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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, 16 September 2026

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WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2026

The Legislative Assembly met at 2.00 pm.

Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Jon Krause, Scenic Rim) read prayers and took the chair.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Honourable members, I acknowledge the Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people of this state and their elders past, present and emerging. I acknowledge former members of this parliament who have participated in our democratic institutions and all Australians who serve and have served our nation to protect our democracy. Finally, I acknowledge all Queenslanders, 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.

ACTING SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Yellow Ribbon Day

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Honourable members, today is Yellow Ribbon Day, which recognises the service of the 27,000 plus volunteer rural firefighters who keep Queensland safe. As we enter the higher risk bushfire season, we recognise the dedication of our volunteer firefighters in protecting our homes and communities.

In recognition of Yellow Ribbon Day I note that we have in the public gallery RFBAQ President Ian Pike AFSM and General Manager Justin Choveaux, along with members of the Bli Bli and Eudlo rural fire brigades. Welcome to Parliament House and thank you for your work protecting our communities.

Speaker's Ruling, Question on Notice Out of Order

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to inform the House of a ruling that Mr Speaker made regarding a question on notice asked during the last sitting week. On 26 August 2026 the member for Maiwar asked question on notice No. 928 of 2026 to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. The minister subsequently requested Mr Speaker's review as to whether this question anticipates debate of the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 in breach of standing orders 115(g) and 231.

Following review of the question in the context of the minister's explanatory speech on the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, Mr Speaker found that the question does anticipate debate of the bill and the arguments and principles on which it is based. Accordingly, Mr Speaker ruled the question out of order on 16 September 2026 and it has subsequently been removed from the parliament's website.

Papua New Guinea, Anniversary of Independence

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Honourable members, today our close neighbour Papua New Guinea marks its anniversary of becoming an independent sovereign nation in 1975. Separated from Queensland by just a few kilometres, Papua New Guinea are our neighbours and our friends and we have a long, shared history.

Since 2007 the National Parliament of Papua New Guinea and the Queensland parliament have been joined in a twinning relationship under the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's Pacific Parliamentary Partnerships Program with the aim of strengthening our parliamentary institutions and capacity as legislative bodies. In February this year our two parliaments re-signed a partnership agreement, committing to continuing our shared journey for the next 10 years.

In April this year I was pleased to visit the National Parliament of Papua New Guinea as part of this agreement and attend the Anzac Day ceremony at Bomana War Cemetery. Over 3,300 Australians rest at Bomana, more than at any other single war cemetery in the world. On the day after Anzac Day it was an honour to meet in Lae with Deputy Prime Minister John Rosso and convey to him news of Queensland contributing two fire truck appliances to the PNG Fire and Rescue Service. These appliances were delivered by ship to Lae in early August.

Coincidentally, today also marks the 83rd anniversary of the liberation of Lae during the Second World War by Australian and Allied personnel, just one of the many links between our people, including the heroic acts of so many Australians and Papua New Guineans on the Kokoda Track. As our links continue to grow, the Queensland parliament extends warm wishes to the National Parliament of Papua New Guinea and indeed the entire Papua New Guinea community on this day. Happy anniversary of Independence Day.

PETITIONS

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

Canoe Point Reserve

2,540 petitioners, requesting the House to grant Canoe Point Reserve lasting protection from clearing and development, consistent with the then Government's 1996 decision to preserve the environmental value of the Canoe Point site [1622].

Youth Infrastructure

128 petitioners, requesting the House to do all in its power to mandate a dedicated, ring-fenced youth infrastructure sub-stream within existing local government grants, and these must be exclusively allocated to regional and local councils to build, upgrade, and maintain free, supervised "third spaces" to keep under-16s engaged, connected, and off the streets [1623].

Digital Services, Privacy

247 petitioners, requesting the House to mandate that Queensland Government digital services or state-supported platforms adopt privacy-preserving standards for age assurance and data protection [1624].

Schools, Digital Transition Course

155 petitioners, requesting the House to direct the Minister for Education to urgently task the QCAA with developing and mandating a "Digital Transition" short-course module for all Year 10 students [1625].

Gold Coast Rail, Extension

766 petitioners, requesting the House to investigate, plan and commit to extending the Gold Coast heavy rail line from Varsity Lakes to Tweed Heads as part of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games transport legacy and the Gold Coast Transport Plan [1626].

