hear their maiden speech. There are a lot of people here who come from so many different backgrounds. The thing that shone through for me obviously was the fact that our parents were public servants and they instilled something in us. The fact that he was here, I know, made his parents especially proud. What came through was his love of family. We all have different families and ways that we work together, but he knew more than anyone else the impact that working in this House would have, having grown up with that experience, and yet, for what you can do in this place and what it can take away, you still choose to serve. Jimmy knew that better than anyone, and the fact that he still made that commitment to this House and his community to serve is a reflection on him.

When you come to this House you carry a weight or a burden and you make the decision to continue to serve because you can look beyond yourself and beyond your own struggles to leave a positive outcome. That is truly a reflection of the man Jimmy was. Despite the weight that he carried, he still wanted the best for his community and this state. He was in here every day, fighting for his community right up to his last day. Despite the rough and tumble of this place, he was still fighting for his community. Drowned out as he was, he was still fighting for his community. He wanted to leave his community a better place. Whilst we all want to leave our community a better place, I would like to think we can also do a lot more to leave this House a better place as well.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (10.30 am): I first met Jimmy Sullivan in 2010 when I went to work for deputy premier Lucas for a brief period. I did not know Jimmy at the time. I had been outside of the political bubble for about 6½ years at a time when Jim was surging through the ranks. Working with him was a real joy. He was smart. He was interested. He was engaged. He was affable. While I had met his father, Terry, many times over the years—and I acknowledge Terry, his mother, Trish, and his family and friends today—I had never met him. He was a great work colleague.

I make this observation: for somebody who left us in their mid-40s, he had a very substantial career. He was not afraid to take on the difficult jobs. After working in Health, he went to work for opposition leader Palaszczuk when there was a sum total of seven members in opposition in parliament. He then went to work as the chief of staff for the then attorney-general over multiple terms. It was probably one of the hardest chief-of-staff roles in government. In public life he was always willing to take on anything. He was 100 per cent committed to difficult jobs, and that needs to be acknowledged.

I did quite a few doorknocks in the Stafford by-election and what really struck me was the number of people who knew Jim, who felt for Jim and who were affected by why I was at their door. They felt his loss. It really struck me how deep his roots were in that community after being a member of parliament for just over one term. He was respected and he was loved, and his loss was felt by his constituents. It is a great honour for any member of this parliament to have that level of respect in the community. I wanted to reflect on that today because that is our first job here. Whatever jobs we have here, being the member of parliament for our constituency is our first job, and Jim did that incredibly well. He had deep roots in that community. I offer my condolences to his family and friends, especially to his parents, on his passing. Vale, Jimmy Sullivan.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (10.32 am): I first met Jimmy after the 2020 election. We were part of the class of 2020. We all remember how comforting it was as a new member in this place to have somebody who already knew the place, and Jimmy was that person because of his previous roles. I remember how proud he was to be asked by the then premier to lead the address-in-reply. It meant so much to him not only because of his time within the union movement and the labour movement but also because of his deep roots and connections through his family.

Jimmy was a man who loved his community. Stafford was family. Stafford was friendship. Stafford was home. He was not just a member of parliament for an electorate; he was part of the community. He was part of the broader friendship and family in that space. He cared so much for community and he cared so much for people. Earlier this year, during the Bundaberg floods, Jimmy Sullivan called me. He called to check in on the member for Bundaberg. He called to check in on the people of Bundaberg, the community, and ask how they were doing at that tough time. He did not have to do that. He wanted to do that.

He loved being around his colleagues. He loved to laugh and point fun at some of the lighthearted moments in this place. In the lead-up to this week, I was going through my phone and looking at some of the conversations we had had by text. There was a photo that Jimmy had taken from the level 5 Colonnade of the member for Stretton and me speaking together on the Speaker's Green. It was captioned, 'Splitters!' He then went on to say that he had already sent the photo to the admin committee announcing that the new faction called 'The Socialist Front' had been formed. He did not say which one of us was going to lead that. That is an insight into who Jimmy Sullivan was.

One memory strikes at my heart the hardest, and it is the reason I wanted to contribute to this condolence motion. It is a memory that the member for Bundamba and I will always share and never forget. We have reflected on this multiple times since Jimmy's passing. It was the second last sitting week before Jimmy's passing. We were sitting one afternoon and Jimmy asked if he could join us. We sat down and we spoke about the redistribution, about what was happening in the community and about Padua College. What hits home the hardest for the member for Bundamba and me is that Jimmy told a story of how proud he was because Edith had just learned to say the word 'daddy'. This hits home so hard, but that is a memory that I want to remember.

Jimmy Sullivan was proud to be a father. He was so happy to know that he was loved by his family. With the member for Bundamba and his family, we will continue to be strong for the little boy who looks up to him and for my five-year-old who calls me daddy, who because of this job does not get to see his father as much as maybe he should. Jimmy Sullivan will always be that reminder to me of what is the most important thing in our lives. I thank Jimmy. I thank his family. It is a memory that we will never forget and will always guide us forward.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (10.36 am): I rise to contribute to the condolence motion for Jimmy Sullivan, our friend and a former member of this House. He was a friend to many, both inside and outside this chamber. On behalf of Holly, my extended family and my friends, who were not by chance also friends of Jimmy, I extend sincere condolences to Jimmy's family and loved ones, and I honour Jimmy's contribution in life to his family, his community, this House and the people of Queensland.

To be honest, while I have known Jimmy since our university days, when we studied law together at the University of Queensland, and we have overlapping friendship circles, I cannot claim to have known Jimmy as long as I have known his parents. Jimmy's mum, Trish, was my religion teacher in high school. Notwithstanding the time that has passed since I have been in high school, I have fond and clear memories of Trish as a great teacher. Trish has wonderful attributes which made her not only a great teacher but also an outstanding role model for others—a generous heart and spirit, a gentleness that instils a peaceful serenity in all interactions and a genuine interest in peace and justice.

I then met Jimmy's dad, Terry, through Labor Party activities and events. Terry was the then Labor whip, and some would argue he has much better qualities than the current Labor whip! Terry's booming voice highlights a passion for his solid and unwavering commitment to his values: the principles of the labour movement, justice and fairness; loyalty to comrades and family; and diligent and thoughtful commitment to work, service and community. With role models and inherited foundations like that, it should come as no surprise that Jimmy embodied all of those qualities and more.

From our university days and our Young Labor times, I recall Jimmy's energy. He was fun. He was funny and engaging. He could connect with anyone not because it was a skill—although it was—but because he was genuinely interested in people and their stories. He was compassionate and kind. He was smart and could navigate with ease the most complex of justice, political and policy issues.

I know how proud Jimmy was to be elected to this parliament. To represent any community in this parliament is indeed an incredible honour, but to represent the community where you grew up and lived your entire life is another matter altogether. Jimmy was Stafford. He was a local boy. He knew the streets and the people. In fact, I have family who live in Stafford. I think at least one of them on maybe at least one occasion voted for Jimmy, but that would not have mattered to Jimmy. It would not have bothered Jimmy whether people voted for him or not. He took everyone at face value. He loved every one of those people in his community, and he represented them. He cherished every interaction with them.

In fact, one day when I was visiting those family members I had an important phone call to take in the car. While I am very engaged in this phone call, I get this bang on the window and it is the sentinel of Stafford, Jimmy Sullivan, with his beaming face as he realised that I was scared half to death. Of course Jimmy was there to say hello but to also check in on locals in that street—and he remembered my family members' names.

I am grateful that I knew Jimmy both personally and professionally. I am grateful that Jimmy served in this parliament and I am grateful that I called Jimmy friend. It is not lost on me that Jimmy's funeral service took place in his community, at his local church, at the school he attended. All of these were important to Jimmy—so many connections to home. Home was important to Jimmy. As was said at his funeral service, 'In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?' May Jimmy rest in eternal peace.



Mr SPEAKER: Members, this morning I had an opportunity to host Jimmy Sullivan's parents, Terry and Trish. As many of us in this place know, being a parent can bring great joy and happiness and also at times despair and sadness. We have heard a number of members today talk about the closeness of the Sullivan family, and I am sure that the Sullivan family, Trish and Terry, are drawing on that to get through this difficult time. I join with members and offer my deepest condolences to Terry and Trish and the family. I ask honourable members to indicate their agreement with this motion by standing in silence for one minute.

Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will start at 11.27 am.

PETITIONS

Livestock, Feed

433 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the replacement biosecurity and feed framework is fit for purpose for novel livestock feed additives and ingredients, and ensure Queensland Government policies and programs preserve genuine farmer choice [1489].

Moreton Bay, Public Transport

336 petitioners, requesting the House to improve public transport connectivity for western Moreton Bay, in consultation with the City of Moreton Bay and local communities [1490].

Voluntary Assisted Dying

7,437 petitioners, requesting the House to do all in its power to make Voluntary Assisted Dying available to people afflicted by incurable debilitating diseases [1491].

Petitions received.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Crime, Bail Laws

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (10.45 am): Our government is delivering the fresh start that Queenslanders voted for. For a decade Queenslanders had a government that listened to the voices of offenders and their advocates while victims were pushed to the side. Our government takes a different approach. We listen to victims, we listen to police and we listen to Queenslanders.

That is why later today our Breach Bail, Go to Jail laws will be introduced into this House. Under our reforms, an offender who commits an Adult Crime, Adult Time offence while on bail will face a minimum mandatory sentence of 12 months behind bars. Youth or adult—the message is the same. If you are given bail and you choose to commit another serious crime, there are consequences. These reforms will apply to the 47 serious offences captured by Adult Crime, Adult Time—serious crimes like murder, manslaughter, rape, robbery, car theft.

Today I can confirm our bail laws will also apply to adults who are charged with coercive control or child sex offences that are covered by Daniel's Law under the Criminal Code. If you commit one of these serious offences while on bail, you will receive a serious consequence—a minimum of 12 months behind bars. Queenslanders have been clear they want consequences for actions, they want victims put first and they want the revolving door of repeat offenders committing serious crimes while on bail to end. We have listened and today we are delivering.

Federal Government, Data Centres

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (10.46 am): Our government will always fight for Queensland. We have a history of working with the federal government to deliver for Queenslanders. We have secured historic funding deals for the Bruce Highway, our schools and hospitals, and we are continuing to fight for our fair share of GST from Canberra. We always put Queensland first.

Yesterday we worked to secure an agreement that protects Queensland's right to determine how we power the data centres of the future. Data centres can deliver a new economic frontier for our state. More than that, failing to keep our data onshore presents a real risk. I want Queenslanders' data to be in our hands, not others. It is the kind of investment I will be seeking next week during my trade mission to the United States in a visit that will also feature critical minerals, defence and agriculture, including other things.

An ideological mandate threatened to send billions of dollars of investment, and our data, offshore. We went to National Cabinet with a very clear position: Queensland should be free to choose what energy sources will power data centres—coal, gas, renewables: affordable reliable and sustainable. We fought for a technologically agnostic approach that recognises Queensland's energy mix. We stood our ground. We secured a commitment from Canberra, and I acknowledge the pragmatism of the Prime Minister in helping to secure this outcome.

It is only possible because we own our electricity assets. This is the point of difference that I was able to highlight to allow us to find that common ground. For as long as the LNP are in government, those assets will stay right here in public hands.

Mr Janetzki: We strengthened state ownership. Labor sold 54 per cent; we wanted 100.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr CRISAFULLI: I take the Treasurer's interjection. It is a very good one. Queensland is open for business. We want new opportunities, new investment and new jobs but communities must come first. New data centre projects must properly manage their impacts on water and energy. This deals enables the success of our Energy Roadmap to continue. We can continue to drive down power prices even as demand increases. They must deliver genuine local benefits, and communities and councils must have a real say because regional Queensland should not just host the industries of the future. Regional Queensland should benefit from them as well.

His Excellency the Governor, Appointment

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (10.49 am): Earlier this month I was proud to announce the appointment of the Hon. Justice Thomas Bradley as Queensland's 28th Governor. Justice Bradley has already served our state with distinction across an exceptional legal career. I know that he will bring integrity, intellect and a deep respect for our state's institutions to the role.

I acknowledge and thank Her Excellency the Hon. Jeannette Young for her service as our 27th Governor. There will be more time to honour Her Excellency's service to Queenslanders, and I look forward to doing so before Justice Bradley is sworn in on 1 November.

Nepal, Natural Disaster

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (10.49 am): The world has woken this morning to devastating images out of Nepal. Our thoughts are with those overseas who are affected by this tragedy as well as the families and friends of those who are still missing, including a sizable number of Australians. This is a rapidly unfolding situation. We will continue to work to get any information we can about any Queenslanders affected.

This morning I spoke with leaders in the Nepalese community in Queensland who are feeling the grief and anxiety that a tragedy like this brings. I want them to know how important they are. I have offered the support and assistance of the government. I expressed our sorrow to this group of people who are genuinely such an important part of our community. We will be there for them during this very difficult time.

Crime, Bail Laws

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (10.50 am): I associate myself with the Premier's comments regarding the tragedy in Nepal.

It is simply not acceptable for offenders to thumb their noses at the privilege of bail. Bail cuts them a break, but not so they can just extend their criminal rap sheet. The youth crime crisis, fanned by Labor's decade of decline, has been led by repeat offenders. Many of them commit serious crimes whilst they are on bail. On the other end of those offences is a person, a traumatised Queenslanders, and they are right to feel aggrieved. We have listened to their stories. We are alive to their anguish. That is why today I am introducing legislation from the Crisafulli government to usher in the strongest bail laws in the nation. If you breach bail you will go to jail for a minimum mandatory period of one year.

When Labor's weak crime and bail laws unleashed havoc on our streets it was obvious to all except those opposite where this was going. A new generation of hardcore repeat offenders was spawned. Some of these serious repeat offenders are now adults, so the threat of Labor's past failures has proved to be exponential. Therefore, the accountability that Queenslanders have called for is fully expressed by the new laws. If you breach bail you will go to jail, whether you are a youth offender or an adult offender. People should feel safe in their homes, workplaces and neighbourhoods. In the next phase of the fresh start Queenslanders voted for offenders have been put on notice. Serious offending while on bail will not be tolerated. Breach bail and you will go to jail.

Crime, Bail Laws

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (10.52 am): Queenslanders have been calling for it, police definitely want it, MPs on this side of the House have been demanding it, and today the Crisafulli government will deliver Breach Bail, Go to Jail, the most significant bail reform this state has ever seen and the strongest in the country. It puts the rights of victims ahead of the rights of criminals. There will be no more catch and release. The revolving door of youth criminals is being slammed shut not only for juvenile offenders but for adults too. There are no more get out of jail free cards. Paedophiles, sex offenders and DV perpetrators are also on notice. Those who commit crimes against our most vulnerable will feel the full force of the law. If you are given the privilege of bail and then breach bail by committing a serious offence you will face a mandatory 12-month jail sentence.

Those opposite will jeer and holler, more worried about the rights of criminals and what they are going to eat and where they are going to sleep. They did the same with Adult Crime, Adult Time. They refused to stand with the community and support it, but the results speak for themselves. Under Labor,

the number of victims increased by 193 per cent, as confirmed in question on notice No. 401 in April this year, while the latest police data shows victim numbers have decreased by 9.6 per cent. We know there is a long way to go, but this government is determined to restore community safety with more police, stronger laws and fewer victims.

Crime, Bail Laws

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.54 am): Queenslanders expect that when a youth offender commits a serious crime while on bail there will be real consequences for their actions. They expect victims to come first and they expect repeat offenders to be held accountable. That is exactly what the Crisafulli government is doing. We are delivering the most significant reform to bail this state has ever seen and the strongest bail laws in the nation. Today the Attorney-General will introduce the next phase of Adult Crime, Adult Time into parliament with Breach Bail, Go to Jail.

It is the result of months of listening to Queenslanders, victims, police, frontline workers and communities right across the state. I am proud to be part of a government that is making the change needed to restore safety to Queensland communities, which for years suffered under Labor's youth crime crisis. For too long Labor cared more about the rights of offenders. Laws were weakened, there were no consequences for actions, and it was Queenslanders who paid the price. Communities are sick and tired of seeing the same repeat offenders get bail only to commit another serious offence, leaving more victims in their wake. The Crisafulli government has listened and we are acting. If an offender breaches their bail with a serious offence they should, and will, go to jail under our laws.

Not only that; we are strengthening how serious offenders get bail in the first place with a new test. Courts must have a high degree of confidence that offenders will not reoffend before they can be given bail and offenders will have to prove they will not reoffend before they can get bail. For adults, this means that DV perpetrators and paedophiles and those charged with coercive control or child sex offences will not only face 12 months behind bars if they breach their bail with a serious offence; they will be forced to prove they deserve the privilege of bail in the first place.

These laws send a strong message to criminals. We will not tolerate serious repeat offending in this state, whether you are a youth or an adult. If you breach your bail you will go to jail. We are delivering the change needed to fix Labor's broken, weak bail laws that created a generation of serious repeat offenders and left too many Queenslanders living in fear. We are putting the rights of victims first. We are doing exactly what we said we would do. We will continue to strengthen our laws, which for a decade were weakened by the former Labor government, and restore safety to this state so we have fewer victims of crime.

Crime, Bail Laws; Absence of Minister

 **Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.57 am): Today the Crisafulli government is introducing some of the strongest bail laws in the nation. The Breach Bail, Go to Jail and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 will deliver the strongest bail reforms in the country. The introduction of the legislation comes in the wake of victim numbers exploding by 193 per cent under the former Labor government. These reforms will target serious repeat adult and youth offenders with a minimum mandatory sentence of 12 months. This legislation underpins the Crisafulli government's commitment to make Queensland safer through stronger laws, more police on the front line, early intervention and rehabilitation. The Breach Bail, Go to Jail legislation builds on our government's work to overhaul Labor's watered-down crime laws with regard to both adult and youth offenders who commit serious offences while on bail.

We will always put the rights of victims ahead of perpetrators. We are doing this by continuing our tough stance against domestic violence perpetrators. Last year our government rolled out laws to make coercive control a criminal offence. Coercive control and domestic violence have no place in our society. Too many have already lost their lives as a result. Our government will include coercive control and other serious offences often associated with domestic and family violence in these reforms to deliver the strongest bail laws in the country. Perpetrators are now being placed on notice and they should heed the message. During a decade of decline under Labor domestic and family violence incidents skyrocketed across Queensland, increasing by 218 per cent. Where those opposite failed, we will always put the rights of victims ahead of perpetrators.

I would like to update the House that I will be on medical leave from 30 August for six weeks to undergo and recover from major surgery. The Premier will advise the House of acting arrangements in due course.

Crisafulli LNP Government, Investment; South Bank Lagoon, Maintenance

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.59 am): The Crisafulli LNP government is securing Queensland's economic future, having refocused the state development portfolio on three key priority areas—defence, biomedicine and biofuels—after a decade of decline by the former Labor government. These 2638 three industries have the opportunity to generate significant economic benefits and returns for Queenslanders, with our landmark \$180.6 million Sovereign Industry Development Fund accelerating private sector investment in Queensland to secure our sovereign manufacturing capabilities. Today at one o'clock government members will have the pleasure of launching DefenceQ, showing the world that Queensland is open for defence business and defence industry.

Queenslanders would be forgiven for asking how payments made by the former Labor government for the creation of a weight loss app for fat dogs represents value for their money. Queenslanders also know that, while we are partnering with the private sector to deliver high-skilled and high-value jobs across the state, the former Labor government chose to subsidise non-viable projects, including from the hydrogen industry. The Crisafulli government is ensuring that any future investment by the state maximises value for taxpayer money, rather than the pursuit of ideological obsessions by Labor ministers.

I acknowledge the public and historic reporting of the dispute between the state and Fortescue Hydrogen Systems Australia with respect to the now discontinued electrolyser manufacturing facility in Gladstone, for which the former Labor government paid \$66 million. Members of this House will know that I previously publicly expressed the government's desire to ensure the best outcome for Queensland taxpayers, following the discontinuation of that project. I am pleased to advise the House that this dispute has now been settled with Queenslanders retaining the value of the entire \$66 million that was paid, including through the transfer to the state of the project land, the electrical substation and other associated common-user infrastructure, on top of other agreed arrangements.

Mr Mander: Well done, Minister.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and thank you. It does beg the question: who was the Labor treasurer at the time who did that deal? I wonder. I think he is sitting over there with his head down; it was the member for Woodridge. The Crisafulli government is now looking forward and actively seeking partnerships to determine the future use of the site, ensuring the best value for Queenslanders, unlike the approach of those opposite during a decade of decline.

On another matter, members will have noticed that the South Bank lagoon has been closed for its biannual maintenance period since 15 June 2026.

Mr Nicholls: I saw that this morning.

Mr BLEIJIE: Minister for Health, you have not been able to swim in there lately. The pool itself is more than 30 years old, having been constructed in the wake of Expo 88 as a legacy to the people of Queensland, and is set amongst the 14.6-hectare South Bank Parklands across the Brisbane River from where we are now. I can advise the House that as an aging asset the lagoon has experienced, as has been publicly reported, water leakages for a number of years, with regular remediation works taken to ensure not only the experience of patrons is maintained but that community safety is paramount. It is disappointing that the appropriate maintenance work had not been completed or adequate planning done by the former Labor government—

Mr Nicholls: They used to like leaking over there.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the health minister. They do like a good leak in the Labor Party but, unfortunately, they did not tell anyone about this big leak, which I am getting to.

It is disappointing that the appropriate maintenance work had not been completed or adequate planning done by the former Labor government to ensure the lagoon remained fit for purpose as the anchor of this iconic precinct. I can advise the House that since 2023 there has been an increase in

daily water loss from the lagoon, reaching extraordinary levels from early 2024. By mid-2024, water loss from the pool peaked at a loss of 112,000 litres per day when the member for McConnel was the minister responsible—and not a peep from her or the former Labor government. In fact, I can advise the House that the former government were advised in a report conducted by SMEC in 2018 that the lagoon structure would need to be fully replaced by 2025.

The Leader of the Opposition was the minister for state development when management of the lagoon was transferred to South Bank Corporation in 2023. He did not establish a maintenance plan for the aging asset and, in typical fashion, opted for secrecy and a lack of accountability. Why didn't the member for Murrumba, as minister for state development responsible for the lagoon, announce the leaky lagoon and the issues associated with it? The Crisafulli government is delivering a fresh start for South Bank. I note those gesticulating interjections, shaking his head.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! All comments will go through the chair, please.

Mr BLEIJIE: I have been briefed on the 2018 SMEC report. I am sure the ministers in the conga line of the Labor government would have been briefed on the leaky pool—whether it was the member for McConnel or the member for Murrumba when he was the state development minister.

The Crisafulli government is delivering this fresh start, with a refocused board ably led by Karen Howard who has over 25 years experience as a board chair and non-executive director serving on government, private and public boards throughout her career. Ms Howard has been charged by the Queensland government with ensuring that the iconic South Bank precinct and lagoon are fit for purpose for when the eyes of the world are on Queensland in 2032 and beyond and that the safety of patrons is first and foremost.

I also congratulate the new South Bank Corporation board members—Ms Sarah Vogler, Mr Matthew Bourke, Mr Liam McMahon, Ms Elia Hill and the Hon. Trevor Evans—who are joining Ms Fiona Sperou and Mr Shane Goodwin and are driving the change within the organisation required. Queenslanders can be confident that the Crisafulli government will guarantee that essential maintenance works continue to occur. Refilling of the lagoon commenced this week so that patrons will be able to once again enjoy the entire precinct when the lagoon reopens shortly.

Federal Government, GST



Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (11.07 am): For too long, Queenslanders have heard nothing from their elected Labor representatives about the dire consequences of Canberra's GST rip-off. There was not a peep from those opposite about the record \$2.1 billion distribution of GST away from Queensland last year and into the coffers of New South Wales and Victoria via Canberra's GST washing machine. There was nothing from the Labor MPs and senators who share the halls of Parliament House with Jim Chalmers in Canberra. Queenslanders cannot afford for their elected representatives to remain silent. They need them to advocate and fight for Queensland's fair share. That is why I have written to every elected Queensland MP and senator in the federal parliament urging them to call on the federal government and federal Treasurer, Jim Chalmers, who is a Queensland, to fix Australia's broken GST distribution system.

The federal Productivity Commission's interim report this month proved with an evidence base what we have been saying for years: the current system is broken and it does not properly recognise Queensland's resources sector. The Productivity Commission's frank diagnosis proves that the system penalises states like Queensland for developing resources in the national interest, while rewarding those states that do not and choose not to. Mr Speaker, do you know who I did not bother writing to? I did not bother writing to that lot over there because they have no interest in standing up for Queensland.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: I am coming to that, member for Chatsworth. They have no interest because they only care about the politics.

Let me tell honourable members that it was a different story from those opposite when there was a different colour of government in Canberra. It was a very different story. I decided I would go to the record and have a look at how much they used to speak about those three little letters, GST, compared to today. From 2015, from the election of the Palaszczuk government, which coincided with coalition governments federally, to the end of the coalition government in Canberra in 2022 they spoke about the GST a lot. The member for Murrumba, the Leader of the Opposition; the shadow treasurer, the

member for Waterford; of course, the member for Woodridge, the former treasurer; and in particular the then treasurer of the day, the guardian angel of the shadow treasurer, Jackie Trad, spoke about it a lot. She mentioned the GST 147 times while the coalition government was in power in Canberra. What has happened to those opposite? How much have they spoken about the GST since Anthony Albanese became Prime Minister and Jim Chalmers, a Queenslander, became Treasurer?

A government member: Crickets.

Mr JANETZKI: Since May 2022—zero. There have been crickets. The member for Waterford, the shadow treasurer, and the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Murrumba, have not talked about the GST once. That goes to show how much they care about Queenslanders. That is even in the face of the biggest distribution away from our state in GST history.

After a decade of the fiscal vandalism from those opposite, putting Queensland on the trajectory to a credit rating downgrade, the state cannot afford to miss out on an equitable GST share, but we know it is not coming from those opposite. Jim Chalmers must listen to the advice of the Productivity Commission and adopt a discount on the assessment of mining revenues. He must stop penalising states that develop resources in the national interest. Western Australia is recognised—is rewarded—for its natural resources and contribution to the national economy. Queensland is penalised. We are not asking for a special deal; we are just asking for a fair deal.

Gold Coast Transport Plan



Hon. BA MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.11 am): The Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland. This is no more evident than on the Gold Coast, where we have announced a city-shaping generational transport program. As part of the Gold Coast Transport Plan we will deliver projects right across the Gold Coast, from the northern end to the southern end and extending west of the Pacific Motorway. The Gold Coast Transport Plan presents a blueprint to meet the needs of a rapidly growing population, to support the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and, perhaps most importantly, to leave a long-term legacy for Gold Coast residents, workers and visitors for generations to come. I table a copy of the plan.

Tabled paper: Document titled 'Gold Coast Transport Plan' [[1499](#)].

Central to the plan is the acceleration of major transport projects that will reshape how people move across the Gold Coast. The Gold Coast Light Rail network will expand with a 3.2 kilometre extension from the Gold Coast University Hospital to Biggera Waters at Harbour Town. The GC Surfer will connect Robina, Varsity Lakes, Burleigh Heads, Gold Coast Airport and Coolangatta. Supported by priority intersection upgrades along the Gold Coast Highway in Palm Beach and Bilinga and a new integrated public transport interchange at Gold Coast Airport, this new high-frequency metro-style service will provide fast and reliable travel.

The GC Surfer will improve access to key sporting and entertainment venues such as People First Stadium, the Gold Coast Sports and Leisure Centre and the Gold Coast convention centre ahead of the games. A high-frequency Robina to Miami metro-style service will improve connectivity to Bond University and emerging destinations in Miami. Two new bridges on the Hope Island road at Jabiru Island will improve the northern Gold Coast connectivity; and the delivery of new pedestrian bridges in Broadbeach linking major shopping, hospitality and entertainment precincts will also be prioritised. The plan includes delivery of stage 2 of the Coomera Connector between Pimpama and Coomera with expressions of interest already opened to refine the design. These investments sit alongside an extensive pipeline of road, public transport and active transport upgrades aimed at easing congestion, improving safety and supporting a more accessible, connected and livable city.

Contrast our plans with that of those opposite. I say their 'plan' but it was little more than a single, unaffordable, undeliverable light rail extension that was not wanted by the majority of southern Gold Coast residents. Most importantly, Labor cannibalised over 40 per cent of the heavy rail corridor between Varsity and the Gold Coast Airport for upgrades to the M1 at Tugun. As part of our Gold Coast Transport Plan we will fill in those missing pieces on the heavy rail corridor to ensure it is preserved for the future and can be built in the future.

This is a real plan for real infrastructure on the Gold Coast that Gold Coasters can rely on. Better roads, better rail and better public transport that will get them home sooner and safer—that is what the Gold Coast Transport Plan will deliver for Queenslanders.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Visitors to Public Gallery

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Members, we have been joined in the gallery by students from the Hemmant Flexible School from the electorate of Lytton.

ABSENCE OF MINISTER

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (11.15 am): I advise the House that the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training will be absent from today's sitting. I advise that the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership will answer questions for the minister in question time.

REPORTS

Mr Crandon: Mr Speaker—

Mr Stevens: Mr Speaker—

Mr Crandon: I had the call.

Mr Stevens: I will leave it up to the Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: If I look in front of me, the microphone tells me the member for Coomera got the jump.

Queensland Audit Office

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (11.16 am): It is my time to shine! I lay upon the table of the House a report of the Queensland Audit Office titled *Annual report 2025-26*, pursuant to section 72AA of the Auditor-General Act 2009. I commend the report to the House.

Tabled paper: Queensland Audit Office—Annual Report 2025-26 [[1500](#)].

Ethics Committee

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (11.16 am): I am used to running second! I lay upon the table of the House the following report of the Ethics Committee, Report No. 247 titled *Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 15 October 2025 relating to an alleged deliberate misleading of the House by the Leader of the Opposition and Deputy Leader of the Opposition*. I commend the report to the House.

Tabled paper: Ethics Committee: Report No. 247, 58th Parliament—Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 15 October 2025 relating to an alleged deliberate misleading of the House by the Leader of the Opposition and Deputy Leader of the Opposition [[1501](#)].

Office of the Leader of the Opposition

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.16 am): I lay upon the table of the House the public record of office expenses relating to the financial period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 for the Office of the Leader of the Opposition.

Tabled paper: Public Report of Office Expenses for the Office of the Leader of the Opposition for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 [[1502](#)].

NOTICE OF MOTION

Disallowance of Statutory Instrument

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (11.17 am): I give notice that I will move—

That clauses 4 and 7 of the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Variation of Waste Levy) Amendment Regulation 2026, subordinate legislation No. 87 of 2026, tabled in the House on 25 August 2026, be disallowed.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time today will conclude at 12.17 pm.

Domestic and Family Violence, Police Response



Mr MILES (11.17 am): My question is to the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. I table a question on notice that shows police response times for domestic violence incidents.

Tabled paper: Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee: Estimates 2026—Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 12 to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services [\[1503\]](#).

Has the minister raised concerns with the police minister about life-threatening code 1 DV incidents taking more than 4½ hours, a code 2 incident taking 15 days and a code 3 incident taking almost 30 days?

Ms CAMM: I thank the member for the question and for, once again, highlighting the critical issue confronting our community, the scourge of domestic and family violence and the impact it is having each and every day both on victim-survivors and their families and on the frontline police. It is why we made a commitment to Queenslanders that we would increase the number of frontline police to be able to respond to all victims of crime.

Mrs Poole: And we did.

Ms CAMM: I will take that interjection from the North Queensland member, a former police officer. We have done that. Just yesterday I was standing alongside the police minister and the Attorney-General meeting new recruits who have just graduated. They were at the Calamvale police station, which services a growing community. We heard firsthand not only their excitement to serve our great state but also the demand on the system and on services.

It is why on this side of the House we as ministers have been working together. It is why we on this side of the House gave police extra powers in relation to the domestic violence act and police protection directions. We inherited an increase in domestic and family violence over the last decade of almost 200 per cent. With that comes an increased number of victims.

I will continue to update the House and Queenslanders on the work we have done with DVConnect and why that is so important. The member may be interested to know that for the Redbourne referrals that police provide for victim-survivors—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to standing order 118 and relevance. The question was whether or not she had raised these issues with the police minister.

Mr SPEAKER: The question was around response times and communication so could you come to that in your response, Minister.

Ms CAMM: With regard to communication, wait times et cetera, the former government oversaw a crisis line that had a call answer rate of less than half—

Ms Grace: Oh, here we go!

Ms CAMM: Here we go. I will take that interjection from the member for McConnel. The fact is that the former government funded DVConnect to the tune of about \$10 million and they only answered one out of two phone calls. Police were referring victim-survivors to help them do the safety planning for those victim-survivors. The Redbourne referrals that police gave to DVConnect for victim-survivors who needed safety planning and who may actually have needed to escape their home and their community relied upon a call answer rate of less than 50 per cent under those opposite.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. There are only 18 seconds left.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister is being responsive. She also took an interjection from the opposition and she is responding to that interjection.

Mr SPEAKER: That is the point I was just about to make. The minister took an interjection. She is responding to an interjection as is her right. This is what happens when you interject.

Ms CAMM: Alongside frontline police we have also embedded specialist domestic violence workers in police stations and funded them through to 2030. This is to help respond to the frontline demand that we inherited from those opposite. We will continue to work together and we will work to deliver more reform.

Domestic and Family Violence, GPS Trackers

Ms McMILLAN: My question is to the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. In February 2025, the minister said 150 GPS trackers for high-risk DV perpetrators would be fitted by year's end. How many have been issued to date?

Ms CAMM: I thank the member for the question. I thank the member for highlighting a policy of the Crisafulli government to deliver electronic monitoring devices as a pilot in Queensland.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Ms CAMM: I will take the interjection from the Premier. The former government had 10 years to roll out something with regard to perpetrator programs. It could have rolled out some consequences for actions. The police minister and I looked at the model that has been very successful in Tasmania. It has taken Tasmania over a decade to get to the point they are at with monitoring high-risk perpetrators.

I will explain to members of the House and Queenslanders how the pilot works. We brought in legislative reform under the domestic violence act to enable police officers to make recommendations and, in fact, allow the courts to make a decision about those devices as part of their assessment of high-risk perpetrators. I think one thing both sides of the House would agree on is that the number of high-risk perpetrators in this state is unacceptable. That is why the Attorney-General will introduce the toughest bail laws our state has ever seen.

Those bail laws will operate along with our electronic monitoring pilot in Townsville and Caboolture. I might add for the benefit of members opposite that this is currently operating in the court system with domestic violence specialist CADA, which has been funded, in the areas that the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Pine Rivers represent—areas that had one of the highest numbers of high-risk perpetrators in this state. What did they do in their 10 years in government? Nothing. They had no policies focused on persons using violence. We have given the courts the tools. We have given police officers the tools and the opportunity—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question clearly sought a number.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I will make the ruling. The minister is talking about the trackers, as I understand. Minister, you have 40 seconds remaining.

Ms CAMM: I can update the House that we have delivered the pilot in a form that gives the judiciary the independence and decision-making power, which I think all members of the House would respect and understand.

With Breach Bail, Go to Jail, if it is a revolving door or perpetrators are getting off, we will come back to the House and deliver a second tranche of domestic violence reforms—watch this space, shadow minister—to further strengthen the laws and deliver the election commitment that we made to Queenslanders.

Community Safety

Mrs POOLE: My question is to Premier and Minister for Veterans. How is the Crisafulli LNP government prioritising community safety across Queensland, and is the Premier aware of any approaches that failed to keep Queensland communities safe during a decade of decline?

Mr CRISAFULLI: It is a great question because today is truly an historic day. I acknowledge the member for Mundingburra. I listened to her contribution the other day. In it she spoke about how she, the member for Thuringowa, the member for Townsville and the member for Hinchinbrook have hunted as a pack to drive the reform. I acknowledge the other members of this House for doing so.

The reason it is historic is this is the next step in Adult Crime, Adult Time. It is exactly what we promised. Police data does show that for the first time victim numbers are heading in the right direction. When you consider that massive rise under those opposite—193 per cent over 10 years—it shows why we have to do more, which is why we are doing more from today.

This is the biggest change to bail laws in the state's history. They will be the strongest bail laws in the country. If you breach your bail you will go to jail for a minimum mandatory period of 12 months. What does it apply to? The reason I am very confident in this process is that we have done the work and we have listened to the community. It applies to the 47 Adult Crime, Adult Time offences, but we are also including adult offenders. The community have spoken to us and said that that is important.

Equally, we believe it is essential that we target sexual offenders as well, which is why, as I said in my ministerial statement, we are ensuring it focuses heavily on that. It is also the case for coercive control and some of the other high-profile offences such as strangulation, stalking and assault—those offences that are the forefront of why we must clamp down.

We are confident about this change because it focuses on the hardcore, repeat offenders who commit serious crimes. You cannot use the excuse that some have that this is about someone who runs out of luck and makes an innocent mistake. It is repeat and it is serious. It is over and over again. It attaches to the offence those who breach their bail conditions.

I will respond to pushback from those opposite who send out the same conga line of people who have made the same excuses not to do something for a decade. That is around capacity. We are doing the work in that space. The minister has brought on new capacity. There is more coming into the system. Stronger laws, coupled with early intervention and rehabilitation, will send a message for people to turn their behaviour around. There is one choice that needs to be made: do you want them in a cell or do you want them in people's homes? We choose Queenslanders.

Domestic Violence Orders, Breaches

Ms FENTIMAN: My question is to the Minister for Police. Queenslanders are prevented from owning a gun when they breach a domestic violence order. Can the minister advise why police officers who breach a domestic violence order can return to work?

Mr PURDIE: I appreciate the question from the former attorney-general, who I think should probably know a little bit more about this. The premise of her question goes to XPR and the campaign she has been putting online. As she would know, that matter is currently being resolved and litigated through QCAT. While there are different legal opinions and we are waiting for the outcome, we demand the highest professional standards and ethical conduct by police. Any police officer who is the subject of a domestic and family violence complaint or order will have their weapons taken from them, and they subsequently cannot be deployed to respond to domestic and family violence or to any other job without a weapon. That is why the campaign that the member for Waterford and those opposite have been running is reckless at best and dangerous at worst.

If there is one victim—one vulnerable woman or child—out in the community who is not confident to pick up the phone and call the police when they need help because of the campaign those opposite have been running to undermine our police, that is devastating. This is the third day that they have come in here, when it is politically expedient, to ask questions about victims of domestic and family violence and yesterday about child sex abuse. Those matters to me are not political; they are personal. I worked at the homicide squad. I have worked in child abuse units. There are people in jail now—I put them there—for murdering their partners or torturing and killing their kids. If you want to come in here and ask me questions about vulnerable victims of domestic and family violence and child abuse, I am happy to answer because they did nothing.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Interjections will cease. Minister, direct your comments through the chair instead of arguing across the chamber.

Mr PURDIE: For 10 years they did nothing. As the DV incidents and calls for service went up by over 200 per cent, they did nothing.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Waterford, if you keep interjecting you will be warned.

Mr PURDIE: Let's hope I get more questions because there is a lot to say. Even the former president of the Queensland Police Union is on the record as saying that for 10 years—the whole time those opposite were in government—they were begging the government for better laws and better procedures to protect victims of domestic and family violence. We are doing that. In less than two years we have done more for victims of domestic and family violence and vulnerable children than they did in 10 years. We prioritise victims over perpetrators, every time. Every time we land on the side of victims. They want to come here and use this as a political football, but it is personal to me and it is personal for the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence for different reasons. I am happy to spend the rest of question time today talking about what we are doing to protect victims of crime in Queensland.

Workplace Safety

Mr BAILLIE: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. How is the Crisafulli LNP government keeping Queenslanders on job sites safe at work and at home, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative policies that continue to fail the safety of Queenslanders?

Mr BLEIJIE: Honourable members will not believe it to look at this distinguished gentleman, but the member for Townsville used to be a sparkie; he was on construction sites. He knows all too well the issues of the CFMEU on construction sites in Queensland and the vulnerable state of sparkies, construction workers and chippies and the bullying and the harassment—but we are not going to tolerate it. He knows as well as anyone else that this government will not tolerate that type of behaviour in our workplaces, and we are not going to tolerate it across Queensland. Last night the Labor Party had the chance—

Mr J Kelly interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Greenslopes.

Mr BLEIJIE: The Leader of the Opposition had the chance to take a strong stance against repeat offenders, whether they are youth or they are adults—

Mr J Kelly interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Greenslopes, I only just cautioned you. You are warned.

Mr BLEIJIE: The member for Murrumba, the Leader of the Opposition, had a choice yesterday. He could have stood on the side of victims or offenders and he chose the offenders. They voted against a motion which would have supported a mandatory minimum of 12 months jail for offenders who breach their bail. He voted against it. The entire Labor caucus voted against it. They are in such a shambles as they head into their conference this weekend. We know that they have gagged their members in the past. They backed the offenders yesterday, not the victims.

We will introduce nation-leading laws this afternoon. An article in the *Courier-Mail* recently, 'Queensland Labor braces for "all-out brawl" over proposed rule change', suggests that the left reigns supreme in the Labor Party because of their far left ideology and their support for perpetrators, not victims. It will show on the floor on the conference this weekend. The article states—

A Labor Right source—

I wonder who it is over there—

said the factions were now "gearing up for an all-out brawl" against the Left this weekend.

Mr Speaker, I put it to you that it has already started. We know that the leader of the right in the Labor party is the member for Woodridge. He has been on a leadership tour around the state in the last two weeks, but he has not taken the member for Murrumba, Pine Rivers, McConnel, Gaven, Waterford or Springwood. He has not taken them on his leadership tour, but he has taken someone in the Labor caucus on his leadership tour. Members may be surprised. The coup is clearly happening. The member for Ipswich West, Wendy Bourne, was on his leadership tour last week across the state. He was showing who his preferred deputy leader is. Give us a break! The member for Murrumba had a test of leadership yesterday—to back victims—and he failed.

(Time expired)

Domestic and Family Violence, Response

Ms LINARD: My question is to the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Yesterday the Attorney-General said in this House—

Every unanswered call potentially represents somebody who found the courage to ask for help but was not answered.

Why did the minister's chief of staff tell a DV victim-survivor that she was no longer welcome to phone the minister's offices and would be hung up on if she called again?

Ms CAMM: I would ask the member to authenticate that.

Ms LINARD: It has been published, Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Do you have the publication? Where was it published?