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPER

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPER

The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

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

1627 Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Bleijie), to an E-Petition (4530-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,442 petitioners, requesting the House to impose a Moratorium on the entire Baffle Creek Catchment area to disallow any heavy industrial or renewable energy projects (wind, solar, Bess, hydrogen or hydroelectric) to be built within the Baffle Creek Catchment area

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Community Safety

Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.06 pm): Our government promised to make Queensland safer and we promised there would be fewer victims of crime. During a decade of decline under Labor crime was allowed to spiral out of control, consequences for actions were weakened and victims were made to feel like an afterthought. Queenslanders demanded change and our government has acted. We have delivered more police on the beat—more than we promised, in fact—and the front line is now the biggest it has ever been. We are rebalancing our justice system, ensuring victims have a stronger voice and strengthening victim support. We are delivering early intervention and rehabilitation programs to turn youth away from a life of crime. We have delivered stronger laws and there is more to come.

Adult Crime, Adult Time is law, ensuring young offenders who commit serious crimes face sentences reflecting the harm they cause. Daniel's Law has established Queensland's first public child sex offender register, giving parents and carers information to help protect children. Jack's Law has taken over 1,400 weapons off the street and out of the hands of criminals. The latest police data shows a 9.6 per cent reduction in the number of victims statewide. Data from the Insurance Council of Australia shows that claims for stolen cars and break-ins are down across Queensland. The latest annual crime data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics also shows that we are making progress. It is proof that change is possible when government listens, police are supported and offenders face consequences. We welcome that progress, but the job is not finished. We will keep strengthening our laws, backing police, investing in early intervention and rehabilitation and standing beside victims.

Western Downs Digital Park

Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.08 pm): Earlier today Anthropic signed an historic agreement for their first Australian data centre. Queensland will be home to the Western Downs Digital Park—a long-term commitment to our state with the site planned to come online in 2027. It is a major win that will deliver more jobs and put more energy into Queensland's grid. I met with Anthropic during my recent trade mission to outline why Queensland was the place to invest, with energy security and a streamlined approvals process. To have secured Anthropic's first major investment in Australia is a massive show of confidence in Queensland.

I also want to acknowledge the commonsense decision endorsed by the Prime Minister to allow Queensland to chart its own path for power supply, but we must get it right and it must be on our terms. It must add energy generation to the grid and drive down power prices for Queenslanders. It must protect local water supplies and respect the communities where these centres go. We will take hold of the economic benefits of data centres with both hands, but we will do it in the right locations and in the right way. Communities will have a say, just as they now do for projects like wind, solar and batteries. Data centres must add value to local communities so Queenslanders benefit from the opportunity too.

Nepal, Flooding; Yellow Ribbon Day

Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.10 pm): Over the past few weeks, the world has watched with sorrow as the scale of the disaster in Nepal has become clear. Flooding has devastated communities along the Nepal-Tibet border, destroying homes, roads and infrastructure. The images of the disaster are harrowing. Latest reports indicate that more than 1,300 people have lost their lives. Thousands remain unaccounted for. Among the 35 Australians still missing are a number of Queenslanders, and our thoughts are with their loved ones as search efforts remain ongoing. I acknowledge the efforts of the emergency personnel, volunteers and authorities continuing that work in often dangerous conditions. On behalf of all Queenslanders, I extend my sympathies to the people of Nepal, and particularly our local Nepalese community, some of whom join us today in the gallery. They are indeed great friends and great Queenslanders. You are not alone and we stand with you at this difficult time.

Finally, Mr Acting Speaker, can I associate myself with your remarks around Yellow Ribbon Day for our rural firies. It has been a very challenging start to the season. They have done an incredible job. We look forward to continuing to provide them with the resources and personnel to do the great work that they do.

Justice System, Victim Impact Statements

Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (2.11 pm): The Crisafulli government continues to put victims first, ahead of offenders. With the latest independent ABS data showing more than 12,000 fewer victims of crime across Queensland in 2025, the tide is turning on Labor's soft-on-crime decade of decline. We have replaced Labor's weak youth crime laws with strong youth crime laws: Adult Crime, Adult Time, which is handing down major consequences for 47 youth crime offences; and Breach Bail, Go to Jail, which is targeting serious repeat youth and adult offenders with legislation currently before the House.