Mr de BRENNI: I submit to you we can authenticate that. It has been reported in the media. I am happy to provide it.

Tabled paper: Article from The *Guardian* online, dated 8 August 2026, titled 'A Queensland domestic violence victim was promised a voice—then told she was no longer welcome to call the minister's office' [1504].

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In relation to the question asked by the member for Nudgee, when she stated the question she stated it as fact and I would submit the question should be ruled out of order because it is a report as opposed to making a statement of fact.

Mr SPEAKER: I will take advice. It is up to the minister. She now has an opportunity to repudiate that or answer it. I will give the minister the document that was provided.

Ms CAMM: This is a media report containing an allegation. In my view, the former minister has made an imputation about my office. I have been clear with the media that there has been no misconduct from my ministerial office.

Community Safety

Ms MARR: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. How is the Crisafulli LNP government placing consequences for actions at the forefront of community safety in Queensland, and is the Attorney aware of any policies that would see dangerous criminals face no penalties from the decade of decline?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I thank the member for Thuringowa, who has advocated for the Breach Bail, Go to Jail laws that I will be introducing later this afternoon. It is wonderful to stand in the chamber to show a group of students from Kingaroy State High School, the minister for agriculture's old school, what can happen when you advocate on behalf of your community. The community of the South Burnett is not alone in the state when it comes to having offenders out on bail. They have the privilege of bail. It is a privilege, not a right. If you are on bail and you decide to go out and commit a serious offence then you will get a minimum mandatory 12 months imprisonment. If you do not want to go to jail or go to juvie for 12 months, do not commit the crime. My kids from Kingaroy State High School know that and that is why they are here learning.

The kids from Kingaroy State High School might wonder what the difference is between our side—the Crisafulli LNP government—and the Labor opposition. I will tell them: 10 years of watering down the youth justice laws, 10 years of ensuring that kids could go out and commit crimes with no consequences for their actions. They prioritise the offenders and we prioritise the victims. We prioritise the people whose cars have been stolen and whose homes have been broken into. That is whom we think about each and every day when we decide to change the laws.

This weekend the opposition in Queensland have their Labor Party state conference. They are bound by what their members decide. This is why you have to think about the LNP versus Labor. They think they should raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14.

Mr Bleijie: 'Vote 1 Deb Frecklington'!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The kids of Kingaroy State High School know that in me as their local member they have someone who is standing up for the safety of the people of the South Burnett. We are also standing up for the safety of all Queenslanders. That is the difference. This weekend those opposite will fight over raising the age of criminal responsibility while on this side of the chamber we commit to never raising the age of criminal responsibility. Under the Crisafulli government here in Queensland Breach Bail, Go to Jail is about keeping Queenslanders safe.

Child Safety

Ms MULLEN: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. I table question on notice 526 of May 2024 which shows the minister asked the former government for an update on the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce reports and was provided a comprehensive answer. When will the minister do the same?

Tabled paper: Answer to question on notice No. 526 asked on 1 May 2024 [1505].

Ms CAMM: In opposition I did ask questions about the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce. I also stood up—I will never forget it—with the Premier with a pile of reports, including the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce recommendations, that the previous government—

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Ms CAMM: I will take that interjection—sat on for three years. They sat on the rollout of the oversight mechanism under their government, which was the implementation supervisor.

Ms Fentiman: The one that you sacked?

Ms CAMM: I will take that interjection from the member for Waterford. That is not the case. The implementation supervisor was not sacked. In her correspondence to me and in the meeting I as the minister had with her, it was her view that there was a need for pause and consolidation of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce recommendations.

Ms Fentiman: She did not recommend that she be sacked!

Ms CAMM: I will take that interjection. You cannot sack someone who is not employed by the government. She was subcontracted. We could go into that. We could go into the relationship she had with the former minister with regard to previous Public Service arrangements and her role in South Australia. I think we did prosecute that in opposition. I will spend my time on—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Logan is warned.

Ms CAMM:—the important work that is well underway, calmly and methodically, on delivering on the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce recommendations. The young people from the good Attorney-General's high school, Kingaroy State High School, will come to appreciate that in this House you can repeat yourself over and again and they will still ask you the same question over and again. I have provided updates on the recommendations those opposite had not delivered—the over 200 that were left undelivered. We have expanded the co-responder program. We have stood up the first sexual violence peak.

Mrs Frecklington: Increased funding by 48 per cent.

Ms CAMM: We have increased funding by 48 per cent. We have increased the implementation around courthouses and safety. We are delivering new innovative perpetrator programs. We are delivering on the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce recommendations. Those opposite decided to update Queenslanders when it suited them. We are delivering on the ground each and every day. People are seeing our delivery in action, not boxes being ticked by those opposite.

(Time expired)

Police Resources

Ms DOOLEY: My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering the laws and resources our police need to keep our communities safe and is the minister aware of any alternative policies that did not back our police?

Mr PURDIE: I thank the honourable member for the question. It was great to be up in Redcliffe not that long ago when we were announcing an upgrade to the old police station at Redcliffe, which unfortunately was a new police station when I was first deployed there as a young constable. The health minister was there as well. It is a great question because what we have shown in the under two years since we have come to government is that every decision we make will be about putting victims first. We do not politicise victims, we protect them, whether that is through laws or more police, which is in stark contrast to those opposite.

It was so disappointing yesterday when those opposite voted against mandatory sentencing for people who breach bail. It was devastating. It is a few days away from the 61st annual Labor state conference which, as is advertised, is the supreme policy-making forum where they set their strategy and direction. It is binding. I am confident that they have read the room. I am confident that they are starting to listen to victims. They are looking at the stats: the number of victims is going down. It went up under them. I hope they take the theme that they have been running this week, asking a lot of questions about victims of crime, into the conference. At the conference on the weekend hopefully they spend just as much time fighting for victims as they have here.

Unfortunately, the document that came out of the last one does not have much about victims. As I spoke about the other night, there is a line in there—I think it is 8.130—a policy decision, that to remove the stigma of the dock accused in criminal cases should be allowed to sit at the bar table. That is the sort of thing they debate. They do not back the police; they never have. They have never prioritised victims of crime. The question is: are they going to dedicate just as much time this weekend fighting for

victims as they are purporting to do here or are they going to come up with something else? Maybe a frequent flyer program for repeat offenders or maybe memory foam for young offenders in watch houses?

Every time they have a legitimate chance to protect victims they fail. They failed to increase the number of people on our streets. As I have said before, even in the electorate of the member for Waterford, the increase in domestic and family violence calls skyrocketed and the member did nothing. There were no extra police, no tougher laws and people did not trust the police. The campaign they are running now to undermine our police and the work they do to protect victims of domestic and family violence is dangerous. They need to be called out for that because we need victims of crime to have faith in our police. We back our police.

(Time expired)

Child Safety, Survey

Mr MILES: My question is to the Premier. The child safety minister scrapped the My Life in Care survey because she said people were being bribed and that she would instead listen to the Create Foundation. Is the Premier aware that the Create Foundation also offers \$50 gift vouchers to children who complete their survey?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the honourable member for the question. We very much believe in turning around a broken child safety system. It is a broken child safety system and everybody must acknowledge that. The honourable member must acknowledge that. There is now a line in the sand in the form of a royal commission.

Mr Miles: It took two years.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I take the interjection from the honourable member who said 'two years'. No, it is not, member; it is 10 years. It is a lot more than two years; it is 10 years. When I look across the chamber, the eyeballs I see looking at me now belong to the same people who failed the kids. That is what hurts the most. The same people who broke the system sit there and are rewarded. When a minister stands up and tries to fix a broken system and bring compassion, love and respect, the eyeballs looking up at me belong to the same people who failed the kids—the same ones. There are kids in care who were failed time and time again, and there is now a line in the sand. We must do better.

Mr Miles interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I again take the interjection from the honourable member. Ten years. Five ministers. When I read the royal commission reports, I know that there must be a line in the sand. We cannot get to 3,000 kids in care. We cannot have providers allowing things to happen that should not.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Waterford, that is the last time. You are now warned.

Mr CRISAFULLI: We cannot have providers creaming the system for 10 years, profiting off misery. We cannot have that. There is a line in the sand. It is about accountability.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. Could the Premier address the issue of the gift vouchers?

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to the point of order from the Manager of Opposition Business. There were a number of interjections that the Premier took. He is responding to those interjections. He is also being responsive to the question as asked and providing significant context.

Mr SPEAKER: Both are valid points of order. Members, the more you interject the more likely it is that the interjections will be taken. The Premier has heard the question about the survey.

Mr CRISAFULLI: In the commission of inquiry, people gave their feedback. They gave it and we listened. The kids gave feedback. The people in the system gave feedback. The foster carers who said, 'I'd give anything to look after another child if only the system was not so broken' gave feedback. I look at the former ministers who abrogated their responsibilities and went to music festivals when kids were dying. I look at the former ministers who gave the same excuses while kids were failed.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr Miles interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Murrumba, you asked the question.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Fixing the system is going to take money but more than that it will take compassion, discipline and focus. All I ask from those who broke the system is compassion and respect while we fix it.

Youth Crime, Response

Ms JAMES: My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering consequences for actions for youth offenders in Queensland and is the minister aware of any approaches that would see those consequences rolled back?

Mrs GERBER: I thank the member for Barron River for her advocacy for her community. The member for Barron River represents a Far North Queensland community that is at the epicentre of Labor's youth crime crisis. She has stood with victims time and again. Only last Saturday, the member for Barron River was at a crime rally in her community, alongside her colleague the member for Mulgrave. She stood with her community to support stronger bail laws after the tragic death of a local woman who was allegedly killed by an offender out on bail. Can members guess who was not there? The member for Cairns was not there!

The member for Barron River asks me about alternative approaches. The Labor opposition had an opportunity to stand on the side of victims and vote for stronger laws. They could have stood with Queenslanders and supported minimum mandatory periods of imprisonment for youth and adults who breach bail, but they voted against it. The member for Cairns voted against it. When it really matters, those opposite do not stand with victims. When it actually matters that they stand up and say they support victims of crime, they support stronger laws and they support reform to bail laws, they fail to do so.

The Labor convention is on this weekend. We know that their current policy platform says they want to raise the age of criminal responsibility and remove minimum mandatory sentencing. We know that that is their current policy platform. The questions for them now are these: what policies will they take to the state convention this weekend? Will they stand up for victims? Will they go into the policy forum and ask questions about victims of crime? Will they ensure their caucus passes policies that would give us stronger laws to protect victims of crime? Will they continue to be the weak-on-crime Labor opposition, as they have demonstrated time and again in this chamber?

What was on display yesterday makes it pretty clear: they will continue to vote against strong laws and they will continue to stand on the side of offenders, rather than victims. How much further will they go to weaken our laws at their policy forum? What other policies will be passed that will continue to weaken our laws? Labor removed consequences while we strengthened them. Labor removed breach of bail as an offence while we will ensure those on bail go to jail for 12 months if they continue to offend. We stand on the side of victims while those opposite would continue to weaken our laws. They voted against Adult Crime, Adult Time and they stand on the side of perpetrators.

(Time expired)

Bushfires, Area Mapping

Ms BOLTON: My question is to the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers. With governments having no mechanism to quickly correct verified errors in bushfire prone area mapping and with Simtable technology used for disaster planning based on that state data, how can residents and emergency services have confidence in modelled risk predictions when the underlying mapping is incorrect?

Ms LEAHY: I thank the member for the question. As the member is aware, the Queensland Fire Department does develop and maintain bushfire prone area mapping. The department has been working very closely with and consulting local governments because they also play a very important role in relation to bushfire mapping. They are all working with the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning on that bushfire area mapping.

I am very pleased that the member has raised this issue. It is very timely that she has asked this question because we are on the cusp of the commencement of the bushfire season across Queensland. I note she is concerned for her area and I appreciate those concerns. The Queensland Fire Department,

especially our Rural Fire Service, are ready and primed to answer calls in any part of the state, including her area of Noosa. We are very aware and cognisant of the bushfire threat that will come because we have had some fairly big seasons, as shown quite well by the disaster impacts we have had across the state.

I can also inform the member that it is not just about mapping; it is also about mitigation. Mitigation is really important, to ensure we prevent the bushfire threat as well. There have been hazard reduction burns happening across the state, and they have been done by our volunteers. I want to commend all of the volunteers who go out with our rural fire brigades. We have members in this House who are also members of their rural fire brigades.

I note that from 1 January to 31 July 2026 there have been almost 12,000 fire permits enacted by private landowners, some of which the member would have in her area. The Rural Fire Service have attended on over 1,498 of those particular permits. There are hundreds of community members engaged in activities taking place to target those high-risk bushfire zones.

I can also inform the House that the area bushfire management committees have met in every one of the 77 local government areas, with each LDMG noting their local bushfire risk mitigation plans. That includes the area of Noosa, and I know the member is very focused on that. I can also advise that our large area tanker, otherwise known as the LAT, has been contracted and it will commence in coming days. That will be available to the south-east corner. That will be available to other areas in the state. We also have another 14 contracted aircraft and another 200 aircraft available on call when needed.

Housing Supply

Mrs YOUNG: My question is of the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. How is the Crisafulli LNP government partnering with both the local government and industry to unlock more housing for Queenslanders, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any contradicting approaches during the decade of decline?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the honourable member for Redlands for the question. She is my assistant minister. Her key role as the assistant minister to the Minister for Housing is to build the houses we need so that Queenslanders have a place to call home and to build a foundation for success for people to have a home in Queensland. We know it. We have the jobs and the economic opportunity. The infrastructure is being built. Our fear in government—and in opposition at the time—was that if the CFMEU got their hands on the housing construction market it would lead to disastrous consequences in the residential housing community, just as we saw 30 per cent price increases on infrastructure across the state. We were not going to have it. That is why we abolished BPIC. That was one of the first things we did. We stopped it and then we abolished it.

I have to draw the attention of the House to some disturbing allegations that have just come out of the CFMEU royal commission, happening as we speak. On the stand is Amanda Yeates, a high-profile former senior public servant who had served for many years in the Department of Transport and Main Roads. Amanda Yeates has given testimony this morning that she was constantly abused by Michael Ravbar in meetings, called all sorts of things—offensive words that I cannot repeat in the chamber today. Amanda Yeates has given testimony that she raised these issues directly with former minister Mark Bailey at the time. She said that no action was taken. She also said that former minister Bailey told her to 'speak to Ravbar about it'. She also said, 'But he wanted me to keep the CFMEU happy.' She has also given testimony that Ravbar said to her in a meeting, when he saw her, 'You're a woman. Get me a glass of water.' This is the Michael Ravbar that the member for Waterford thanked in her first speech in this parliament, and this is their behaviour. She comes in here with the Labor Party and lectures people about victims and women. They oversaw this. They oversaw the misogyny. They oversaw the abuse.

Amanda Yeates also said—and I quote from the *Courier-Mail* now—

I remember that in the lead up to the 2020 election, I raised concerns about the CFMEU's behaviour in a number of meetings with Minister's staff.

It was emphasised to me that needed to keep the CFMEU happy.

In one of these meetings, I was told that the CFMEU had threatened to drive up and down George Street with a photo of the Minister's face on the back of their truck and this would impact his re-election prospects, so it was our job to keep them happy.

That is the behaviour that was overseen by the Labor Party. When are they going to apologise to those victims? When are they going to apologise to those women? When is the member for Murrumba going to apologise?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr Miles interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Deputy Premier and Leader of the Opposition, the quarrelling across the chamber finishes.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence at the word 'deranged' attributed by the Leader of the Opposition to me. I take offence and I ask him to withdraw.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr MILES: I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you.

Child Safety, Parent Survey

Dr O'SHEA: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. When will the minister release the 2025 Child Safety Parent Survey?

Ms CAMM: I thank the member for the question. As we work through the government's response and delivery of the recommendations of the commission of inquiry, we are reviewing a lot of operations across the child safety system—in fact, a lot of the advisory boards and the other mechanisms through which we seek advice, like the children in care survey that I swiftly cancelled because it did not align, in my view, with the transparency and integrity with which we want to run Child Safety.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms CAMM: They may laugh, but the commission of inquiry was not funny. The commission of inquiry highlighted a broken child safety system. Through the views expressed by stakeholders, by parents, by foster carers, by kinship carers, by grandparents—in fact, I have a whole pile of correspondence here on my desk, and I still receive daily complaints about the failures of the system we inherited from those opposite.

We are calmly and methodically working through the commission of inquiry responses. We are calmly and methodically bringing forward significant legislative change that we will deliver later this year. We are calmly and methodically looking to change the culture, frankly, both within my department and externally and the way in which we respect stakeholders. The foster and kinship carer families' experiences of the child safety system under those opposite were laid bare in the commission of inquiry. There was a revolving door of ministers—five former ministers—where no-one wanted to take accountability for the failures which they continued to pass around the cabinet benches like a hot potato.

Mr Krause: Always washing data.

Ms CAMM: I will take that interjection from the member: always washing data. The commission of inquiry got to the root causes and the failures within the child safety system. I say to the member: we have drawn a line in the sand. All of the things that those opposite touted that made them look good, that made the system look good, we will be reviewing. We will be delivering our government's response to the recommendations of the commission of inquiry. That is our delivery plan for Queenslanders. That is our commitment to parents, carers, grandparents, foster carers and kinship carers—to fix the broken child safety system.

Transport Infrastructure Projects, Worker Safety

Mr G KELLY: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. How is the Crisafulli government delivering transport projects while keeping workers safe from harm, and is the minister aware of any instances where TMR staff were put in harm's way during a decade of decline?

Mr MICKELBERG: I thank the member for Mirani for his question. He is a hardworking member who advocates for his community. He is delivering for his community through upgrades on the Bruce Highway and upgrades to May Downs Road. The contrast could not be greater between the member for Mirani's advocacy and that which we see from the Labor opposition.

I am asked how TMR staff were put in harm's way during a decade of decline. Recently I was joined by the Premier at the QTRIP industry briefing at 61 Mary Street—a briefing which describes and details our \$59.9 billion investment in transport and main roads projects. For those members who are

not aware, that is the same briefing that CFMEU thugs stormed in 2022. CFMEU thugs stormed 61 Mary Street and went from room to room looking for the then director-general, Neil Scales. Where was the then minister for transport and main roads? He was not there. He was supposed to be there, mind you, but he did not show up while CFMEU thugs stormed the building.

What did the then minister for transport and main roads do in response to the CFMEU putting the workers in his department at risk? The Deputy Premier has just spoken about the disgraceful treatment the then deputy director-general, Amanda Yeates, received at the hands of the CFMEU. What would you expect a minister of the Crown to do in that instance? You would expect them to deal with it, to address it. You would expect them to front up and address the bullying, the misogyny and the disgraceful behaviour. Security guards in a TMR building got knocked to the ground and the minister did nothing. Not only did he do nothing; he doubled down.

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

Mr MICKELBERG: He doubled down—

Mr BAILEY: Point of order, Speaker.

Mr MICKELBERG:—and directed the department to meet with the CFMEU.

Mr BAILEY: Point of order, Speaker! Sit down, Noddy!

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! You are going to sit down for a moment too. I am going to take advice on that outburst. Order! First, I will hear your point of order and then I will come back to that outburst.

Mr BAILEY: I have two points of order, Speaker. Firstly, I take personal offence at what the minister has said as it is not true, and I ask that he withdraw. My second point of order is that the minister blatantly continued speaking for a long period of time after the point of order was made, and that is clearly grossly disorderly.

Mr SPEAKER: Firstly, the member took personal offence, so I ask you to withdraw, please, Minister.

Mr MICKELBERG: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, it is up to me to conduct the running of the House. It is not for you to stand up and yell across the chamber. That was grossly disorderly. You are now warned, and you will apologise for that behaviour.

Mr BAILEY: I apologise.

Mr MICKELBERG: The then minister for transport and main roads—and, to be very clear, we are talking about the member for Miller here—is reported as describing the CFMEU's behaviour at that time as 'unions being unions', condoning the behaviour we saw at 61 Mary Street in the storming of the QTRIP industry briefing. He was condoning the bullying and misogyny of Amanda Yeates.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Again, I take personal offence at the comments of the minister, which are not accurate, and I ask that they be withdrawn.

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

Mr MICKELBERG: I withdraw. Today is a test for the Leader of the Opposition. He has been silent on breach of bail. He has been silent on the CFMEU's conduct for months now. Today he needs to go outside and front up. He needs to go out and address these disgraceful actions of the CFMEU. Following a female public servant's kids home and threatening them—that is the CFMEU's record, condoned by Labor ministers. The Leader of the Opposition needs to go out there after question time and front up. We know that at the Labor conference on the weekend they will want to see the CFMEU moved out of administration. They want to see a return of BPIC. They want to see this behaviour back on Queensland job sites.

(Time expired)

Child Safety, Census

Ms BOURNE: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. The minister referred to the child safety census report as an independent report produced by the Queensland Family and Child Commission. Can the minister confirm that that census, like the My Life in Care Survey, was produced by the child safety department?

Ms CAMM: The My Life in Care Survey, which was presented to me by my department, gathers the opinions of children within the child safety system. I am still perplexed as to why those opposite are obsessed with a survey that was developed by the department under their watch that speaks of children's experience in the child protection system as one where everyone is happy and everyone is enjoying their time there, which is in complete contrast to the facts that were uncovered in the commission of inquiry.

I cannot be clearer, the Premier cannot be clearer and our government cannot be clearer: we have drawn a line in the sand. It beggars belief what the five former ministers across the chamber loved about the child safety system. The policies they created and the things they thought were delivering change were uncovered—

Ms McMillan interjected.

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

Ms CAMM:—in the report *From pressure to purpose: reforming child protection in Queensland*. I recognise that the member was not in the House prior to that and was not associated with the former cabinet ministers who sat around the decision-making table. The commission of inquiry uncovered the fact that no decisions were made by ministers. They took no interest in the child safety system. They were not allowed to go to CBRC. They were not given the resources. That is the record of the former Labor government, and that is how they prioritise children in care.

Building and Construction Industry, Productivity

Mrs STOKER: My question is for the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership. What action is the Crisafulli LNP government taking to restore productivity to Queensland's worksites, and is the Treasurer aware of any approaches that were different and saw productivity plummet during a decade of decline?

Mr SPEAKER: Treasurer, there is only one minute left.

Mr JANETZKI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to get it in, because we are going to call for it once more. After the evidence before the commission of inquiry this morning, the Deputy Premier and the minister have said there is only one question for today: will the Leader of the Opposition stand up and explain themselves? I know that after what we have heard today there should now be urgency motion after urgency motion condemning the CFMEU at the conference this weekend. It is not just a test for the opposition leader today; it is a test for those opposite.

Will there be condemnatory motions at their conference on the weekend? Will there be urgency motions against the former transport and main roads minister and against the former industrial relations minister? We know what the meetings were like on the second range crossing in February 2018—there were threats from the industrial relations minister to win contracts. It is a test for the opposition leader. It is a test for their conference to bring urgency motions condemning the CFMEU and condemning their former ministers for their failures, their silence, their acquiescence and their weakness.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired. I note that we have students and teachers from MacGregor State High School in the gallery, and we welcome them.

HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 4 June (see p. 1731).

Second Reading

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Before I call the Minister for Health, I ask members to leave the chamber quickly and quietly. I also remind the members for Greenslopes, Logan, Waterford, Mansfield and Miller that they are on warnings.



Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (12.18 pm):
I move—

The bill be now read a second time.

This bill delivers a practical and forward-looking package of reforms. It is about building a health system that is ready to meet the challenges of a growing state and responsive to the needs of patients and communities. Across a range of areas these reforms will strengthen Queensland's public health system, improve patient outcomes, support safe and professional practice, and enhance our capacity to protect the health and safety of Queenslanders, most importantly.

Before I turn to the details of the bill, I would like to acknowledge the work of the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee in conducting its inquiry into the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 and the individuals and organisations who contributed to that inquiry. I want to acknowledge the committee's support for the bill and its one and only one, recommendation that the bill be passed. I also note there was no statement of reservation.

Let me deal firstly with the amendments regarding the Hospital and Health Boards Act. Queenslanders rightly expect a public health system capable of meeting the challenges of a growing and aging population in Australia's most decentralised state. Under our Hospital Rescue Plan, the Crisafulli government is building three new hospitals, delivering 10 major hospital expansions and delivering dozens of other investments and upgrades right across the state. This is indeed the largest investment in our health system ever, and delivering these projects is vital to the future health and wellbeing of our communities. However, hospitals cannot be built or expanded without the land they need.

This bill amends the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 to empower Queensland Health to manage compulsory acquisition processes directly rather than through another agency, as occurs under the current arrangements. This will enable us to deliver the projects we have underway in a timely and cost efficient fashion. We compare this to the failures of Labor's failed capacity expansion program. We recall the independent review by Mr Sam Sangster which found that none of the projects that Labor had supposedly commenced were capable of delivery within either the timeframe or the original budget specified and to continue with the failed capacity expansion program was an exercise in futility. It is important that we place things in context and do not forget that what Labor told people they were going to do was in fact incapable of being delivered. It was also the case that Infrastructure Partnerships Australia warned the former government of that two years earlier in 2022 when they first released their doomed capacity expansion program. That is why their chief executive came out and said that Labor's failed capacity expansion program was little more than a mirage of media releases—a mirage of media releases.

We are now getting on with the delivery of our Hospital Rescue Plan, a plan that will see over \$4 billion being expended this year on the delivery of major projects. I have recently made announcements in relation to the early contractor involvement arrangements with CPB in Bundaberg. We have announced the billion dollar master plan for Cairns. We have announced early contractor engagement with Lendlease at Redcliffe. We have engagement and early contractor involvement with John Holland at Toowoomba. All of those projects are progressing at a pace because we have taken the time to plan properly to ensure that delivery can continue.

On projects that were already in flight we have completed the missing components, whether that is substations at QEII, if memory serves me, or whether that is fixing the missing kitchens and safety works at the PA Hospital. Those projects are now progressing at pace because we got rid of BPIC, the conditions that the Labor Party imposed on all of these projects that added enormously to cost and time delay. In fact, we have heard today just how offensive those BPIC conditions were. We have seen in the material that has been placed before the commission of inquiry this morning just how dangerous a return to the old days of those opposite would be to the delivery of programs, whether that is in transport or, indeed, the Hospital Rescue Plan, and what that would mean—increased costs, increased delays, increased union thuggery and increased berating of public servants simply trying to do their job. Let me be clear: these amendments are about doing what Labor could not do, and that is deliver the hospitals that Queenslanders need within budget and on time.

Let me be very clear: compulsory acquisition is never the preferred option. It remains a measure of last resort, and the government will only ever exercise these powers judiciously and compassionately, as is appropriate, and where all prior negotiations have failed. Where land must be acquired to deliver critical health infrastructure, Queensland Health should be able to lead that process and engage directly

with the individuals and communities affected. The people who engage should be the people who work for Queensland Health in those HHSs because they know their communities. They are intimately involved and invested in the success of those projects.

In my travels around the state talking to the executives, the clinicians and the teams involved, they want to deliver for Queenslanders. Now they are being given the freedom by the Crisafulli LNP government to get on and do that. No clearer example of that is in Cairns, where we are delivering the largest health investment in Far North Queensland's history—our \$1 billion plan—where the Premier and I recently opened the new 32-bed ward on time to get that facility operating more quickly to provide those services. Also, at Cairns South we announced the new CT and MRI machines with the additional breast scanning technology. We did that with the two James, if I recall correctly—Bree and Terry, the members for Barron River and Mulgrave respectively.

Creating these standalone powers within Queensland Health will provide a single point of accountability within government, both for acquiring the land needed for the Hospital Rescue Plan and for delivering the plan itself.

There is another important reason for this reform, and that is hospitals are different from other public infrastructure such as roads or transport corridors. For someone whose property is acquired for a new or expanded hospital, their relationship with the hospital does not end when the acquisition is complete. Many will continue to engage with the hospital for health care or employment, or both. Enabling Queensland Health to lead these processes supports a more responsive and compassionate approach, recognising the ongoing connection between a hospital and its local community. Again, there is possibly no better example than in Cairns, where we have engaged with the Red Cross in relation to the relocation of the 42 beds at the Red Cross facility just across the road from the main entrance to the Cairns hospital. We have engaged with them in relation to ensuring that the Red Cross has a home to go to as well, and there are many others.

The bill also expands the scope of purposes for which land can be acquired. Modern hospitals are not just wards, emergency departments and operating theatres. They depend on a much wider network of services and critical infrastructure to meet the needs of patients, families and staff. For example, this includes oncology and radiation clinics, consulting rooms, and pathology and imaging services—all of which benefit public patients.

As I have often said, Queensland Health cannot do the job alone. It needs to partner with those other non-government organisations to deliver the services that Queenslanders need across this wide and diverse state, but it should all be done with a view to the benefit of public patients. This legislation should reflect that reality, and this bill sets out to achieve this.

These are sensible and necessary reforms. They will put Queensland Health in the driver's seat. They will help ensure we can deliver the health infrastructure Queenslanders need, where and when they need it. It will avoid what we saw under the former government over a decade—that was the blowout in the hospital ramping rate to a quarterly record of over 45.5 per cent. We are now seeing it at 35.5 per cent in the most recent quarter. There is still much more work to be done. It is still not good enough, but the trend is heading in the right direction. It will mean that we will have the rooms and the suites available to deliver more surgeries and, in particular, more elective surgery. Notwithstanding the fact that we are already seeing declines—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Pause for a moment please, Minister for Health. What is your point of order, member for Miller?

Mr BAILEY: This bill does not deal with elective surgery in any way. The minister has strayed way off the topic of the bill. I ask that you rule and bring him back to the legislation.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any further points of order on that point of order? We are back to estimates. I will seek some advice from the Clerk. Minister for Health, I have heard the point of order. I did not quite hear exactly what you were saying just then. I ask you to explain how it is relevant to the bill and continue being relevant to the bill, please.

Mr NICHOLLS: The reforms that this bill contemplates in relation to the acquisition of land and the construction of hospitals and ancillary facilities leads to the delivery of better services, and the delivery of those better services means that people do not wait along. That is the whole point of this. We build hospitals so that the waiting lists that were experienced previously are not experienced in the future to the best extent possible. I think it pays to say that this is what has happened, this is why we are making the change and this is what we trust the change will deliver. We do not want to see elective

surgery waiting lists blow out as they did in the prior decade. There has been some improvement in them; they are down by 6,000. Things are looking on the up. We have invested money to make sure that is happening, but it can only happen in hospitals that are built. We need this power in order to do that. We saw what happened when you do nothing for a decade; that is, the elective surgery waiting list went from 35,000-odd to over 62,000. It is now back at 58,000. We saw emergency department ramping times blow out equally. I am happy to move on, because there are other aspects of the act that are also important.

I turn now to the amendments to the Mental Health Act. These amendments drew quite a number of submissions to the committee's inquiry because it makes a number of amendments to the Mental Health Act. While they deal with different parts of the act, they share a common purpose: improving the safety, effectiveness and practical operation of Queensland's mental health system. It is a large and complex system. First, the bill strengthens safety and security for our hardworking frontline staff. That is important. As I travel the state and talk to people in our EDs and psychiatric units, there is no doubt that staff safety has been allowed to slip. We are working hard to improve staff safety. When I was at the Prince Charles Hospital late last year, I was informed that I was the first health minister to visit the mental health ward to speak directly to the psychiatrists and hardworking staff and listen to their concerns, which led to the investment of further funds by Metro North into those facilities. Of course there is still more work to be done on that particular aspect, but at least we are starting to take steps. That is what these amendments do as well.

The bill strengthens the safety for our hardworking frontline staff by requiring the Chief Psychiatrist to make a policy addressing safety and security considerations for people being transferred from custodial settings to an authorised mental health service. This deals with transferring people from watch houses or prisons to an authorised mental health service and security during the transfer. There are some gaps in the interface between delivery by a custodial officer into the care of a health service. This allows the Chief Psychiatrist to make a policy to ensure that the safety of our staff is considered and addressed in that handover situation. That was also an election commitment we took to the last election to provide safety and security for staff in that area.

Second, the bill strengthens community safety by providing a power to detain a person charged with a serious offence for the purposes of examination for a Chief Psychiatrist initiated report. While it is rare for these powers to be used, these reports do play an important role in deciding whether a person should be diverted from the criminal justice system. This is a power to detain for a period of time to enable a psychiatrist to conduct a report that is necessary on occasion because people who present in those circumstances may be affected by drugs or alcohol or have a particular diagnosis that requires more than the currently permitted time to enable them to resume to a state where a psychiatrist can carry out a proper mental health assessment, so the current time of 24 hours may need to be extended as a result of that. They also inform the Mental Health Court's consideration of a person's mental state and whether an order for treatment or support is necessary to protect the community.

Thirdly, the bill provides that the Mental Health Review Tribunal may disclose personal information where necessary to lessen or prevent a serious risk to a person or the community at large. This is a practical safeguard that strengthens the protection of individuals and the community while bringing the tribunal's powers into line with existing hospital and health service disclosure powers. The two different bills have slightly different powers, and this brings them into alignment with the aim of ensuring safety for individuals and the community. The bill makes a number of technical amendments to improve the operation and clarity of the act.

The bill amends the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act to ensure it operates as parliament intended. Currently, the act prohibits pharmacy businesses from being accessible from a supermarket, but that prohibition was designed primarily for the physical environment and does not adequately address online arrangements. The principle should not change simply because the shopfront has become a webpage. This bill closes the legislative gap by preventing pharmacy businesses from engaging in online cross-promotion with supermarkets. This preserves a clear distinction between the sale of groceries and the supply of essential medicines, regardless of whether transactions occur in person or online.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia in its submission to the committee described this amendment as 'an essential step in strengthening the current pharmacy business ownership framework and ensuring consistency across both physical and digital environments, while eliminating current regulatory gaps.' The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia also supported these amendments. I thank both organisations for their support.

The bill also makes targeted changes to the Public Health Act 2005 that will improve the way we deliver immunisation services and monitor communicable disease. In that respect, I say thank you to everyone who participated in this year's flu vaccination program. Flu vaccination numbers have stabilised at around about 27 per cent, on par with last year. We would obviously still like to see more people getting their vaccination. The introduction of FluMist has made a very, very significant change to the immunisation of the cohort described as superspreaders; that is, kids aged two to five. During the course of this year's flu season this government also funded and expanded FluMist being made available to children up to the age of 18. At long last, after half a decade of falling immunisation rates, from 36 per cent in 2022 down to 29 per cent in 2024, we are seeing the stabilisation of that immunisation rate. I also thank our Chief Health Officer and public health units for the work they have done to achieve that, including their engagement with the Pharmacy Guild and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners to deliver vaccinations at the Ekka and for their partnership in delivering those services.

The first change supports our school immunisation program—a free and voluntary program—by allowing external immunisation providers to share student and parent contact information with the engaging hospital and health service. Parents of school-age children know all too well that forms do not always make it home. They are often lost or buried at the bottom of a school bag, even if they get that far. The amendments facilitate HHHs contacting parents and guardians directly to follow up on missing or incomplete consent forms. This will ensure Queensland's teenagers have every opportunity to participate in our free and voluntary school immunisation program.

The bill also improves the notifiable conditions framework by allowing the most clinically meaningful test types for a particular condition to be made reportable. As part of these changes, the bill prescribes hepatitis C as a pathology request notifiable condition for ribonucleic acid, RNA, testing. RNA testing offers us the best insights into active hepatitis C infections in the community. At present, public health units only receive visibility once a positive RNA result is returned. The amendment will also provide visibility that an RNA test has been ordered, so not only the return of the test but also the fact that a test has been ordered will now be recorded. This matters because it will reduce the need for public health units to manually trace a person's testing history, improve surveillance of the disease and help support linkage to care for a condition affecting over 12,000 Queenslanders.

I note that Hepatitis Queensland described this amendment as 'a well-targeted, clinically meaningful, and proportionate change'. Hepatitis Queensland also noted that the reform—

... reflects sound public health policy reasoning: it captures the testing events with the highest surveillance value, limits the privacy impact to what is necessary to achieve that purpose ...

I turn to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act. As everyone in this House knows, this government has introduced and enforced the toughest laws in Australia in relation to tobacco and vaping. We have achieved much more than those opposite were able to achieve in a decade. Once again, Queensland is leading the charge and other jurisdictions are playing catch-up. The comrades down in the democratic socialist workers republic of Victoria are playing catch-up. Even in New South Wales they are playing catch-up. Our laws are being enforced more readily and more effectively than in South Australia. Since passing our tough new laws, we have seen record levels of enforcement—enforcement that is more meaningful and packs more of a punch. Between 1 November 2025 and 30 June 2026, our public health units seized more than 42 million cigarettes, 6.5 tonnes of loose tobacco and over 850,000 nicotine pouches.

The bill amends the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act so that, when authorities seize illicit tobacco or nicotine pouches, those products can be immediately forfeited and rapidly destroyed. This brings them into line with our existing and effective approach to seized vapes, which is seeing the swift destruction of hundreds of thousands of seized illicit vapes across the state. Members will recall that the destruction of those seized vapes was included in the earlier legislation that the Crisafulli government introduced. The message to dodgy operators is simple: if we seize illegal products from you, you are not getting them back, they are going straight to the incinerator. This means less red tape for our enforcement teams, fewer illegal products sitting in storage and a stronger disruption of the illicit tobacco market.

I will also take this opportunity to thank the Lung Foundation for its submission to the committee, which commended the Queensland government for—

... its ongoing commitment to strengthening regulations and further protecting the health and safety of all Queenslanders.

Taken together, these reforms are practical, targeted and focused on outcomes, not process. They will strengthen our ability to deliver the Hospital Rescue Plan which is needed in our growing state after Labor's failed capacity expansion program. They will improve the operation of our mental health system. They will ensure the safety of staff at the front line during the handover of people from Corrective Services into our health system. They will ensure our pharmacy laws keep pace with the digital economy. They will strengthen public health surveillance and immunisation delivery. They reinforce Queensland's nation-leading efforts to disrupt the illicit tobacco trade. Each reform addresses a different challenge, but they are united by a common objective: a health system that works better, responds faster and protects Queenslanders. On that basis, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (12.43 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. I thank the committee members, the committee staff, all of the stakeholders who presented on the bill and our fantastic Queensland Health staff for all they do. Six pieces of health legislation are stitched together here covering compulsory land acquisition, mental health, pharmacy ownership, school immunisation, hepatitis C reporting, and illicit tobacco and nicotine products—an omnibus bill, if you like. Labor will support the worthwhile provisions in the bill while scrutinising the significant new powers that it contains.

Nearly two years into the Crisafulli government, Queenslanders can reasonably ask where this government's substantive health reform agenda actually is. We can ask where the new hospitals, satellite health centres and nurse-led clinics that have been conceived, funded and delivered by this current government are—not those that were conceived, funded and delivered by the previous Miles Labor government.

What we are seeing is this government and this minister claiming Labor achievements and health infrastructure as something to do with this government when it has not been—in fact, he did it in the speech he just made. The minister spoke of three new hospitals and 10 hospital expansions, but all of them were funded and initiated by the previous Labor government. These achievements are common—including those at Toowoomba and the PA Hospital and the huge upgrades at Logan, QEII and Ipswich—because of the commitment and vision of the previous Miles Labor government. The former health minister, who is in the chamber, was strongly committed to the health infrastructure that this state needs. I hope our fire and emergency services do not implement the term 'rescue' in the way this minister does; if they did, they would probably not respond to a call of distress for a number of years. That is what has happened to these hospital expansions. A number of them have sat there, with tumbleweeds onsite, for years and years and years because of this government's refusal to get on with the hospital expansions that are needed.

I will give members an example of that. This government made a decision before any review was completed, and I will not talk about the merits of that review. This government halted the hospital expansions before they even looked at the issue. They had a pre-determined view and they knew the outcome before it commenced. That was an ideological view and one they did not take to the Queensland people before October 2024. They denied there would be health cuts. Premier Crisafulli said in this place there would be no health cuts, but what do we see at Prince Charles? Not 93 new beds—

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

Mr BAILEY: Not 93 new beds—

Mr NICHOLLS: My point of order is relevance. This is not a budget bill. The matters I have raised are quite specific.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, on the point of order: I am simply referring to the same subject matter that the minister himself specifically outlined in his address. I am actually responding to his comments that he made in this debate.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): I have been listening carefully to the member's comments. Member for Miller, I sense that you were beginning to stray from being relevant to the bill. I ask that you refrain from that and be relevant to the bill in your comments.

Mr BAILEY: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. Minister Nicholls seems much more comfortable shuffling into the chamber with another legislative tidy-up, making trivial complaints and wasting the time of this parliament, rather than doing the difficult work that is needed to deal with, for instance, the outpatient crisis in Queensland that is surging at 25 per cent since they were elected. He has no response and no plan. There is nothing in this bill addressing the outpatient crisis. This

minister has no answer for that. It is certainly easier for the minister to turn up and cut a ribbon on a hospital or health service or try to claim it on social media with the benefit of taxpayer-funded blue ads than it is to actually develop—

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

Mr BAILEY:—and build something substantial for—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause please, member for Miller. I remind all members that when a member rises to their feet to take a point of order the member speaking must cease. What is your point of order, Minister?

Mr NICHOLLS: Firstly, I take personal offence and, secondly, I draw your attention to relevance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Miller, the minister has taken personal offence. I ask you to withdraw, please.

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Miller, I have already given you some latitude, in my view, around being relevant to the bill. Please bring your comments back to the bill before the House.

Mr BAILEY: Deputy Speaker, I am happy to accept your guidance and come back to the bill and respond to the comments by the health minister.

At present, where Health Infrastructure Queensland cannot negotiate the purchase of land, compulsory acquisition occurs through the department of natural resources. This bill allows Queensland Health to become a constructing authority in its own right and compulsorily acquire land direct for a health infrastructure purpose. I understand the case for streamlining that process. Queensland is growing and our health system has to grow with it. Queensland Health is a large-scale, substantial department.

Every Queenslander deserves access to high-quality health care close to home. Commitment to and investment in universal health care is a core Labor value. In government, Labor invested heavily in expanding the public health system, and we support practical measures that help secure land for future infrastructure, even if that capital investment will have to wait until the next Labor government takes office. I only wish Minister Nicholls displayed the same enthusiasm for actually building health infrastructure. He is asking parliament to make it easier to acquire land for hospital projects while he and Premier Crisafulli have spent almost two years pushing hospital expansions outward, delaying timelines, denying us funding details and leaving communities wondering if and when promised capacity will arrive.

If the minister wants a faster land acquisition process it would be useful if he had plans for some uniquely new health facilities to acquire land for. That would be a welcome change from his usual approach of blocking and delaying hospital expansions and then claiming the ones that are under way are something to do with the government when, in fact, they were initiated by the previous government. I think there of QEII, PA, Ipswich and Logan hospitals to name a few.

The definition of 'health infrastructure purpose' as defined in this bill is broad. It can include accommodation, commercial and community facilities, education facilities, food outlets, offices, retail premises and a range of other definitions. It can also include a private health facility where services are being provided to public patients. Queensland Health told the committee that the definition was designed to accommodate mixed public-private models. New section 51M of the bill goes even further, stating that once land has been acquired the chief executive can lease it to any person, enter into agreements with any person to develop or operate works on it, or sell it provided that action gives effect to a health infrastructure purpose. Those are very substantial powers.

The Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union raised reasonable concerns: how much public access would a private facility have to provide, would public patients receive priority and how would the public benefit be measured? The Labor opposition believes that if the state compulsorily acquires somebody's home, business or land there should be a genuine and enduring public purpose. Nobody should lose land under the coercive power of the state so that a merely private operator can eventually pocket a commercial benefit. There must be a clear benefit for public patients and a genuine necessity for the acquisition to take place.

Queensland Health says the Acquisition of Land Act provides safeguards including first taking reasonable steps to purchase the land or reach agreement with the landowner. The opposition acknowledges and supports those safeguards. The bill also expressly provides that the Minister for Health cannot delegate the new functions assigned to the minister under this regime. That is an

important provision. When these powers are exercised, the member for Clayfield cannot disappear behind Health Infrastructure Queensland and point at the director-general or some unfortunate public servant to blame for difficult or unpopular questions. Parliament is giving Minister Nicholls responsibilities that the legislation says he personally cannot delegate. He will own those decisions and the outcomes of them.

Given we are talking about the former Newman government treasurer and the architect of the failed Strong Choices being handed broad statutory responsibilities including compulsory acquisition, private providers, leases and disposal of public land, the opposition will be watching very closely how he exercises those powers. Based on the first two years of underperformance by the minister, that does not engender confidence in us.

The government says these powers are required to deliver on its so-called and misnamed Hospital Rescue Plan. Of course, the curious future of that plan is that its capital pipeline consists overwhelmingly of projects inherited from the former Labor government. Which genuinely new health facilities require these expanded compulsory acquisition powers? If Minister Nicholls has a list he could tell parliament. He certainly has not been shy about putting his name on everybody else's projects. Until then, Queenslanders are entitled to question what infrastructure this government actually intends to use these powers to build while it continues delaying, renaming and taking credit for projects Labor already announced, planned or funded.

The second area where Labor has some concerns is the Mental Health Act. There are some sensible changes here including stronger arrangements to protect staff and patients during transfers from custodial settings to authorised mental health services. The bill also transfers the initial review of certain Criminal Code forensic orders to the Mental Health Court, a change supported by the Mental Health Review Tribunal. The provision requiring more careful consideration is the new detention power for a psychiatrist's report initiated by the Chief Psychiatrist in the public interest. The government originally proposed detention for up to 72 hours. Following consultation, the bill now provides for an initial period of up to 24 hours with an extension taking the total period to as much as 72 hours subject to oversight by the Chief Psychiatrist. The department says these cases will be rare and complex and that other avenues will have been exhausted.

Mental Health Lived Experience Peak Queensland described detention as one of the most serious interferences with a person's liberty available to the state. Legal Aid Queensland and the Queensland Law Society propose a sensible threshold. The psychiatrist should reasonably believe there is no other reasonably practical way to conduct the examination thoroughly. The Queensland Law Society also called for consent to be considered first, access to support people and proper communication with guardians or attorneys where a person lacks decision-making capacity. The opposition expects Minister Nicholls to ensure this power is confined to the genuinely rare circumstances that Queensland Health described to the committee. A minister who is being given additional coercive powers carries an obligation to ensure the safeguards are observed in practice.

The bill also closes a gap involving online affiliations between pharmacy and supermarket businesses. The Pharmacy Guild supports the amendments and says they provide consistency between physical and digital environments. Labor supports independent community pharmacy. We worked closely with pharmacists when in government to expand the scope of services they could provide and to improve access to health care, particularly where people struggle to get timely primary care.

There was also a practical amendment to the School Immunisation Program. Where an external provider delivers school vaccinations, legal uncertainty can prevent information being sent back to the relevant hospital and health service, making it harder to follow up incomplete consent forms or arrange catch-up vaccination. Clearly that is not a preferable situation. The bill fixes that barrier while maintaining the voluntary nature of the program. Queensland Health told the committee that improving completion of consent forms could lift immunisation rates from about 60 per cent to around 90 per cent. That would be a welcome outcome.

Minister Nicholls will now have a new practical mechanism to improve uptake. Given Queensland's woeful vaccination performance under his watch, with Queensland lagging the nation on flu vaccines for a second year in a row and our childhood vaccinations falling to a 20-year low with no response whatsoever to this very alarming trend from the minister, he desperately needs every bit of help he can get. Maybe we could see some commitment to an ad campaign that is not blue self-promotion advertising but actually targets immunisation to get those rates up, particularly for

children, who are the most vulnerable members of our community. We hear nothing from the minister on this. There is a lost opportunity in this bill to address some of that where we are lagging the rest of the country by a margin.

The bill also changes hepatitis C reporting for RNA testing. Hepatitis Queensland described the amendment as targeted and clinically meaningful because it will improve surveillance and help link people who test positive with care. Labor supports that change.

Finally, the bill again amends the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act. The current process can require seized illicit tobacco and nicotine products to sit in storage for as long as eight weeks while show cause, forfeiture and appeal processes run their course. Queensland Health says those delays create cost, storage and safety problems and the bill allows faster automatic forfeiture and destruction. As the son of a parent who was a heavy smoker throughout his adult life and died prematurely from a smoking related cancer, I strongly support that. I have consistently supported strong action on these tobacco matters, as has the opposition. That is a welcome measure.

The Australian Retail Council and the Lung Foundation support the reform. The Labor opposition supports stronger action against illicit tobacco and nicotine trade, much of whose enforcement architecture was established under the former Labor government. Once again, we see Minister Nicholls amending a very sound framework that Labor built but he is too proud to actually acknowledge. I acknowledge the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union's natural justice concerns about removing the show cause process. Those concerns deserve attention in implementation and enforcement, and authorised officers will still need a reasonable belief that the goods are evidence of an offence.

It is disappointing, however, that the minister has opened up the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act yet again and has walked past the opportunity to tackle the very serious problem of nitrous oxide, or nang, abuse. We are seeing fatalities happening in our communities as well as terrible damage, often at an incredibly fast rate, to people's health. It is happening now, it is happening quickly and it deserves action.

Queensland Health told the committee that nitrous oxide found alongside illicit tobacco can already be caught up in seizure and destruction activity, but that deals with only a narrow part of the problem. Easy access and 24-hour delivery services remain untouched by this bill. Again, Queensland lags behind other jurisdictions like New South Wales, which has already acted—as of 3 July and it comes into force in November. We need to get cracking on this.

Debate, on motion of Mr Bailey, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Mumbling, bumbling, stumbling with her portfolio crumbling. That is the only way to describe the performance of the Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence in the parliament this week. This week, the appalling portfolio failures of this minister were on full display. Asked repeatedly in this House, the minister refused to answer how many recommendations from the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce had been implemented. The minister would not or, more likely, could not level with Queenslanders. Not once but twice the minister refused to answer how many recommendations had not even been started under the Crisafulli LNP government.

The Premier promised openness, transparency, accountability and integrity. Instead, he has delivered for Queensland alright; he has delivered a government that loves operating in the darkness. We have learned from media reports of attempts by the government to silence the voice of community advocates, and they should be condemned for that. When will the Premier honour his promise to hold ministers to account?

We know who also hates transparency. When questions were put to the government about the appointment of their LNP mate Andrew Cripps, the member for Kawana said that we are obsessed for daring to ask what this bloke is doing for a living, all on the public dime. An LNP jobs-for-mates hire on \$400,000 a year—a job that has no work plan and no KPIs; an office holder—so-called Special

Commissioner Andrew Cripps has no public profile at all. Caught out using a personal email, the special commissioner had to scrub his entire Facebook page—quickly scrubbed from the internet following questions from the Labor opposition. The page may be gone but the questions remain.

The director-general of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet said he would investigate to ensure proper record keeping was followed by Mr Cripps. Then the Premier's personal staff contradicted the Premier's director-general to say that there would be no investigation at all. The Crisafulli LNP government would rather tie themselves up in knots than answer basic questions from Queenslanders.

What has Mr Cripps actually been appointed to do? We have no work plan. We have no KPIs. But Mr Cripps does have three public servants working for him in Townsville—doing what, nobody knows. We have no clarity on whether Mr Cripps followed protocol while using his personal email. A website was quickly cobbled together and published just after questions were asked in estimates. The Premier promised to respect taxpayers' money. I can tell members that the appointment of Mr Cripps is the complete opposite.

(Time expired)

Greyhound Racing Industry

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (2.03 pm): The motion last night on greyhound racing raised more questions about the Labor Party's position on the future of greyhound racing than answers. We had the shadow minister kicked out of the parliament. We had the shadow sports minister give a rambling discourse. It was entertaining but rambling.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): The member is not taking interjections. Let us hear this in silence, please.

Mr MANDER: There is confusion about the position of the member for Ipswich, who has for a number of years said that she has campaigned against greyhound racing. I will refer to the *Brisbane Times* article from 1 August 2026 that I tabled last night. Cameron Atfield is the journalist. It reads—

Ipswich MP Jennifer Howard was one of hundreds to attend a rally in support of a greyhound racing ban at Brisbane's Queens Park on Saturday.

It continues—

Howard said she never supported the Purga track and had spoken out against it when it was first proposed.

I remember her doing that. It continues further—

Later, Howard told the crowd claims The Q would be a safe greyhound track were 'a lie'.

The person who made such a claim was then minister Grace Grace. She said that the track was safe. The member for Ipswich is questioning that particular claim made by then minister Grace Grace. The member for Ipswich was also quoted as saying that she hoped her party would 'take that position to the next Queensland election, to be held in 2028'. Not only did she make those statements, as reported in *Brisbane Times*; she also backed them up by sponsoring a petition that was posted on 24 July which calls to 'phase out greyhound racing in Queensland now'.

The member had the opportunity last night to have the courage of her convictions and vote against the motion. It leaves us, and I imagine the people in the greyhound industry, wondering where the member for Ipswich stands. She is from an electorate where there are many people associated with greyhound racing. Where does the Labor Party stand with this?

At this weekend's Labor Party conference they have two opportunities. The first opportunity is for the member for Ipswich to push for the motion that she is in support of, which is a ban on greyhound racing. The opposition leader and the shadow minister could put it to bed by moving a motion to support the greyhound industry. Which one is it?

Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.06 pm): A deeply troubling pattern is emerging under the Crisafulli LNP government that every Queenslanders should be concerned by—that is, their obsession with silencing what they see as dissent and any objective observer would call reasonable scrutiny.

Last week we saw community organisations working in child safety, housing, youth justice, and domestic and family violence come forward to expose the threats and warnings ministers and their staffers in this government are making towards those community groups if they dare to speak out. They spoke of a culture of fear and of threats of having their funding taken away if they are seen to publicly criticise the government. That is an extraordinary claim. The response from the Premier and the ministers named was to say that they were liars.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): The use of that word is unparliamentary and I would ask you to withdraw it, please.

Ms LINARD: I withdraw. We have the child safety ministers admission of 'yes, we have tough conversations with service providers who are not performing'. If we boil it down, this LNP government now reportedly not only warns and threatens hardworking community providers but also labels them dishonest and failures if they dare to speak about it. It sounds exactly like how any bully or abuser would respond when someone shines a light on their appalling behaviour.

It is not only about threats of cutting funding and shutting down dissent that this government have been called out on. They are also increasingly changing or ceasing previous public reporting of key metrics that would allow an objective observer to actually track their performance or lack thereof. If they cannot just stop the reporting or data release, they change the parameters or repeatedly manipulate the data. It is whatever it takes to control the narrative.

The organisations that came forward last week, and have continued to since, work every day to support vulnerable Queenslanders—Queenslanders experiencing homelessness, violence, poverty and crisis. Their job is not simply to silently administer government contracts. Their expertise should inform public debate. When a policy is failing the people they serve, they should speak up and we should want them to because that is democracy and that is being in government. Good governments are not scared of differing or dissenting views. They welcome them. They improve the services and systems they should be delivering to serve them. Those opposite are so stuck in their combative, oppositional thinking that if you are not with them you are against them and dissent is to be silenced. Every Queenslanders will be the poorer for this approach. If this LNP government do not like what you have to say, and if it does not suit their narrative, you reportedly get 'LNP-ed'. Queenslanders deserve much better.

Crime, Bail Laws



Mrs POOLE (Mundingburra—LNP) (2.09 pm): There were 289,657 victims of crime under Labor's last full year in government; that is their legacy. I have some other figures: an increase of 193 per cent in victims of crime under Labor's decade of decline across the state of Queensland. However, in my hometown of Townsville, because Labor weakened the youth justice laws in 2015 by reintroducing detention as a last resort, break and enters went up 150 per cent during that same decade of decline. That is an average increase of 15 per cent each and every year in homes being broken into. There was a 199 per cent increase in stolen cars—a 19.9 per cent increase each year, every year.

When we came to government we said that we would introduce Making Queensland Safer legislation. We said that we would introduce Adult Crime, Adult Time by Christmas 2024, and we did. We are a government that does what it says it will do. We are introducing into this chamber today nation-leading, historic legislation: Breach Bail, Go to Jail. All of the other states will have their eyes on Queensland and will be saying, 'I want what they have.' Queensland now has a government that puts the rights of victims before the rights of offenders. They have a government that will back the victims and be the voices of victims. That is what we are about. We will always be the voice of victims. We will always back victims. We will restore consequences for actions. That is what this legislation will do.

Those opposite have a big decision to make: do they back victims of crime? They have a decision to make this weekend: will they back Breach Bail, Go to Jail? Will they be on the side of the victims or—once again—will they show their true colours and be on the side of the offenders?

Mr Lister: I think I know.

Mrs POOLE: I think I know, too. I think I know how the member for Stafford will vote. He wrote their plan saying that they will introduce—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member for Stafford, could you tell me the words you took offence to, please, so I can ask the member to properly withdraw?

Mr RICHMOND: I took personal offence that she suggested I wrote the Labor Party platform.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, will you withdraw?

Mrs POOLE: I withdraw. The Labor Party have the opportunity this weekend to vote on raising the age of criminal responsibility to 14, but where does it end? Will it be 18?

(Time expired)

Public Infrastructure; Homelessness Services

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (2.12 pm): In my electorate I celebrate the small infrastructure wins, whether it is a pothole being fixed, the installation of water bubblers or a bench for people to rest on while they are waiting for a bus. Every piece of public infrastructure is important, particularly for our older folk, people with a disability or parents looking for a place to stop and reset. Imagine my surprise when I stumbled upon the member for Maryborough's Facebook post yesterday celebrating his strong advocacy at having a bench seat at a bus stop removed from his CBD. I thought it was a joke, or perhaps he got the before-and-after photos around the wrong way, but after my coffee I checked and there it was—a social media post celebrating its removal and somehow suggesting that would reduce antisocial behaviour in the CBD. I do not know how they like to do things in Maryborough, but in my electorate we actually have a working relationship with our police and housing service providers and we provide outreach to people who are sleeping rough and perhaps might be making people feel uncomfortable. In my electorate we also fight for every bit of public infrastructure we can get, and if antisocial behaviour crops up then we work as a community to deal with that. That is probably why we are one of the safest electorates in Queensland. I celebrate our community for that.

The member for Maryborough is not alone. It turns out punishing the poor is a pastime shared by other members of the LNP. On 8 August, the member for Redcliffe made a similar post talking about antisocial behaviour in her parks and on her beaches. Her post went so far as to say that people sleeping rough were claiming to be homeless—a statement she then scrubbed from social media, but I have the receipts. I table both of those posts together.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from the Facebook page of the member for Maryborough, Mr John Barounis MP, in relation to anti-social behaviour in the Maryborough CBD [\[1506\]](#).

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from the Facebook page of the member for Redcliffe, Ms Kerri-Anne Dooley MP, in relation to anti-social behaviour in Redcliffe [\[1507\]](#).

During the estimates hearings the Labor opposition revealed that the government has cut \$42 million from homelessness services. That is despite specialist homelessness services data showing that in March this year there were over 20,000 Queenslanders seeking assistance with housing pressures. People who have never felt these pressures before are having to face the reality of perhaps sleeping in a car. What does the minister think? We know that he likes to put on the pink shirt in Surfers Paradise and head out with our hardworking housing response team. Does the minister think the people he has met are making this up? Is this the LNP's new housing strategy: to push people experiencing homelessness into prisons? You do not solve homelessness by criminalising the homeless and you certainly cannot solve it by slowly removing every park bench and bus stop in your electorate. I call on the housing minister to please help his own members and provide housing support. If it is benches today and bus stops tomorrow, at this rate by the next election the poor member for Maryborough will not have any infrastructure left to hang his corflutes on.

Crime, Bail Laws

 **Ms JAMES** (Barron River—LNP) (2.15 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker Kempton, I want you to picture the Cairns Courthouse. It is a place that should stand for justice, accountability and consequences, but for far too long Far North Queenslanders have looked at the courthouse—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): That is totally uncalled for. If that happens again, I will start warning people.

Ms JAMES: Clearly, they do not want to hear what I have to say. An offender walks in, they walk out on bail and then they commit another offence. The revolving door continues again and again. For victims, for police and for our community that is not justice; that is the definition of insanity. Our courts must be places where consequences mean something. That is why our government is reforming bail. We will have the strongest bail laws in the country. We must put community safety back at the heart of the justice system.

Labor weakened the laws. That is why they are talking so loudly now: they do not want to hear what I have to say. Crime followed. They made detention a last resort, which meant youth criminals could face court dozens of times and still not go to detention for their crime. They made it legal to carry small quantities of drugs, which has increased drug use, violence and crime. You cannot be soft on drugs and tough on crime. They weakened bail laws so it was easy to get bail. The member for Cairns voted for these laws to be weakened every single time. The member for Cairns also voted against Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. He said—

There is no credible evidence that treating children—

Mr HEALY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In 2015 I was in the marine tourism industry. I was not here.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, take your seat.

Mr HEALY: I take offence and I would like—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Take your seat.

Ms JAMES: He does not like the history.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Barron River, take your seat, please. I am going to get some advice about this point of order, which I have not yet ruled on. I have two points. First, I cannot hear, so I do not know whether you were offended or not. Second, if you have a point of order and are taking offence, that is not an opportunity to make a statement. I will hear your point of order again.

Mr HEALY: I take personal offence and I ask that the member withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Barron River, the member has taken offence. Will you withdraw?

Ms JAMES: I will withdraw, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. You have the call.

Ms JAMES: But the offence will continue, because the member for Cairns has definitely offended the people of Cairns with his lack of representation for the people of Cairns.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, I am going to start warning people. I simply cannot hear what the member is saying.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have a point of order?

Mr HEALY: I take personal offence and ask that the member withdraw.

Ms JAMES: I withdraw. The member for Cairns voted against our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. He said, 'There is no credible evidence that treating children as adults'—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members to my left!

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

Ms JAMES: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I want the House to be quiet. I have a point of order. I have not ruled on it yet. The member has taken offence. Will you withdraw?

Ms JAMES: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: If there are any more interjections from this side I will start warning people.

Ms JAMES: He said, 'There is no credible evidence that treating children as adults improves community safety.' Last night was another indication of Labor's soft views on the crime in our region. The member for Cairns voted against mandatory minimum sentencing for serious offenders who commit crime while on bail.

Mr HEALY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence. I will be writing to you about this. I would like the member to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member has taken offence. Will you withdraw?

Ms JAMES: I withdraw. What makes Labor's position even harder to understand is that they have not simply—

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Waterford, I have already cautioned you. You are now on a warning.

Ms JAMES: What makes Labor's position even harder to understand is that they have not simply criticised these reforms; they have repeatedly voted against them. Since the change of government Labor have opposed some of the most significant law and order reforms brought before this parliament. We will continue to bring in stronger laws because we will not stop fighting to reduce the crime crisis facing Far North Queensland. I will continue to stand up for my community. I will never weaken a law; I will always strengthen a law in this place. That is exactly why I am here. That is exactly why we will make Breach Bail, Go to Jail law by the end of the year.

Women and Girls

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (2.21 pm): We need to have an uncomfortable conversation about violence, sexual abuse and the way that women and girls are treated in our community. The warning signs are everywhere. Boys are reportedly being exposed to pornography at an incredibly young age. We are hearing allegations of 13-year-old boys sexually assaulting 13-year-old girls. Female teachers are subjected to lewd and sexual comments. Children in care—children who should be protected—are being sexually assaulted by the very people entrusted with their safety. Technology is being used to digitally alter photographs of young female students to sexualise and humiliate them.

Then there are the cases that shock us to our core. We have heard about the treatment of Gisele, who for over a decade was drugged and repeatedly raped in her own home—those assaults arranged and filmed by her husband. We have heard allegations emerge involving sporting figures—very topical: the Sydney Swans, cultural heroes to many young people, have been accused of participating in the degradation and mistreatment of women. These are not harmless jokes. These are not boys being boys. They cause real and lasting harm.

While due process must take its course, we must confront the broader culture that allows misogyny, sexual entitlement and violence to be normalised. Then there is the most devastating consequence of all: in just 45 days, the lives of four Queensland women—Mallorie Roberts, Jana Armstrong, Julia Brunson and Djuane 'DJ' Baker-Adams—were allegedly taken by their male intimate partners. That is four families devastated—four people who should still be here, murdered in cold blood.

While this is happening, we are hearing reports that the LNP are cutting domestic and family violence funding. At a time when women are being murdered by intimate partners and frontline services are dealing with violence every day, how can cutting support possibly be the answer? What is the cause, you may ask? Drugs, alcohol, financial stress, relationship breakdown, social isolation, learned behaviour, online misogyny? These can all contribute, but that is an explanation; it is not an excuse. None of these things makes a man raise his hand. None of these things makes a man rape, degrade a woman or choose violence. It is a man who chooses to abuse, it is a man who chooses violence and it is a man who chooses to rape. Men must be a part of the solution. It is enough. I do not know about anyone else here, but I am sick of hearing about the shocking treatment of women in our society. I do not want my grandchildren to grow up in, or my community to live in, a place where this is normalised. It is not okay.

Crime, Bail Laws

 **Ms HATCHER** (Caloundra—LNP) (2.24 pm): The people of Caloundra have had enough. Recently I stood with my colleague Marty Hunt, the member for Nicklin, to throw our support behind tougher bail laws on behalf of the people of the Sunshine Coast. Our communities are backing tougher laws for offenders because the people of the Sunshine Coast care more for the rights of victims than for the rights of offenders. Those opposite seem to think that offenders who engage in repeat offending deserve a fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth or more chance, with the hope that these repeat offenders will wake up suddenly and not do it anymore.

Humans operate at their best when there are clear boundaries in place. For a decade young offenders could do what they liked and get away with it. That is how Queenslanders ended up with such a sharp increase in victim numbers. If you commit an offence, you have done the wrong thing. You have broken the law. You have likely caused harm in some form to another person, whether it is stealing

a car or property, damaging something that does not belong to you or harming another person. One would think that if you are afforded the privilege of bail—not the right, the privilege—that would be enough to put you on your best behaviour. If you are then so disrespectful that you go and offend again then our communities want harsher penalties—consequences for actions. These are the outcomes that meet the expectation of our communities.

The absolute rubbish we hear coming from the other side regarding stigma and social networks and the myriad excuses for poor behaviour is appalling. Here is the reality: if a 10-year-old repeat offender does not have consequences for their behaviour then they will likely turn into a 15-year-old whom we can all be scared of. The Crisafulli government understands that early intervention is crucial, and that is why world-class early intervention programs are being rolled out.

It is not always the fault of the young person that they have been led down the path of making these choices, but when they are terrorising communities it is unacceptable. People have the right to feel safe in their own homes. In Caloundra that is what we expect. We will rally together to keep this grubby behaviour under control and we will support our neighbours and our businesses to work together to protect what makes our community so special. I say to those opposite: if you are unfortunate enough to have a repeat offender—or any offender—enter your home and threaten you and your family, would you be so quick to hold your bleeding-heart views? If an offender took photos of your belongings while metres away from your sleeping child, would you still be constantly fighting these changes? This is a cultural issue that those opposite created.

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (2.27 pm): Like every shadow minister on this side of the House, I talk a lot to service providers. They are the ones on the front line. They are the ones who truly see and understand the everyday experiences of some of our most vulnerable Queenslanders. The Premier might not want to call them experts because it does not suit his purposes, but they are experts. We need to hear and take on board what they think because they will help us all make better decisions. That is even more important if you are the government, because you hold the purse strings, you make the decisions and you can truly effect change. That is why it is so appalling, but to be honest so scary, that this government is not only not listening but also actively discouraging—actively threatening—those very providers if they dare to challenge the government on the decisions they make.

We all saw the *Courier-Mail* article last week about the 12 service providers they had spoken to who told of being threatened that their funding would go if they spoke out about LNP government decisions. To be honest, we on this side of the House have been hearing that for the last two years. Some of them are threatened by staffers; some of them are threatened by ministers: 'You talk and your funding will be cut.' They call it getting 'LNP-ed'. This is from a Premier who famously said before his election that his government would let the sun shine in. We have ministers fudging figures, ministers refusing to release progress reports, ministers dodging questions and service providers threatened if they tell the truth about what is happening on the ground.

Given that in less than four months four women—and let's say their names: Djuarn Baker-Evans, Julia Brunson, Jana Armstrong and Mallorie Roberts—were allegedly murdered by people who purported to love them, do you think a DV provider might have some views on the impacts of the LNP government cutting \$40 million from the DV budget? When people are sleeping in their cars and a mother has her baby seized from her while living in a tent waiting for emergency housing, do you think a housing provider might have views on the fact that this government cut \$42 million from emergency accommodation funding? When youth justice service providers see the government allocating millions of dollars to programs that have no evidence behind them and when sometimes that money goes to an LNP mate, do you think they might have views on what would really turn young people's lives around and keep the community safer?

This is why we set up an anonymous website—Right to Know—so that service providers could report on what was actually happening without fear of retribution. We have been overwhelmed and shocked by the responses. Today's example is as follows: 'I was verbally abused by Minister X on two occasions and threatened to have funding cut if I went against the government.' We say, let the sun shine in. Do what you promised.

(Time expired)

Redcliffe Designated Business and Community Precinct



Ms DOOLEY (Redcliffe—LNP) (2.30 pm): Today I rise to speak about the safety and vitality of Redcliffe's business and community precincts. Redcliffe is an absolutely wonderful place to live, work and visit. We have a proud local business community, a thriving tourism economy and some of the most beautiful public spaces in Queensland with our famous Redcliffe Jetty, Bee Gees Way, Redcliffe Markets, Suttons Beach and Pelican Park, which hosts many of our major events such as the Jetty 2 Jetty Fun Run and KiteFest to name a few. Overwhelmingly, I am hearing from residents, workers and business owners about a rise in antisocial behaviour, particularly across our CBD, public parks and spaces. Our local businesses should not have to tolerate threatening or intimidating behaviour or be subject to assaults or break-ins simply because they are opening their doors and serving our community.

That is why I am fighting strongly for a designated business and community precinct, a DBCP, in Redcliffe. In two weeks 1,500 people have responded to my online petition. That is an extraordinary level of engagement and sends a very clear message that residents want action. This is about protecting businesses, workers, families and visitors while ensuring those with mental health challenges or other vulnerabilities are connected with the appropriate support services. However, there is no excuse for and we will not tolerate criminal and antisocial behaviour or public drug use.

The DBCP framework gives police additional tools to respond to serious and persistent antisocial behaviour. It allows police to issue move-on directions of up to 24 hours and banning notices of one month for repeat or serious offenders. It also provides enhanced powers around weapons detecting using Jack's Law and the introduction of Breach Bail, Go to Jail laws today will give our police the resources they need.

Maryborough became Queensland's first designated business and community precinct. Very encouraging results are coming out of Maryborough. I want that for my community of Redcliffe. I am working closely and collaboratively with our local police, the City of Moreton Bay council, local businesses, the Redcliffe Peninsula Chamber of Commerce and other key stakeholders to understand the challenges and to identify practical solutions.

Our residents deserve to feel safe. Our businesses deserve to feel safe. People visiting our beautiful peninsula deserve to feel safe. Redcliffe has worked hard to be a vibrant and prosperous local economy. Thank you to the 1,500 people who have signed my petition and to the hundreds who have emailed my office. I hear you, loud and clear, and I am taking action. Redcliffe will have a designated business and community precinct.

Macalister Electorate, Housing



Ms McMAHON (Macalister—ALP) (2.33 pm): I rise to speak about the appalling lack of progress on the housing crisis in Macalister despite those opposite saying the housing crisis was going to be fixed. I note that the Minister for Housing visited Beenleigh to open a social housing project, although admittedly one that we had started construction on before the election. He visited that Beenleigh project as the new residents were moving in. I do not know whether he was taking the micky but he decided to have a photo taken of himself weeding the garden.

Ms Pease: In a suit?

Ms McMAHON: In a suit. Obviously, after that the comments on his Facebook page were inspiring. You do not go to Beenleigh to do the weeding and expect to walk away unscathed. Another social housing project that work had started on under Labor is the Juniper Court precinct. That was approved in 2025, but not a single thing has happened on that particular social housing project. Housing is not coming along in leaps and bounds in Beenleigh.

Perhaps the housing minister should speak to the other ministers because due to the work of other departments we are actually losing homes in Beenleigh. Under the faster rail project, the transport minister has decided that we will lose more homes in Beenleigh, with a reduction of between six to seven houses. When the project team was presented with three options to deal with traffic flow, they chose the only option that actually resulted in houses being resumed, so we will have fewer.

The education department announced that there would be a new special school in Beenleigh but did not actually check that there was land available to build a special school. Again, their answer is to resume residential housing. At the campus at Mount Warren Park, local houses will be resumed so that buses can come in through our suburban streets to access the new campus. For the additional campus

next to Beenleigh State School, it has been decided to go with the option to resume land from the Beenleigh Showgrounds. The Beenleigh Show Society is one of the oldest continuing show societies in Queensland, having run since 1871. It is older than the Brisbane show society. In order to deliver on their announcement, they have decided to resume land at the Beenleigh Showgrounds. The particular patch of land that they are resuming does not actually hold the show; it holds temporary residents. In fact, since that land has been resumed over 30 people have been kicked out of their homes under this government.

Central Queensland

 **Mrs KIRKLAND** (Rockhampton—LNP) (2.36 pm): I rise to talk about continuing to deliver for Rockhampton and Central Queensland. Recently, we have done the sod turn on stage 2 of the Central Queensland University TAFE Excellence Precinct. While we inherited Labor's skills shortage, we are now delivering world-class trades training, graduating between 500 and 700 additional tradespeople per year out of that facility. It is a \$61.1 million investment by the Crisafulli government.

We have also been celebrating new milestones on the progress of the Rockhampton Ring Road, with 17 bridges to be supported by 976 locally built girders. A few years ago, alongside locals, I stood with Matt Canavan, Michelle Landry and Brent Mickelberg to ensure the project was brought back online after Labor said it was going to take it offline. Minister Mickelberg is now ensuring its delivery on time and on budget.

We showed the community a sneak peek at the new adult mental health facility with our Hospital Rescue Plan, ensuring that it was properly designed and funded. When Labor came to government, our hospital ED ramping rate was at three per cent. Under their watch, it escalated to 56 per cent at its highest point. Under the Crisafulli government, in May Rockhampton's ED ramping was down to 28 per cent, heralding significant improvements through our implementation of the new fast-track facility and upgraded transit lounge and the provision of over 400 new health practitioners across our HHS.

We have been cutting ribbons at clubhouses and, along with my colleague Glen Kelly, at the new all-abilities pontoon at the Rockhampton ski club. We have opened the new Qube industry facility at Parkhurst because Queensland and regional Queensland are open for business. Of course, it was fabulous to be able to do the sod turn for the Gracemere high school, which is something that the community has called for for over 20 years. During the decade of decline, there was nothing from the then Labor government, but the LNP will deliver grades 7 and 8 in 2028. We have also announced a \$15 million investment in the Mount Chalmers Mine.

I want to say thank you to my community for reaching out and supporting what we will be delivering this week—the largest bail reforms in Queensland's history, the toughest bail laws in the nation—with our Breach Bail, Go to Jail legislation. Rockhampton and Gracemere residents turned up at all of my community outreaches and my mobile offices and said, 'We want to see Breach Bail, Go to Jail.' We will be delivering that this week, Rockhampton and Gracemere residents.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member, I remind you to use proper titles, please.

Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance

 **Ms MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.39 pm): Deputy Speaker, can you hear that? It is the sound of silence under the Crisafulli LNP government. Across the aisle, we have our own Simon and Garfunkel and, yes, the Deputy Premier is always Garfunkel. But this silence is not contemplative. It is secretive, it is cunning and it is coercive. In recent weeks, it has come to the fore in a multitude of ways, illuminating our worst expectations of this LNP government.

On 22 July it was reported that the LNP government buried the findings of a report by its own working group of domestic violence victim-survivors after their report was heavily critical of police responses. This followed reports that domestic and family violence prevention funding had been reduced by \$40 million—this from a government which repeatedly said it would put victims at the heart of the state's justice policies, but clearly not when those victims do not align their thoughts with what the government wants to hear. DV victims—silenced.

Perhaps the same could be said for the voices of children in care. Earlier this month, the Minister for Child Safety scrapped the My Life in Care Survey—a survey of children in the child safety system aimed at amplifying their voices and their experiences. The minister trashed the survey, despite its being reviewed and approved by the Queensland Children's Hospital Human Research Ethics

Committee and supported by the Queensland Family and Child Commission. The minister herself was quoted in a submission to the Commission of Inquiry into Queensland's Child Safety System, saying, 'We will use what we learn from the My Life in Care Survey each year to check on our progress, assess the impact of our reforms and continually refine our approach.' But now they do not want children speaking. They do not want them to share their experiences because it is clear that those experiences are getting worse under the LNP government.

Even QFCC Commissioner Luke Twyford has criticised the move, saying he now has no idea how the child safety system is operating due to a lack of visible data or survey results. He said—

What's the visibility of the system, and how do we actually know how it's operating? Because it's absent; it's invisible.

Children in care—silenced.

On 20 August 12 brave organisations across child safety, domestic violence prevention, youth justice and the housing sector finally revealed the world's worst kept secret. They have been threatened with funding cuts as retribution for publicly criticising the government and its policies. They even have a term for it—'getting LNP-ed'—a government pushing to silence dissent by threatening to pull funding. These are organisations and advocates who work on the front line, dealing with some of the most critical issues our state faces. Their views and experiences should be respected and allowed to be heard. They should not be threatened, coerced and gagged. Community organisations—silenced.

Deputy Speaker, can you hear that? It is the sound of silence under the Crisafulli LNP government.

Resources Industry, Critical Minerals

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (2.42 pm): The legislation passed last night by the Deputy Premier is necessary to get our state moving. It is important legislation that will help us get our critical minerals projects back up and online. We have complex pathways to get the likes of abandoned mines back online as well as greenfield projects. At the end of the day, thanks to a lot of the red and green tape passed by those opposite, Queensland is becoming a global embarrassment because of how long it takes to get projects back online. We need to do something about it. Not only can this legislation be used for critical minerals projects; it can also be used for oil refineries, coal-fired power stations and abattoirs. At the end of the day, we need to ensure we get business moving because we are committed to ensuring the world knows that Queensland is open for business. The Premier is in the US next week on a trade mission to seek more foreign capital to get projects moving, as Queensland was built off a lot of foreign capital.

This legislation adds more powers and protections to legislation that already exists such as the state development areas legislation, and there is already compulsory acquisition through various pathways. SDAs have been used in Callide to get the Curtis Island gas development online. With that came compulsory acquisition. I make that point because compulsory acquisition has been used for a private purpose in Queensland before. Off the back of that development we have had a lot of roads and services paid for from the ensuing rates.

When it comes to property rights, I note that many made comments around it. I have tried to make a point about being ideologically pure when it comes to property rights. When it comes to the real world, it is nearly impossible to be ideologically pure in any sense. At the end of the day, any intervention or rule restricting or regulating activities on private land is a reduction in them. There are groups who are criticising this legislation who themselves have called for changes to policy that have restricted use on land for the purposes of protecting agriculture. At face value, that is nothing other than a reduction in property rights. I make that point because those groups, unfortunately, have called for legislation through the reduction of property rights and are now criticising it. I wanted to place that on the record.

At the end of the day, if you expect government to resolve your issues, then the trade-off for that at times will be that government will have to resolve other issues that you may not like. This is an example of a state that is strangled in red tape, and we need to do something about it.

(Time expired)

Domestic and Family Violence, Prevention

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (2.45 pm): This week, the minister responsible for domestic violence prevention was asked a simple question: how many women have been killed in the past year through domestic violence? It is a question that remains unanswered. The minister refuses to say.

Our communities are in the thick of a DV crisis. Women are dying at an alarming rate, and our communities are alarmed. All this government is doing in response is sweeping it under the rug. This is a government that stopped counting children as victims in their crime data—stopped counting them to make their crime data look better, stopped making them matter to save their own political hides. We saw reports of service providers 'getting LNP-ed', being gagged from speaking out. Government funding is for service delivery. It should never be conditional on silence from providers speaking their truth.

We have uncovered savage cuts. In Moreton Bay, Encircle have had almost half a million dollars in funding ripped out from their outreach program under this LNP budget.

We have seen victim-survivors in the crosshairs of this minister. One victim-survivor reported to media that the minister's office told them they would hang up the phone if they called back. This is an LNP minister who sacked someone from a key safety role overseeing the implementation of improvements to Queensland's response to the Women's Justice and Safety Taskforce. Then the minister gagged herself. The Premier said that she would give an update of the work at the estimates hearing. She did not. Labor called for that update from the minister last night, and the LNP voted it down.

Essential progress remains shrouded in secrecy. What possible explanation could exist for discounting child victims, gagging providers, defunding service providers and silencing victim-survivors as women are dying? The community is calling out for action, desperate for leadership, and the LNP has nothing to offer.

It seems the LNP never quite shake off their problem with women. Across the country, other states have treated DV with the urgency it demands. In Queensland, we have a government that has droned on all week, 'Well, you had 10 years!' I am curious: is that what the LNP say to victims' families, orphaned children and grieving communities? When Labor left government, the LNP gave up on any ongoing or pending work on DV. Is that Labor's fault? Will the LNP members just come clean with these people and let them know that this kind of service delivery is not a priority for the LNP in government? This is a government only focused on slogans, self-preservation, suppression, self-promotion and serving up jobs for their mates. It is women who are paying the price under this bad LNP government.

Resources Industry, Critical Minerals



Mr DILLON (Gregory—LNP) (2.48 pm): With the passing last night of the critical minerals bill, it gives me great pleasure to rise today and congratulate those members of the government who took such great effort in explaining the benefits of what this bill will mean. What I need to put on the record, though, is the commentary from those opposite, including the members of the opposition who served in the Palaszczuk government cabinet in 2017, who compulsorily acquired more than 3,500 hectares of land like it had never happened before, like it had never happened under them and they will never support the acquisition of land. I will table the government gazette for that period that clearly outlines—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Members on my left, interjections are not being taken. I will hear this in silence, please.

Mr DILLON: For those who may have fallen under the spell of some of the great orations of the member for Woodridge or other opposition members last night and think that anyone in the Australian Labor Party is a friend of farming and a friend of farmers across Queensland, they should read the *Government Gazette* from 13 August 2017 and see the hypocrisy. The closest those in the ALP come to consulting with farmers is when they run into me in the lift in the Annexe. Genuinely, I have lived with a blot on title from an SDA over a property that I own since it was first declared in 2012. I table that document.

Tabled paper: Extract from Queensland Government Extraordinary Gazette No. 376, dated 6 October 2017, regarding Taking of Land Notice (No. 1) 2017 [\[1508\]](#).

The hypocrisy does not stop with the ALP; it extends to the member for Traeger. During his time here, he has come into this place—and I have gone back through numerous speeches he has made—calling for government intervention to ensure the unlocking of the North West Minerals Province. What is in the North West Minerals Province? There are critical minerals. In a speech in September 2020 he said—

Agriculture and mining are a fundamental part of our economy, and I can tell you that they have not been doing too well out there. They feel like the government has been their enemy for so many years. Go out there and try and start a coalmine or water project from scratch—it is not very easy.

The humdinger comes from a speech he gave on 12 October 2021 in this place—and, remember, last night he said that mining companies have not been talking to him about this—when he said—

In conversations I have had with mines that have made it through the process of new leases, the nature of their comments has been, 'We don't want to make much noise because we've got it through now. But crikey, I pity anyone who wants to go through the process we just went through.' It is very, very difficult.

He then went on to say—

The layers and layers probably came about when previous governments had their two bob's worth about the processes of getting mines up and going.

An opposition member: What have you done?

Mr DILLON: I take that interjection. We have passed the critical minerals bill to ensure a fair and transparent process for miners and farmers.

Crisafulli LNP Government, Funding

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.51 pm): Over the last couple of weeks Queenslanders have been exposed to the true face of the Crisafulli LNP government. Under the flashy veneer of photo-ops, media announcements and press conferences is a government that, at its heart, has a culture of threats and intimidation. We have seen that the LNP is prepared to threaten stakeholders with taking away their funding if they criticise the government. It happens so often that there is a term for it. It is called 'getting LNP-ed'.

They have cut \$40 million from domestic and family violence prevention. They have cut \$42 million from emergency homelessness providers. Community groups are now saying that they are being threatened into silence by this LNP government. How can organisations that are advocating for our most vulnerable do their job when their funding is being threatened by the very government that is supposed to be providing the support for the services they offer?

Let's look at the \$42 million being cut from emergency hotel accommodation. We are talking about the jobs of 37 staff. We are talking about a \$3.5 million cut to UnitingCare—'getting LNP-ed'. We are talking about a \$1.2 million cut to the Salvos—'getting LNP-ed'. We are talking about cuts to St Vincent de Paul and Mission Australia—'getting LNP-ed'. They might be intimidated into silence, but we will speak on their behalf.