Today on National Victims of Crime Day I will introduce a bill marking a further important step in repairing the damage of those opposite by amending the Penalties and Sentences Act to strengthen the victim impact statement regime. In a trauma informed approach, victim impact statement laws—alongside the existing purpose of telling the court of the harm caused—will now recognise the therapeutic benefit for victims. It is another swing in momentum from the Crisafulli government to the

side of victims. It is acknowledging the healing potential when they are freely permitted to recount their stories in their own words, and it is underpinning new protections, including limits on victim impact statement redactions by defence lawyers and defendants and on the cross-examination of victims in relation to their VIS. Under these and other amendments, more victims' voices will be captured, with each provided a greater opportunity to articulate the gravity of the harm affected.

The reforms will also: extend the offences for which a person may provide a VIS to include all indictable and summary offences resulting in death or bodily harm; expand the definition of who is a victim for the purposes of preparing a VIS to include, for example, a witness to an offence; and broaden the scope of who may provide a victim impact statement on behalf of a victim. As well, for certain offences, the Victims' Commissioner will be able to prepare a community impact statement to apprise the sentencing court of harm caused to an affected community.

This is another practical step in the Crisafulli government's commitment to victims' rights, and there is more to do. We are staring down crime with an inclusive victim impact statement regime that responds to the needs of trauma. Along with tougher penalties for law-breakers, we are holding offenders to higher account through the eyes and hearts of those they have harmed.

Justice System, Victims Advocate Service

Hon. LJ GERBER (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.14 pm): Today is National Victims of Crime Day. It is a day to recognise victims of crime, to hear their voices and to reaffirm the Crisafulli government's commitment to putting victims first. Last Friday, it was an absolute privilege to attend the Voice for Victims Foundation fundraiser lunch in Brisbane and spend time with victims, their families and advocates. This morning I was proud to join the police minister and Voice for Victims in the first Climb Against Crime on Brisbane's Story Bridge—standing alongside Queenslanders determined to ensure victims are seen, heard and supported.

The Crisafulli government will always stand on the side of victims. We promised Queenslanders we would put victims first, deliver more support than ever before for victims of crime and restore safety where they live, and that is exactly what we are doing. We have delivered a record $458 million to support victims of crime. We made the Victims of Crime Community Response program statewide. We have strengthened victims' rights and delivered practical support for organisations like the Voice for Victims Foundation.

Today I will introduce legislation establishing our nation-leading Victims Advocate Service designed by victims for victims. The Victims Advocate Service was an election promise that we made to victims and Queenslanders at the 2024 state election. Queenslanders voted for it and now we are delivering it. It will launch later this year and it will be a dedicated one-stop shop for victims of crime, with a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week call centre and online hub. It will operate as the central front door for victims' support in Queensland, helping victims navigate the complex system, connecting them with specialist support and reducing the number of times they are made to repeat their story. We know that, for too long under the previous Labor government, victims were left in the dark. They were left to navigate the system alone without being heard or respected.

Our Victims Advocate Service changes that. For some victims, it might mean getting help to understand what happens next. For others, it might mean getting information about their case or being connected with the support they need when they need it. Victims who have gone through the justice process understand better than anyone where the system can let them down. They know how difficult it can be to find the right service, how frustrating it can be to have to chase down information and fill out forms when they are just trying to grieve or process what has happened to them, and how distressing it can be to repeat their story simply because different parts of government are not working together.

That is what happened under the previous Labor government. That is what this reform changes. It is delivering the practical support that victims have been calling for and that the previous Labor government failed to provide. On National Victims of Crime Day, the Crisafulli government reaffirms its commitment to victims of crime and remains firmly on the side of victims, putting victims first and delivering the support they need.

Victims of Crime

Hon. DG PURDIE (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (2.17 pm): The Crisafulli government is delivering the fresh start Queenslanders voted for: more police, stronger laws and fewer victims. On this National Victims of Crime Day I want to acknowledge every victim, every

person who has had their car stolen or their home broken into, every victim of a violent crime. I want to reassure you that every change this government makes is about strengthening laws to reduce the number of victims.

Our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws are working. The Australian Bureau of Statistics has confirmed that victim numbers are falling. In 2025, which was the first full year of Adult Crime, Adult Time, there were 12,038 fewer victims than the year before. The falls include: robbery down 13.4 per cent, which was the biggest fall of any state in the country; property offences down 4.2 per cent; and sexual assault down 1.6 per cent.

This national data backs the police data: victim numbers were down 9.6 per cent last financial year against the 2023-24 high-water mark. Contrast that with the decade of decline under the former Labor government, a decade when victim numbers skyrocketed by 193 per cent. That is more homes broken into, more cars stolen and more lives turned upside down because Labor proudly watered down the laws.

On this side of the House we are making Queensland safer by continuing to deliver more police, stronger laws and fewer victims. We committed to 1,600 new recruits in our first four years. We exceeded it in under two years, with 2,098 new constables now on the beat. For the first time in the state's history there are more than 13,000 police serving Queensland. In their last full term, Labor added 76 officers to the thin blue line. We have added more than 10 times that number.

We are giving police the powers to crack down on Labor's generation of serious repeat offenders through Adult Crime, Adult Time laws and Jack's Law. Breach Bail, Go to Jail will build on this because the job is not done. There must be consequences for actions, a concept that went missing during Labor's decade of decline. Still, they continue to prioritise offenders over victims.

The only people who want the number of victims to rise are on that side of the House. Labor had the chance to stand up for victims, but they voted against mandatory sentences for criminals who commit a serious offence while on bail. Labor's policy is to wind back Adult Crime, Adult Time and raise the age of criminal responsibility. While Labor remains focused on protecting offenders, we are focused on locking them up and restoring safety. The Crisafulli government will continue delivering more police and stronger laws to reduce the number of victims and, as the latest data shows, it is working.

Sovereign Industry Development Fund

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.20 pm): We in the Crisafulli government strongly believe in defence, building sovereign capability and capacity and, once again, manufacturing and doing things in the great state of Queensland. That is what the Sovereign Industry Development Fund is all about—$180.6 million building sovereign capability across the state. I have recently been to North Queensland. We announced the latest in the Sovereign Industry Development Fund, $3 million for Aviation Australia in Townsville, lifting our aviation maintenance capability in this state. This funding is enabling the establishment of a Townsville aviation centre of excellence and is all part of the Crisafulli government's plan for Queensland to become the No. 1 state in the country for defence industry.

I have been told stories in the last year and a half that the former Labor government did not even want to announce defence grants for fear the anti-war, anti-defence brigade would protest against them. That got the member for Woodridge's attention as he raised his head, and who was the Minister for State Development at the time? I was not going to accuse him of anything because I had been told the story in confidence that he was the state development minister, but I take his gesticulated interjection in the form of his head raise. We were told stories about grants given by ministers in the former Labor government. They just quietly gave the money away because they did not want to be seen as being pro defence industry.

The LNP government are happy to stand alongside not only our defence industry but also our veterans, a huge proportion of whom reside in Queensland. That is why we are proud to announce everywhere across the state the Sovereign Industry Development Fund. I was in Toowoomba recently where we made an announcement with Landlocked, which is a US-based company coming to Australia for the first time and investing in a facility at the airport that will be able to service the first wide body aircraft refinishing facility and maintenance facility. Everyone loves Riverfire. All members will have seen Riverfire and the C17 Globemaster go over the Brisbane River. We will be able to refinish, paint

and maintain that aircraft in Toowoomba for the first time in Australia's history. That particular aircraft goes to Asia and America for painting and maintenance. We will soon be able to do it in Toowoomba because of the Sovereign Industry Development Fund.

We do not just say it; we believe it and we act on it. That is why last parliamentary sitting I launched Defence Q. This is unashamedly the Crisafulli government saying, 'We want defence industry in Queensland. We want to grow that which is here, but we also want more.' I table a copy of a document regarding Defence Q.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Defence Q—Queensland's strategic defence advantage: connecting industry, capability and opportunity' [1628].

It is not only about Defence Q; it is also about what the honourable the Premier announced yesterday: critical minerals and investing in the state. Luckily we now have critical minerals legislation that allows proponents to come to Queensland, bypass many of the laws—not the environment laws, not the farmers' rights, not the landowners' rights—to officially and speedily get approval. That is what governing does. The Labor Party tried to block that bill that we passed because they are anti resources—

Mr Crisafulli: Blocked by 'Blocker Bullock'.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the Premier. I think he said blocked by 'Daddy Blocker'.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: If he did not, I will just say it. I regret taking the Premier's interjection, but it was something along those lines—blocked by 'Big Daddy Blocker', because the Labor Party are not the party of the coalminers anymore. The Labor Party are not the miners' friends anymore. They are not friends of the resource industry. If they were, they would have voted for laws that protect farmers' rights, protect landowners' rights but get investment in this great state.