Unfortunately, I need to inform the House today that another organisation has been 'LNP-ed' in our community—Wounded Heroes. It is a local Bundamba veterans organisation that has been a very successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work provider for years. I, along with other Ipswich members, have had the opportunity to go to their graduations. They have missed out on funding. Hundreds of thousands of dollars of funding has been cut from their Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. Now there will be locals in our community—young people—who will not be trained in hospitality and who will not be making meals for our veterans because of this government.

They are not the only ones. I table a list of cuts from Skilling Queenslanders for Work that totals over \$15 million across the length and breadth of our great state.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Skilling Queenslanders for Work First Start-CBOs—Funding and Allocations' [[1509](#)].

With this government we get spin over substance—

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member for Bundaberg—

Mr McCALLUM:—silence over service delivery and savage cuts over support. Shame, LNP. Shame.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bundaberg, I ask you to not quarrel across the House.

Resources Industry, Critical Minerals

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (2.55 pm): Regional Queensland craves opportunity, and opportunity means that young people can stay in local businesses and win work and money can keep circulating through our—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member for Bundaberg, I cautioned you about quarrelling across the House. Gesturing across the House fits within that category. I ask you to refrain.

Mr WATTS: Opportunity means that our towns can thrive and young people can stay in the towns they grew up in. Critical minerals are an opportunity for regional Australia. They underpin defence, advanced manufacturing and modern technology. Opportunity only comes when government can make clear decisions, coordinate infrastructure and ensure development is done properly. The bill that was passed last night creates a gateway for projects of genuine state significance.

Let me be clear: declaring a state strategic project does not approve the project. It grants no environmental authority, mining lease or development approval and removes no cultural heritage obligation or Commonwealth requirement, but it does coordinate roads, water, power and workforce needs. It has the opportunity to get rid of duplicated processes, and modification orders are project specific and must necessarily be in the state interests. They may, through regulation tabled in parliament and subject to a disallowance that cannot remove the requirement to hold key authorisations, include environmental approvals, RIDAs where they are triggered, mining leases and cultural heritage approvals.

I turn directly to landholders. A farmer defending land, water and livelihood is acting responsibly. Compulsory acquisition must be a last resort. There must first be at least six months of genuine negotiation. The Coordinator-General must consult the landholder. The proponent must make a final unconditional offer, including reasonable valuation and legal advice costs. Acquisition must be in the state interest and activated by the regulation. Existing objections and compensation rights remain.

Last night people were trying to claim that we had given people a blank cheque. It does not sound like a blank cheque to me; it sounds like a really good way to organise the opportunity that is in front of us so we can grab what the world needs in critical minerals, develop them in Queensland and make sure regional Queensland has an opportunity to thrive. The government has listened. The amendments that were moved preserve the RIDA requirement where it applies and exclude renewable energy projects and data centres from this exceptional pathway.

This government listens. It consults. It listens. It is willing to act on that. Labor cannot have it both ways. Comparable acquisition powers have existed under Queensland law since 1999. Labor used a comparable pathway in 2017.

(Time expired)

Spencer, Dr J



Mr KNUTH (Hill—KAP) (2.58 pm): Today I recognise a woman who deserves to be called a hero: Dr Jillian Spencer. Dr Spencer stood up for vulnerable Queensland children when it would have been far easier to remain silent. She questioned Queensland Health's gender affirmation model. She called for proper clinical assessment, caution and open scientific debate before children were placed on medical pathways that could have lifelong consequences. For doing her job and putting the welfare of children first, she paid an enormous personal and professional price. She was terminated from her position and publicly vilified.

I have raised concerns in this House before about Queensland Health's gender clinics and affirmation model. The Katter's Australian Party stood with Dr Spencer when very few others were prepared to. More than 8,000 Queenslanders signed our petition supporting her. While all of this was happening, where were the voices in this parliament? Where were the members willing to stand up and ask the difficult questions? The silence was disgraceful. Too many members in this place turned a blind eye. They were too frightened to challenge an ideology that had become entrenched within our health system. They were more concerned about being criticised for speaking out than asking whether vulnerable children were receiving the safest possible care.

Dr Spencer was not silent. She stood her ground despite knowing it would cost her career. Queensland Health has now publicly apologised to Dr Spencer and reached a private settlement with her. That apology cannot give her back the years she has lost. It cannot undo the damage to her career or the toll on her family, but it should force Queensland Health and this parliament to confront what happened. The Minister for Health must now finish the job. The temporary pause on puberty blockers and gender-affirming hormones for new patients under 18 should be made permanent.

The minister must also address any remaining culture within Queensland Health's gender services where ideology is placed ahead of silence, clinical independence and the best interests of the child. Doctors must never again fear professional punishment for questioning a treatment model or advocating a more cautious approach.

Children experiencing gender distress deserve thorough psychological assessment, time and the highest standard of evidence-based care. Children should not be rushed down a one-way medical pathway because of unproven extreme ideologies. International evidence, including the Cass review, has reinforced the need for caution and stronger evidence in this area. Dr Spencer understood that years ago. She stood against the tide because she believed protecting children was more important than protecting her career.

Resources Industry, Critical Minerals

 **Mr CHIESA** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (3.01 pm): In the Hinchinbrook electorate we understand the balance between agriculture and resources. We get it. We are home to some of Queensland's great agricultural industries—sugar, cattle, bananas and horticulture. We also have thousands of people who live in our communities and work either directly or indirectly in the mining industry. We have families whose livelihoods depend on agriculture, mining, refining, processing and the industries that support them.

We understand that Queensland does not have to choose between agriculture and resources. We need them both. Right now there is an enormous opportunity in front of regional Queensland. Global demand for critical minerals is growing. The critical minerals framework between Australia and the United States has created renewed momentum to establish secure supply chains, and North and North-West Queensland can be a major part in supplying that demand. We have the resources. We have the expertise. We have mining communities across the north-west, and we have Townsville's industrial and refining capability sitting on the doorstep.

However, to capture this opportunity, our legislation needs to keep pace. The State Development and Public Works Organisation Act dates back to 1971. The legislation that we passed last night modernises that framework, reduces unnecessary regulatory duplication and gives Queensland better tools to facilitate major products and attract investment. Despite some of the commentary surrounding the bill, many of the powers being discussed are not new. Compulsory acquisition powers for private infrastructure projects have existed in Queensland since 1999.

This legislation provides greater clarity and transparency around when those powers can be used—and, importantly, there are safeguards. Landholders retain the rights to consultation, objection and compensation. Environmental approvals remain, and proponents must demonstrate at least six months of genuine negotiations with a landholder before an acquisition pathway can even be considered.

Good governments also listen. Agricultural groups and regional Queenslanders raised legitimate concerns about protecting prime agricultural land and the scope of state strategic projects. We listened and we acted. The legislation was amended to ensure a modification order cannot move a regional interests development approval where one is required, providing certainty around protections for prime agricultural land. Renewable energy projects—including wind, solar and batteries—were excluded from being state strategic projects and so, too, were data centres. This is what listening looks like. It is not simply having consultation and carrying on regardless. It is hearing concerns, considering them and, where legislation can be improved, making the changes.

Back home in Hinchinbrook we understand the balance. We can protect our farmers and productive agricultural land while backing our resources sector, we can attract investment while maintaining appropriate safeguards, and we can ensure North and North-West Queensland are at the centre of Australia's critical minerals future.

(Time expired)

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Report, Motion to Take Note

Resumed from 4 June (see p. 1769), on motion of Mr Powell—

That the House take note of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly report No. 40, 58th Parliament, *Report on the 2025 budget estimates process*, tabled on 23 September 2025.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (3.04 pm), continuing: In summing up the CLA report, I thought I should go to the great voices of this parliament. That is why I go to the Hon. Mick de Brenni, the member for Springwood. He stated—

There were 830 points of order ... That is not incidental; that is tactical. Every point of order stops questioning. Every interruption consumes time that was for Queenslanders to hear answers from this government. Every procedural argument undermined scrutiny of the executive.

Another member stated—

When I look at other jurisdictions, including the parliament in Canberra, across both sides of politics, I see the estimates process and I see it working. I see an opportunity for ministers to be scrutinised. I see an opportunity for genuine cross-examination. I see an opportunity for the opposition to ask a series of questions that can bring the truth to bear. Then I look at Queensland and I see the protection racket for ministers who are not across their brief. I see the protection racket from a government that does not believe in integrity.

What great mind was I quoting there? That was David Crisafulli. He knows that this process is one that is set up to be a protection racket for ministers.

Mr DILLON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order relating to the expression that has been used twice by the member on his feet being unparliamentary.

Mr POWER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am directly quoting David Crisafulli from *Hansard*.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): I understand. I am going to take some advice from the Clerk.

Mr POWER: I want to emphasise that that was a direct quote.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: 'Protection racket' has been ruled unparliamentary previously, so please avoid the use of that term.

Mr POWER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I want to clarify—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can we have one voice at a time, please?

Mr POWER: I was going to go on to quote Jarrod Bleijie, who said the offending phrase in this parliament.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please use correct titles, too.

Mr POWER: I was also going to go on to quote Andrew Powell, who said the offending phrase in this parliament.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Use correct titles, please, member.

Mr POWER: I was going to go on to quote Jarrod Bleijie, who said it seven times—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: One moment. I am hearing a point of order. Am I hearing a point of order or an argument?

Mr POWER: I just want to clarify that, even though in the last parliament the term was used by those opposite hundreds of times, I cannot quote what they said?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, that particular phrase has been ruled unparliamentary previously. I should know that. I asked for it to be done.

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

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: One moment. I will go to the member Glass House.

Mr POWELL: I seem to recall on three occasions you warned the member to use correct titles, yet he persisted in not doing so.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I guided him. I am sure the member for Logan heard me. Member, was that your point of order?

Ms MARR: It was the same point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That phrase has been ruled unparliamentary, and I ask the member to use correct titles.

Mr POWER: My apologies. That clarification is useful for all to know as that is a new standard set in this parliament. I will go on to quote the member for Springwood.

Mr HUNT: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I point out that the member has not withdrawn the statement yet.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Which statement?

Mr HUNT: He has not withdrawn the unparliamentary language.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have been advised that it has been ruled unparliamentary. We will discuss that later. I know I have previously raised that issue myself. Have you finished?

Mr POWER: For the record, I wish to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I was going to get to that. Please continue, member for Logan.

Mr POWER: The report says it was all about obstruction and hiding from scrutiny. We have a unicameral parliament—the only one in the Commonwealth—and this government must show restraint. We are calling for the system that we asked for—for the 70-30 rule to be restored. If this government does not do it and does not give the deputy chairs the ability to chair the hearings, as they promised, then they have let down the people of Queensland and are hiding from scrutiny.

(Time expired)

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note



Mr MOLHOEK (Southport—LNP) (3.10 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee Report No. 15, 58th Parliament, *Consideration of Auditor-General Report 12: 2022-23—Growing ecotourism in Queensland*, tabled on 31 October 2025.

At the outset, I congratulate the new Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation and his team for their rapid response in addressing the concerns raised by the Auditor-General in *Report 12: 2022-23—Growing ecotourism in Queensland*. The delivery of Destination 2045 and related policies announced in June 2025 address the Queensland Audit Office's recommendations and remedy the previous government's failure to deliver a clear strategic plan for ecotourism in our state. Given that Queensland is blessed with so many natural wonders, it is difficult to understand why the previous government failed to deliver a clear strategy and adequately respond to the recommendations of the Auditor-General.

In just a few short months the incoming minister, through a more focused and manageable department, has delivered what the previous government failed to deliver during its decade in office. Queensland is a state of extraordinary natural beauty. Our attractions stretch from Coolangatta to the tip of Cape York and west to the border. The Great Barrier Reef is a living treasure. We are blessed with some of the best beaches in the world and magnificent rainforest environments, including the Daintree. We have some of the most beautiful tropical islands anywhere in the world, including the magnificent Whitsundays, as well as outstanding fishing, snorkelling and diving experiences.

These natural environments also support unique tourism experiences, including crocodile cruises on the Proserpine River, Hartley's Crocodile Adventures and First Nations cultural experiences, but it is not just our coastal region we should celebrate. Outback Queensland has an enormous amount to offer, including the dinosaurs of Winton, the Charleville Cosmos Centre and the many extraordinary experiences available through places such as Longreach. We also have wineries and regional food

experiences throughout our great state, giving visitors the opportunity to enjoy both our enviable natural environment and the outstanding produce that Queensland has to offer. These experiences form part of the rich tapestry that attracts millions of domestic and international visitors to Queensland each year.

Against that backdrop it is even more difficult to understand why the previous government failed to deliver a comprehensive strategy for ecotourism. Since coming to office the Crisafulli government has conducted roundtable discussions across Queensland, engaging with tourism operators, communities and industry representatives to help develop what I believe will be regarded as a landmark strategy—congratulations, Minister—Destination 2045. The committee heard from the director-general, the department and their representatives about this road map to unlock the full potential of ecotourism in Queensland. The government's plan supports the transformation and development of visitor experiences while creating the conditions for investment in world-class tourism products and events. I particularly note the minister's comments in the forward to Destination 2045 where he said—

This plan ... it's about supporting an industry that is innovative, diverse, and sustainable, with the right conditions to achieve excellence.

That is precisely the approach that Queensland needs. Importantly, the Crisafulli government is not simply producing another strategy document; it is backing that strategy with practical measures, including the delivery of 45 additional rangers within the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. That investment is important because successful ecotourism depends on protecting the very natural assets that attract visitors to Queensland in the first place. Our national parks, rainforests, islands, reefs and unique wildlife are not only environmental treasures; they are important economic assets that support jobs, regional communities and tourism businesses across the state.

I believe it is fair to say that the Crisafulli government has taken decisive and timely action to address the outstanding concerns and recommendations identified in the Auditor-General's *Growing ecotourism in Queensland* report. After years without clear strategic direction, Queensland now has a long-term plan through Destination 2045, stronger engagement with industry and communities, and practical investment to support and protect our natural assets. Queensland has some of the greatest natural tourism experiences anywhere in the world. Our task now is to protect them, promote them and unlock their full potential. I am confident this government will do exactly that.

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (3.15 pm): Queensland should be a world leader in ecotourism. We obviously have the Great Barrier Reef, the Wet Tropics, the ancient landscapes of Cape York, extraordinary national parks, pristine islands and rich living cultural heritage. If you were serious, why would you abolish the state's renewable energy targets? But I will park that for a moment so I can talk about what the word 'ecotourism' actually means. Ecotourism is not simply putting a commercial tourism operation in a national park and calling it sustainable. It is tourism that provides opportunities for people to experience and understand natural and cultural environments while contributing to their protection, supporting local communities and, just as importantly, educating visitors and sustainable practices.

That distinction matters, because the Crisafulli government's approach looks less like a genuine ecotourism strategy and more like a strategy for commercialising Queensland's natural environment. The government points to its Destination 2045 strategy and its so-called 45 by 45 initiative as evidence of its commitment, but when you look beneath the glossy photographs, aspirational language and distant promises—and they are very distant—there is remarkably little substance. Indeed, the most perplexing aspect of this committee's report is the conclusion that Destination 2045 and 45 by 45 directly address the recommendations of Auditor-General's *Report 12: 2022-23—Growing ecotourism in Queensland*.

The Auditor-General made four fundamental recommendations: Queensland needed a coherent statewide policy; an implementation road map; better alignment between agency plans; and simpler regulatory processes. The important point is that this work was already substantially underway. The Queensland Audit Office's *2024 status of Auditor-General's recommendations* report, tabled in September 2024, found that the former department of environment and science and Tourism and Events Queensland had either fully or partially implemented the recommendations. In other words, much of the hard policy work had already been done by the former Labor government before the 2024 election. The Crisafulli government has effectively taken that work, put a new label on it, extended the timeframe to 2045 and presented it as a new vision. Remarkably, that would not be the first time they have done that. That is not transformation; it is repackaging.

The former Labor government's approach recognised that Queensland's natural assets are not only an economic opportunity but also an environmental responsibility. It sought to establish a practical framework for sustainable tourism, including through the tourism infrastructure development framework and investment in projects that could provide genuine nature-based experiences. When we look at the projects the Crisafulli government proudly promotes under the 45 by 45 initiative the record becomes even more revealing, because it reveals that projects such as the Wangetti Trail, Thorsborne Trail, and the Ngaro Track were initiated, planned, approved and delivered by the former Labor government. So much of what the current government is presenting as evidence of its own ecotourism agenda is actually the legacy of the previous Labor government. That is amazing, isn't it?

The real question now is what the Crisafulli government intends to do with this legacy, because there is a profound difference between investing in ecotourism and commercialising protected areas. Professor Buckley of Griffith University has made an observation that should concern every Queenslanders. He has warned of governments that hand publicly funded assets to private tourism operators and turn experiences that were once affordable into premium products beyond the reach of ordinary families. This is a critical warning.

Our national parks and protected areas belong to all Queenslanders. They are public assets. They should not become a collection of exclusive commercial playgrounds where access to nature increasingly depends upon the ability to pay. The purpose of ecotourism should be to help fund environmental protection, support local economies, provide meaningful opportunities for traditional owners and educate travellers about sustainable options.

Queenslanders do not need another glossy strategy stretching way off to 2045 with no accountability. They need measurable environmental standards, transparent decision-making, genuine conservation outcomes, proper community consultation, traditional owner leadership and a clear commitment that public land remains a public asset.

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (3.20 pm): I rise to speak to the debate on the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee report No. 15 of the 58th Parliament titled *Consideration of Auditor-General Report 12: 2022-23—Growing ecotourism in Queensland*, tabled on 31 October 2025. I thank the committee for its detailed and thoughtful consideration and recommendation that the House notes the contents of the tabled report. The Auditor-General's report provides an important account of the challenges that held back ecotourism development in Queensland. Despite the best efforts of the member for Cairns to rewrite history, the problems were clear. What was holding back ecotourism in Queensland was the Labor government itself.

The Auditor-General found there was no statewide policy on ecotourism that clearly set out how the state's tourism and environmental bodies would work toward the government's vision. The report also found that approval processes and the delivery of ecotourism developments were lengthy, complex and costly. They were too slow, too complex and too costly. Under the former Labor government, Queensland was left without a coherent statewide policy to grow ecotourism and provide proponents with a clear pathway to progress their projects. Progress was limited, with only three ecotourism facilities in national parks approved in the 10 years since 2013 with a further two in development. It is quite clear that despite what the member for Cairns was saying they had no plan and no clue. The Auditor-General called them out.

The Crisafulli government does have a clear plan to deliver a brighter future for ecotourism in Queensland. I am pleased to note the committee's endorsement of this vision. Ecotourism is a key pillar of the Crisafulli government's long-term vision for tourism. It is the single reason why the Premier put the environment department and the tourism department together in one portfolio. The government recognises that doing this can deliver ecotourism. We acknowledge its crucial role in supporting conservation, attracting visitors, creating jobs and providing health benefits.

Since October 2024 the Crisafulli government has made significant progress in cleaning up Labor's mess and implementing the Auditor-General's recommendations. The release of *Destination 2045: delivering Queensland's tourism future*, as well as the 45 by 45 initiative, getting ecotourism moving in Queensland, directly addresses the recommendations even the member for Cairns acknowledged were in the report, including: the need for a clear statewide ecotourism policy—tick; better alignment of agency strategies—you do not get better alignment than merging the departments; clear investment priorities—45 by 45; measurable goals—45 by 45; and streamlined regulatory frameworks to support proponents, which was the legislation we debated in this House not that long ago which streamlined permitting for proponents in our protected area estate. This is clear policy, clear priorities and clear ambition.

It is pleasing to see the committee's confirmation that three of the four Auditor-General recommendations have been fully implemented and the fourth continues to be implemented, recognising our ongoing work to further streamline regulatory processes and policy to support ecotourism delivery in Queensland. We took another step last night when we passed the critical minerals bill, which also provides a further streamlined process for ecotourism and tourism operations.

In line with the Auditor-General's report, 45 by 45 delivers a new statewide ecotourism policy. It is a significant change from the position identified by the Auditor-General, where the absence of a policy made it difficult to measure ecotourism offerings. That uncertainty has finished. Destination 2045 serves as a road map. We are engaging with operators and investors who are willing to deliver ecotourism outcomes. That is the ambition.

Queensland will champion 45 world-class innovative ecotourism projects that are high-quality, low-impact experiences able to protect Queensland's natural beauty—despite the scaremongering of the member for Cairns—and showcase its unique offerings. Eight have already been delivered in the Whitsundays, Tropical North Queensland, Townsville and the Gold Coast. Two projects are already completed with the establishment of guided hikes on the Thorsborne Trail on Hinchinbrook Island and the new Ngaro Track in the Whitsundays.

After years in which ecotourism projects struggled to move through the system under the former Labor government, we are getting on with delivering them. We are also progressing the Wangetti Trail, with a great announcement last week, as well as many others. We heard what the Auditor-General has said. We are cleaning up Labor's mess. We are delivering a bright future for ecotourism in this great state of Queensland.

 **Dr O'SHEA** (South Brisbane—ALP) (3.25 pm): I rise to speak on the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee's report on Auditor-General report No. 12 for 2022-23 titled *Growing ecotourism in Queensland*. I would like to thank the Auditor-General and the staff of the Queensland Audit Office for their ongoing work providing the Queensland parliament with independent information on public sector performance and accountability. I also thank my fellow committee members and the committee secretariat for their work during this inquiry.

The Auditor-General's report identified a number of issues related to planning and coordinating ecotourism in Queensland. These included: the need for a consistent statewide policy on ecotourism; fragmented responsibilities across Queensland government agencies; and approval processes that were onerous and overly complex for the sector to navigate. The Auditor-General made four recommendations to address these findings, and this report was tabled in 2023. In the period since then, the Queensland government has consolidated the tourism and environment portfolios into a single department, the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, DETSI. Notwithstanding this change, it was clear to the committee that the Auditor-General's recommendations regarding greater policy coherence and coordination were still relevant now and necessary to support the Queensland government's vision of becoming a world leader in ecotourism.

This report and its recommendations are significant because the ecotourism sector sits at the intersection of economic opportunity and environmental responsibility. Queensland is home to some of the greatest natural wonders that Australia and the world has to offer. Whether it is the beauty of the Great Barrier Reef or the Whitsundays or our magnificent rainforests, our unique and spectacular natural environment has become a drawcard for domestic and international tourists and is vital to local and regional economies. However, our natural environment is also vulnerable and finite. For Queensland to have a strong and sustainable ecotourism sector, ecotourism growth must be balanced with environmental management, particularly in protected areas where visitor pressure can have significant and lasting impacts.

At the public hearing with DETSI in September 2025, concerns were raised with the department about the risks to the environment of an increased focus on ecotourism. In response the department advised the committee—

When it comes to balancing overtourism, we will continue to monitor data on visitor numbers to national parks, which will provide high-level indicators regarding visitation and the natural environment. It is also important to note that Queensland Parks and Wildlife has many tools to address visitor capacities, including management plans, visitor strategies and sustainable visitor capacity management studies—

The Auditor-General's report also draws attention to the practical barriers in the approval process for the creation of ecotourism facilities. In the public hearing in February 2025, the department explained that industry feedback on the current approval process was that it was extremely complex, time consuming and a huge investment, with proponents often dealing not only with three levels of

government but also across different departments in each level. In light of this, there is obviously a clear need to ensure that approval pathways for ecotourism initiatives are simplified and streamlined while ensuring the environment remains protected.

The committee found that progress is being made on all four of the Auditor-General's recommendations. However, the measure of real success will be in the long-term performance of Queensland's ecotourism industry and the health of our world-class natural wonders. This will require ongoing oversight and measurement of the industry's performance and willingness from both the government and stakeholders to adapt approaches as new evidence emerges. Only then will Queensland be best placed to grow our ecotourism sector in the sustainable, responsible way worthy of the extraordinary natural wonders we are privileged to protect.

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (3.30 pm): I rise to contribute to the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee's report No. 15, titled *Consideration of Auditor-General Report 12: 2022-23—Growing ecotourism in Queensland*. Queensland is truly blessed with the most extraordinary natural environments anywhere in the world. In Hervey Bay and across the Fraser Coast, ecotourism is not an abstract concept; it is inherent in our daily lives, it sustains our visitor economy and it underpins small businesses and local jobs. Hervey Bay is home to Fraser (K'gari) Island, a UNESCO World Heritage listed natural wonder, and it is globally recognised for its environmental and cultural significance. Hervey Bay is a World Cetaceans Alliance accredited whale heritage site, arguably the world's whale-watching capital and one of the world's greatest marine experiences.

Ecotourism is defined as ecologically sustainable tourism with a primary focus on experiencing natural areas. It fosters environmental and cultural understanding, appreciation and conservation. The 2023 Auditor-General's ecotourism report was clear: for too long the former Labor government's approach to ecotourism lacked coordination, clarity and direction. The Auditor-General's report identified four historical issues: firstly, the absence of a clear, statewide ecotourism policy; secondly, fragmented planning across government agencies; thirdly, the lack of a coordinated road map to guide development and investment; and finally, overly complex approval processes that deterred proponents. The committee confirmed the Auditor-General's concerns, particularly the lack of a clear policy framework, fragmented planning and regulatory complexity. The Crisafulli government's consolidation of the environment, tourism, science and innovation functions into a single department provides a more coordinated, whole-of-government approach to ecotourism planning and delivery.

The release of *Destination 2045: delivering Queensland's tourism future* is a long-term, 20-year vision to position Queensland as a global leader in tourism and ecotourism. Destination 2045 is supplemented by the Crisafulli government's ecotourism policy, Getting Tourism Moving in Queensland, and delivering 45 world-class ecotourism projects by 2045. Importantly, the strategy acknowledges that ecotourism is a competitive advantage for Queensland. Ecotourism creates jobs, supports communities and strengthens our economy if managed responsibly.

Destination 2045 sets ambitious stretch goals. By 2045 Queensland will aim to grow visitor expenditure significantly, support tens of thousands of additional jobs and deliver world-class ecotourism experiences that showcase our natural environment. For Hervey Bay and the Fraser Coast, this presents a significant opportunity: an opportunity to expand nature-based tourism, an opportunity to support local operators and small businesses, and an opportunity to ensure that the benefits of tourism growth remain in our communities. However, ambition must be tempered with substantive action.

The Auditor-General made it clear that success in ecotourism depends on getting the fundamentals right: clear policy settings, coordinated planning and streamlined processes. Destination 2045 streamlines approvals, reduces duplication and provides clearer pathways for investment in tourism infrastructure and experiences. Reducing regulatory burden and providing certainty helps to stimulate investment, drive innovation and create jobs.

We must also be mindful of the risks. The committee's inquiry rightly considered the issue of overtourism. As visitor numbers grow, there is a real risk of environmental degradation if development is not carefully managed. We know that in fragile ecosystems, including national parks and World Heritage areas, there are limitations. That is why sustainable visitor management, strong environmental protections and ongoing monitoring must remain at the heart of our approach. In my electorate, protecting our UNESCO listed Fraser (K'gari) Island and our magnificent marine environment is not optional; it is essential. It is essential for our environment. It is essential for tourism. It is essential for future generations.

The future of ecotourism in Queensland depends on balance—balancing economic opportunity with environmental responsibility and balancing growth with sustainability. The Auditor-General's report highlights the challenges we must address and reinforces the need for substantive reform.

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (3.35 pm): Auditor-General report 12 of 2022-23, *Growing ecotourism in Queensland*, made four recommendations emphasising the need for a coherent statewide policy, an implementation road map, alignment of agency plans and simplified regulatory processes. QAO report 1 of 2024-25, *Status of Auditor-General's recommendations*, tabled on 20 September 2024, identified that the former department of environment and TEQ had either fully or partially implemented the report's recommendations, so the work was largely done under our government prior to the 2024 election.

What perplexed me about this report of the committee is that it concluded that the Crisafulli government's Destination 2045 strategy and 45 by 45 initiative directly address the original recommendations contained in the QAO report 12, including the need for clear goals and measurable indicators of success, when those documents are little more than glossy brochures filled with photos and future commitments such as, 'We will do this by 2045 because we haven't done anything yet.' I note a similar point, at least in part, is also made by the member for Noosa in her statement of reservation. Of course, it was also made by my colleague the member for Cairns in his contribution.

Ecotourism, when done appropriately, is a good thing. It invites people into a closer understanding and stewardship of local ecosystems and cultures. That can increase visitor appreciation and understanding of natural and cultural values. As an avid hiker and conservationist, I love nothing more than engaging in 'leave no trace' experiences on country and in protected areas. However, the great challenge of ecotourism, particularly in our national parks and protected areas, is balancing the economic return that tourism seeks with the limits that genuine environmental protection necessitates. When you make a commitment to double visitor expenditure to \$84 billion, as Destination 2045 does, stakeholders raise understandable concern about whether this balance actually exists or is even being sought. This coupled with the government's clear preference to override planning and environmental protections in the interests of political expediency is also of significant and increasing concern. The Queensland Conservation Council said this of the government's plan—

The Destination 2045 plan ... must not be a glossy brochure with generic positive words that skate over the fundamental challenge of protecting and restoring nature. The framework with which it provides the tourism sector must embed good planning and community engagement processes, especially when tourism experiences centre around protected areas.

...

... Traditional Owners should be at the heart of ecotourism on their country, and more needs to be done to promote tourism ventures where they have a majority equity stake.

Almost all—perhaps all—of the current listed ecotourism projects the government refers to as their 45 by 45 were initiated, planned, approved and/or delivered by our former Labor government—Wangetti Trail, Thorsborne Trail and Ngaro Track to name just a few. As this government starts to deliver their own homework of critical interest will be the decisions they make and must account for to Queenslanders; how they balance the development of private tourism in national parks and protected areas with conservation and equal public access and benefit of these areas; and how those opposite manage and mitigate the well documented ecological risks in respect of fixed site tourism developments that can fragment habitats, damage vegetation, disturb wildlife and introduce weeds, pathogens and feral species if there is an incongruence between the development and the ecosystem requirements. Of course, my colleague the member for Cairns cited leading work of Professor Buckley of Griffith University in this regard. I would hate to see this as a legacy of this plan left for Queenslanders in respect of the national parks and protected areas, that these beautiful places, which are owned by everyone, are turned into unaffordable experiences because premium products take priority. With regard to national parks and protected areas, they belong to every Queenslander and every Australian and global citizen who visits them, as does the responsibility for their protection.

The committee report makes mention of the testimony from the director-general of the department regarding the benefit to the tourism sector of combining the environment and tourism portfolios in respect of faster approvals and cutting red tape. I appreciate this would be of significant commercial benefit, but the director-general should never forget that there is an inherent conflict in the responsibility she has as a decision-maker under section 35 of the Nature Conservation Act to protect the cardinal principle and promote tourism in this state. That balance and the importance of those roles

should never be forgotten. Also, the inherent conflict should never be forgotten. The director-general should refer her powers under the Nature Conservation Act to protect our protected areas when these decisions are being made.

 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (3.40 pm): I rise today as the member for Redcliffe to speak on the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee report No. 15, *Consideration of Auditor-General Report 12: 2022-23—Growing ecotourism in Queensland*. This is an important report because ecotourism is not just about attracting visitors to beautiful places. Done properly, it is about creating jobs, supporting small businesses, growing regional economies and giving Queenslanders and visitors a reason to value and protect the natural environment that makes our state so special. For my community on the Redcliffe, this opportunity is very real.

Redcliffe is the gateway to Moreton Bay and to some of Queensland's most remarkable marine and island experiences. We have tourism operators on our doorstep who rely heavily on our healthy waterways, marine life and a strong visitor economy. Brisbane Whale Watching is a great example. Operating from the Redcliffe jetty, this local business gives visitors the opportunity to experience our marine environment up close and personal. Its success is directly connected to the quality of our environment and waterways and the number of people choosing Redcliffe and Moreton Bay as a destination. Congratulations to Captain Kerry Lopez who is celebrating 30 years of delivering whale watching experiences this year.

The same is true of operators providing experiences on Moreton Island and right across the City of Moreton Bay. I give a shout-out to local operators on Moreton Island: Tangatours at Tangalooma Island Resort, sunset safaris with Adventure Moreton Island and Dolphin Wild Island Cruises.

This report made four recommendations which all essentially call for a clear statewide policy defining ecotourism, identifying priorities and setting a clear direction for Queensland to become a world leader in ecotourism. The Crisafulli government is taking decisive action. Destination 2045, delivering Queensland's tourism future, was released in June last year and provides a 20-year clear direction for Queensland tourism and includes more than \$1 billion in tourism investment, regulatory reform and partnerships with the private sector. Tonight we welcome Tourism Queensland to Parliament House.

We have also acted to simplify approvals. DETSI is simplifying application processes and permitting arrangements for ecotourism projects on and off protected areas. Growing ecotourism must never mean sacrificing the natural assets that attract visitors in the first place. That balance is particularly important for Moreton Bay. The health of our marine environment is fundamental to the future of operators such as Brisbane Whale Watching. That is why delivering on our Crisafulli government election commitment of zero litter to the bay by 2030 is so important. This is about protecting our beautiful dugongs, turtles and dolphins in Moreton Bay by giving money to local councils for stormwater infiltration, stopping over 6,000 wheelie bins of rubbish from getting into the bay. Sustainable tourism means protecting the very environment on which these businesses depend.

I also welcome the focus on private investment, grants and tourism infrastructure contained within the new policy direction. The committee heard about initiatives including the Tourism Icons Investment Fund and the Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund. For Redcliffe, that means more opportunities for local operators, more reasons for visitors to come to the peninsula and spend their money and more economic activity flowing through our cafes, restaurants, shops and accommodation providers.

I acknowledge Minister Andrew Powell, the health committee, the secretariat, the Queensland Audit Office, DETSI staff and Tourism and Events Queensland for their input into this report. As the member for Redcliffe, my heartland and my home, I want to see that direction deliver practical outcomes for businesses in my electorate. I want to see Brisbane Whale Watching continue to showcase our beautiful marine environment. I want to see Moreton Island operators benefit from increased visitation and investment. I want to see visitors staying in Redcliffe, spending in our local businesses and discovering everything that our beautiful peninsula has to offer.

 **Mr JKELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (3.45 pm): Haven't we had some tortured analogies in debates this week! The LNP love to take us on a journey. Didn't we all enjoy the journey to the Cairns courthouse earlier today. That was a wonderful tour, I have to say.

I want to take members on a bit of a tour in relation to this report on ecotourism. At the core of this report is ecotourism, but what would that possibly have in common with social housing in Stones Corner and the much reduced hospital infrastructure plan that was rolled out? What would that have in common with the containers for change review that spent a year to find the answer that we had an

issue with governance, but sitting on the minister's desk for 18 months was a governance review? What would all that have in common? At the core of what we have here is an ecotourism report that says that the 2045 ecotourism report is pretty good. When we dig into it, what we really have is Labor's report. They have handed in Labor's homework in all of those cases: the building of social housing in Stones Corner—Labor; hospital infrastructure—Labor; and the governance review into containers for change—Labor. Here we have an ecotourism report. Is nothing safe from the LNP! Apparently, everything we do was written by Luke Richmond, the member for Stafford. We do not need AI on this side of the House; we have Luke Richmond. He does a pretty good job.

When we look at the recommendations in this ecotourism report that the Auditor-General put together, the coherent statewide policy and implementation road map, the alignment of agency plans and the simplified regulatory processes were all there. The work was done. Not only was it done, but when we put questions to the director-general in the hearings it was confirmed that the work was all done. What we have done is come in, chuck a couple of glossy pictures in, get it down to the team in marketing, change the name and come out and say we have a new road map.

When we went through the estimates process, what did we hear about in the tourism industry? We did not hear people say, 'This is fantastic.' We did not have people lining up saying, 'Cutting all those flights to Cairns has done a great job. No longer having flights from Christchurch or Hong Kong is a great outcome.' Where do we find that in the road map? Let's get fewer people visiting Cairns. That would be a really good thing. In fact, if we could drive it down to zero by 2045; wouldn't that be visionary.

Recommendation 1 in this report identified that respecting the cultural and traditional ownership of First Nations people should form part of the state's priorities for ecotourism. That is something Labor will always back. I say to First Nations communities that might be interested in getting involved in ecotourism under an LNP government: good luck. If it is based on respect, they are dealing with a government whose first priority when they were elected was to shut down the Path to Treaty. If they are willing to shut down something incredibly important to First Nations people, what chance do they have when it comes to ecotourism? It will not be a priority for this government. That is a great shame. We have a fantastic, thriving, vibrant, living culture in the First Nations community. We could be working with those communities to ensure it is there for the world to experience, to enjoy, to learn from, to sustain. I do not see anything in this plan that will do that. I think that is a great shame.

What we have here is a bit of homework that has been handed in from somebody else—Labor—and we see very little vision from this minister for ecotourism. In fact, when we look in a few years time we will see a few so-called ecotourism projects for which public money will be dished out to LNP mates to set up something dodgy on public land to make themselves money. No doubt, they will then be going to more fundraisers to hand some of that money back.

 **Mrs YOUNG** (Redlands—LNP) (3.49 pm): I rise to speak to the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee's report No. 15, titled *Consideration of Auditor-General Report 12: 2022-23—Growing ecotourism in Queensland*. When you look at the Redlands, it is easy to see the potential of ecotourism. We have the Moreton Bay, our islands, conservation areas, bushland and waterways, all within easy reach of Brisbane and the growing south-east corner. What makes Redlands special is not something we want to compromise in order to attract more visitors. The opportunity is to protect our natural environment while creating new ways for people to experience it, supporting local businesses, creating jobs and strengthening our visitor economy along the way. That is exactly why getting Queensland's approach to ecotourism right is so important.

The Auditor-General identified that Queensland lacked a clear statewide ecotourism policy. Planning was fragmented, there was no clear road map for identifying and prioritising opportunities, and proponents were often confronted with complex and difficult approval processes. Queensland has extraordinary natural assets. What had been missing was a clear plan to turn those assets into sustainable opportunities. That is now changing. The Crisafulli government has released *Destination 2045: Delivering Queensland's Tourism Future* and *45 by 45: Getting Ecotourism Moving in Queensland*. The goal is ambitious—45 new world-class ecotourism experiences by 2045 supported by investment, better coordination and a clearer pathway for tourism operators and proponents.

We are already seeing that opportunity in the Redlands. Last year our government secured \$225,000 to progress business case planning for stage 2 of the Koala Coast Ecotourism Trail. This project has the potential to create a major nature-based trail network stretching from Bayview Conservation Park in Redlands through to Daisy Hill forest in Logan. Those who know Bayview know how particular it already is. Mountain bikers, walkers, runners, horse riders and families are there nearly every weekend, already making use of that incredible natural environment. The missing link provides an opportunity to connect those trail networks and create something much bigger. That is where

ecotourism becomes more than simply attracting visitors. A visitor who comes to Redlands to ride a trail might stop at a local cafe. They may stay overnight. They may visit another attraction, hire equipment or eat at a local restaurant. They might come back with their family. That means more customers for local businesses, more opportunities for tourism operators and more jobs in our region.

Just as importantly, this project gives people an opportunity to experience and understand our local environment. The Redlands Coast is home to extraordinary flora and fauna, and responsible nature-based tourism can help people connect with those places while creating a stronger appreciation for why they need to be protected. That balance is fundamental to this report. The committee specifically considered the risk of overtourism and the need to ensure increased visitation does not come at the expense of our natural environment. They heard that Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service uses management plans, visitor strategies, sustainable user capacity studies and values-based monitoring to help manage those impacts. That is important for Redlands. We want more people to discover our region. We want thoughtful, sustainable tourism that respects our bushland, our waterways, our wildlife and the communities that live alongside them.

The Auditor-General's report called for clearer planning, greater coordination and a more strategic approach to ecotourism. The committee found that the release of Destination 2045 and the government's new ecotourism policies represented significant progress in implementing those recommendations. In Redlands, we now have an opportunity to put that strategy into practice, with the Koala Coast Ecotourism Trail becoming another reason for people to visit our region, another opportunity for local businesses and another way for Queenslanders to experience our incredible natural environment. We do not need to change what Redlands is to attract visitors; we need to make the most of what we already have—our bay, our islands, our bushland, our wildlife and our outdoor lifestyle. That is the opportunity ecotourism offers the Redlands—protecting what makes our community special while creating new opportunities from it.



Hon. ML FURNER (Ferry Grove—ALP) (3.54 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate of the committee report on *Auditor-General Report 12: 2022-23—Growing ecotourism in Queensland* as a proud Queenslanders. Queensland Labor will always back sustainable and viable ecotourism projects that deliver benefits to both regional economies and the local environment. I have been very fortunate to travel to many of the locations reflected in this report throughout this amazing state—whether that be the reef, the bush, the rainforests or the deserts. In my time as the minister for local government, the minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships and the minister for agriculture and fisheries, I was extremely privileged to see some of those locations. I recognise not only our rich environment and nature but also the rich arts and culture stemming from our First Nations people, who have lived on this country for 60,000 years and have a spiritual connection with their country.

We recently witnessed—the member for Cairns would be familiar with this—the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair. When I first attended I bought one of my first pieces of Indigenous art, which proudly hangs in my office in Ferry Grove. You only need to travel to locations like Cherbourg and walk through the Ration Shed Museum to experience the history of our First Nations people and what they experienced not too long ago. I want to recognise Auntie Jeanette and the previous elders who recently provided education on the history of that place for people like me and the members for Aspley and South Brisbane.

I note that recommendation 1 of the report identified that respect for the cultural and traditional ownership of First Nations people should form part of the state's priorities for ecotourism. That is something Labor will always back. Unfortunately, it is unclear whether the same can be said for this Crisafulli LNP government. Why do I suggest that? We just concluded estimates, where Queenslanders heard that traditional owners feel disrespected by this government. That is little wonder, given their track record. In May 2023, in a regional sitting of parliament in Cairns, the leader of the then opposition, David Crisafulli, in his contribution to the debate of the Path to Treaty Bill commented in part—

I rise to support the Path to Treaty Bill 2023.

...

I believe in truth-telling, and to me that means telling it like it is. We need to be up-front. We cannot shy away from the real experiences ...

Well, the real experiences here are what our First Nations people can do through ecotourism. I question why this government is backflipping on that particular bill in terms of not appointing Indigenous people to boards or providing other opportunities for them to have input and visibility as First Nations people in our nation. He went on to say—

Path to Treaty is a genuine opportunity for our state to improve the lives of Indigenous Australians.

How can you do that if you do not include them in matters such as this or disrespect them by backtracking and backflipping on the Path to Treaty Bill? If these words tell you anything about the now Premier of Queensland it is that he cannot keep his word and he cannot be trusted. His words mean nothing. Where are his values? That became questionable when he backflipped to appease the far right of the Liberal National Party. This is a premier who says one thing in opposition and does another thing in government. That is why our First Nations people do not trust him and show no respect to this government. I have been to many events at which no Acknowledgement of Country was given by ministers, including the Minister for Multiculturalism and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. It is an absolute disgrace. It shows disrespect to our First Nations people and highlights how they treat vulnerable people who need respect in not only this state but also the nation.

Destination 2045 proposes to work with First Nations peoples to support culture and country and create access to valued tourism experiences. It claims to deliver and support First Nations tourism experiences that enhance employment. Once again, how will the government enhance employment and provide respect of and fulfilment for our First Nations peoples if it cannot keep its word on matters like the Path to Treaty Bill? This LNP government cannot be trusted. Our First Nations people know this. The Labor opposition knows this as well.

Debate, on motion of Mr Furner, adjourned.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Reporting Date and Referral of Auditor-General's Reports

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (4.00 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, that the Education, Arts and Communities Committee report on the Queensland Protection Commission Bill by 9 October 2026.

The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that Auditor-General's *Report 17: 2025-26—Accessing Legal Aid Queensland's representation services*; and Auditor-General's *Report 1: 2026-27—Rehabilitating and reintegrating prisoners* be referred to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee.

MOTION

Member for McConnel, Finding of Contempt

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (4.00 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—
That this House—

1. notes the Ethics Committee report No. 246, tabled in the House on 26 June 2026;
2. finds the member for McConnel in contempt in accordance with standing order 266(11) for misconducting oneself in the presence of the House;
3. determines that an unequivocal apology is an appropriate penalty;
4. notes the apology on the floor of the House from the member for McConnel on 26 August 2026; and
5. resolves to take no further action.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (4.02 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—
That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 15 September 2026.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

BREACH BAIL, GO TO JAIL AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Message from Governor



Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (4.02 pm): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): The message from Her Excellency the Governor recommends the Breach Bail, Go to Jail and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

BREACH BAIL, GO TO JAIL AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT 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 to amend the Bail Act 1980, the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*, the *Young Offenders (Interstate Transfer) Act 1987* and the *Youth Justice Act 1992* for particular purposes

GOVERNOR

Date: 27 August 2026

Tabled paper: Message, dated 27 August 2026, from Her Excellency the Governor, recommending the Breach Bail, Go to Jail and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 [\[1510\]](#).

Introduction



Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (4.02 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Bail Act 1980, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Young Offenders (Interstate Transfer) Act 1987 and the Youth Justice Act 1992 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I also table a statement of exceptional circumstances. I nominate the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Breach Bail, Go to Jail and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 [\[1511\]](#).

Tabled paper: Breach Bail, Go to Jail and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes [\[1512\]](#).

Tabled paper: Breach Bail, Go to Jail and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[1513\]](#).

Tabled paper: Breach Bail, Go to Jail and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, statement of exceptional circumstances [\[1514\]](#).

Today I introduce the Breach Bail, Go to Jail and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. The Crisafulli government is continuing to take the necessary steps to keep Queenslanders safe after Labor's soft-on-crime decade of decline. Too many Queenslanders have paid the price for the former government's watering down of youth justice laws. We have met these victims. We have listened as they have expressed their grief, pain and loss. We have registered their anguish at the fact that repeat offenders are responsible for the majority of youth crime and, what is more, many of these serious offences are committed while on bail. This must be confronted.

Queenslanders are telling us that those who offend on bail must be held accountable. Accountability was clearly not on their minds when in 2015 the out-of-touch former Labor government changed the Youth Justice Act to make detention a last resort and remove breach of bail as an offence for youth criminals. Crime statistics climbed rapidly. Victims bore the brunt. Over the following decade, assaults went up 198 per cent, the number of stolen cars soared 101 per cent and a new generation of hardcore offenders was spawned. Some of these serious repeat offenders created under Labor's weak youth crime and bail laws are now adults. The threat today from Labor's failures 10 years ago has become exponential. Which is why, with this bill, the Crisafulli government is now delivering the accountability Queenslanders have called for with the strongest bail laws in the country for both youth and adult offenders.

The bill introduces a new offence for committing serious offences while on bail, ensuring that offenders, whether youth or adult, will go to jail. The new offence will have a mandatory minimum penalty of one year imprisonment to be served wholly in custody. The bill will also ensure that repeat offenders face a higher bar for release on bail. It reverses the presumption in favour of bail and

introduces a new bail test for offenders who have been charged with serious offences while on bail for any offence. These repeat offenders will have to show cause why their detention is not justified. If they can do that then they must also satisfy police or the court to a high degree of confidence that they will not commit another serious offence while on bail. The onus will be on the offender to satisfy police or the court on both these tests.

The reforms send a clear message: serious offending while on bail will not be tolerated. The bill will also require a court or police officer granting bail to warn defendants that committing serious offences on bail is an offence with a mandatory minimum penalty of one year imprisonment to be wholly served in custody. This puts offenders on notice: if you breach bail, you will go to jail.

These reforms expand our signature Adult Crime, Adult Time laws to bail, continuing our agenda to prioritise victims and make Queensland safer. In November 2024, the Crisafulli government introduced the Making Queensland Safer reforms which established Adult Crime, Adult Time to ensure young offenders who commit serious offences are held accountable for their actions. Adult Crime, Adult Time now applies to 47 serious offences so that young offenders who commit these offences are liable for the same mandatory minimum and maximum penalties as adults. These offences include murder, grievous bodily harm, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, robbery, burglary, unlawful use of a motor vehicle and rape.

I would very much like to thank the cohort of victims ministers—the Minister for Youth Justice, the Minister for Police and the Minister for Child Safety—who have worked with me on these new laws. I thank them and their teams so very much.

The new bail offence and high bail threshold will apply to youths charged with committing any Adult Crime, Adult Time offence while on bail for any offence. The new bail offence and high bail threshold will also apply to adults who commit those same offences as well as additional serious offences, including coercive control and various child sex offences while on bail for any offence.

The bill also makes targeted changes to the operation of the youth justice system. It removes the requirement for police officers to consider alternatives to arrest for contravention of bail conditions. The bill amends section 11 of the Youth Justice Act to provide that a police officer may, but is not required to, consider diversionary options for a youth in relation to any offence. The bill remakes existing human rights overrides and exemptions in the Youth Justice Act, which were done under the former Labor government, and introduces a new human rights exemption under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act to ensure there remains a consistent and coherent legal framework for the management of detainees in watch houses and youth detention centres.

I turn now to the bill in detail. The bill amends existing sections 16(3) of the Bail Act and 48AF of the Youth Justice Act to reverse the presumption in favour of bail for both adults and youth who are charged with, for adults, a prescribed offence or, for youths, a significant offence while they were on bail, unlawfully at large or having failed to appear after being served with a summons or notice to appear. The show-cause requirement operates as an exception to the usual presumption in favour of bail and places the onus on the defendant to establish why their detention is not justified.

If the defendant fails to show cause why their detention is unjustified, bail must be refused and the court or the police officer does not proceed to consider the new bail threshold. If the defendant is able to show cause, the defendant cannot be released on bail unless they have satisfied the police officer or the court to a high degree of confidence that they will not commit a further prescribed offence for adults or further significant offence for youths if they were released on bail. This new test is introduced by new sections 16AA of the Bail Act and 48AG of the Youth Justice Act. The new high degree of confidence test will only be considered after the defendant has shown cause why their detention is not justified. This sequence is intended to provide clarity and reduce complexity. The new high degree of confidence test is intended to operate in addition to the existing bail requirements and is focused on the defendant's risk of reoffending.

I now turn to the new bail offence. The bill also introduces new sections 29AA to 29AE of the Bail Act. New section 29AA creates an 'Offence to commit particular offences while on bail, unlawfully at large or failing to appear'. This is referred to as the section 29AA offence in the bill. A defendant commits a section 29AA offence if they commit a prescribed offence, for adults, or a significant offence, for youths, while on bail for any offence, unlawfully at large after their bail has been revoked or while they have failed to appear before a court as required by a summons or notice to appear served on the defendant in relation to any offence. The section 29AA offence includes a mandatory minimum penalty of one year imprisonment to be wholly served in custody. The maximum penalty for the offence is three years' imprisonment.

The bill explicitly displaces the principle of double punishment and provides that a defendant sentenced for both the underlying offence and the section 29AA offence is not taken to be punished twice for the same conduct. The bill also displaces the principle of double jeopardy to ensure that a defendant can be convicted of the section 29AA offence after being convicted of the underlying offence, subject to the requirement that the section 29AA offence was charged before the defendant was sentenced or otherwise dealt with for the underlying offence. These displacements are necessary to give effect to the government's policy intent that breaching bail by serious offending constitutes a distinct wrong against the administration of justice that is separate from the harm caused by the underlying crime. A defendant can be charged with a section 29AA offence at the same time that they are charged with the underlying prescribed offence or significant offence and those offences can be joined in the same complaint or indictment.

If charges are joined, the bill provides that a person charged with the section 29AA offence must not be asked to enter a plea for that offence until the person has been convicted of the prescribed offence or significant offence that is subject to the section 29AA offence. The bill ensures that the court that has jurisdiction to hear and decide the prescribed or significant offence has jurisdiction to hear and determine the section 29AA offence.

As indicated, the bill amends the Youth Justice Act to ensure that the mandatory minimum penalty applies to youth offenders. The section 29AA offence is prescribed under section 175A of the Youth Justice Act, bringing the offence within the adult sentencing regime for significant offences committed by youths. Accordingly, a youth convicted of the section 29AA offence will be sentenced under the Adult Crime, Adult Time framework, including the requirement that the mandatory minimum period of custody required under the Bail Act be served wholly in a detention centre. The bill also prevents a court from making a court diversion referral to restorative justice for the section 29AA offence. This ensures that the mandatory minimum penalty for the section 29AA offence cannot be avoided by court diversion to a restorative justice process.

New section 29AB requires a court or police officer to warn a defendant being granted bail that committing particular offences while on bail or unlawfully at large is an offence with a mandatory minimum penalty of one year imprisonment to be wholly served in custody. The warning is intended to be a simple and proportionate measure to put a defendant on notice of the potential consequences of offending on bail.

A court is not required to give the warning if the defendant does not appear before the court. Where the warning is given to a youth, the court or police officer must explain the offence and consequences of offending to the youth in a way they can understand—simple English. However, failure to give the warning does not affect the defendant's liability for the section 29AA offence and it is not a ground of appeal to a conviction against the section 29AA offence.

The bill amends section 11 of the Youth Justice Act by replacing the mandatory obligation for police to consider diversionary options for youths with a discretionary power to consider. The bill does not impact a police officer's discretion to utilise diversionary options where appropriate; it will simply not be a requirement for police officers to consider a diversionary pathway for any offence.

The bill will extend the operation of the human rights override declarations and exemption which currently apply to sections 56, 210, 262 and 262A of the Youth Justice Act. These override and exemption provisions were due to expire on 31 December 2026, but will now operate for a further five years from the commencement of the bill, in accordance with section 45 of the Human Rights Act.

The bill also amends the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 to insert a new section 639A, which provides that section 58 of the Human Rights Act does not apply to acts and decisions reasonably necessary for the administration of the PPRA and which relate to the management or transfer of a person in custody in a watch house. This amendment to the PPRA will align with the exemption in the Youth Justice Act to ensure decisions which are reasonably necessary for the good order and safety of watch houses are not subject to human rights based complaints or challenges.

The bill makes a minor amendment to the Young Offenders (Interstate Transfer) Act 1987 to ensure that youth in Queensland who are subject to a sentence under section 175A(2) of the Youth Justice Act are considered young offenders for the purposes of that act. This will enable the facilitation of transfer to, from and through Queensland for this cohort. The bill also corrects an erroneous cross-reference in section 136(2)(c)(i) of the Youth Justice Act. The amendment is technical and corrective only. It is not intended to change the substantive operation of section 136 of the Youth Justice Act.

We are focused on ensuring victims are at the centre of our justice system. I foreshadow that the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and the Minister for Corrective Services will be bringing further changes to the victims register later this year, to strengthen support for victims and further streamline processes.

Under Australia's strongest bail regime, the Crisafulli government's Breach Bail, Go to Jail laws will protect the community from serious offending and provide a strong deterrent message for those offenders who continue to commit serious offences while on bail. At this juncture, I would like to thank very much all of the victim advocates who have spoken on behalf of thousands of community members, small business owners and themselves on their suffering over many years.

In summary, the bill imposes a higher threshold for granting bail to youth and adults who commit a serious offence while on bail. The bill creates a new offence of committing serious offences while on bail, unlawfully at large or failing to appear. The bill imposes a mandatory minimum sentence of one year detention or imprisonment to be wholly served in a detention centre or corrective services facility.

These new laws will strengthen protections for Queenslanders, support victims, prevent others from becoming victims and ensure repeat offenders are held accountable for their actions. This is the next step in the Crisafulli government returning safety and confidence to Queensland communities, just as we said would happen, and just as Queenslanders elected us to do. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (4.22 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee

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

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (4.22 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, under the provisions of standing order 136, the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee report to the House on Breach Bail, Go to Jail and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by Friday, 16 October 2026.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 2654, on motion of Mr Nicholls—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (4.23 pm), continuing: My colleague the member for Greenslopes has done a lot of work on the issue of nangs and their abuse in the community, and I commend him for his advocacy and leadership there. He and I have met with Queenslanders whose lives have been terribly affected by nitrous oxide abuse, including families who have lost loved ones to addiction. This bill was certainly a great opportunity to act on that, given that New South Wales acted in July, but that was not taken up by this lethargic minister.

The member for Greenslopes' petition calling for action to reduce access to nitrous oxide, including ending 24-hour delivery services, attracted more than a thousand signatures from concerned Queenslanders. It is unacceptable that in Queensland large nitrous oxide canisters can be ordered and

delivered legally at all hours to vulnerable people, including minors. Minister Nicholls had the relevant legislation open on his desk. He had the evidence before him. He had a petition of more than a thousand Queenslanders asking for action. Other jurisdictions like New South Wales have already moved on this issue. What do we get? Silence. We get nothing from this minister—absolutely no forward thinking, no front foot. The Minister for Health left it out—an indolent and lazy approach. I have little doubt that his department is more disappointed in this minister than ever. That is precisely the sort of lethargy we have come to expect from an arrogant and aloof health minister.

There is apparently enough urgency to bring another collection of technical amendments into this chamber—granted, that is fine—but very little urgency when Queensland families identify a growing public health problem and ask him to do something about it and on which other jurisdictions have already acted. That goes directly to the weakness of this bill, the weakness of this minister and the weakness of the government's broader health agenda and its poor performance over the last just under two years.

Nearly two years after the election, we see that Minister Nicholls and Premier Crisafulli are still living off the health capital pipeline, facilities and services of the former Miles Labor government, while major future hospital expansions like the Queensland Cancer Centre and the 93 beds at Prince Charles Hospital have been blocked and nothing commenced onsite at Prince Charles Hospital in terms of those 93 beds—nothing. Health is left to drift off into the never-never.

Labor will support this bill. There are useful amendments here. There is a glaring absence here, as I just outlined, but there are some useful amendments, and some of the powers being handed to Minister Nicholls are substantial. If Queensland Health compulsorily acquires somebody's land, there must be a clear and enduring benefit for public patients. If somebody can be detained for up to 72 hours for a mental health examination, the safeguards must be rigorously observed.

On nitrous oxide, the minister should listen to the families affected, respond affirmatively to the petition that was led by the member for Greenslopes and come back to this parliament with sensible reform as soon as possible, because I do not want to have any more meetings with families who are losing loved ones or who are seeing loved ones do terrible damage to their health. These addictions can spiral very quickly. I was speaking to one of those families. It was six weeks between when the family member started using it, with 24-hour access to it, and when they passed away. That is how quickly it can happen. Action is needed on this and needed quickly. This is a real missed opportunity in this bill from a health minister who is not on the front foot. He should be scooping up issues like this and dealing with them. That is what a decent minister does, yet it is what we do not see in the bill.

Mr Vorster interjected.

Mr BAILEY: I find it hard to believe that I am hearing objections from opposition members when I am talking about lives being lost from nang abuse. We have the member for Burleigh interjecting while I am talking about victims and people losing their lives. It is quite callous and extraordinary.

Mr VORSTER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the comments from the member for Miller and ask that he withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Member?

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please resume.

Mr BAILEY: Yes, I look forward to finishing my speech without interjections, Deputy Speaker. Thank you for your guidance. The obvious question arising directly from the new infrastructure powers in this bill is: which new health project conceived and uniquely funded by the Crisafulli government actually requires them? That is certainly not outlined. Nearly halfway through this term, there is still no answer to that. We see a health minister here who has spent almost two years inheriting Labor infrastructure health projects: blocking and delaying many and taking credit for all the ones already underway or unable to be stopped—projects like the Logan Hospital, the PA Hospital expansion, the Ipswich Hospital expansion and QEII Hospital expansion. They were all Labor projects, with the minister running around trying to claim them as the government's when clearly that is not the case. That is not a legacy. That is pretty pathetic behaviour, while bringing one technical amendment bill after another into this chamber. At some point, the member for Clayfield has to produce serious health plans and results of his own and not just rely on those of the previous Labor government.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (4.29 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. As chair of the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee, I had the opportunity to lead the committee's examination of this bill and the policy objectives it seeks to achieve. The committee considered the bill, the application of fundamental legislative principles and its compatibility with human rights under the Human Rights Act 2019.

We received 35 submissions throughout the inquiry process. Stakeholders were largely supportive of the amendments, particularly those relating to public health and pharmacy ownership. The committee received briefings from Queensland Health, and, following its examination, made one recommendation to this House: the bill be passed. I note for the House that there was no statement of reservation and no dissenting report.

This is an omnibus bill, but the various amendments within it are united by a common objective: ensuring Queensland's health system and public health laws are better equipped to respond to the needs and challenges of today and into the future. The bill makes amendments across a range of legislation, including the Hospital and Health Boards Act, the Mental Health Act, the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act, the Public Health Act and the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act.

I would like to focus on several of the key reforms. The first relates to the delivery of future health infrastructure across Queensland. This government is getting on with the job of restoring health services for Queensland through the Hospital Rescue Plan, which includes three new hospitals and 10 major hospital expansions. Delivering major health infrastructure requires more than announcing a project; it requires planning, coordination and the ability to make decisions in accordance with the timeframes and priorities of the health system.

This bill will amend the Hospital and Health Boards Act to allow Queensland Health to directly acquire land either by agreement or, where necessary, through compulsory acquisition for health infrastructure purposes. Health infrastructure is broadly defined and includes facilities used for the delivery of health services by or on behalf of Hospital and Health Services, ambulance services or the state, along with associated purposes such as access and transport. Currently, land acquisition for Queensland Health occurs through another government department under the Acquisition of Land Act. The amendment before us will allow Queensland Health to play a more direct role in managing these processes according to the priorities and timeframes of the health portfolio.

Importantly, compulsory acquisition is not the preferred option. It is, and should remain, a measure of last resort. Where compulsory acquisition is necessary, existing protections under the Acquisition of Land Act will continue to apply, including notice to affected parties, objection processes and compensation. That is an important balance. We need to be able to deliver the hospitals and health infrastructure Queenslanders need, but we must also respect the rights of property owners and ensure those affected by these decisions have access to the established processes and protections under the law.

The committee considered these matters as part of its examination of the bill. This reform is particularly important when we consider the challenges inherited by this government. The previous government's capacity expansion program was characterised by significant delays, escalating costs and serious design problems. The independent review found that not a single new or expanded hospital project was expected to be delivered within its original funding envelope or timeframe. Across the program, the cost blowouts amounted to billions of dollars. Queenslanders deserve better than announcements without delivery. They deserve hospitals that are properly planned, properly designed and actually built. This is what the Hospital Rescue Plan is all about. This bill is one of the practical legislative measures that will help ensure Queensland has the tools it needs to progress future health infrastructure more efficiently.

Another important component of the bill relates to the protection of Queensland's community pharmacy model. Community pharmacies play a significant role in our local communities all across Queensland and in Southport and on the Gold Coast. For many people their local pharmacist is one of the most accessible health professionals they interact with. They provide advice, support and professional oversight, often serving as an important first point of contact for people managing their health and medications. The Pharmacy Business Ownership Act already contains restrictions relating to the operation of pharmacies by supermarket businesses. However, as the way we shop and access services increasingly moves online, it is important that our laws keep pace.

This bill addresses a legislative loophole by ensuring that restrictions applying in the physical environment are appropriately reflected in the online environment as well. The amendments will require the Queensland Pharmacy Business Ownership Council to consider whether prohibited promotional arrangements exist between a pharmacy business, or its franchisor, and a supermarket business before issuing a pharmacy business licence. This is about protecting a patient-centred, health-professional-led model of care.

Medicines should not simply be treated as another consumer product sitting alongside groceries and everyday retail items. There is an important distinction between essential medicines and ordinary consumer goods. Pharmacists have an important professional responsibility to provide appropriate advice and oversight. These reforms recognise and protect that role, while ensuring the legislative framework keeps pace with changing business models and online commerce.

The bill also takes further action against illicit tobacco and nicotine products. This is an issue that has had a real impact on communities across Queensland, including the Gold Coast. Across the Gold Coast, Queensland Health has undertaken hundreds of inspections as part of its enforcement activity. The enforcement data provided in the party room briefing records 373 inspections and 58 90-day closures, alongside the seizure of more than 1.8 million illicit cigarettes and significant quantities of loose tobacco, vapes and nicotine pouches. Those figures demonstrate that this is not an abstract problem; it is an issue we are dealing with within our community.

The bill will streamline the forfeiture process for seized illicit tobacco and nicotine pouches by removing the existing show cause and appeal provisions. This will align their treatment with the approach that already applies to illicit vapes and will allow products that have been seized to be forfeited and destroyed more promptly. It is a practical and important amendment. There is little sense in our public health officers undertaking the work of identifying and seizing illicit products only for those products to remain tied up in unnecessarily lengthy processes.

This amendment builds on the stronger enforcement framework already introduced by the Crisafulli government. Queensland Health has greater powers to close illegal businesses, landlords have greater ability to terminate leases where tenants are operating illegally and stronger penalties apply to those knowingly facilitating illegal tobacco activity. The enforcement results show that these measures are making a difference.

Between November 2025 and June 2026 more than 42 million cigarettes, approximately 380,000 vapes and 6½ tonnes of loose tobacco was seized across Queensland, with a total seizure value of more than \$58 million. More than 320 stores were also subjected to 90-day closures during that period. These are significant figures. Behind every one of those numbers is an important message: Queensland will simply not turn a blind eye to illegal operators profiting from illicit and addictive products in our communities. This bill will make that enforcement process even more effective by allowing illicit tobacco and nicotine pouches to be dealt with and destroyed promptly once seized.

The bill also contains a number of other amendments that should not be overlooked. It includes amendments intended to enhance the operation of Queensland's mental health legislation. It supports higher adolescent immunisation uptake. It improves aspects of hepatitis C monitoring. It makes a number of consequential administrative and technical amendments across other areas of legislation. Individually some of these amendments may appear relatively technical, but that is often how effective legislation works.

As chair of the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee, I thank everyone who contributed to the committee's inquiry. I thank the individuals and organisations that took the time to make submissions. I thank the officers from Queensland Health who assisted the committee throughout this examination. I particularly acknowledge the hard work of the Parliamentary Service staff who supported the committee in undertaking its important scrutiny role.

(Time expired)

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (4.39 pm): Member for Southport, you forgot to mention the deputy chair in your list of thankyou's, but I am sure you meant to!

This is the fourth omnibus bill that we have had brought to us in relation to health. I will go through the provisions in a minute. They are all in and of themselves important. I have lost count of how many members from the other side I have heard railing against omnibus bills when we were in government. They seem to be quite comfortable with them now that they are in government.

This is an omnibus bill. I have seen pieces of sublegislation that contain more substantive provisions than are in this bill. This is the fourth time this has happened, so I question: where is the vision? Where are the big picture items that this health minister is trying to tackle? These are all individually important things—and I am going to go through them in a minute—but where are the big picture items?

Compare this to what we did. We introduced ratios. We dealt with nursing workloads. We dealt with voluntary assisted dying and termination of pregnancy—big social changes that required courage and vision. We introduced the Women and Girls' Health Strategy, and what a difference that is making now. It led the way. Nationwide we now have pelvic pain clinics. We have satellite hospitals bringing care closer to people's homes. We had the hospital big build. That is how you deal with ramping: you build more hospital beds—and we were doing that. What about the mental health inquiry and the mental health levy? All members on the opposite side seem to do is pick these big visionary things apart. They bring no vision of their own—nothing—to the table.

Where is a bill dealing with palliative care? In the voluntary assisted dying debate they all wanted to talk about their deep commitment to palliative care, but all we have seen is that going backwards. Where is a bill dealing with the waitlist and the challenges I outlined in a speech earlier in the week for a lady who has a prolapse and is now socially isolated at home and becoming depressed? It will probably end her life early because she has had to wait 18 months and told it will be two more years.

What about staff safety? I do not know how many security guards I have met from around the state—great members of the Australian Workers' Union—who have told me about the fact that they are having great difficulties in their workplaces. What about the big health issues that are affecting our communities such as progressive neurological disorders? We should all be very concerned about this. MS, Parkinson's, motor neurone disease, Alzheimer's, Huntington's chorea—these are all diseases that are becoming more common as our population ages. Where is our strategy? Where is the legislation dealing with those? What about cancer care? What do we do? We shut down the Cancer Centre of Excellence. These are the things that a health minister should be turning their attention to.

The provisions in this bill individually are quite important.

Mr Stevens: Ten years!

Mr JKELLY: Yes, 10 years. Thank you. I just listed all the things we did in 10 years. Did you not listen, member for Mermaid Beach? Were you too busy looking at Best Bets and picking your tips for this weekend? Is that what you were doing? Too busy—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Order, members! Please pause. Resume your seat. Member for Greenslopes, I remind you: do not quarrel across the chamber.

Mr JKELLY: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. I was just taking an interjection. I want to go through some of the provisions in this bill because they are individually quite important. Let's start with the Public Health Act 2005 and the changes around the School Immunisation Program. That is something I will always support. It is something this government needs to desperately turn its attention to because the immunisation rates for one-year-olds, two-year-olds and five-year-olds in this state are absolutely shocking. They are the worst in the nation. It is something we should be completely embarrassed about.

I met with Catherine Hughes recently of the Australian Immunisation Foundation, a foundation that she set up after her 22-day-old son, Riley, died of whooping cough, which he was infected with before he was old enough to be vaccinated. How do you protect the Rileys of this world? How do we stop people like Catherine and Greg having to go through what they have gone through? You get your vaccination rates up. That is how you deal with it. I can never talk about vaccination without acknowledging the somewhere between 300,000 and 500,000 health workers around the world who perished during COVID-19 from going to work to provide care for other people in the absence of a vaccine. This provision is very important.

I want to talk about the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act. I note the comments from the Pharmacy Guild in relation to that. They certainly see this as a very important provision. It is not just about strengthening pharmacy ownership. It is about ensuring the integrity of the pharmacy service. Community pharmacists and pharmacists are an incredibly valuable part of our healthcare professional team.

If we want to talk about other things the government could be tackling, there is a whole range of problems that we face as a society now that fly under the radar. With the advent of the internet, the number of people buying medications online largely unregulated is a massive problem. People are doing themselves damage. They are seeking help. No-one denies that. Unfortunately, they are causing themselves problems. Look at medicinal cannabis where we now have fully integrated so-called pharmacists. 'Pharmacists' who deliver one product is not a pharmacy in my opinion. Where is the legislation in relation to that?

The amendments to the Mental Health Act 2016 improve the operation of the act. That is certainly sensible and seems to streamline things. We do need to be exceptionally careful when we are dealing with effectively removing people's rights, in any situation. Just today we have had a condolence motion for a colleague who dealt with PTSD and mental health issues. Whenever I see a bill of this nature, I think we have to be extremely careful. I think we do need to take note of the concerns that have been raised by some of the mental health groups around this.

The amendments to the Hospital and Health Boards Act enable the capacity to acquire land around hospitals. We have seen some amazing steps forward in this House this week in terms of supposedly the party of private property stomping on top of private property rights—and here we go again! If acquiring the land is for building public hospitals, that is fantastic. As I put to the director-general or the officers from the department, what is to preclude Queensland Health using these powers to acquire land and then allowing a private provider to come in and set up? Suddenly we have people losing their house so shareholders of a private health service can get a return on their investment. I do not think that is what the people of Queensland would support. If this is narrowly defined so that only public health services are delivered with any land that is acquired then I think the people of Queensland would be a lot more comfortable with that.

I also want to talk about the amendments to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 streamlining the forfeiture process for seized illicit tobacco and illicit nicotine products. Yes, we need to do more with that. I will always support that. Anybody who has had the displeasure of caring for people with end-stage lung cancer, or COPD, will do that. That is what my mother-in-law passed away from. I will certainly support anything that stamps out tobacco and illegal tobacco. Where is the vision from the government? We have really big challenges in this space again.

One of the things we could have dealt with here is nitrous oxide addiction. I have pointed it out in this House—24/7 home delivery. People are dying in Queensland now as a result of this addiction, yet we have missed the opportunity in this piece of legislation. It seems like a great shame to me. It seems like an absolute tragedy because the fix is there. The fix is obvious. The fix has been pointed out, but I do not know what is stopping the minister from taking the advice and fixing this problem.

The provisions in this bill are important, but the things that are not in this bill are what is really lacking from this government. There is no vision for health care. There is no-one who is thinking about the big things we need to tackle to make sure that Queenslanders are healthy, that people are living in their own communities and living the healthiest possible lives they can live, being as independent as they possibly can and that, if they do have chronic illnesses or conditions, they are getting the support they need to live their best possible lives. That is what is lacking in all of this, but I certainly support the provisions that are in this bill.



Mr LEE (Hervey Bay—LNP) (4.49 pm): I rise to contribute to the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. This is an important and practical bill that strengthens Queensland's health system, supports frontline healthcare workers, improves public health protections, safeguards the independence of community pharmacies, and ensures growing communities have access to the health infrastructure they need for the future. These reforms are particularly important in my electorate of Hervey Bay, where rapid population growth continues to place an increasing demand on health services and our hardworking frontline workforce.

As our community grows, so too does the need for the infrastructure, workforce and services that support quality health care close to home. That is why this government's Hospital Rescue Plan is so important. It represents the largest investment in hospital infrastructure in Queensland's history. In contrast, Labor's mismanagement of the botched capacity expansion program resulted in significant delays, \$7 billion in cost blowouts, significant design flaws and rushed announcements before establishing a business case and project validation report. An independent Sam Sangster review described the botched capacity expansion program as an exercise in futility. Indeed, the CEO of Infrastructure Partnerships Australia labelled Labor's capacity expansion program as little more than 'a

mirage of media releases'. In fact, Labor's failed capacity expansion plan for the Hervey Bay Hospital experienced a \$54 million cost blowout, increasing from \$40 million to \$94 million, and was delayed by at least two years. Labor also deceptively and misleadingly announced a \$60 million multi-storey car park for Hervey Bay Hospital without providing any funding to deliver it.

In contrast, our Hospital Rescue Plan is delivering to Hervey Bay 25 general medical beds, including four coronary care beds, 10 ICU beds, a state-of-the-art helipad, an at-grade car park and a magnetic resonance imaging, MRI, machine. That is what delivering looks like. Against that backdrop, this bill delivers practical reforms that will help Queensland Health better plan for future growth and demand.

One of the most significant reforms relates to the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011. The bill streamlines the process for acquiring the land needed for health infrastructure while retaining important safeguards under the Acquisition of Land Act 1967. Pursuant to proposed section 51H, the chief executive officer must still be satisfied that acquisition is necessary and that reasonable attempts have been made to reach agreement. Compulsory acquisition remains a measure of last resort. In clause 6 of the bill, proposed section 51G modernises the definition of health infrastructure purpose to better reflect contemporary healthcare delivery, including public hospitals, ambulance infrastructure and other facilities providing healthcare facilities.

For regional communities such as Hervey Bay these reforms are especially significant. Our region continues to experience strong population growth, including a growing retiree population, and residents rightly expect governments to plan for future hospital capacity and health services. After a decade of decline, these amendments will help ensure Queensland Health can secure the land required to support future investment that meets the needs of our growing community. Importantly, healthcare infrastructure means more than buildings. Modern facilities help attract and retain doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and specialists. These are things that our community relies upon. By supporting workforce attraction and retention, these reforms will help improve access to health care across regional Queensland.

While infrastructure provides the foundation for a strong health system, the bill also strengthens the legislative framework supporting some of Queensland's most vulnerable patients through important mental health reforms. Queensland's mental health framework is unique within Australia particularly because of the role played by the Mental Health Court. The amendments to the Mental Health Act 2016 provide greater clarity around forensic patients, improved processes relating to psychiatrist reports, and strengthen the administration of mental health services across the state.

The bill also introduces an important reform that will bring Queensland into line with other Australian jurisdictions. Under clause 45 of the bill, the president of the Mental Health Review Tribunal will be able to authorise the disclosure of personal information where necessary to lessen or prevent serious harm to an individual or the public. This strikes an appropriate balance between privacy protections and community safety while providing greater certainty for clinicians and decision-makers. Importantly, these changes will also support frontline Hervey Bay clinicians and mental health professionals through greater operational clarity and stronger guidance around patient management.

Just as these reforms strengthen our mental health system, the bill also recognises the critical role community healthcare providers play in keeping Queenslanders healthy. Community pharmacies are among the most accessible and trusted parts of our healthcare system, particularly for older Queenslanders and those living in regional communities. Part 4 of the bill amends the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2024 to restrict affiliations between pharmacy businesses and supermarket businesses in the online environment. As healthcare services increasingly move online, it is important that the professional independence of pharmacists is protected. These reforms will help preserve public confidence in pharmacy services and ensure patient care remains the primary focus.

Beyond supporting healthcare providers, the bill also delivers practical reforms that further strengthen Queensland's broader public health framework. An amendment to the Public Health Act 2005 relates to the Queensland School Immunisation Program, requiring external providers delivering school-based immunisation services to share student information with hospital and health services for specific purposes when requested. These changes will support improved follow-up and help protect more children from preventable disease.

Part 6 of the bill provides for amendments to the Public Health Regulation 2018 to introduce a more targeted approach to disease surveillance. Queensland will become the first jurisdiction in Australia to prescribe hepatitis C as a pathology request notification condition specifically for RNA testing. This practical, evidence-based reform will strengthen disease surveillance while reducing unnecessary reporting requirements.

The final set of reforms in part 7 of the bill address an issue that continues to challenge public health authorities across Queensland: the illegal trade in tobacco and nicotine products. The illegal tobacco and vaping market poses a significant risk to public health. It undermines legitimate businesses and places unregulated products into our community. Last year this government introduced nation-leading reforms for the seizure, forfeiture and swift destruction of illegal vapes. Building on that work, this bill allows nicotine and nicotine pouches to be immediately seized and forfeited to the state. This will support the swift destruction of illicit products, reduce pressure on public health storage facilities and improve enforcement against illegal operators. Hervey Bay has already seen the importance of strong enforcement, becoming the first community in Queensland where a petrol station—Astron Torquay—received a 90-day closure order for the sale of illicit tobacco and nicotine products.

This bill delivers a practical and comprehensive package of reforms that will strengthen Queensland's health system now and into the future. For the people of Hervey Bay, these reforms are about ensuring our health system grows alongside our community. Whether it is planning for future infrastructure, strengthening mental health services, improving immunisation programs, supporting frontline workers or enhancing public health protections, this bill will help deliver better healthcare outcomes closer to home. As the member for Hervey Bay, I will continue to consistently and methodically advocate for the health services, infrastructure and workforce investment our community deserves. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Dr O'SHEA** (South Brisbane—ALP) (4.58 pm): I rise today to address the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. In addressing this bill I would like to first acknowledge the work of my colleagues on the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee, the stakeholders for their thoughtful contributions, Queensland Health for their advice and the hard work of the Parliamentary Service staff in supporting the committee in its review of this proposed legislation. This bill proposes to amend a number of health related acts, including the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, the Mental Health Act 2016, the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2024, the Public Health Act 2005 and the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998. The bill includes amendments to: facilitate the development of health infrastructure; improve the operation of Queensland's mental health legislation; facilitate higher adolescent immunisation uptake; improve monitoring of hepatitis C; and streamline the forfeiture process of seized illicit tobacco and nicotine products.

This bill proposes to facilitate the development of health infrastructure by giving Queensland Health direct powers to compulsorily acquire land. Currently, compulsory purchases of land for Queensland Health are made through the department of natural resources. This bill aims to enable Queensland Health to directly make compulsory purchases of land for health infrastructure purposes if the land cannot be acquired privately by the department through negotiations. Queensland Health advise that this is similar to the current arrangement for the Department of Transport and Main Roads in Queensland and for health departments in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

When people's land is subject to a compulsory acquisition order, this often causes severe distress for residents. A few years ago my neighbours and I received notice that our homes were to be resumed for infrastructure purposes. Ultimately, that plan did not go ahead and our homes were safe, but I clearly remember the uncertainty and worry that we all went through during the many months of that decision-making process. If private land is to be taken for health infrastructure purposes, Queenslanders need to be confident that the land will be used for public benefit to provide public health care for their community.

However, the amendments in this bill broaden the definition of the 'health infrastructure purpose' that land can be resumed for to include the establishment of a private health facility in which health services are provided to public patients. The Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union, QNMU, raised concerns that under this new power land could be resumed for private health facilities that may not remain publicly owned and that it was also unclear the extent of the services to be provided to public patients. The QNMU recommended that the wording of the bill related to the taking of land for health infrastructure purposes should be amended to ensure that it explicitly states that the infrastructure remains publicly owned and delivers health services explicitly for public patients.

With our growing population, our health system will need to continue expanding. However, if the government is going to take land for a health infrastructure purpose, the minister must ensure that the land will be used primarily for providing public health care, and if there is any private component then this must be secondary to the public health purpose of the facility, rather than land being acquired for a private hospital with a small public facility.

Stakeholders also raised concerns with an amendment to the Mental Health Act which introduces a new authority to detain a person who has committed a serious offence in order to complete a mental health examination. This psychiatric evaluation can help establish if a person was of unsound mind at the time of an offence or is unfit for trial. Currently, under the act, if the Chief Psychiatrist requests a psychiatric report to be completed, the person must attend an examination. However, while that person can be involuntarily transported to an authorised mental health service, there is not a clear provision to detain the person at the service to complete the examination. The proposed amendment allows for detention for 24 hours with a possible extension for up to 72 hours to complete the examination.

A number of organisations highlighted issues with expanding detention powers under the Mental Health Act. The Queensland Law Society in their submission stated—

The power to detain is significant, given limits to a person's autonomy, right to liberty and the adverse effects detention can have on a person's life.

They recommended that—

... policies be developed to ensure the detention power is only exercised in rare circumstances and in compliance with other safeguards in the Act. For example:

- Considering whether the person could consent to the examination, before exercising an authority to detain;
- Allowing the person to be supported by another person to understand the purpose and effect of the examination—

This bill also aims to improve adolescent uptake of Queensland's free school immunisation program by allowing immunisation providers to share contact details of guardians with Queensland Health to allow for follow-up of incompletely filled out consent forms. Any shared personal information would remain protected under the Information Privacy Act 2009.

This amendment is important as Queensland Health advised that improving consent form completion rates could increase the immunisation rate from approximately 60 per cent to 90 per cent. Under the School Immunisation Program, grade 10 students receive vaccinations against meningitis and grade 7 students receive immunisations against whooping cough, tetanus and diphtheria. With Australia experiencing the largest outbreak of diphtheria since records began in 1991, including cases here in Queensland, it is essential that we increase our immunisation rate, with vaccination being the best protection against serious illness.

Amendments in this bill also seek to improve monitoring of hepatitis C by requiring pathology laboratories to notify Queensland Health when they receive a request for a hepatitis C ribonucleic acid test, an RNA test, which indicates whether a person's hepatitis C infection is current and active. In its submission, Hepatitis Queensland—the peak body for hepatitis prevention, testing, treatment and care in Queensland—strongly supported this amendment, stating—

It is a targeted, proportionate, and clinically meaningful change that will materially advance Queensland's hepatitis C elimination efforts.

The bill also proposes to streamline the forfeiture process for illicit tobacco and nicotine pouches seized from businesses. In line with the existing arrangements for seized vaping goods, this amendment allows for illegal nicotine products to be destroyed immediately once seized and avoids the need for prolonged storage. This amendment is important as it assists our Queensland Health environmental health officers, or EHOs, in their efforts to remove illicit nicotine products from sale. Residents in West End in my electorate of South Brisbane are frustrated by the continued operation of a business in our area that allegedly sells illicit nicotine products despite being repeatedly issued with closure orders. Our EHOs need to be provided with the resources they need to stamp out this illegal trade, and that includes strengthening the laws governing the sale, seizure and forfeiture of these illicit products.

 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (5.08 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. This bill delivers practical reforms across Queensland's health system and importantly has direct implications for the people I represent in Redcliffe. I begin by thanking the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee and its secretariat for their consideration of this bill and for each of the stakeholders. The committee received 35 submissions which were largely supportive of the

amendments, particularly those relating to public health and pharmacy. The committee made one recommendation—that the bill be passed—with no statement of reservation or dissenting report. I also want to thank the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, the Hon. Tim Nicholls, for bringing forward legislation that is focused on practical outcomes for Queenslanders.

This is an omnibus bill, covering amendments to the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, the Mental Health Act 2016, the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2024, the Public Health Act 2005, the Public Health Regulation 2018, the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 along with minor amendments to disability services and working with children legislation. I particularly welcome that this reform removes barriers. It is about strengthening our health system, protecting patients and communities, and giving Queensland Health the tools it needs to deliver health services closer to home.

For Redcliffe, one of the most significant elements is the amendment to the Hospital and Health Boards Act, giving Queensland Health greater autonomy over land acquisition for health infrastructure. This bill provides the chief executive with the power to directly acquire land, either compulsorily or through a resumption agreement, for health infrastructure purposes. This includes land needed to rebuild or upgrade health facilities as well as associated access and transport requirements. Why does that matter to Redcliffe? It matters because our community deserves a health system that keeps pace with growth, and the Redcliffe Hospital expansion is a major component of the Crisafulli government's Hospital Rescue Plan.

The documents before the House make clear the scale of the challenge. The former Labor government's planned expansion was subject to a \$1 billion blowout while it did not address clinicians' concerns. They did not listen to clinicians' recommendations of how the hospital should be built. There were omissions, including no provision for a paediatric outpatients unit and no mortuary or education or training facilities. The Crisafulli government has listened to clinicians and taken a different approach.

Under our Hospital Rescue Plan, the Redcliffe Hospital will receive at least 255 new overnight beds, 51 more than Labor's proposal. Lendlease has recently been announced as the contractor, signalling the next phase of delivering a bigger and better Redcliffe Hospital. For my community this is more than just the number of beds; it is about capacity, services and a hospital that is properly planned for the future growth of the Redcliffe peninsula and broader Moreton Bay community. The amendments in this bill will help Queensland Health plan, oversee and progress land acquisitions. They will allow Queensland Health to lead this process and engage directly with affected individuals and communities.

This bill also sits within the Crisafulli government's broader work to repair Queensland's health system. Under the former Labor government, ambulance ramping tripled and elective surgery waiting lists almost doubled, rising from 35,385 to more than 64,000 in September 2024 and more than 66,000 by December 2024. The government was elected to fix these problems. Statewide ramping is now on a downward trend, with the June 2026 quarterly rate at 35.5 per cent, the lowest quarterly rate since December 2020.

Another important part of this bill is protecting our community pharmacies. For the people of Redcliffe, local pharmacies are an essential part of our community. For many residents, particularly our older residents and those managing ongoing health needs, their local pharmacist is one of the most accessible health professionals. I want to give a shout-out tonight to the Redcliffe Compounding Pharmacy, who invited me recently to open their new pharmacy in Redcliffe. I say thanks for serving our community and all that they are already doing.

The bill ensures protections applying to community pharmacy businesses operate equally in the online environment. It responds to concerns that integrating pharmacy services with supermarket businesses could blur the distinction between essential medications and ordinary consumer goods and potentially undermine the professional role of pharmacist. I strongly support the principle that medicines are health care, not simply another consumer product. This bill requires the Queensland Pharmacy Business Ownership Council to be satisfied that there are no prohibited promotional arrangements between a pharmacy business, its franchiser or a supermarket business before issuing a pharmacy business licence. This protects the integrity of our community pharmacy model and supports continued access to independent professional medication advice.

I also welcome the measures dealing with illicit tobacco and nicotine pouches. This bill streamlines the forfeiture process by removing show cause and approval provisions for seized illicit tobacco and nicotine pouches, bringing these pouches into line with the existing treatment of seized vapes. This means they can be forfeited and destroyed more promptly. This is a public health and community safety issue, particularly when these products are accessible to our young people.

Since tougher laws were introduced, Queensland Health has seized more than 42 million cigarettes, 380,000 vapes and 6.5 tonnes of loose tobacco with a combined street value of approximately \$60 million. More than 320 stores have been closed for 90 days, including many in my electorate of Redcliffe. This bill also continues the important work by giving public health officers the tools to deal with seized illicit tobacco and nicotine products more efficiently.

This bill also contains practical amendments to improve the operation of the Mental Health Act, facilitate higher adolescent immunisation uptakes and improve monitoring of hepatitis C. Consequential amendments have also been made to the working with Queensland checks and the Disability Services Act. For families in Redcliffe, particularly those with children and young people, improving immunisation uptake is a very important public health objective. Strengthening infectious diseases monitoring also supports the broader health system to identify and respond to health risks promptly.

This bill is ultimately about service delivery. It is about ensuring when Queenslanders visit their local pharmacy they can continue to access professional, pharmacist-led health care. It is about giving public health officers the ability to act quickly against illicit tobacco and nicotine products. It is also about strengthening mental health and public health legislation so our health system can better serve Redcliffe locals and Queenslanders. For Redcliffe, the most tangible example is our hospital. Our community has waited long enough. We need more beds, better services and infrastructure planned for the future. The Hospital Rescue Plan's commitment to deliver 255 new overnight beds is a significant investment in our community.

I know that locals and Queenslanders want to be able to access health care closer to home. As a registered nurse, this is very important to me and to my family. It is about the patient in the hospital bed, the family waiting for an appointment, the nurse working another late shift, the pharmacist helping someone understand their medication and the confidence that Queenslanders need to have when they require health care. They want the system to be there for them. For the people of Redcliffe, this bill forms part of a broader commitment to delivering infrastructure services and a workforce the community needs and has confidence in.

I again thank the minister and the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee. This is practical legislation, it is targeted legislation and it is legislation focused on better health outcomes for Queensland. I commend the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 to the House.

 **Ms JAMES** (Barron River—LNP) (5.18 pm): Cairns Hospital has been caring for Far North Queenslanders since 1878. More than a century later, it has become the beating heart of health care in the far north and one of the busiest hospitals in regional Australia. It also has some of the best views for Queensland patients who are staying there, but for decades our hospital staff's pleas have fallen on deaf ears. There were promises of a new hospital, a new helipad, a new car park and better facilities, yet nothing was delivered. In fact, an independent review of the former government's capacity expansion program found that not a single new or expanded hospital project was expected to be delivered within its original funding envelope or delivery timeframe. That included Cairns Hospital. This is a hospital that serves almost 300,000 people annually. On average, every week 132 patients receive elective surgery, 44 babies are born, 1,601 people present to the emergency department and 1,757 people are admitted to hospital, yet under the former Labor government Cairns Hospital was operating under enormous pressure, with inadequate parking, an unsafe helipad located near a popular walking track and outdated facilities. It was a hospital without adequate services to treat many trauma patients, forcing way too many people to travel south to Townsville and Brisbane for specialist treatment.

This bill, together with the Crisafulli government's Hospital Rescue Plan, is changing that. This bill addresses several shortcomings left by the former government and provides Queensland Health with the tools it needs to plan and deliver critical healthcare infrastructure. The Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 makes a range of important amendments across Queensland's health legislation, including hospital governance, mental health laws, public health measures, tobacco enforcement and community pharmacy regulation.

Most importantly for growing communities like Cairns, it supports the Hospital Rescue Plan by enabling Queensland Health to acquire land more efficiently for future health infrastructure projects. That might sound like a technical change, but it is a practical reform that removes unnecessary barriers to delivering hospitals, health services and infrastructure where they are needed most. We are already seeing the benefits of a government focused on delivery.

Just last week, with the Premier and health minister we opened a new 32-bed ward. Construction is moving hard and fast thanks to the incredible team at Hutchinson Builders. I particularly welcome the addition of four new trauma beds. This means people injured in serious accidents, whether on our roads, farms or workplaces, can receive treatment closer to home. We will also deliver another 32 overnight beds by 2027.

The new \$1 billion Cairns Hospital master plan includes: a 40-bed innovation and surgical centre; a new helipad in a safer location; a multistorey car park; and a new administration building. This is all to be delivered by 2031. Construction continues and, unlike the former government's approach, our Hospital Rescue Plan has been designed for Cairns and with Cairns clinicians. I recently spoke with several of the hospital's senior staff who explained just how different this process has been compared with their experience under the former Labor government.

This new plan provides cohesion. It has been designed by clinicians, directors and hospital staff who work in the hospital every day. It delivers a streamlined approach, improved patient flow, greater capacity to treat complex patients and facilities that healthcare workers have been asking for for years. They will include a health management hub, world-class training facilities and toxicology centre. A dedicated staff car park will also free up spaces for patients and visitors. A more connected campus with link bridges joining key clinical services will allow staff to move patients more efficiently throughout the hospital. Most importantly, it gives clinicians the tools they need to provide better care. Our government has listened. We listened to the clinicians, directors, nurses, doctors and allied health professionals. This is a hospital for Cairns, designed by the people who work in Cairns and shaped by their expertise.

Compared to the former Labor plan, it is like chalk and cheese. Labor's failed capacity expansion program left the Cairns Hospital project with a \$378 million cost blowout, increasing from \$250 million to \$628 million. There was no funded plan for a surgical centre, no funded plan for a multistorey car park and no clear pathway to deliver the infrastructure that Cairns needs.

Last week, the member for Cairns posted a sad selfie video claiming it was his government that set the Cairns Hospital expansion in motion. Labor's mismanagement of the capacity expansion program resulted in major delays, billions in cost blowouts and significant design flaws across major hospitals across the state. The staff were concerned about the layout of the hospital, how inefficient it was, how ineffective it was and how it did not meet the needs of our growing region.

On top of that, Labor's CFMEU tax driven industrial settings contributed to rising costs. Independent analysis found Queensland construction productivity lagged other jurisdictions, resulting in longer delivery timeframes and higher project costs. To deliver major infrastructure, you need more than announcements. You need a workable plan. Under the former government, layers of bureaucracy and red tape slowed projects to a standstill. This bill directly addresses that problem.

The amendments give Queensland Health the power to acquire land directly for health infrastructure purposes, including through compulsory acquisition when needed. That means when projects identified in hospital master plans such as the Cairns Hospital expansion require additional land, Queensland Health can act more efficiently and avoid unnecessary delays. This is already the case with the Red Cross located across from the Cairns Hospital. The groundwork is already being laid in Cairns, and I am confident Queensland Health will deliver the outcome our community expects and deserves.

What else are we doing? The proof is not just in the sod turns; it is in the results. A record number of doctors and nurses are entering the health system, with more than 10,000 additional health workers already added. Six cardiologists have been welcomed to Far North Queensland, including an additional paediatric cardiologist, which our community really needed. More than 900 people have come off local surgery waiting lists where people have sometimes been waiting for years. That is extraordinary. Ambulance ramping performance has improved and is leading our peer group. The Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme has received an \$11.7 million uplift, increasing assistance from 34 cents per kilometre to 45 cents per kilometre. Surgery Connect is funded at \$1.8 billion over four years, including \$247 million in 2026-27 to deliver an additional 25,000 surgeries.

The Crisafulli LNP government is repairing a health system that suffered from years of neglect, and we are doing it through both infrastructure and reform. This bill is about more than hospital buildings. It also strengthens Queensland's health system by addressing regulatory gaps and modernising legislation.

One important example is the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act. Current laws prevent community pharmacies from being directly affiliated with supermarkets in the physical environment. This bill ensures those same protections apply online. That matters because medicines are not ordinary retail products. There must be a clear distinction between essential medicines and general consumer goods. Patients deserve professional advice, oversight and support from qualified pharmacists.

Far North Queensland is home to many family owned pharmacies that provide essential healthcare services to regional and rural communities. People like Trent and Georgina Twomey, Matthew and the Calanna family have played a significant role in shaping and supporting health care throughout our region for a long time. I give a shout-out to Matthew and the Calanna pharmacy family, who recently celebrated 50 years of the Calanna pharmacy brand in Cairns. It is an extraordinary milestone.

This legislation helps protect those local businesses and the communities that rely on them. Its aim is simple: to ensure pharmacies remain focused on patient care, not controlled by external commercial interests. For many rural and remote communities, the local pharmacy is often the most accessible health service available. This bill helps protect that model.

This bill is about delivering a stronger, more practical and more responsive healthcare system for Queensland. It removes barriers to critical health infrastructure, strengthens mental health and public health laws, protects community pharmacies and supports the Hospital Rescue Plan that communities like Cairns desperately need. It is about more beds, more services, better facilities, better patient outcomes and a hospital that is finally being built around the needs of the people who work in it and the community it serves. After years of delay, Queenslanders deserve delivery. This is what delivering for Far North Queensland looks like. This bill helps make that possible. I commend it to the House.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (5.28 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. Good quality, affordable public health care is something that every Queenslanders deserves. Healthy communities are thriving communities. Public health care is a core Labor value and one that I will always stand up for.

Under the former Labor government, I was proud to see the building of multiple health infrastructure projects in Ipswich. The acute mental healthcare facility is a most beautiful building. It won an architectural design award. It is a place of healing now as opposed to what was there before 2015. The Ipswich Hospital expansion, the new satellite health centre in Ripley, the alcohol and drug withdrawal and rehabilitation centre in Raceview, to name just a few, showed our commitment to public health care for the Ipswich community. This is the type of health care where people only need to show their Medicare card, not their credit card.

While we support the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 and acknowledge that it is predominantly administrative in nature, we do have some reservations about a number of the amendments contained within the bill. This bill seeks to grant Queensland Health additional powers to compulsorily acquire land, yet it leaves unanswered questions about the purpose for which these powers can be exercised. This health bill, along with the state development bill, shows the Crisafulli government is hell-bent on a land grab while failing to provide the safeguards and accountability Queenslanders deserve.

The health bill states that the acquisition of land may only occur with the intention of using the land for a health infrastructure purpose, but 'health infrastructure purpose' is defined so broadly that it captures not only health facilities but also anything related to health delivery services; for example, building or upgrading accommodation, or commercial, community, education or food and office facilities related to the primary purpose. Rather than limiting acquisitions to just hospitals and health facilities, the bill allows land to be acquired for a wide range of related infrastructure and supporting uses. For me, that raises questions around whether private providers will have accessibility to land through Queensland Health without the assurance that the land will be used for public health facilities. If Queensland Health is to be granted greater powers to compulsorily acquire land then it must guarantee those powers are used for the public good. With growing demand on our public health system, Queenslanders should not be seeing publicly acquired land handed over to private operators and businesses. The minister needs to assure Queensland that these compulsory land acquisitions by Queensland Health will expand greater access to public health care.

A significant number of constituents in my electorate cannot afford private health care. They need more public hospital beds, timely access to specialists and elective surgeries and reduced wait times in emergency departments. We also hold reservations regarding the changes to the Mental Health Act 2016 that would extend the maximum period of detention to up to 72 hours when the Chief Psychiatrist

directs that a psychiatrist report be prepared in the public interest. The current Mental Health Act has authority to apprehend and transport a person for examination but it does not have the authority to detain the person in the authorised mental health service to conduct an examination. The changes proposed in the bill would authorise detention of a person in an authorised mental health service for 24 hours with an extension of up to 72 hours.

While the proposed changes are presented as technical amendments designed to protect public safety, stakeholders expressed concern that expanding involuntary detention powers represents a significant infringement on a person's liberty and human rights, particularly for vulnerable people experiencing mental distress. No-one disputes the importance of public safety but detaining vulnerable people for longer should not be a substitute for timely assessment and reporting. As stated by Mental Health Lived Experience Peak Queensland, detention is one of the most serious interferences with a person's liberty available to the state and should not be authorised by a test of administrative inconvenience. Mental Health Lived Experience Peak Queensland also pointed out a serious governance issue with this bill. They state that the Chief Psychiatrist is supposed to oversee and scrutinise the use of involuntary powers to promote patients' rights yet this bill allows the Chief Psychiatrist to both police the use of coercive powers and direct their use, effectively making the regulator both the referee and the player. When the watchdog becomes part of the process it is supposed to oversee, accountability is weakened and vulnerable Queenslanders may pay the price.

The Queensland Law Society and Legal Aid Queensland also raised concerns about the breadth of those detention powers and their impact on individual autonomy. Both organisations proposed additional safeguards, including requiring an authorised psychiatrist to be satisfied that there is no other reasonably practicable way to conduct a thorough examination and that extended detention is necessary to support the person's participation in that process. This amendment raises serious concerns about individual liberties, particularly for vulnerable people experiencing acute mental distress who face significant challenges in exercising and protecting their rights. The Crisafulli government needs to ensure these impacts have been fully considered.

The changes to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 are a welcome reform in helping to remove illicit tobacco and nicotine products off our streets, but, again, we see a missed opportunity by the government to include reforms that would address another scourge affecting our communities—nitrous oxide. I know the member for Greenslopes also raised this in his contribution. The member for Greenslopes has undertaken significant work in this space to raise awareness of the harms caused by nitrous oxide addiction, including drawing attention to companies which prey on vulnerable people through 24-hour home delivery services. I believe the member for Greenslopes' parliamentary petition calling for reforms has gathered over 1,000 signatures, but the Crisafulli government has ignored pleas to address this issue.

The Labor opposition is supportive of the other amendments in this bill and notes their support by stakeholders. Queenslanders rightly expect continuous improvement of their public healthcare system to ensure it continues to work in their best interests. The Crisafulli government needs to be reminded not to overstep their powers and remember that they govern for all Queenslanders, including our most vulnerable. This bill has shown the government has given a nod to its private business mates by allowing Queensland Health to compulsorily acquire land for any sort of health infrastructure that is not strictly limited to public hospital and health services. My question is: how does that serve low-income Queenslanders needing free or affordable hospital or allied health services? The government needs to consider the impacts of extending involuntary detention on vulnerable people experiencing mental health distress. Where is the evidence this will support better outcomes for public safety or for the vulnerable person detained? Ultimately, this House should be asking a simple question: who benefits from these particular changes?

Queenslanders expect health legislation to strengthen public health care, protect individual rights and put patients first, yet this bill leaves questions unanswered about the government's priorities, its safeguards and its willingness to put the public interest ahead of private interests. While we support this bill, I place on record my concerns. I urge the government to ensure the expanded powers under this bill are exercised transparently, responsibly and always in the best interest of Queenslanders.

 **Hon. AJ STOKER** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (5.36 pm): I rise to speak on the Health Legislation Amendment Bill. The omnibus bill amends several acts as part of the Crisafulli government's plan to restore health services for Queenslanders. Unlike those opposite, we are getting on with the job of strengthening Queensland's public health system. We are working to improve patient outcomes to support safe and professional practice and to enhance our capacity to protect the health and safety of Queenslanders—in my neck of the woods, Redlanders.

Locally, we have already had a strong focus on improving health services and outcomes for the Redlands community. That includes staffing and getting up and running the new intensive care unit at Redland Hospital complete with 37 additional inpatient beds. We have both commenced and completed the new \$8.8 million transit care hub expansion to deliver additional beds—almost doubling of those beds—which will mean the unit will be able to support approximately 7,000 patients a year. Again, the capacity for patients is expected to double. There is a commitment for a new MRI machine for Redland Hospital which is undergoing its procurement process at present and a commitment to the expansion of the mental and allied health building as part of the Hospital Rescue Plan, with 20 additional mental health beds.

I was pleased to have the health minister in the Redlands recently because it was a great occasion to help people understand the value of embedding specialist mental health clinicians in the emergency department of Redland Hospital. I am pleased to see the Redland Hospital is among the first hospitals in the state to implement this initiative. These are a couple of the initiatives that are underway in the Crisafulli government to ensure we are healing the health crisis that Labor left behind. It is a good time to be talking about this because Labor have been running a scare campaign in the Redlands lately, dishonestly claiming there has been a cut to the important expansion of Redland Hospital by building this new mental health and allied health building.

Let us set the record straight: there are no cuts to mental health beds in the Redlands. The additional 20 beds that the new building will provide are being designed for delivery. The project is on like Donkey Kong. Redlanders are not silly. It is only a matter of time before this scare campaign is exposed for what it is. The fact of the scare campaign is itself pretty significant. It is a bit rich to be running around claiming that there are cuts when independent reviewer Sam Sangster found that what Labor had told Queenslanders was a capacity expansion plan would, in fact, not deliver a single new or expanded hospital project within the budget envelope or within the promised timeframe—not a single one. It is not the LNP telling you that; it is the independent reviewer's advice. So let us take those claims of cuts with a grain of salt.

More broadly though, this bill will advance the Hospital Rescue Plan and future health infrastructure developments across Queensland. It will do so by allowing Queensland Health to directly acquire land compulsorily when necessary and by resumption agreement for health infrastructure purposes. While these things are only used as a last resort, having the channel available is necessary to ensure hospital projects can swiftly get underway.

Another effect of the bill is to allow illicit tobacco products that have been seized to be destroyed faster by streamlining the forfeiture process. It also protects the community pharmacy model that provides an important element of the healthcare system by restricting the affiliation of pharmacy businesses with online supermarket businesses. It is worth observing that the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee only made one recommendation when it went through this bill with a fine-tooth comb and that was that it should be passed. There was no statement of reservation. That should give Queenslanders some confidence.

One of the amendments the bill refers to is in relation to the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act. That act creates a number of restrictions on supermarkets being able to operate a pharmacy business. It is currently prohibited for a community pharmacy to be directly accessible from a supermarket. That is important because it ensures the pharmacy model is directed to providing a wraparound, quality healthcare and advice service rather than treating it like it is just any old product on a shelf. If we think that principle is important—and I do—then this bill ensures those rules apply equally online, not just when we are dealing in the physical world. A clear distinction between essential medicines and ordinary consumer goods is important. It prevents the diminishing of the seriousness with which consumers approach medication use, administration and storage. Undermining the role of pharmacists to provide appropriate medication advice and oversight is not something we want to see happen.

This is a good opportunity to say that throughout the Redlands we are well supported by our pharmacy businesses, both when we are ill and for preventative health care. We have a lot of good pharmacists in our region, but I have a particular enthusiasm for Kellie and the team at TerryWhite Chemmart Wellington Point and also Karen at TerryWhite Chemmart Birkdale. I am a big fan of both those ladies. Each one is a mother, a committed professional and a serious businesswoman who has invested substantially in our community's health infrastructure. A big shout-out to the way that they contribute to our local healthcare landscape.

I recently visited the Birkdale pharmacy where they have invested in a new fit-out to further enhance the range and the quality of the services that they can offer to our community. Some of those healthcare services that once upon time you could only get from a GP are now available in the pharmacy. In Cleveland, Courtney and Sean do an incredible job at the TerryWhite pharmacy in Cleveland Central. We have plenty of great options. I observe that in Cleveland they are always very busy, particularly given the great support they offer to older Redlanders by providing good-quality advice.

There is a lot of interest locally in ensuring that illegal tobacco stores do not proliferate in our main streets. I feel like I am working with Queensland Health all the time to deal with them as they pop up. I take this opportunity to thank the many constituents who I know have been similarly vigilant in reporting these as they arise. Last year members might recall that we passed some really strong laws to help deal with this problem, but, as they say, as we build a better mouse trap the criminal networks that run these operations keep trying to build better mice. The changes in this bill take the next step after the changes that we made last year in our nation-leading illicit tobacco laws, giving Queensland Health the power to shut down illegal businesses for three months—it used to be just three days—without having to go through lengthy court processes.

Importantly, we have given landlords new powers to terminate leases when they are notified that their tenant is an illegal operator. It creates a new criminal offence for commercial landlords to knowingly permit illegal tobacco activity with a maximum penalty of more than \$165,000 and 12 months in jail. Queensland Health can now seize all smoking products that are found at illegal stores that are tainted by being supplied alongside illicit tobacco and vapes. That can include nitrous oxide bulbs and canisters that cause quite a lot of grief among those who are foolish enough to use them. Queensland Health officers can now conduct undercover operations to work to shut down these illicit tobacco and vape operations.

We have to keep moving and this bill does so in two important ways. To streamline forfeiture processes, the bill amends the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act to remove the show cause and appeal provisions for seized illegal tobacco and nicotine pouches. The change aligns the treatment of these products with the approach that already applies to vapes that was implemented last year, allowing for immediate forfeiture and prompt destruction of seized illicit tobacco and nicotine pouches. This is necessary because during Labor's decade of decline we saw hundreds of illegal tobacco and vape stores being allowed to operate out in the open, with weak laws and no fines for commercial supply and possession of these illicit vapes. As a government, we are cracking down on them.

This bill is important to health care in Queensland. As a government we are determined to ensure Queenslanders can access high-quality health care when they need it and close to home for us in the Redlands. I urge support of this bill because it is taking important steps towards providing world-class health care here in Queensland.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (5.47 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. I take the opportunity to thank everyone who worked on this bill. I acknowledge the work of the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee in examining the bill. I also acknowledge the public servants who have offered their hard work and expertise and all those who have taken the time to make submissions to the committee. We all appreciate the time and resources that go into scrutinising legislation. All of us who are on committees, sometimes in and out as I often am, are in awe of the professionalism and the number of hours that go into all of the committee work.

No-one will disagree that every single person has the right to access the very best health care. That is why health legislation and, in fact, all legislation, should be routinely updated to reflect the changing needs of the community. It is my understanding that this bill is mainly administrative in nature and it is generally supported by stakeholders. My colleagues on this side of the House have already said that the opposition supports the bill overall, but I do want to raise some concerns about missed opportunities and also highlight certain aspects of it which have been raised by stakeholders.

Before I go to the particular matters raised by stakeholders, I draw attention to the changes this bill makes to school immunisation programs which are designed to streamline information sharing between external entities providing vaccines and health and hospital services. I note that the Australian Health Promotion Association Queensland Branch supports these changes provided adequate privacy protections are in place. School immunisation programs are important for ensuring young people have the best chance at living a healthy life, but much more needs to be done to address declining immunisation rates.

The last Queensland School Immunisation Program report highlights that immunisation uptake has been plummeting, reaching a level of just 60 per cent in 2025. I think that is something we would all be horrified about. I note that the education minister has been characteristically quiet on the issue. As the education minister, it is his responsibility to ensure the health and wellbeing of school students, who can now have access to that service, by encouraging them to take it up.

Of course, we know that members of the government are a bit iffy about vaccines. For instance, earlier in the year when the Deputy Premier was asked whether he had had the flu vaccine he said that that was between him and his doctor. The Premier said the same. He would not say publicly if he would take the jab. It is a shame that they do not feel the same way about women's rights on termination of pregnancy, which is also a matter between a woman and her doctor. The Deputy Premier said at the time that he was comfortable with the state's vaccination rates, which was in the context of Queensland having the lowest flu vaccination rates in the country during the winter peak, with only one-third taking up the vaccine.

I cannot answer for the people opposite because I do not follow them on social media, but I know that most of us on this side of the House take very seriously our responsibility as community leaders to get our vaccinations done quite early in the winter flu season and to promote that on social media and in every other way in our communities. We take seriously our responsibility as role models. If we have it then other people can have it too. I want to thank the general practitioners—the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners is very proactive about this—and also the pharmacists. I note the member for Oodgeroo spoke about her local pharmacies. I go to several fantastic people for my annual vaccinations. They play an important role. We all need to be aware of our leadership role in this space. I encourage the education minister to look at the plummeting immunisation uptake rates and, through this service, encourage our kids to keep safe and have the vaccinations.

I want to talk about nitrous oxide. This is a missed opportunity when it comes to the changes to the forfeiture of illicit substances. The bill amends the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 to make it easier for Queensland Health to destroy forfeited illicit tobacco and nicotine products and to improve the consistency of the treatment of forfeited substances. We welcome practical steps to crack down on illicit substances. I am a passionate antismoker. This is important legislation as part of that whole journey. However, the legislation is notably silent on the predatory sale of nitrous oxide.

I acknowledge my good friend the member for Greenslopes. We are all aware of the passionate work he has done in this regard. This week he presented a petition from over 1,000 people who feel the same way. The issue of nitrous oxide being sold to young people by predatory providers, particularly through 24/7 delivery services, is frankly quite scary. I remember the day when the member for Greenslopes was allowed to bring in a can of nitrous oxide and talked to us about some of the experiences that he has heard of. These products can be brought to any household in as little as 15 minutes. While I appreciate nitrous oxide products can be used for quite legitimate purposes, such as parties, we know the design of the packaging and the marketing of those products is being done in the same way as with vapes, that is, with colourful canisters and flavours. Also like vapes, the long-term consumption of nitrous oxide is associated with really terrifying health impacts including neurological harm that, in the extreme, can result in memory loss, depression and even paralysis and psychosis requiring hospitalisation and ongoing care.

One would think that, after about a year of campaigning by the member for Greenslopes, which no-one seems to disagree with, a bill of this nature would provide the perfect opportunity to address the issue. However, that opportunity has been gravely missed. While the Labor government moved quickly to act on the issue of vapes being pushed onto young people, it appears that the LNP government has really done nothing since the member for Greenslopes first raised the alarm. They will probably say that they introduced legislation to expand the powers of police to seize nitrous oxide when discovered alongside illicit tobacco and nicotine products. I do not deny that that is important and we welcome those changes. However, I refer to the insidious way that these products are being pushed onto young people. We saw what happened with vapes and the way that influenced our young people. We need to come in really quickly and do something about nitrous oxide so I really want to acknowledge the work of the member for Greenslopes.

In the time left, I want to acknowledge concerns raised by stakeholders regarding the proposed changes to the Mental Health Act 2016 that would extend the detention of individuals for the purposes of psychiatric evaluation. Sisters Inside, which is an organisation that I have great personal respect for, have flagged that these changes may further cement coercion as the default response to mental distress. They note that detention is one of the most significant intrusions on an individual's liberty that

is available to the state. Both the Queensland Law Society and Legal Aid Queensland have suggested changes that could be made to that amendment to better consider the effects it may have on individual liberties. In their submission, Legal Aid Queensland noted that a similar provision exists for the mental health court to order that a person be transported to a mental health service for the purposes of a court ordered examination. However, this can only occur if the court is satisfied that there is no other practicable way to ensure thorough examination of the person's mental health condition and so they have suggested similar safeguards be added to the proposed legislative changes.

I hope that the government and the minister are carefully considering the really practical suggestions that have been made by stakeholders. I hope that very soon they consider another vehicle to look at the issue of nitrous oxide. We do not want any more rush jobs. It is our job to do this right so let's take all the opportunities available to look after Queenslanders the way we should.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (5.56 pm): I rise to support the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. This is a practical omnibus bill that strengthens Queensland's health legislation across several important areas. It supports the delivery of new and expanded health infrastructure, protects our community pharmacy models, strengthens the enforcement response to illicit tobacco and improves the operation of several public health and mental health provisions. These are sensible reforms that will support safe professional practice, improve patient outcomes and strengthen Queensland's public health system.

The Health, Environment and Innovation Committee received 35 submissions during its examination of the bill. Stakeholders were broadly supportive, particularly with respect to elements of the state government's public health and pharmacy reforms. I note that the committee made one recommendation, that the bill be passed, and that there was no statement of reservation.

It is a matter of record that the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government inherited a health system that was under immense pressure following a decade of decline under the former Labor government. Ambulance ramping had tripled under Labor. The elective surgery waitlist had almost doubled, increasing from over 35,000 patients to more than 64,000 patients by September 2024, before peaking at more than 66,000 patients in December 2024. Labor's failed capacity expansion program was characterised by unrealistic promises, inadequate planning, serious design flaws and a \$7 billion cost blowout. An independent review found that not one new or expanded hospital project was expected to be delivered within its original funding envelope or timeframe.

An opposition member interjected.

Dr ROWAN: I know Labor opposition members like to interject but they do not like to hear about their record when it comes to health care in Queensland and the lack of infrastructure that was built, the poorer service delivery outcomes and the fact that the health workforce was decimated under the former Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government. The former Labor state government announced projects without properly scoping them, without providing adequate funding and, in some instances, without including essential facilities such as surgical theatres, pharmacies and pathology services.

We know that the former Labor government was in bed with the CFMEU. They were not doing anything to address the misogyny, bullying, harassment, intimidation and all the other matters that have been well and truly canvassed by and are coming out through the royal commission inquiry into the CFMEU and the fact that the Labor Party aided and abetted the CFMEU.

When it comes to health infrastructure planning here in Queensland, the Crisafulli state government is now undertaking the difficult but essential work required to repair the damage, to build that infrastructure and to restore health services for Queenslanders. We have started to see some improvements, but we know there is so much more to be done, particularly after 10 years of decline under the former Labor government.

Ramping is trending down, with the statewide rate falling to 35.5 per cent in the June quarter of 2026—the lowest quarterly rates since December 2020. The elective surgery waiting list has also fallen to its lowest level in two years, representing an 11.6 reduction from Labor's peak. Again, I know that the Labor opposition do not like hearing the facts and do not like hearing the numbers, but certainly that is the record being achieved under the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government. I certainly have to acknowledge the health minister, the Hon. Tim Nicholls MP, the member for Clayfield, for all of the work he is doing. Through Surgery Connect, our government is investing \$1.8 billion over four years to deliver additional procedures and reduce the time Queenslanders spend waiting for care.

As a former president of the Australian Medical Association, I understand the importance of ensuring patients can access appropriate health services regardless of where they live, right across Queensland, whether that be in urban areas or in rural or regional parts of our state. I also understand the value of a health system which supports its clinicians, plans infrastructure properly and directs resources towards better patient care. The fact that the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government has already added 10,000 additional health workers demonstrates the scale of our commitment to rebuilding capacity throughout the health system. The amendments to the Hospital and Health Boards Act will assist Queensland Health to plan and progress future health infrastructure according to health priorities and delivery timeframes.

Another important element of this bill concerns the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2024. Community pharmacies are an essential part of Queensland's health system. For many Queenslanders, particularly those living in rural and regional Queensland, their local pharmacist is one of the most accessible and trusted health professionals available to them. Our community pharmacy model recognises that medicines are not ordinary consumer products. Their dispensing requires professional advice, appropriate clinical oversight and a clear focus on patient safety. Existing legislation prevents a community pharmacy from being directly accessible from a supermarket in a physical retail environment, and this bill ensures the same principle applies online.

Before issuing a pharmacy business licence, the Queensland Pharmacy Business Ownership Council will need to be satisfied that there are no prohibited promotional arrangements between the pharmacy business, or its franchisor, and a supermarket business. This will help maintain a clear distinction between essential medicines and ordinary grocery products. It also protects a patient centred, health professional led model of care in which ownership and control remain with pharmacists rather than supermarkets or other large commercial interests.

This legislation also strengthens Queensland's response to illicit tobacco. It amends the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act to remove the show cause and appeal provisions that presently apply to seized illicit tobacco and nicotine pouches. This will align their treatment with the existing approach to seize vapes, allowing these illegal products to be forfeited immediately and destroyed promptly. This is a straightforward enforcement reform. Once illicit tobacco or nicotine products have been lawfully seized, they should not remain in storage for extended periods while unnecessary administrative processes are undertaken.

These amendments build on the nation-leading laws passed by the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government last year. Those laws gave Queensland Health stronger powers to close illegal businesses, seize illicit products, undertake undercover operations and hold commercial landlords accountable when they knowingly permit unlawful activity. The results demonstrate why decisive action was necessary. Between November 2025 and June 2026, authorities seized more than 42 million illicit cigarettes, approximately 380,000 vapes, 6.5 tonnes of loose tobacco and more than 850,000 nicotine pouches. The combined estimated value of those seizures was approximately \$58 million.

That enforcement record stands in stark contrast to Labor's weak response, which allowed hundreds of illicit tobacco and vape stores to appear across Queensland. Under the former government's laws, public health officers could not even issue on-the-spot fines to stores caught supplying illicit vapes or seize illegal nicotine pouches. The Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government has given enforcement officers the powers they need, and this bill will make those powers more efficient by ensuring seized illicit products can be destroyed without unnecessary delay.

Finally, this legislation contains a range of other amendments to improve the operation of Queensland's health legislation. This includes amendments supporting the operation of the Mental Health Act, measures to facilitate higher rates of adolescent immunisation, improvements to the monitoring of hepatitis C, and several minor administrative and consequential amendments. Individually, many of those changes are technical. Collectively, they contribute to a safer, more responsive and more effective health system.

This bill reflects the Crisafulli state government's practical approach to health reform. It supports the delivery of health infrastructure, protects independent community pharmacies, strengthens action against illicit tobacco and improves public health arrangements. After a decade of Labor mismanagement, Queenslanders expect a government that will focus on delivery, support frontline health professionals and make the health system work better for patients. As such, this bill advances that work. I commend the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 to the House.

It is terrific to have a state government in Queensland that is focused on the health system here, delivering infrastructure and delivering services for the benefit of not only patients but also health professionals right across Queensland. We saw that the former Labor government did nothing when it came to our health system. We had a decade of decline, very similar to the Beattie and Bligh Labor years when our hospital system was left in complete chaos. In fact, the former Labor premier Bligh was going to break up the Department of Health because they could not manage that whole department. You will remember there were clinical governance failures. They had the Patel debacle and all of those circumstances in relation to Bundaberg, there was the fake Tahitian prince where there was a lot of fraudulent expenditure of money in the health department, and many other matters.

Here in Queensland we have this amazing bill before us which is delivering significant improvements across the system and is making significant changes. I know that the health minister has worked diligently in bringing this legislation before the House. I certainly would like to acknowledge the committee as well for all of their work and the secretariat in preparing the report. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr RUSSO (Toohey—ALP) (6.06 pm): I rise to speak to the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. Every Queenslander deserves access to great quality health care close to home. That access should never depend on where a person lives or how much money they earn. That principle guides the Labor opposition's consideration of this bill. Overall, the Labor opposition supports it. Much of it is administrative in nature and several amendments are sensible. However, we hold serious concerns about some proposed changes, particularly the new compulsory land acquisition powers, the extension of detention under the Mental Health Act, and the government's failure to address 24/7 nitrous oxide delivery services.

The bill also deals with pharmacy and supermarket promotional arrangements, school immunisation information sharing, hepatitis C pathology notifications, forensic orders, and faster forfeiture of illicit tobacco and nicotine products. These measures demonstrate why the bill is largely administrative, but they do not diminish the importance of scrutinising the broader coercive powers contained within it before the House. This is another patchwork bill from the health minister bringing together administrative amendments while also giving his department substantial new powers.

At its heart, the bill will allow Queensland Health to compulsorily acquire land for a health infrastructure purpose without relying on the department of natural resources to conduct the process. There is no doubt that our health system must continue expanding as Queensland's population grows. It is the minister's duty to ensure access to good quality health care is never dependent on a postcode or income. What concerns this side of the House is the breadth of the power and the limited guardrails around it. The definition of a health infrastructure purpose is deliberately broad. Examples of related infrastructure include commercial, community, educational, food and office facilities connected with the primary purpose of delivering care.

When Health Infrastructure Queensland was asked whether land could be acquired for private hospital providers, the committee was advised the amendments allowed mixed models of care. Private care is deliberately captured within the bill. Queensland Health says the purpose must concern public patients and community health needs, but grey areas remain about the level of public access required and whether acquired land could later be repurposed. The concern is straightforward. The state may compulsorily acquire land for everyday Queenslanders under a broadened definition and then make the land available within models involving private providers and profit-making services. Queenslanders need stronger assurances that these powers will deliver public facilities and enduring public benefit.

Labor supports quality health care close to home. What we do not support is using government powers to prop up private business. They must take and maintain an ethical approach to these new powers. Public patients must remain the priority, proper safeguards must be observed and the best outcomes for Queenslanders must be at the heart of every decision.

The bill also proposes a range of predominantly administrative amendments to the Mental Health Act. The central concern raised during the committee process was the extension of the maximum detention period for an examination connected with a report initiated by the Chief Psychiatrist in the public interest. The bill would permit detention for an initial 24 hours, with an extension up to a total of 72 hours. That detention does not require the consent of the individual being assessed.

The Labor opposition recognises that the amendment concerns reports prepared in the public interest and that such reports may assist decisions about diversion from the criminal justice system. However, detention is a profound exercise of state power. It directly affects liberty, autonomy and freedom of movement, and it must never become a matter of administrative convenience. Sisters Inside

warned that every expansion of involuntary detention normalises coercion as the default response to mental distress and further erodes the principle that treatment should occur with a person's free and informed consent wherever possible. Mental Health Lived Experience Peak Queensland opposed the amendment, observing that detention is one of the most serious interferences with liberty available to the state and should not be authorised through a test of administrative convenience.

The Queensland Law Society also proposed safeguards that are consistent with Legal Aid Queensland's recommendations. An authorised psychiatrist should reasonably believe there is no reasonably practicable way to ensure a thorough examination of the person's mental condition and that detention at the service will support the person to participate in that examination. These are reasonable safeguards. The government says that the power will apply rarely, that an extension requires oversight by the Chief Psychiatrist and that release is mandatory when detention is no longer necessary or clinically appropriate. Even so, the government must demonstrate that it has fully considered the effect on individual liberties and that the least restrictive approach will always be used.

The bill also transfers the initial review of forensic orders made under the Criminal Code from the Mental Health Review Tribunal to the Mental Health Court. The tribunal supported this change because it recognises that it does not have the breadth of authority held by the Mental Health Court when making forensic orders.

There are other amendments that Labor supports. The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Queensland considers the amendments to the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act necessary. It supports prohibited promotional arrangements with clear consequences for noncompliance, describing the change as an essential step in strengthening pharmacy business ownership rules, ensuring consistency across physical and digital environments and eliminating regulatory gaps.

The Queensland branch of the Australian Health Promotion Association supported clearer policy guidance and safeguards for information sharing under the School Immunisation Program, recognising the importance of vaccination uptake, stronger data integration and effective monitoring. Hepatitis Queensland described the hepatitis C pathology notification amendment as targeted, clinically meaningful and proportionate. It said the change would improve the quality and timeliness of surveillance, support linkage to care for people who test positive and contribute to Queensland's goal of eliminating hepatitis C as a public health threat.

The bill also amends the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 to streamline forfeiture of seized illicit tobacco and illicit nicotine products and allow faster destruction. Labor supports those amendments. The Australian Retail Council said the measures would strengthen enforcement and reduce unnecessary administrative burdens, characterising them as sensible and proportionate. Lung Foundation Australia supported faster removal and destruction to disrupt illegal trade and protect the community, yet this part of the bill exposes a seriously missed opportunity. Nitrous oxide addiction is harming communities across Queensland, while companies offering 24/7 delivery can prey on vulnerable people without consequences for that predatory conduct.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Before I call the member for Hinchinbrook, I recognise in the public gallery the Bundamba Youth Advisory Council. Welcome.

 **Mr CHIESA** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (6.16 pm): I rise to support the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. The Crisafulli government is healing Labor's health crisis after a decade of decline, and this bill is another important part of restoring health services for Queenslanders. We inherited a system from Labor where ambulance ramping had tripled and the elective surgery waiting list had almost doubled, eventually peaking at more than 66,000 Queenslanders. Labor's failed hospital capacity expansion program blew out by \$7 billion, with projects delayed, underscoped and, in some cases, simply undeliverable.

We are turning that around. Ramping is now trending down, with the June quarter recording the lowest quarterly rate since December 2020. The elective surgery waiting list has fallen to its lowest level in more than two years. We have added 10,000 additional health workers. For regional Queenslanders who have to travel for health care, we have delivered an \$11.7 million uplift to the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme, increasing the subsidy from 35 cents to 45 cents per kilometre. It is now the most generous rate in the nation. There is still more to do, but Queensland's health system is heading in the right direction.

This bill continues that work. It strengthens our ability to deliver health infrastructure, protects Queensland's community pharmacy model and gives our public health officers stronger tools to tackle illicit tobacco and nicotine products.

One of the most significant reforms relates to health infrastructure. The Crisafulli government's Hospital Rescue Plan is delivering three new hospitals, 10 major hospital expansions and new and upgraded health facilities across Queensland, and North Queensland is benefiting. Labor's failed capacity expansion plan for Townsville University Hospital blew out by \$500 million—from \$530 million to more than a billion dollars—and was delayed by at least two years. Critically, Labor's plan did not even include a pharmacy, a sterilising department or a link bridge to the existing hospital. We are fixing that. Our Hospital Rescue Plan will deliver more than 165 new overnight beds at Townsville University Hospital by 2029, with procurement progressing to select the contractor to deliver the expansion. By removing Labor's costly BPIC arrangements, we are already getting better value for Queensland taxpayers.

Mr MELLISH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. It is a broad bill, but he is not really being relevant to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): I believe that many members have been very broad in their speeches and thanking their health services. I did not think it was anything obscure. Member, please continue with your contribution and remain relevant to the bill.

Mr CHIESA: I will, Mr Deputy Speaker, especially in relation to removing BPIC arrangements. I am sure those opposite would like to read the *Courier-Mail* today and the reporting in relation to what has happened. Please do so.

On the Townsville University Hospital car park alone, removing BPIC will see savings of around \$90,000 per parking space, meaning the new facility will almost be double the size. Imagine how much more bang for buck we could have made removing BPIC earlier! This is what better productivity means in the real world: getting more infrastructure for taxpayers' money. This bill helps us continue that work.

Currently, when Queensland Health needs to acquire land for health infrastructure, that process is undertaken on its behalf through another department. This bill allows Queensland Health to directly lead that process, including acquiring land compulsorily or by agreement for health infrastructure purposes. Compulsory acquisition is never the preferred option. It is a measure of last resort. Importantly, existing safeguards remain including notice, objection and compensation processes. When land is required, Queensland Health will be able to directly engage with affected individuals and communities and progress acquisitions according to health priorities and project timeframes. That is practical reform designed to help us deliver the health infrastructure Queenslanders need.

This bill also protects Queensland's community pharmacy model. This is particularly important to regional communities like those I represent. Across Hinchinbrook, from the northern suburbs of Townsville through to Ingham, Cardwell and Tully, our community pharmacies are an important part of the local health system. For many people, the local pharmacy is more than somewhere to collect a prescription. It is accessible, it is local and it is trusted. Our pharmacists know their communities and strong pharmacy ownership laws help ensure those businesses can remain locally owned and operated. Existing legislation restricts supermarkets from operating pharmacy businesses and prevents community pharmacies being directly accessible from supermarkets. This bill ensures those principles apply equally online. Because medicines are not ordinary consumer goods and a pharmacy is not simply another supermarket aisle, Queenslanders should continue to receive the professional advice and oversight that comes with a pharmacist-led model of care. As technology changes the way people shop, we should not allow it to undermine the principles that protect our community pharmacies.

The bill also strengthens our fight against illicit tobacco and nicotine products. The updated enforcement figures demonstrate exactly why this matters. In just eight months, between November 2025 and June this year, more than 42 million illicit cigarettes, 380,000 vapes and 6.5 tonnes of loose tobacco have been seized across Queensland. The estimated value of those seizures is almost \$60 million. This is not just a Brisbane problem. In the Townsville Public Health Unit region alone, officers conducted 205 inspections and seized more than 1.5 million illicit cigarettes, more than 11,700 vapes, over 11,000 nicotine pouches and more than 250 kilograms of loose tobacco. Twenty-three 90-day closure orders have been issued in the Townsville region. That is enforcement happening in our own backyard.

It stands in stark contrast to Labor's weak laws, under which hundreds of illegal tobacco and vape stores were allowed to operate in plain sight. We strengthened those laws last year. Illegal businesses can now be shut for 90 days, rather than just three. Landlords have stronger powers and responsibilities, and Queensland Health officers can conduct undercover operations. This bill goes another step. It removes show cause and appeal provisions for seized illicit tobacco and nicotine

pouches, bringing them into line with the approach already applying to vapes. That allows these illegal products to be forfeited immediately and promptly destroyed. That is common sense. If our public health officers seize illegal products, those products should not sit around unnecessarily. Seize them, forfeit them and destroy them.

The bill also makes important amendments to mental health and public health legislation, including measures aimed at increasing adolescent immunisation uptake and improving hepatitis C monitoring. The Health, Environment and Innovation Committee received 35 submissions, with stakeholders largely supportive, particularly of the public health and pharmacy reforms. The committee made one recommendation—that the bill be passed. There was no dissenting report.

The Crisafulli government is restoring health services for Queenslanders. We are reducing waiting lists, we are investing in our health workforce, we are delivering the Hospital Rescue Plan, we are getting better value for health infrastructure and we are making sure regional Queenslanders get their fair share. This bill supports that work. It helps deliver the infrastructure Queenslanders need, protects the community pharmacy model Queenslanders trust and gives our public health officers stronger tools to protect our communities. They are practical reforms that strengthen our health system and deliver better health services for Queenslanders. I support this bill.



Ms PEASE (Lytton—ALP) (6.24 pm): I rise to speak to the Health Legislation Amendment Bill. Every Queenslander deserves access to high-quality health care close to home. It should never depend on where you live or how much money you earn. That is a principle that has always guided Labor. Labor is a party that believes in a strong public health system. We believe in Medicare. We believe in properly funded public hospitals. We believe in our doctors, our nurses, our midwives, our paramedics and our allied health professionals. Importantly, we listen to health professionals and the people with lived experience when they tell us that something needs attention. We also listen to our communities when they hear about the disappointment and the let-down by government. That is why I am proud to stand here and will fight tooth and nail to ensure that my Wynnum-Manly Community Health Centre does not lose funding for their 24-hour primary healthcare clinic.

The opposition broadly supports the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 and much of its administration is sensible. However, support does not mean abandoning scrutiny, particularly when legislation gives government new powers over people's property and liberty. The bill amends six major pieces of health legislation. It deals with health infrastructure, mental health, community pharmacies, school immunisation, reporting of hepatitis C, and illicit tobacco and nicotine products. Sadly, what it does not address is a very important issue that my colleague the member for Greenslopes raised—the 24-hour delivery of nangs.

There are measures here that Labor welcomes. The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Queensland supports changes addressing promotional arrangements between pharmacies and supermarkets, describing them as an important step in strengthening the pharmacy ownership framework and closing regulatory gaps. The Australian Health Promotion Association Queensland Branch supports improved information sharing for the School Immunisation Program regarding the importance of vaccination uptake and stronger data integration. Hepatitis Queensland described the hepatitis C pathology notification changes as 'well-targeted, clinically meaningful, and proportionate', saying they would improve surveillance and help link people who test positive with care. The Australian Retail Council described the illicit tobacco and nicotine reforms as 'sensible and proportionate', while the Lung Foundation Australia supported getting these illegal products off the market more quickly.

We recognise those improvements, but there are two areas where the opposition believes particular caution is required. The first is compulsory acquisition of land. At present, when Queensland Health cannot negotiate the private purchase of land, acquisition occurs through the department of natural resources under the Acquisition of Land Act. This bill changes that. It makes Queensland Health itself a constructing authority and gives it power to compulsorily acquire land directly for a new and broader definition of a 'health infrastructure purpose'. That definition deserves scrutiny. It can encompass not simply a public hospital or public health facility but 'commercial, community, educational, food, office, retail or recreational facilities' associated with the primary health purpose. It can also include a private health facility where services are provided to public patients. That raises an obvious question. How far should the compulsory powers of the state extend when private commercial interests may ultimately benefit? There is a fundamental difference between acquiring someone's home or property to build a public hospital and acquiring it as part of a development involving private providers making profits.

The Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union raises precisely this concern. It said it remained unclear what level of public access would be required, whether public patients would receive priority and how the public benefit would be assessed. The QNMU recommended that health infrastructure be explicitly for publicly owned and delivered health services for public patients. The QNMU and the Western Queensland Primary Health Network also raised concerns about removing independent oversight from the acquisition process.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.



Ms PEASE: These are serious observations by the QNMU and others. We understand that Queensland's growing population requires new hospitals and health infrastructure. We want those facilities built; we do not want fewer of them. We do not want building to be halted, slowed down or put off into the never-never. We do not want services to be ripped out of the heart of communities like my very own community of Wynnum Manly. I have seen that happen in the past. I do not want to see that again and neither does my community. There have been reports that Gundu Pa's 24-hour primary care service is going to be withdrawn. That would be a big mistake. My community has not forgotten the closure of the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit, where 95 people lost their beds and their homes. When the Wynnum Hospital was closed we lost hospital beds and palliative care services were ripped out of my community. I do not want to see that again and neither does my community.

Compulsory acquisition is an extraordinary power, as we saw with last night's critical minerals bill, and this is just another example of that. Day after day this government is introducing legislation that gives them more and more power to take land from Queenslanders. Those of you in regional Queensland should be very concerned about what your communities will say. I hope you will stand up and protect them and give them a voice.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr J Kelly): Direct your comments through the chair, please, member.

Ms PEASE: When governments take someone's property against their wishes there must be transparency, clear public benefit and strong safeguards. The minister must ensure Queenslanders remain at the heart of every decision made under these new powers. Sadly, we have seen that this Newman era mark 2 government lacks any integrity and I doubt that they will be able to control themselves with these new powers.

The second area requiring careful consideration is mental health. This bill creates a new detention power when the Chief Psychiatrist has initiated a report concerning a person charged with a serious offence. Initially a person may be detained for 24 hours, with that detention capable of being extended to 72 hours. The person does not have to consent. Again, these are further powers. The government says these cases are rare and that safeguards apply. We acknowledge that, but we also acknowledge that stakeholder consultation resulted in the original 72-hour proposal being changed to a staged 24-hour period with oversight required for an extension. That was a sensible recommendation.

Involuntary detention is one of the most significant powers the state can exercise over an individual. Sisters Inside put its concerns strongly, warning that the expansion of involuntary detention can normalise coercion and erode the principle that treatment should occur with free and informed consent wherever possible. Anyone who has known someone or had a loved one who has gone through this would know firsthand, and if you have not then you are lucky. Put yourselves in the shoes of other people in the community before you stand in judgement and finger point at others.

Mental Health Lived Experience Peak Queensland similarly argued that detention is one of the most serious interferences with liberty available to the state and should not simply become a matter of administrative convenience. Legal Aid Queensland and the Queensland Law Society questioned the threshold in this bill. Labor listens when organisations like these raise concerns. There is a standard against which we will judge this bill and every decision this government makes under the new powers it contains.

(Time expired)



Mr LISTER (Southern Downs—LNP) (7.35 pm): I rise to make the Southern Downs contribution on the Health Legislation Amendment Bill. I thank the minister and the government for introducing it and for the committee's consideration of the bill.

There are a couple of things which are particularly pertinent to my electorate of Southern Downs. The first thing I want to talk about is community pharmacies. I acknowledge the necessity of protecting our community pharmacies from what I call the 'supermarketisation' of pharmacies. There is a definite

public interest in having pharmacies run locally by pharmacists and their staff, particularly in my neck of the woods in Southern Downs. In rural and remote areas you want to make sure there is a solid business proposition to keep a pharmacist and their staff in town.

Pharmacies are obviously important not only for the provision of drugs but for so much else, particularly in this age where they are able to prescribe for women presenting with UTIs, perform vaccinations and so forth. That is a good thing, because if we do not have enough doctors then that is what we depend on. I acknowledge the many community and privately run pharmacies in my electorate of Southern Downs as well as the Warwick Friendly Society pharmacy and health businesses in Warwick. They are wonderful organisations.

Prior to this bill if Queensland Health wanted to acquire land to build a health facility and it required a compulsory acquisition, then you had to use the powers under the department of natural resources. Queensland Health is a very large infrastructure manager. Being the member for Southern Downs and dealing with Darling Downs health with their infrastructure matters such as new hospitals and so forth, I know there is a lot of work there, so it is definitely advantageous that Queensland Health has the independent ability to undertake those acquisitions. It reduces the inertia and bureaucracy to get a product delivered cheaper and faster to the people who need it.

I was very pleased to open the Millmerran Multipurpose Health Service facility about six to 12 months ago. We have announced that the business case for a new Warwick hospital is being constructed at the moment. When it comes to where that should be, I am agnostic. I want the best possible outcome. It could well be that a new hospital is built across the street from the existing one. It happens to be a park, but if it was in a perfect spot it would be great to see that. If that power was necessary, Queensland Health could exercise it themselves. I see nothing sinister at all with that particular innovation.

Mr McDonald: Hear, hear!

Mr LISTER: Thank you. With regard to tobacco, this is something that really irritated me in the years leading up to the election of the Crisafulli government. We did see the previous Labor government undertake moves to cut down on illicit tobacco, but they really avoided the critical mass, the real soft underbelly of the illegal tobacco trade. The courts can now deal with landlords who are shown to be culpably involved in the illicit trade of tobacco by knowingly renting their premises to an offender or illegal chop-chop shops or something. That strict liability is very important, because once you have prosecuted one or two of them then landlords very quickly get the message that they should not bother. It might look like good cash under the table, but at the end of the day if 'Chopper' does not come and firebomb you because they are not paying him, then Queensland Health will come around and shut you down and prosecute you for being involved in the trade.

There have been a lot of seizures of illicit tobacco, and the number is growing. I have noticed in the last 12 months in particular that these suppliers of illicit tobacco, drugs, vapes and goodness know what else are not springing back up like a mushroom as they did before. Nobody can pretend that this has eliminated the trade in these things because they will always find another way. They got a head start in developing the illegal connections they need to obtain their supply of tobacco in those years when not enough was done about illicit tobacco.

Nevertheless, in order to be efficacious in detecting and prosecuting offences to do with illegal tobacco, Queensland Health has to seize it. My understanding from talking to the health minister is that an enormous amount of tobacco has to be kept as evidence in the appropriate conditions, and that costs money and time. This innovation which enables the department to dispose of seized illegal tobacco products immediately is a great thing. I understand there are also concerns that it was dangerous to store vapes and some of the other products, so this will eliminate risks and I am very happy to see that.

I say to those who are involved in the illicit tobacco trade that you are in a dangerous area. There are criminal groups who want to control you and the Queensland government is particularly keen to get rid of you, so don't do it. I say to those people who purchase tobacco that you should quit smoking if you can. Providing funds to organised crime groups is not a good thing to be doing.

Mr McDonald: Your family will appreciate it, too.

Mr LISTER: I take that interjection from my friend the member for Lockyer. It is true that your family will appreciate it too; it is about you and your loved ones. I do not want to pontificate on that. This is illegal and I discourage smoking.

I want to talk about the measures to enable the committal of persons who are deemed to be a risk psychiatrically. These sorts of measures provide for very significant powers. We all understand that it is incumbent upon those who exercise those powers to do so in a spotlessly transparent and professional way with the interests of the community and the individual patient at the forefront. I am quite certain beyond a shadow of a doubt that 99.999 per cent of encounters will involve those motives.

One thing I must say after constituents have spoken with me about this matter is that there are many constituents whose children or loved ones are very worried about them and concerned about the difficulties involved in having them compulsorily taken into a psychiatric unit. Those concerns have been, 'It's too hard. We want them to be in there. They need this help. We're very worried.' Whilst some concerns have been expressed for the rights of people who might be committed, we need to balance those against the need to protect the community and to look after people who have loved ones and are worried about them.

The member for Lytton was conflating the powers conferred by this bill to the Department of Health to acquire property and trying to disingenuously imply that there is some sinister angle where private interests will be advantaged at the expense of the public interest. That is not true, and I will give an example. In my electorate of Southern Downs, all of the hospital facilities that have a dedicated imaging department for X-rays, CT scans and so forth are run by contractors who are domiciled inside the Queensland Health facility. I am totally agnostic about how my X-ray occurs, as long as it happens and it is quality. I want to see the maximum number of X-rays available for the cost so that the people I represent have the best health care possible.

The suggestion is that compulsorily acquiring land to build a hospital is wrong and evil if part of that hospital is a cafe, an imaging service or a shop that rents computer games to patients. I see that as entirely innocuous and a specious reason for which to criticise the bill. This bill is necessary. It is good legislation. On behalf of the people of the Southern Downs I support it.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (7.44 pm): I rise to speak to the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. We have heard a variety of members talk about the compulsory acquisition for a health infrastructure purpose, and they have taken the opportunity to speak about the services in their area. I was struck that the member for Oodgeroo said this was about delivering health care close to your home. I am going to put to the people of Logan that 'close to your home' for this government does not mean close to the home of anyone in Logan. It may be for someone like the health minister who would have it close to their home, but it is not close to the home of anyone in Logan.

At the 2024 election we put forward the policy for the Yarrabilba satellite hospital. However, the LNP looked at that plan and the land for acquisition and said no. They said no to the area with the fastest growing population in the state; they cut it. The satellite hospital would have been a \$78 million investment in health in southern Logan. It would have helped relieve the pressure on the Logan Hospital by offering a walk-in minor injury and illness clinic open seven days a week for broken limbs, sprains, burns, cuts and minor head injuries. It would have included services like X-rays, ultrasounds, ECG, pathology collection, renal dialysis and chemo care. The chemo care is what I was particularly passionate about because the husband of my friend Bev was slowly dying and he had to travel to the PA for chemo care. This would have made their quality of life at the end of life so much better. That satellite hospital would have also included specialist services.

As I said, having those services close to your home was not a priority for the Crisafulli LNP government. The fastest growing area of Queensland was being ignored. I will move from the fastest growing area of Queensland in the last two years to the second fastest growing area. If we take a five-year perspective, it is even faster growing. The Coomera Hospital was well underway in 2023-24. If they had just followed through with Labor's plan, a 400-bed hospital would have been relieving pressure on the Logan Hospital and other services from late 2027.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr J Kelly): Order, member for Coomera.

Mr POWER: The member for Coomera is speaking loudly about this because he knows the facts—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Coomera is warned.

Mr POWER: He knows that it was going to be finished by 2027 and 404 beds were going to be delivered, just like our other services.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bonney, if you want to continue to engage in the debate you will need to be in your chair.

Mr POWER: Don't worry, Gold Coast members, it gets a lot worse. There were going to be 404 beds by 2027, but now their plan is to have just 400 beds by 2031. Their plan is later and less. We do know there will be an extension through to 2032 or beyond because of their new projects with extra stadiums to be announced. Just as the member for Coomera has delayed his hospital for five years from 2027 to 2031, we know there will be further delays for these last 200 beds. That is going to be the legacy of the member for Coomera and that is going to be the legacy of the Gold Coast members of parliament: fewer beds and delays.

We know that the works were so advanced at the time of the election they had to have an intervention to cut contracts and to halt them. The *Gold Coast Bulletin* reported a new secret video that shows multibillion dollar Coomera Hospital works being bulldozed. That is right, the legacy of the member for Bonney and the member for Coomera is to drag out the bulldozers.

Mr O'Connor: Is a proper hospital actually being delivered?

Mr Vorster: Imagine a hospital with a pharmacy.

Mr POWER: They are screaming at me for help. I am not a doctor, but I do know that you should build hospitals, not bulldoze them. That is the legacy of the LNP: five years of delay making the Gold Coast worse off. They want to deny this is a cut.

Mr O'Connor: Better than a decade.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bonney, you are warned.

Mr POWER: I can tell honourable members that the people turning up in 2028 to an empty construction site, possibly with the bulldozers still running, will see it as a cut. They will know in 2028 that the LNP has cut the Coomera Hospital. Under us, it would have been operational by then with over 404 beds. By 2031, they will be years late and there will be fewer beds. This is the LNP legacy. The 404 beds that were going to be completed by 2027 would have had surgical, medical, ambulatory, subacute—

Mr Chiesa: It wouldn't have been completed under BPIC. Read the *Courier-Mail* today.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Hinchinbrook.

Mr POWER: They are yelling a lot. They seem sensitive about this. It would have had subacute, emergency and mental health care. It would have had that by 2027, not 2032 under the LNP's plan. It would have had emergency department treatment spaces. It would have had operating theatres running and performing operations. It would have had endoscopy rooms and maternity care including birthing suites. The second fastest growing area of Queensland, that whole Gold Coast corridor, will not have maternity suites because of these LNP members. I specifically mention the member for Coomera and the member for Bonney, who were yelling so loudly. There would have been special care units, intensive care and, of course, coronary care. There would have been mental health units. Now we know in the second fastest growing area of Queensland, in the area between Brisbane and the Gold Coast, the LNP is delaying by five years the mental health services that are needed. There would have also been satellite medical imaging. The LNP need to explain why they cut the project that would have delivered those 404 beds in 2027 and instead are delivering only 400 by 2032. They need to explain that. We also know that—

Mr Vorster interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, you are warned.

Mr POWER: The project will not be complete until after two election cycles. There is so much time for the LNP to once again discover that maybe the Coomera Hospital is undeliverable.

We know that the LNP promised health care where you live, but they failed in the two fastest growing areas of Queensland. They failed on the Yarrabilba satellite hospital, which should already be open. If your child breaks their arm in the national park, you should be able to go to the Yarrabilba satellite hospital, but this government looked at that plan and said, 'We'll cut that.' There should also be advanced construction on the Coomera Hospital, which was due to be delivered in 2027 with 404 beds and all the services that I talked about earlier. However, the LNP did not choose to build; they chose the bulldozer. That is what is so shameful.

Mr Field: What did you build? What did you build in 10 years?

Mr POWER: The member is right; we did some fantastic work at the Logan Hospital after the Newman government did nothing at Logan. We did a massive expansion. We also expanded it with better car parking and we put in place the new station to be sited immediately opposite. We did great work on the Logan Hospital, which the Newman government did nothing on.

This is a story of failure and delay. We need to ask: why did the Sangster review say that this project for 404 beds and all those services that was due in 2027 had to be delayed? It had to be delayed all due to the budget.

Mr Crandon: Why hadn't they started it under the former government? It would have had to be started under the former government.

Mr POWER: I take the interjection of the member for Coomera. I note that he was waving his hands around. The member for Coomera is the very reason because no-one stood up to say 'deliver it on time' in 2027. Instead, they have delayed it until 2031, and the people of that corridor are suffering from these cuts.

 **Hon. AJ PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (7.54 pm): I rise to speak on the Health Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill continues the Crisafulli government's delivery to fix the mess that Labor left after a decade of mismanagement, budget blowouts and delays. It amends various pieces of legislation, including in relation to the acquisition of land for health infrastructure, safety for staff and patients in authorised mental health services, pharmacy businesses in supermarkets, School Immunisation Program, prescribing hepatitis C as a notifiable condition for tests, and the forfeiture process for seized illicit tobacco and nicotine products. We cannot lose sight of the magnitude of the health crisis in which Labor left this state after decade of decline. Ambulance ramping rates had tripled under Labor. By September 2024, elective surgery waitlists had almost doubled, from 35,385 to 64,171. Three months later it peaked at 66,000 in December 2024.

In the final days of the Labor government it promised to reduce the outpatient waiting list within 12 months. Instead, it grew by more than 38,000 to more than 287,000. Budgetary discipline was absent. I am talking about a government which lacked sound budgetary discipline when using taxpayers' hard-earned money. Labor overdrawed its health slush fund by \$12 billion in unfunded commitments including no money to deliver promised infrastructure, no money for health workers' entitlements and no money to deliver the 2025 free flu program. The failed capital expansion program blew out by \$7 billion with undeliverable projects and fictional timelines, with hospitals under scope and missing surgical theatres and pharmacies.

Whether it is ramping numbers, waitlists, the level of the workforce or assistance for patients, the Crisafulli government is delivering. In contrast to Labor's legacy, ramping is now trending downwards, with the June quarter of 35.5 per cent the lowest quarterly result since December 2020.

Mr McDonald: The member for Logan didn't talk about that.

Mr PERRETT: No, he did not. The elective surgery waitlist is down to 58,912, which is the lowest level in more than two years. It represents an 11.6 per cent reduction from Labor's peak of more than 66,000. A record number of doctors and nurses are entering the health system with the Crisafulli government already adding 10,000 additional health workers. Our increase in the patient travel subsidy from 34 cents to 45 cents a kilometre is nation leading. The amendments in this bill will ensure that the important work we are doing to restore health services for Queenslanders continues.

As mentioned earlier, this bill also supports the continued enforcement of our nation-leading tobacco and vaping laws. The Crisafulli government is showing the way on how to deal with the illegal tobacco trade. We have cracked down on rogue traders harder than any government before or elsewhere in Australia. We have introduced record fines, closed a record number of illegal stores and seized record amounts of illegal products. Because of the success of our nation-leading measures, we now have pressure on storage. Seized illicit tobacco and products must be stored for a minimum of eight weeks because of mandated show cause and appeal requirements, whereas seized vapes can be destroyed swiftly. This bill seeks to remove the show cause and appeal provision to match what we can do with vapes. Seized products will be immediately forfeited to the state and can be quickly destroyed.

Last November the Crisafulli government passed the nation's strongest laws against illicit tobacco and vape traders. Under these changes, Queensland Health can shut down illegal businesses for three months, up from three days, without lengthy court processes. Landlords can now terminate

leases when notified their tenant is an illegal operator. It is now a criminal offence for commercial landlords to knowingly permit illegal tobacco or activity. The maximum penalty is a fine of more than \$165,000 fine or 12 months jail. Queensland Health can now seize all lawful smoking products found at illegal stores that are tainted by being supplied or stored alongside illicit tobacco and vapes. This includes nitrous oxide bulbs and canisters. Queensland Health officers can now conduct undercover operations at illicit tobacco and vape stores.

The Sunshine Coast health region covers my electorate of Gympie. In the eight months between last November and June this year more than seven million cigarettes, almost 49,000 vapes and 104,000 nicotine pouches, and more than 676,000 kilograms of illicit loose tobacco have been seized in the region. There have been 204 inspections of outlets and Queensland Health has closed 36 outlets for 90 days. Across the state we have seized more than 42 million cigarettes, 380,000 vapes, 852,000 nicotine pouches and 6.5 tonnes of loose tobacco. The street value of those seized products is almost \$60 million. We have also closed more than 320 stores for more than 90 days, with more than a third of these being booted out by their landlords. This is how you deal with the black market illicit tobacco trade and vape shops. These results are welcome news in my community of Gympie.

Under Labor's soft laws, public health officers could not even issue on-the-spot fines for stores caught selling vapes and they could not seize illegal and addictive nicotine pouches. Before our changes, constituents and businesses frequently raised with me their concerns about vape shops, under-age users, the black market in products and its attraction to criminal activities.

Three years ago, a tobacco and vape shop in Gympie's main street was firebombed. Before our changes last year, Tony Goodman, representing the CBD Action Alliance, wrote to me saying the sale of illicit nicotine products was drawing a clientele associated with substance misuse which has 'coincided with a noticeable increase in antisocial behaviour, including loitering, intimidation, and the congregation of individuals who appear to be drug affected'. Tony said it 'undermines the safety, wellbeing, and confidence of the wider community'. Others wrote saying that the tone of the street had disintegrated and that illicit traders were not deterred and opened three days after a closure. They raised experiences of foul language, customers and staff being accosted and abused, increased shoplifting and vandalism becoming the norm.

The Gympie Chamber of Commerce advocates for more than 240 local businesses. President Martin Muller stated—

The significant negative impacts on our main street aesthetic, aspect, community safety are real and potentially dangerous to these businesses ... these pop ups, which at first fill a vacant building, but like blowflies to a carcass, societies worst appear, linger and now effect the livelihood of our small businesses.

I am pleased to advise that much has changed. The vandalism and undesirable behaviour has reduced, and local retailers and traders can get on with doing business. I remind Labor members that the Crisafulli government has given other states the template on how to tackle the illegal trade. Our record stands in stark contrast to Labor's soft stance which led to hundreds of illegal stores popping up across the state.

In addition to building on the enforcement of our nation-leading tobacco and vaping laws, the changes in this bill will help support the delivery of essential new health infrastructure and protect community pharmacies. It supports safe and professional practice through strengthening safety for frontline health workers and improves public health reporting and school immunisation follow-up. This bill enhances our capacity to protect the health and safety of Queenslanders. I urge support for the bill.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (8.03 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. Labor believes access to health care should respond to what Queenslanders need, not what they can afford. That is why Labor governments have invested in our public health system, expanded hospital capacity and brought services closer to home.

In Mansfield our growing population needs and expects affordable public health services it can rely on. Unfortunately, that is not what we have seen under Premier Crisafulli and the LNP. The nurse-led clinic in Mount Gravatt, funded and delivered by the previous Miles Labor government, was designed to provide convenient health care closer to home and to take pressure off our local hospitals.

Despite Premier Crisafulli's promise that there would be no health cuts—remember that—the LNP has slashed the clinic's hours from 8 am to 10 pm to 8 am to 6 pm. This is a 30 per cent reduction in the hours it serves my community each week. This is another broken promise by Premier Crisafulli.

That is the difference really: Labor expands access to health care and the LNP winds it back. When the government seeks broad new powers over health infrastructure my community quite rightly asks and wants to know: what sort of health services will the powers facilitate? How will the Mansfield electorate be guaranteed these vague powers with limited guardrails serve public facilities and patients rather than private profit? I do not want Mansfield electorate residents losing their homes or properties for private providers or developers to profit under the guise of health infrastructure. I certainly do not want my community having to deal with greedy developers and private companies building right next door with no voice or guardrails to protect their home. This compulsory acquisition can play out like a scene from that famous Australian movie that we all know—the *Castle*—where the government just acquires property on the vibe of it.

I turn to the section of the bill related to mental health. The opposition supports the overall bill and recognises that many proposed amendments are administrative and intended to improve the administration of Queensland's health legislation. However, I place on record our concerns about the proposed changes to the Mental Health Act 2016, particularly the extension of detention for an examination where a Chief Psychiatrist report is being prepared in the public interest.

Under this amendment, a person could be detained for up to 72 hours without their consent. We recognise the intent of this bill, but detention is a serious interference with an individual's civil liberties and autonomy. Stakeholders have rightly urged caution. Sisters Inside warn that expanding involuntary detention risks normalising coercion, while Mental Health Lived Experience Peak emphasised that detention should not be authorised simply for administrative convenience. The Queensland Law Society and Legal Aid Queensland have also suggested stronger safeguards, including requiring an authorised psychiatrist to be satisfied that there is a reasonably practicable alternative. Labor supports sensible reform, but the government must ensure these powers are accompanied by appropriate safeguards and proper scrutiny.

I now turn to the issue of nitrous oxide. I thank the member for Greenslopes immensely for the work he has done in relation to nitrous oxide use, particularly amongst our young people and across the two electorates that the member for the Greenslopes and I serve. The opposition supports the amendments to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 to streamline the forfeiture and destruction of seized illicit tobacco and nicotine products. These are sensible measures, but this bill also demonstrates how narrow and threadbare this government's health reform agenda is.

Across Queensland we are seeing the impacts of nitrous oxide, or nang, addiction. Vulnerable Queenslanders can legally access these products around the clock, with companies offering 24/7 delivery. Yet, Premier Crisafulli and the LNP have taken little action despite concern from families and communities. In August, the member for Greenslopes presented a petition calling for regulations to reduce access to nitrous oxide, particularly through the 24/7 delivery process. More than 1,000 Queenslanders signed it. It is our young who are particularly at risk of this heinous addiction and this act puts their health at severe risk. That should really have been a clear message to the LNP.

Before the election, Premier Crisafulli promised to keep Queenslanders safe. That is except if you are a young person. Queenslanders deserve action, not another broken promise.

Mr VORSTER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. A parliamentary petition has very little to do with the long title of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr J Kelly): I will take some advice.

Mr POWER: Deputy Speaker, I have a contribution to the point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me rule on the first one and then, if you feel it is necessary, you can. The member is being broadly relevant to the long title of the bill. It is certainly quite relevant to raise petitions and other means of communicating with the parliament.

Ms McMILLAN: I know who is being irrelevant. That should have been a clear message. The work that the member for Greenslopes did as a nurse should have been a very clear message to the LNP. Before the election, Premier Crisafulli promised to keep Queenslanders safe. That is except if you are a young person. Queenslanders deserve action, not another broken promise from Premier Crisafulli and the LNP. Since the LNP was elected, the QEII Hospital, relied on by many of my constituents, has gone backwards: ramping is up, outpatient waitlists are longer and the elective surgery queue has grown by 31 percent. Labor's expansion of QEII—planned, funded and underway at the election—has been delayed at least a year under Premier Crisafulli. Despite his promise to deliver projects on time and on budget, this is yet another broken promise. I know that the member for Toohey has had similar experiences with his monitoring of the process around the development of the QEII expansion.

Labor will support this technical tidying-up bill while recognising that it is yet another missed opportunity to address the serious and urgent issues that plague our health system under this LNP. Queensland needs serious health investment to build new services and to keep pace with a growing and aging population. Certainly the south-east corner—as the member for Logan has spoken about—your area, Deputy Speaker Kelly, and my area are growing areas that require health reform and the health infrastructure to support a growing and aging population. We require more than threadbare, technical bills from a government without a meaningful, visionary or deliberate health agenda.

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (8.11 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. I would also like to quote from that iconic Australian movie that the member for Mansfield quoted, *The Castle*: ‘Tell ‘em they’re dreaming.’ If the former Labor government thought they had funded any of these hospitals, they were dreaming.

This bill makes a number of important changes across our health system, but today I want to focus on something that is particularly important to the people I represent in Mundingburra and the broader North Queensland area: our hospitals, our health infrastructure and particularly the Townsville University Hospital. There could hardly be—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr J Kelly): Pause the clock. Members, there is far too much chatter in the chamber. If you want to have a conversation, take it outside.

Mrs POOLE: There could hardly be a clearer example of the difference between what we inherited from the former Labor government and what the Crisafulli government is now delivering. I have spoken in this House before about Labor’s so-called hospital expansion plan. It was presented to the people of Townsville as a \$500 million project; however, the independent Sangster review exposed the reality. The cost had ballooned to more than \$1 billion—\$1.029 billion, to be precise. That is more than \$500 million—half a billion dollars—in additional costs, and it was going to be two years late.

The project that we inherited was described as undeliverable. Despite the billion dollar price tag, Labor’s plan still did not include everything that the Townsville University Hospital needed. It did not have a pharmacy, it did not include a sterilising department and, incredibly, it did not include a link bridge to connect the expansion of the hospital to the existing hospital. The mind boggles. It was a \$1 billion hospital expansion, yet those fundamental pieces of hospital infrastructure were missing. Labor failed to plan, they failed to budget and they failed to deliver.

Sadly, the Townsville hospital is not an isolated example. Labor’s failed capacity expansion program resulted in \$7 billion in budget blowouts, major delays and significant design flaws. The independent Sangster review found that not one single new or expanded hospital project was expected to be delivered within its original funding envelope or its original timeframe—not one. The independent reviewer described Labor’s program as an ‘exercise in futility’. That was the hospital infrastructure program that we inherited—that was Labor’s legacy. We were not prepared to simply inherit the mess and continue down the same path. We made a different decision. As I said in my appropriation speech last year, that is why we released our Hospital Rescue Plan. Today we are getting on with delivering it.

Across Queensland, the Crisafulli government’s Hospital Rescue Plan is delivering three new hospitals and 10 major hospital expansions. For Townsville, our plan will deliver more than 165 new overnight beds along with services that include a day surgery, operating theatres and rehabilitation therapy. That matters enormously because the Townsville University Hospital is not just a hospital for the people of Mundingburra or Townsville; it is the only tertiary referral hospital in North Queensland. It treats patients from Cape York and the Torres Strait, west to Mount Isa and the gulf. It is truly a hospital that much of North Queensland relies upon. As somebody born and raised in Townsville, I know how important that hospital is to our community. It is where our children are born.

Mr Stevens: I was born in the old hospital.

Mrs POOLE: I take that interjection: the member for Mermaid Beach was born in the old Townsville hospital. A little bit of trivia: I was born there as well! The Townsville hospital is where our children are born. It is where our youngest child was born. It is where people from across North Queensland travel for specialist treatment and surgery. Behind those hospital doors are thousands of dedicated doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, ambulance officers and support staff who turn up every day to care for our community. I will be at the Townsville University Hospital receiving treatment tomorrow at the oncology department. I have to give huge thanks to all of the doctors, the nurses, the allied health staff and the support staff for all of their hard work and dedication day after day. They need and deserve infrastructure that works. Our patients deserve a government that can actually deliver it.

We are already seeing what a different approach can achieve. Take the Townsville University Hospital multistorey car park. By axing Labor's costly CFMEU tax, our government has already achieved a saving of approximately \$90,000 per parking space. Because of those efficiencies, the car park will be almost double the size. More than 1,000 new parking spaces will ultimately be delivered. That is not just a number on a spreadsheet. Anyone attending the hospital who has circled the car park looking for a spot before an appointment or when visiting a loved one knows exactly what those additional spaces will mean—extra time with their loved one. Again, that is the difference between talking about infrastructure and actually delivering it. That brings me directly to the bill before the House.

The Health Legislation Amendment Bill will give Queensland Health the ability to directly acquire land either compulsorily or through agreement when it is required for health infrastructure. Compulsory acquisition should always be a last resort and the existing safeguards around notification, objections and compensation remain. Queensland Health should have the ability to directly progress the land that needs to deliver critical health infrastructure according to health priorities and health timeframes. After what we inherited from Labor, we cannot afford any more unnecessary delays standing between Queenslanders and the hospitals that they need.

This debate ultimately comes down to a very simple contrast. Labor gave Townsville a hospital plan that blew out by half a billion dollars, was delayed by at least two years and left out critical infrastructure. The Crisafulli LNP government is delivering a Hospital Rescue Plan with more beds, better services, better infrastructure—

Mr Power interjected.

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

Mrs POOLE:—and better value for taxpayers. For the people whom I represent, this is more than a hospital infrastructure debate. The Townsville University Hospital is our hospital. It is the hospital that we rely on. It is the hospital that serves North Queensland. It is the hospital that we need to make sure is ready not just for today but for the growth of our city and our region for decades to come.

In Townsville we are delivering more than 165 overnight additional beds, eight new perinatal mental health beds for new mums and bubs and the expansion of the transit lounge to create 16 additional treatment spaces and improve patient movement throughout the hospital. That means patients can be discharged more efficiently, beds become available sooner and emergency departments can operate more effectively. And, of course, we are delivering the much needed multistorey car park.

Every family has a connection to the Townsville University Hospital—I think we have shown that today. Whether it is welcoming a newborn, supporting a loved one through illness or receiving emergency treatment, the hospital touches the lives of thousands of people every year. Behind every new hospital bed is a patient waiting for care. Behind every new hospital car parking space is a family trying to spend more time with someone they love. That is why we will continue the investment in our health precincts. Through our Hospital Rescue Plan we are building the health infrastructure that Townsville, North Queensland and Queensland deserve. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr RICHMOND** (Stafford—ALP) (8.22 pm): Every Queenslander deserves access to high-quality health care close to home. Every Queenslander should have confidence that our public health system will be there when they need it. Upon my review of this bill, I assumed that, save for the powers pertaining to compulsory acquisition, this bill was a relatively ordinary procedural bill. Not so, according to the health minister. He seemed to suggest that the reforms in this bill would be of material assistance in tackling ramping and the performance of our hospitals generally. I hope this seemingly innocuous bill has an outsized impact because our health system is looking grim under Minister Tim.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr J Kelly): Use correct titles, please.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Mr NICHOLLS: I take personal offence and ask that the member withdraw.

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

Mr RICHMOND: I withdraw. At the Prince Charles Hospital, the April to June 2026 quarterly performance data shows that ambulance lost time has increased compared with the last full quarter under the Miles government. The most recent quarterly data under the LNP shows 9.6 minutes of lost time compared to 6.8 minutes in the July to September 2024 data. The most recent monthly data is worse again: 12.9 minutes of lost time per ambulance at the Prince Charles Hospital. Taking the same

point of comparison, emergency department seen-in-time performance was worse under the LNP than under Labor. Under Labor, 72 per cent of patients were seen in time. Under the LNP it is 61 per cent, despite fewer emergency department presentations. On elective surgery, more procedures were performed at the Prince Charles Hospital in Labor's last quarter than in the LNP's most recent quarter.

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance to the bill. This is a bill that does not deal with the matters the member is talking to, nor is he even attempting to link them to it.

Mr RICHMOND: On that point of order, I prefaced my remarks by referring to the fact that the minister, in his second reading speech, referred to the impact this bill would have on hospital performance. The member for Gympie recited similar facts with respect to his local hospital, as have many other government speakers.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Resume your seat. I will take some advice. Minister, many members on both sides of the debate have talked broadly about infrastructure and the bill does deal with the Hospital Rescue Plan. The member, as he pointed out, had made a linkage there earlier, which I had heard. I will not rule in your favour on this point of order.

Mr RICHMOND: He might not like hearing about how the health system had deteriorated under his watch, but these are the facts.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair, please.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Mr NICHOLLS: I take personal offence and ask that he withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would ask you to withdraw, member.

Mr RICHMOND: I am happy to withdraw. On elective surgery, more procedures were performed at the Prince Charles Hospital in Labor's last quarter than in the LNP's most recent quarter and the percentage of specialist outpatients seen within the recommended time was higher in Labor's last quarter than in the LNP's most recent quarter. That deteriorating performance is exactly why the Prince Charles Hospital needs more beds and needs them now.

Since the LNP came to government, hospital expansions across the state have been delayed and rescoped, with much needed beds pushed years into the future, pushed away from the Queenslanders who need them today. The community of Stafford knows this all too well. There is still no contract, no clarity on funding and no timeline from the minister for the Prince Charles Hospital expansion that he claims is going ahead. Nurses like my sister, hospital staff and locals tell me how badly these beds are needed. I note that the minister is in the chamber. He has been willing to wax lyrical about me and my campaign to get the 93 beds at the Prince Charles Hospital built so if the minister insists that he is delivering the 93 beds at the Prince Charles Hospital I ask him to answer the following questions in his summing-up: when will construction at the Prince Charles Hospital start? What budget has the LNP government allocated specifically to the Prince Charles Hospital?

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. What is your point of order?

Mr NICHOLLS: I would submit to you that the member is now straying well beyond the bounds of the bill in relation to the discussion he is putting forward and I would ask you to bring him back to the substance of the bill in relation to the—

Mr RICHMOND: On that point of order, Deputy Speaker.

Mr NICHOLLS: I had not finished yet.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will finish hearing what the minister has to say.

Mr NICHOLLS: In relation to that, he is now raising matters that would be appropriate in a budget debate or an estimates debate that are not appropriate in relation to this bill. There is nothing in this bill that goes to funding.

Mr RICHMOND: On that point of order, there are two matters: firstly, I did raise it in the budget debate and are still yet to get a satisfactory answer.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Resume your seat, Minister. I will take some advice.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have heard enough to make a ruling on the original point of order. Unless it is a new point of order, I am going to make a ruling. I am going to uphold the point of order. Member, I would ask you to come back to the long title of the bill.

Mr RICHMOND: On that point of order, Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes?

Mr RICHMOND: I would submit to you that a significant portion of the minister's speech was dedicated to the Hospital Rescue Plan, which the Prince Charles Hospital is purportedly part of.

Mr STEVENS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order is—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Mermaid Beach, I had not given you the call. The member was on his feet still speaking and you jumped up and attempted to speak over the top of him.

Mr STEVENS: I called for a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not having a debate, member for Mermaid Beach. You will cease talking. You spoke over the top of the member who was making a point of order. That is not acceptable. Now I will hear your point of order if there is something you would like to add.

Mr STEVENS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I have a point of order. It is unheard of for a person who has had a direction from the chair to then rise on a point of order on what the—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Resume your seat, please, member. Firstly, member for Mermaid Beach, if you had allowed me to listen to the member I may have reached a very similar conclusion to the one that you are drawing so I am not going to deal with that point of order. Member for Stafford, I have made a ruling. There are mechanisms for members to contest rulings. Continuing to argue with the Speaker is not one of those mechanisms. I ask you to continue your contribution and remain relevant to the bill.

Mr RICHMOND: I am happy to move on, Deputy Speaker. Thank you for your guidance.

The bill contains practical reforms that Labor supports. It strengthens restrictions on promotional arrangements involving pharmacies and supermarkets. I pay tribute to the local Stafford pharmacies. During the Stafford by-election, I visited Sam and the team at Stafford City TerryWhite Pharmacy where I got my flu vaccine. They told me that theirs is one of the largest pharmacies delivering the scope of practice reforms that I was proud to play a part in delivering. The bill also enhances hepatitis C pathology notifications and streamlines the destruction of illicit tobacco and nicotine products.

However, supporting the direction of a bill does not mean handing the government a blank cheque, particularly when it is asking this parliament for significant new powers, the most significant of which are the compulsory acquisition provisions. The bill will allow Queensland Health to acquire land compulsorily without going through the department of natural resources. Nobody disputes that our health system must grow with our population or that governments must build the hospitals, ambulance stations and health facilities Queenslanders will need in the decades ahead. The concern is not the need to build; it is the breadth of the power and the guardrails around how it is to be used.

The bill adopts a deliberately broad definition of 'health infrastructure purpose', taking in commercial, community, educational, food and office facilities connected with health services. Some flexibility is understandable in a modern hospital precinct. However, the committee process revealed that this definition may also capture mixed models of care, including private hospital providers. That raises a serious question: could land be compulsorily acquired from an ordinary Queenslanders and then used by a private provider to make a profit? Compulsory acquisition is one of the state's most significant powers. It can require a person to surrender their home, their business or land that their family may have held for generations. It must be exercised cautiously. Queenslanders accept that if it is for a public hospital, an ambulance station or a community health facility. It is not unreasonable to ask much harder questions if it is for a private business without a clear public benefit. This bill leaves too much of that question to ministerial judgement and discretion.

At its core, it appears to me that the LNP does not believe in the strong public health system that Labor does. They believe in a system where the care a Queenslanders gets depends on where they live or how much they earn. This bill shows that when public resources are used to help private providers turn a profit. The government should not socialise disruption and the cost of acquiring land while privatising its benefit.

There is one further issue that deserves its own consideration. While the bill amends the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 to streamline the forfeiture and destruction of illicit tobacco and nicotine products, the government has missed an important opportunity to tackle the predatory 24-hour delivery of nitrous oxide products to vulnerable Queenslanders. Across Queensland, families and communities are confronting the consequences of nitrous oxide misuse and addiction, yet businesses can continue offering round-the-clock delivery services that make those products dangerously easy to obtain, including by people who are vulnerable or already struggling with substance misuse.

A petition led by the member for Greenslopes calling for stronger regulation to reduce access to nitrous oxide, particularly through 24-hour delivery services, received more than 1,000 signatures. The government was already reopening the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act. It had an opportunity to respond to those community concerns, place reasonable restrictions on predatory delivery practices and reduce the harm being caused. It chose not to do so. The government should explain that failure to the Queenslanders who signed the petition and to every family affected by nitrous oxide addiction.

Labor supports this bill because it contains practical reforms that will improve the administration of our health laws. However, my community will note that, while the minister is busy giving himself and his department more power and less oversight, he still cannot tell northsiders when construction will start on the 93 beds he says he will deliver at the Prince Charles Hospital. He cannot say if the compulsory acquisition powers will be used to ensure that some of those 93 beds are delivered by private providers. He cannot say when a contract will be signed, when it will start and how much it will cost. I invite him in his reply to make even a cursory attempt at answering the questions that I have been asking since I entered this place.

 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (8.36 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. I thank the minister, his office, the department and the committee that examined this legislation.

With your indulgence, Mr Deputy Speaker, while obviously the bill is about health care and the expansion of services, something very special has happened in the Townsville community recently. I want to acknowledge a very special young lady who has been an inspiration, young Harper Graham, who is seven years old. Harper wanted to make a difference for children battling cancer. She bravely committed to shaving her head in front of the entire school to raise funds for the Brighter Lives Townsville Hospital Foundation. Harper set herself an ambitious fundraising goal of \$10,000, but went above and beyond by raising more than \$25,000. Her courage, generosity and determination are a wonderful reminder of the community spirit that makes Townsville such a special place. Congratulations to Harper, all of her family and everyone who donated. Their efforts helped Brighter Lives reach its fundraising target to support the establishment of a donor stem cell transplant service in Townsville, which is a magnificent effort.

I turn to the bill. At the outset, I note that the committee report made one recommendation—that is, that the bill be passed. I think we are on a unity ticket here, which is quite unusual for this place, as the committee report contained no dissenting statement from the opposition. I think Labor and the LNP government are on a unity ticket because we know that health care is important. We know how important ambulance ramping is. I think we were all extremely disappointed that ambulance ramping rates tripled over the past 10 years under Labor. We were equally disgusted at the elective surgery waitlists doubling under Labor, rising from 35,000 and peaking at 66,000. The member for Waterford promised to reduce the specialist patient waitlist to close to 250,000 within 12 months but left it at close to 40,000 patients more.

Mr RICHMOND: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I note the guidance provided to me during my contribution.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): No. What is your point of order?

Mr RICHMOND: Relevance. I was directed back to the long title of the bill when discussing performance data.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Take a seat, please. Member for Townsville, address the bill before the House.

Mr BAILLIE: Back to the hospital expansion, that is what this bill is about. It is about being able to expand hospitals and resume land should it be required. What we saw when we came to government was a failed capacity expansion program that blew out by \$7 billion, with undeliverable projects and fictional timeframes. I heard the Leader of the Opposition mention recently that he understands construction. I am a tradie, I have come from construction sites, and I can say that those delivery

timeframes were completely fanciful. There was no way in the world those hospitals were all going to be delivered at the same time. Hospitals are quite a specialised product to produce and build, and to have those same stages being hit at the same time all across the state would have required a massive surge in workforce that just does not exist.

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



Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (8.40 pm), in reply: I start by thanking members for their contributions and, despite having to navigate some of the intellectual complexities of the ALP mindset which would confound the best brains anywhere on the planet, certainly in the psychiatric wards of most of our major hospitals, I think I have discerned the fact that they are, in fact, going to support the bill. At some stage in proceedings in each of their convoluted discourses—

Mrs Nightingale interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members on my left!

Mr NICHOLLS:—they said that there are good points in the bill and of course they will be supporting them. I just want to say thank you to all of them.

Mrs Nightingale interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member for Inala, I will warn you if you persist.

Mr NICHOLLS: I want to thank them for, at some stage in their speeches, in some way, shape or form, saying they were going to support the passage of this legislation, which would accord with the recommendation of the committee. My understanding of the committee is that, in fact, there were not even public hearings required. Submissions were made and there was no objection to any of the provisions or any of the clauses made. Those who have protested most strongly about some of the provisions in here, despite the fact that they want to support them, made no effort to appear or to seek to have people present evidence at the hearing to raise any of the issues that they have subsequently sought to raise in the House. This is from the same opposition who had spent most of Tuesday in here, when we examined the estimates reports, complaining that they were not afforded enough time for scrutiny. Having been afforded a full committee hearing for scrutiny, they were so satisfied that they could not be bothered turning up to ask questions. They have concocted their feigned outrage in the lead-up to this debate and are, as we all know, keyboard warriors of the worst sort. That is what we have had to deal with here today. Nonetheless, I do want to thank them for their contribution.

I want to thank the members on this side of the House even more, because they are the people who have understood and are feeling the benefits of the Crisafulli LNP government's investment in our Hospital Rescue Plan. That is the \$7 billion extra that we put into—

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The Hospital Rescue Plan has been ruled consistently out of order and the minister is straying there.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to the minister. He is responding as part of the second reading debate—the summing-up of those processes. There has been a wideranging debate, and his commentary is related to the contributions of a number of members who have referenced a range of issues and therefore he is being completely relevant.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think both sides have taken this debate to the edges. I think the minister is remaining relevant in his speech and I ask him to proceed.

Mr NICHOLLS: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I took a point of order earlier on this evening and my point of order was not accepted in relation to the contribution being made by the member for Stafford regarding that, so I am happy to follow that course of action and confirm that the government is putting an extra \$7 billion into the Hospital Rescue Plan. That will deliver—

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order, again on relevance. There have been consistent rulings to stick to the bill. He is not addressing the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have taken your point of order.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Hospital Rescue Plan has been referenced by a number of members throughout this debate, and I would submit to you that in relation—

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members on my left! We only need one person at a time to speak on this. If you have a point of order, make your point of order, but let's hear this one first.

Dr ROWAN: My point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker, is that the minister is responding to elements of the debate. There have been a number of contributions where there were not points of order raised in relation to those members talking about the Hospital Rescue Plan. He is summing up and he is being relevant.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I agree. Minister, you have the call.

Mr NICHOLLS: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. In terms of the bill and what it attempts to do regarding the acquisition-of-land powers, they are quite obviously relevant to the future progress of the Hospital Rescue Plan. They are there so that delays can be avoided and the plan can get underway so that we can deliver the health services that are needed. As I referenced in my introductory remarks in the second reading speech, a prime example of that is the work that is underway in your part of the world, Mr Deputy Speaker Kempton, in Far North Queensland around the Cairns Hospital precinct. Land is being resumed there as we speak. After 10 years or longer, for example, the Cock & Bull tavern, outside the front door, effectively, of the emergency department of the Cairns Hospital, is being removed.

No-one seriously argues, notwithstanding the right of that business to be there, that having a tavern within 100 metres of the front door of an emergency department in Cairns is sensible. No-one could possibly argue that. If that owner had not come to an agreement or if it was necessary for us to expand it and all other avenues had been explored, then, for the need of the greater Far North Queensland area, the resumption of that property to deliver public health services—and it must be public health services; that is what the amendment says—would be seen as a sensible decision to make. In doing that work, we resolve a number of problems and drive it forward. That is what this bill is delivering. It will deliver, member for Stafford, as will the Hospital Rescue Plan under the Crisafulli LNP government, the additional 93 beds that were undeliverable—

Mr Richmond: When?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members! Minister, just take a seat for a moment, please. This has been a long debate. If anybody has a point of order to raise, they can. Otherwise, I expect the House to remain silent while the minister finishes his speech. Thank you.

Mr NICHOLLS: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. What it will do is deliver what was never going to be delivered by the Labor government—that is, the additional 93 beds at Prince Charles Hospital. The cost of the Prince Charles Hospital expansion had gone from \$300 million to \$788 million. That was the cost of it. The contractors, Hutchinson, who were onsite said it was undeliverable. Undeliverable! What was the result of that? When we came to office, the independent report found it had been delayed by 18 months. There were no functional designs. There was no paediatric emergency department short stay. There was no expansion space for operating theatres, and there was no full sterilising department. The hospital that the member for Stafford wanted to be built could not be built and was barely deserving of the description of a hospital—no room for operating theatres, no central sterilising departments—

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The minister is now straying into an area that was ruled out of scope in terms of this debate in relation to the member for Stafford, and I ask that he come back to the bill.

Mr LISTER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have a point of order from the member for Southern Downs to deal with first.

Mr LISTER: The minister is entitled to reply to the debate, which is—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr LISTER: It is on relevance. The minister—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Take a seat. Leader of the House?

Dr ROWAN: To add to the point of order from the member for Southern Downs, the minister is being responsive to the questions and the contribution in relation to the member for Stafford and is addressing those elements as part of the debate. He is being completely relevant.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: One moment, please. I will just take some advice. Member for Miller, you have a point of order?

Mr BAILEY: My point of order is in relation to the Leader of the House's point of order. The matters that he refers to were ruled out of order for this debate. Therefore, the minister should not, under the standing orders, be allowed to refer to matters that were ruled out of scope in terms of this debate because they are not relevant to the legislation.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, if you could not go into specifics—I am happy for you to talk about the Hospital Rescue Plan—I think we will get to the end quicker. Thank you.

Mr NICHOLLS: I am happy to move on in relation to the Prince Charles Hospital, having answered those questions that were put to me by the member for Stafford. The bill delivers targeted reforms across key areas of Queensland's health system, including our hospital infrastructure, our mental health system, protections for the community pharmacy model and illicit tobacco enforcement. They were the specific policy areas addressed in the bill. I note that a number of other matters were raised during the debate.

The bill includes a host of amendments that build on the government's commitment to deliver for Queenslanders and upholding the integrity of our health system. They are targeted reforms, grounded in experience and directed at better outcomes for patients, communities and the people who work across our health system. I say thank you to all of the hardworking Queensland Health employees. An extra 10,000 have joined the ranks of Queensland Health since the Crisafulli government came to office, and we have had the single largest intake of first-year graduate med students in Queensland's history, which is more than New South Wales and more than Victoria.

That is about delivering for our health system. It is not, as the member for Miller has suggested—and this seems to be his constant refrain—a mere legislative tidy-up or a waste of parliament's time. I note that he said that in relation to legislation last year as well. To dismiss it as such is a slight on the workers across our great state who are delivering health services and hospital infrastructure.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Minister, he has taken offence.

Mr NICHOLLS: I withdraw, Mr Deputy Speaker. I will speak to some of the specific issues raised by members during the debate. I will start off with the Hospital and Health Boards Act. Let's start with the amendments to the act. The member for Miller accused the government of doing nothing for hospital expansions and referred to 'tumbleweeds onsite, for years and years and years'. That was his direct quote. As with most of his claims, this does not withstand even the most basic of scrutiny. It was the former government that oversaw a decade of decline and underinvestment in our health system—

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Miller.

Mr NICHOLLS:—resulting in record high ramping, elective surgery waitlists—

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Miller, you are warned.

Mr NICHOLLS: As I was saying, it was that record underinvestment in our health system during their decade of decline that saw elective surgery waitlists expand from 35,000 to over 62,000. We saw record quarterly high ramping at 45—

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. Nowhere in this bill does it refer to elective surgery. I ask him to come back to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, please proceed without talking about elective surgery, if possible.

Mr NICHOLLS: To the point of order: many matters in relation to waitlists were raised during the debate. The member for Miller raised the specialist outpatient rate. The member for Stafford raised the number of surgeries occurring at the Prince Charles Hospital. I think it is entirely appropriate that I respond to those matters that were raised.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is a very wideranging topic and hard not to touch on a lot of matters to do with health. You may proceed.

Mr NICHOLLS: There was underinvestment in the hospitals that our state needed, and the rushed, botched and panicked implementation in 2022 of the failed capacity expansion plan was in response to what was obviously a problem. The record high ramping rates reached a peak of 45.5 per cent on a quarterly basis. The elective surgery waitlist ballooned almost double, to 62½ thousand. It was a health system that was described as being in crisis. We saw it day after day, week after week.

In contrast, this government in its first two budgets has delivered record investments in hospital services and infrastructure. We are delivering the single largest hospital infrastructure program in Queensland's history with the Hospital Rescue Plan. Over the last year we have delivered the first new 32-bed ward at the Cairns Hospital. These beds are the first new beds in the Far North in the more than 2,600 new hospital beds to be delivered under the plan.

Under the Hospital Rescue Plan, the Gladstone Hospital is going to see improvements, but it was completely neglected by the former government. They failed to invest in a maintenance plan for the hospital's future. Block 1 and block 2 of the hospital—

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance, again. This is well and truly off—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I have taken your point of order. Take your seat, please.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to the member's point of order. The minister is being relevant not only to the bill but also to all of the elements of the debate which have been raised by multiple members. I submit to you that he be permitted in the remaining time to continue his contribution.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will just get some advice. Member for Miller, it is a very wideranging debate. A lot of leniency has been given in the course of the debate. I encourage all members of the House to allow the minister to finish his speech so we can get on with the evening.

Mr NICHOLLS: If it assists you, Mr Deputy Speaker—and I am sure it possibly will—I am happy to move on. It is a pity to skip over all of the great work that we are doing.

The record is clear: the government is fixing an undeliverable program and getting hospital infrastructure back on track, and this is essential to doing that. There were many other parts of the legislation in relation to the Hospital Rescue Plan and the power to resume, but I will move on.

In relation to the detention power under the Mental Health Act, a number of members opposite have said they support the changes but have highlighted the need for careful consideration. We agree. That is why there are protections in the legislation. It has to be only for those people who have been charged with a serious offence—murder, manslaughter or rape—and the Chief Psychiatrist considers it in the public interest.

I acknowledge the members who spoke about and supported the amendment to the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act, and I say a special thank you to those who acknowledged the dedicated and professional community pharmacists in their local area.

We are building on the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act. We heard those opposite say that we are building on their architecture. Let's face it, if we were building on their architecture it would be a house of cards and it would have blown over by now. We have fixed it up. We are enforcing it. We are delivering results, and they speak for themselves through the seizures, the closures and the actions we are undertaking. It is recognition for our nation-leading laws.

The person who should be the shadow health minister, the member for Greenslopes, spoke again about nangs and the job in relation to that. For 10 years they did nothing. The only government that has actually done something about it is this government. We did it last year and we have already seized over 20,000 nangs as part of our seizure process.

This bill will deliver meaningful benefits to Queenslanders across our state. The government remains committed to outcomes focused reforms that strengthen the infrastructure and systems underpinning the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders.

Before I finish, I would like to take a moment to thank the team who has contributed to the development of this bill. I consider that work to be meaningful, purposeful and delivering better health outcomes for Queenslanders. I do not consider it to be mere tidying up. To Kate Sanderson, Riazia Rigby, Nikki Williams and Brandon Rae, ably led by Karson Mahler from the Legislative Policy Unit, who are here tonight: thank you very much for your hard work in putting all of this together.

I would also like to thank all of the team members in Health Infrastructure Queensland, the Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch, the Communicable Diseases Branch and the Prevention Strategy Branch for their contributions to the bill, but, most importantly, for the work that they do every day to deliver outstanding health services to Queenslanders no matter where they might live in this state. On that basis, I think there is nothing more for this House to do but simply agree to the passage of this bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, the question is—

That the bill be now read a second time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, I will now put all remaining questions necessary to complete consideration of the bill including clauses en bloc and any amendments to be moved by the minister in charge of the bill without further amendment or debate.

Question put—That clauses 1 to 72 and schedule 1, as read, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 72 and schedule 1, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading



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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title



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

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.01 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Sandgate Electorate, Public Transport



Ms ASIF (Sandgate—ALP) (9.01 pm): Across our north side community locals cannot get where they need to go on public transport. This is something I have raised with the transport minister and the Treasurer on numerous occasions and as part of the budget submission. It is why, for two years in a row, I have requested funding for reliable bus services that my community has been desperately calling for. Both times that request has been ignored.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member, just one moment. The member does not have a very loud voice and I am interested to hear what she has to say, if nobody else is. Could we have some quiet, please? Member, you have the call.

Ms ASIF: Anyone who has tried to catch the bus from Bracken Ridge to Sandgate or Brighton to Bald Hills or Fitzgibbon knows all too well how convoluted or unreliable the bus services can be. Popular routes such as the 362 and 690 operate only once an hour in off-peak times. Many commuters are required to travel south to major bus hubs like Toombul or Chermside before heading back north to their destination.

On a doorknock in Bracken Ridge I met Ann, who shared her experience with the bus network. Ann recently caught the bus to her local Woollies. She waited at the nearest bus stop with no buses coming from either direction, adding an extra half an hour to her commute on a hot day. What should have been a simple grocery shop became a lengthy expedition as the already irregular bus service failed to show up on schedule, leaving her stranded. This is a common experience for locals like Ann, particularly those who are elderly and unable to drive and rely on our bus network for their daily activities.

To make matters worse, the north side bus review, which was promised by the LNP Brisbane City Council, has now been delayed until after 2032. Northiders deserve bus services that operate regularly both in peak and off-peak times. We also deserve a network that connects our community locally, not just to the major transport hubs. That is why I have started a petition calling on the Crisafulli government and the Brisbane City Council to prioritise north side bus services and to fund them and not delay them until after 2032. We need the change now, not whenever it suits the LNP government and their mates in Brisbane City Council.

This is similar to the Shorncliffe Line. I have written many letters to the minister about this and I am really glad that he is in the chamber. Hopefully, he will listen to our concerns and our community's concerns now. Minister, you responded to a letter that I wrote to you in June almost two months later claiming that services on the Shorncliffe line are scheduled every 15 minutes during peak time and every 30 minutes during off-peak time. Clearly you did not read the letter, nor did you jump on the Translink website to check whether this information was accurate or not.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, address your remarks through the chair, please.

Ms ASIF: Clearly the minister has no idea what is going on in our transport network, because the minister is claiming that on the Shorncliffe line trains are showing up every 15 minutes when that is clearly not the case. The minister is misleading our community. I implore him to come and catch the train with me on the Shorncliffe line and he can see for himself.

(Time expired)

Glass House Electorate; Blair, Mr N



Hon. AC POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (9.04 pm): There is a lot happening in the electorate of Glass House. The Crisafulli government is delivering for Glass House, just like we are across all of Queensland. One of the most obvious projects locally is the Beerburrum to Nambour rail duplication and the Wave through to Maroochydore airport. If you take a drive up Steve Irwin Way, the change is very obvious.

Change is exciting, but I also acknowledge that for some it can be challenging. That is why it is important that as a government we consult with and listen to the community. I am excited to share that we are seeking the community's feedback on the proposed upgrade of Beerwah station. I have shared the link and opportunities with the community, but I encourage everyone to google 'Wave rail station upgrades' to see the renders and plans and complete the survey. With your input, we will ensure the change ahead of us brings only opportunities and prosperity for our community.

I also acknowledge the 40th birthday of the *Glasshouse Country & Maleny News*, a publication that knits together the fabric that is our Sunshine Coast hinterland communities. Back in 1986 the original editor, Sue Parnell, wrote—

This paper is purely and unashamedly parochial. It is designed for you, the people, to let your own folks know what is happening right in their own backyard.

That is what it has been ever since. For 17 years Lea Parkes and Greg 'Brownie' Brown were at the helm. They shared how locals would regularly tell them just how much they loved the paper, but they also did not hold back about frustrations when the paper being delivered was tightly rolled in plastic, which meant it stayed rolled up long after peeling off the plastic and often needed microwaving to flatten it. To current editor Mitch Gaynor and his amazing team, thanks for continuing the legacy of this brilliant media outlet. I will be dropping this souvenir lift-out edition into the Parliamentary Library just to make sure we never forget your success and your service to our community.

Finally, I acknowledge the passing of an amazing gentleman and a real larrikin in Uncle Noel Blair. I first met Uncle Noel at the Jinibara native title determination ceremony held on the grounds of Woodfordia which, as many will know, is the home of the Woodford Folk Festival. Like everyone, I immediately warmed to his infectious humour and his wonderful storytelling. As Woodfordia itself shared, 'Put a mic in his hand and he never let it go without making a hall full of people roar with laughter.' Having shared the stage with him in welcoming festival goers to the Woodford Folk Festival year on year, I can say that was Uncle Noel to a T. What I valued most about Uncle Noel was the message he always sought to share: we are one and we are in this together. It is a message I hope and pray we continue to share. Uncle Noel, you are missed. Rest easy, mate.

Townson, Ms LF

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (9.07 pm): I rise to express my condolence on the passing of Lynette Fay Townson.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Before you proceed, I would ask the House to remain quiet during this delivery.

Mr SMITH: She was born Lynette Fay Wood on 29 July 1936 in Eidsvold. She was the first born of four children to Max and Phyllis, who were second generation farmers at Grosvenor Flats just outside of Eidsvold, where they grew citrus fruit. By all accounts, Lynn was a bit of a rascal and loved running around on the farm. She was into everything. Once she even had to have all of the hair shaved off her head as she got into the sump oil and it would not wash out.

Lynn attended school at Riverleigh State School, which is now closed, but it was just outside of Gayndah. When there were enough students—all of seven—the Grosvenor Flats school then opened. She later attended Moreton Bay girls' school in Wynnum. Lynn's first job was back on the farm picking and packing oranges, lemons, grapefruit and cotton. Her love for work on the farm would carry through for the rest of her life. Lynn treasured these formative years on the farm with her brothers. She said that her favourite times were spent riding horses with a neighbouring family and going to dances at Gayndah.

When Lynn went to the Eidsvold Police Station to get her driver's licence, the police sergeant said that she did not need to sit a driver's test as he had already seen her plenty of times in the past driving the truck back and forth to drop off and pick up kids from the outskirts of town.

The family moved to Bundaberg and lived in a house in Pitt Street when Lynn was only 18. It was while she was working at the Grand Hotel that she first met Norm Townson, whom she would later fall in love with and marry. They were married on Australia Day in 1959. Together Lynn and Norm raised their family on the farm, with their children Vicki, John, Chris and Gayle. Lynn was always the boss of the family and Gayle, Lynn's daughter, is very much the boss of the Bundaberg electorate office family. Lynn loved her family and Gayle loves us in our electorate office. For a short period, there were 14 of the family living in one house on the farm. Lynn loved having her grandkids so close.

Lynn was a community worker involved with the Moore Park Bowls Club, Welcome Creek P&C, St Johns and also the National Party, which was very opposite to Gayle, as Gayle would like me to say. Gayle's husband, Wayde, reckons he enjoyed asking Lynn which booth she would work on so he could go there and hand out for the ALP and have a bit of friendly banter with her on the day.

The Moore Park Bowls Club played a huge part in Lynn's life. She spent many hours volunteering behind the bar and in the kitchen and playing on the green. She was a foundation member and life member and played up until she was 85, when she had a stroke. Lynn was passionate about farming and was a part of the successful campaign to stop MDL 3040 in our Bundaberg area. Gayle is the embodiment of Lynn. We love Gayle so much in our electorate office and we pass on our condolences to Gayle and her family.

Keppel Electorate

 **Mr HUTTON** (Keppel—LNP) (9.10 pm): You hear the crack as the gunfire spreads out over Keppel Bay. The morning light is rising up across Emu Park where the Centenary of Anzac project is glistening. This project is a testament to our community's dedication. The Emu Park Lions Club, the local Bendigo Bank, the Livingstone Shire Council and the Emu Park RSL have all invested in stages 1 to 3. In this last period we have started a campaign to seek funding for stage 4 of this remarkable project. Over 350 people have so far signed our petition backing the completion of stage 4. This project draws tourists from across Queensland. In fact, on the day we went down there to get footage for the petition, members of the Tannum Sands RSL were there, as well as a gentleman from Hallam in Victoria who had heard about it and seen it on social media and decided to come and check it out. This is an important element of our community and something that the Emu Park RSL, the Livingstone Shire Council and I am working for each and every day. I provide this update to the House.

The Rosslyn Bay harbour master plan was not going to occur for a couple of years, but it has been brought forward by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and community consultation has started. There is an opportunity for members of our community to have their say at drop-in sessions as well as on the MSQ website. The link will be available on social media for any members of the community who are interested.

It is SES Week. For the angels in orange who so readily serve our community in times of disaster as well as at our community events, this is the week that we celebrate and acknowledge them. The amazing team down at Keppel Sands help our coast guard. The crew from Emu Park provide extra help at the Festival of the Wind and on Anzac Day to make sure the 6,000 people who turn up for the service are kept safe whilst sitting on the roads. The people from the Yeppoon SES help with Pinefest and the Great Australia Day Beach Party, and they also go out of their way to help after disasters like Cyclone Marcia. Our amazing crew in Rockhampton spend a lot more time thinking about floods and water than the rest of the local SES groups. They are all there when their community needs them.

This is a week when we acknowledge them and thank them for their service. We say to these angels in orange: our community is so much stronger because of you and our community is so much more fun because of the efforts you make. There is no way our Lions clubs, local councils or other service organisations that run community events could do it without you. We say thank you to our SES for everything you do to make our community a better place. I encourage anyone who is interested to follow up with the local SES controller. They are a great bunch of people and they do amazing things in our community.

Crisafulli LNP Government, State Development; Rees, Ms J

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (9.13 pm): That was a lovely speech. Yesterday the Premier was in Canberra negotiating a deal on AI data centres that would, in his words, give Queensland communities a say about major projects proposed for their backyards. At exactly the same time, his Deputy Premier was here in this chamber ramming through legislation that was expressly designed to do the opposite. This legislation strips rights from landholders, farmers and communities to challenge major projects imposed in their backyards. Let's be very clear: the Deputy Premier's critical minerals bill was not about critical minerals. The provisions in that bill apply to any major project of state significance, including AI data centres. Who exactly is running this state, the Premier or the member for Kawana?

Queensland's primary producers were unequivocal in their rejection of the bill, with Property Rights Australia chair Dale Stiller yesterday criticising the passing of the bill and confirming there had been no consultation with agriculture or community groups in its development. When regional Queenslanders voted at the last election for their LNP members, they did so in the belief that their elected representative would give them a voice in Brisbane. Instead, regional LNP members last night voted for a bill that grants major resource companies, Gina Rinehart and big tech an expedited and largely unchecked approvals pathway. In doing so, they put their party room ahead of those whom they swore to serve. Shame on those members.

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member for Scenic Rim, you can choose to go home if you are going to call out from your seat.

Ms BUSH: On another note, I want to put on record my community's grief at the sudden death of local member Jodi Rees. Jodi was our Habitat Brisbane officer, who showed an unwavering dedication to bushcare in our local catchment. She was a truly beautiful person whose enthusiasm, kindness and commitment inspired everyone around her. She devoted countless hours to improving the health of our waterways and bushland, always going above and beyond to make our catchment a better place. She was instrumental in strengthening the partnership between Save our Waterways Now and Habitat Brisbane and played a key role in major restoration projects. Her cheerful smile, infectious enthusiasm and genuine care for both people and nature are going to be deeply felt and deeply missed by everyone whose lives she touched in our community. Our community's thoughts and condolences are with Jodi's family at this time, in particular her beautiful boys, Jarrah and Merrin, her friends and colleagues at Habitat Brisbane and everyone who had the privilege of working alongside her. Vale, Jodi. Thank you for your friendship, your passion, your tireless dedication and extraordinary difference. You will not be forgotten.

Zonta Club of Hervey Bay; Wide Bay Women's Health Centre

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (9.16 pm): The Zonta Club of Hervey Bay and the Wide Bay Women's Health Centre play an invaluable role in supporting local women and girls in Hervey Bay. The Zonta Club of Hervey Bay is focused on empowering women and girls through advocacy, community projects and local fundraising events. The Wide Bay Women's Health Centre's mission is to improve the quality of life for women by providing a range of health services, empowering women and improving their physical and emotional health. I want to acknowledge their leadership and the determined advocacy of Lynette Denning and the outstanding and unfaltering contribution of Aunty Marj Speedy for over two decades.

In Hervey Bay, the Zonta Club and the Wide Bay Women's Health Centre's involvement with the Fraser Coast Domestic & Family Violence Alliance demonstrates a strong commitment to creating a safer community. These organisations promote education, awareness and practical support for those affected by domestic and family violence. Their efforts encourage early intervention, strengthen community understanding and help connect women with the services they need.

Domestic and family violence remains one of the most significant challenges facing our community. Through advocacy campaigns, community events and partnerships, these organisations are helping to break the cycle of violence, ensuring women know they are not alone. Both organisations are actively engaged in promoting International Women's Day, the Queensland Walks' Safe Cities, Safe Streets and the annual candlelight vigil during Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month in May.

Each year the Hervey Bay Zonta Club and the St John's Anglican Mothers Union host the ringing of the bells in memory of the women and girls who lost their lives to family and domestic violence that year. Thank you, Ash, Chair of the Fraser Coast Domestic and Family Violence Alliance, Tanya from Yoorana Women's Domestic Violence & Resource Centre, Robyn and Susan from the Hervey Bay Zonta Club, and the many other volunteers who diligently advocate for the safety, health and wellbeing of women and girls in our community.

In closing, I commend the Hon. Amanda Camm, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and a member of the Whitsundays Zonta Club, for her consistent and valued encouragement and support in tackling the scourge of domestic and family violence in Hervey Bay and wider Queensland.

Zanatta, Mr S

 **Mr RICHMOND** (Stafford—ALP) (9.19 pm): I rise to pay tribute to the life and memory of Simon Zanatta. Simon was a true believer in the truest sense of the phrase. I first got to know Simon during the 2020 state election, but it was working together for Yvette D'Ath in the health minister's office that I really got to know Simon. The burden of the role of being chief of staff to the health minister is one that took a heavy toll on Simon, not because he struggled with the work but because he felt a deep and burning obligation to deliver for Queenslanders. Simon made a difference. There are so many examples but I want to note his work around the area of clinical safety. They were complex, emotionally draining issues but Simon's work made the world of difference for some people who will never hear his name.

Some people are described as 'all or nothing'. Simon was 'all of everything'. He threw himself into every part of his life. He loved the Labor Party and his union, the Australian Workers' Union. He was deeply committed to the Labor policy process, playing a crucial role on the PCCC—something that often drew him into conflict with other members of the party—but he was someone who was widely

respected for always playing the ball and not the person. He loved the North Queensland Cowboys despite his later association with the Redcliffe Dolphins. Such is Simon's acumen when it comes to the sport of rugby league, I am told that even posthumously he is beating his mates in SuperCoach.

He loved his dogs, Archie and Xena. Xena was an addition to the household after we concluded working together but there would be days during our time in the health minister's office when I would walk into Simon's office and he would just be looking at his phone smiling at photos of Archie. Simon was a devoted friend, and I pay tribute particularly to his friends Talbot and Matt whom he worked with in former minister Anthony Lynham's office. There were many times when Simon and I would be dealing with a difficult issue in the health portfolio. He would take a deep sigh and say to himself, 'I really wish Talbot and Matt were here.' I tried to not take it personally and simply as a sign of the respect, camaraderie and friendship that he had with the two of them.

At the centre of his universe were Courtney and his stepdaughter, Khadie. Simon always knew that his role in the Labor Party required him to make sacrifices himself, something that he did easily. But what did not sit so easy with him was the impact that those sacrifices had on his wife, Courtney, and his stepdaughter. I want them to know how deeply he loved them and how heavily it weighed on him that his work impacted his relationship with them. Vale, Simon. You will never be forgotten.

Endometriosis Awareness



Mr MOLHOEK (Southport—LNP) (9.22 pm): As a father of four sons, I never thought this would be a topic I would address in parliament. I will not pretend to fully understand it, but with around one in seven women affected, I rise tonight to speak about endometriosis. I do not have a uterus, but apparently we all came from one and apparently we have to get used to talking about them. Endometriosis, adenomyosis, PMOS and other chronic pelvic conditions can seriously impact a woman's ability to go about everyday life. In simple terms, endometriosis occurs when tissue, similar to the lining of the uterus, grows elsewhere in the body causing inflammation, pain and a huge array of symptoms. Imagine standing here tonight presenting with a mixed martial arts match happening on your insides. The pain can be debilitating, yet diagnosis can take years and cost thousands of dollars.

Two of my electorate staff Christine and Lara suffer from this chronic condition. Through them and family members I have witnessed the reality of people working at desk with heat packs and painkillers or simply needing to miss work entirely. To be clear: I am not pretending to have lived experience, but Team Southport decided to host a fundraiser for Queensland not-for-profit endometriosis support organisation QENDO.

Christine, Lara, Linda and Tori from my office organised a stunning event featuring Dr Fleming of Grace Private, Dr Brett McKinnon from the University of Queensland and Alison Mander of Queensland Ultrasound for Women in a Q&A panel moderated by Karen Phillips OAM. It was an incredible afternoon. It sold out. I thank the presenting partners Jewel Private Residences and the Langham Gold Coast, particularly Vice President Yutao Li and his team. I thank also the Endo Shop for their sponsorship and advocacy and QENDO CEO Jess Taylor, Ash Webb and QENDO nurse Gill Gordon.

We met remarkable women, raised more than \$6,000 for QENDO and left better educated about the need for greater understanding and empathy. Clearly, we need better education in our schools, workplaces and within the medical community, we need more research, affordable diagnostic methods, earlier intervention and greater practical support for Queensland women. I thank the House for allowing me to raise this important matter and I am grateful for the opportunity to explain why I now have a uterus—a pink fluffy uterus shaped heat pack that has apparently found a permanent home in my office.

Data Centres



Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (9.25 pm): This week we have learned that apparently Queensland is going it alone on data centres. The Premier has revealed that we are opting out of national rules requiring data centres to cover their energy use with renewables. Instead, we are saying to operators, 'Come on, take as much of our coal and gas power as you like.' The buzzword that he is using to justify this pillage of our power is data sovereignty. He clearly does not know what data sovereignty means. Until we regulate big tech there is no such thing as data sovereignty in Australia. The Clean Energy Finance Corporation's modelling tells us that the LNP Premier's tech bro fantasy is actually going to increase Queensland power prices by 13 per cent over the next 10 years.

He does not understand just how energy hungry these data centres are. Let us look at an example in Maroochydore. Tech company NEXTDC is proposing to use more energy annually than the entire suburb's homes combined. They are planning on expanding it to 7 megawatts of IT capacity which is equivalent to about 12,200 typical homes, which is more than the 11,500 homes that are in Maroochydore as it stands. That does not even include the energy for cooling pumps or lighting.

The fight this week over renewables obscures the real problem, which is that both of the major parties apparently still want the data centre boom. We are seeing the LNP going for open slather here in Queensland, Labor says they want more renewables, but they both still want to see this data centre boom happen. Meanwhile we have experts like Professor Toby Walsh saying that there is no way that renewables even could keep up with the current rate of data centre construction.

My conspiracy theory, for what it is worth, is that this manufactured fight is really all about shifting the focus and obscuring the fact that most people do not want the data centre boom at all. They take up huge amounts of space, including otherwise productive farmland, and huge amounts of energy and water. This technology will destroy more jobs than it creates. Just like past boom and bust cycles, the data centre bubble will burst. Experts are already predicting that future AI will not even require these enormous buildings full of GPUs. Albanese and Crisafulli are both missing the point: we do not want the data centre boom. We did not ask for data centres; we asked for homes, we asked for classrooms, we asked for hospitals and public health clinics.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Maiwar, you need to refer to people by their proper titles in this place: the Premier or the member for Broadwater.

Mr BERKMAN: My apologies. The only people asking for data centres here in Queensland are the big tech bosses and the politicians they fund. AI is being foisted onto us from every angle in our lives. It is appearing in apps, invading every corner of life, whether it is Facebook community groups that are all full of the same posts or Google that does not even function properly anymore. For the privilege of this slop, we pay with our land and electricity. Welcome to the data centre boom. I want to opt out. Where is the unsubscribe button?

Gold Coast, Events



Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (9.28 pm): Three weeks ago on Sunday, 9 August, I joined Matilda, who is in a wheelchair, her carer Tash and her brother Louis to catch Light Rail Stage 3 from Pacific Fair to Burleigh on its opening day of operation. Four years of pain for residents and businesses along the Gold Coast Highway route through my electorate had finally come to fruition and all of the passengers enjoyed their first tram ride to Burleigh. Yes, under the Labor government, costs blew out by half a billion dollars and, yes, it had taken a lot longer to build due to CFMEU driven lack of productivity work days. However, to say its arrival has been an outstanding success is an understatement.

My wife and I doubled up on the Friday night with a tram ride from Pacific Fair to Nobby Beach to enjoy one of the plethora of great restaurants in that village precinct, which was absolutely booming with patrons. I know there is a lot of catching up to do after four years of suffering while the project was completed, but for locals both Nobby Beach and Burleigh are becoming the new 'it' places to wine and dine on the Gold Coast—

Mr Langbroek: The road to Damascus.

Mr STEVENS:—leaving Surfers Paradise to the tourists. We again doubled up on the tram from Pacific Fair to Surfers Paradise to visit the fabulously successful Gold Coast air show from its famous beachfront location. The tram was crammed with standing room only, both to and from the air show. I am sure that this Friday's Gold Coast Show at Parklands on the Broadwater will have increased numbers because of light rail access from as far south as Burleigh. The air show injects around \$30 million into the local economy, attracting almost 300,000 spectators. The Crisafulli government is a tremendous financial supporter of that event, which I am sure will be bigger and bolder over the next couple of years.

Of particular note, which I am proud to say is a direct result of the Crisafulli government's legislation, is the absence of serial pests on e-mobility conveyances that were the biggest cause of complaints to my office over the past 12 months. It is a stark example of the dictum that there has to be consequences for bad behaviour. Our tough new e-bike laws have had an immediate effect on reducing the incidence of bad behaviour, especially in the world of young riders.

The new Breach Bail, Go to Jail laws are being enacted currently to address recidivist criminal behaviour that causes death or destruction in the community when individuals abuse their privileged right to be out on bail for other serious offences. The Crisafulli government is continuing to address bad behaviour by strengthening criminal laws in Queensland, which is to be welcomed by the vast majority of law-abiding citizens.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.31 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Asif, Bailey, Baillie, Barounis, 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