Economy

Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.25 pm): Queensland is the best performing economy in the country. It is not just us saying that; CommBank's latest State of the States report proves it. Despite Labor's legacy of debt, deficit and deception, the Crisafulli government's open-for-business approach has lifted Queensland from fifth place after Labor's final budget to No. 1 on the economic leaderboard.

Mr Bleijie: Was this the one he used to quote?

Mr JANETZKI: It depends on when he quoted it. Coming up from the depths of the former Labor government's last clown show budget, Queensland now ranks in the top three nationally on five of the six key economic indicators. CommBank's analysis shows that the Crisafulli government is making Queensland the place to be. We are open for business, as we have heard from both the Premier and the Deputy Premier already this afternoon. We are building the homes to fix Labor's housing crisis and we are providing the certainty and stability that fosters investment. CommBank attributes Queensland's ascension to pole position to broad-based strength across economic indicators. Dwelling investment was the stand-out, rising 16.8 per cent over the year, the strongest growth in the country. Business investment increased nine per cent. ABS has unemployment in Queensland at the equal lowest in the nation. State final demand rose 1.1 per cent in the June quarter to be 3.8 per cent higher over the year, the strongest annual growth of any state or territory in the country. CommBank economist Harry Ottley said Queensland's economic expansion had increasingly shifted towards investment. He said—

Queensland's rise to No.1 is about consistency rather than one single standout result, with dwelling and business investment now doing more of the heavy lifting.

All of this is despite the legacy left by those opposite, despite the volatility wrought by conflict in the Middle East, despite the cost shifting out of Canberra onto the states and Jim Chalmers's refusal to give us our fair share of the GST, and despite suffering the biggest GST distribution away from any jurisdiction in the history of the tax.

This morning I appeared before the federal Productivity Commission's inquiry into GST distribution reforms. Our message was simple.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: I will take the interjection because of the opposition's silence. They spoke hundreds of times in opposition about the GST but since the election of the Crisafulli government how many times have they spoken in this House about the GST? Zero! The architect of the fiscal decline in

Queensland, the member for Woodridge, said zero. The member for Murrumba said zero. However, we will not remain silent because we will always fight for Queenslanders. We do not want a special deal; we want a fair deal. A system—

Mr Crisafulli: No, be serious. Think serious. You've had too much helium again.

Mr Bleijie: 'Debt is a tool,' said by the No. 1 tool. You're meant to keep talking.

Mr JANETZKI: Sorry, I just wanted to give you the stage, Deputy Premier. A system that punishes a state for developing its resources industry while rewarding a state that limits it is a handbrake on economic development; it is against the national interest. A stronger economy is the best way to repair the budget after the fiscal vandalism of those opposite that led to a credit rating downgrade.

I can report that, since S&P's decision on Friday and despite the global turmoil in the bond market, Queensland bond yields are trading in line with our peers, which is exactly in line with statements from Queensland Treasury Corporation, which said that the potential for a ratings action had been watched by investors for an extended period and has been incorporated largely into market pricing over time. There it is! The market knew Labor's credit rating downgrade was inevitable. The market recognises what we are doing to improve the budget with lower debt, improving deficits, including a surplus in the last of the out years, and no new or increased taxes, all while investing in frontline jobs and services—doing our bit to support Queenslanders doing it tough in the middle of a national affordability crisis and building Queensland's future, just as we promised.

Social Housing

Hon. ST O'CONNOR (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (2.30 pm): For too long Labor's answer to homelessness was booking hotel rooms and thinking that the job was done—no policy framework, no sustainable service model, no plan for what came next for far too many Queenslanders. Its program was on track to cost over $250 million a year if changes were not made to prioritise our most vulnerable. That is a quarter of a billion dollars a year on a short-term bandaid. Labor's model saw thousands of families stuck in motels for months, sometimes years—a completely inappropriate environment for that length of time. Its no-questions-asked approach left the system wide open to misuse as well. We found people who already lived in social homes being given taxpayer-funded hotel rooms in areas where they just wanted to have a holiday, and even now Labor still advocates for this failed approach. Some of the cases raised by the Labor Party in the media recently have included calling for a household that reported to us that they earned almost $2,300 a week to be given a taxpayer-funded hotel. There was another case of a household that trashed their hotel room not once but twice, causing tens of thousands of dollars of damage, and Labor was in the media calling for them to be given a third hotel stay.

Every dollar spent on this broken system is a dollar which cannot be put into solutions which actually help people out of homelessness. That is why we have been driving change and focusing on longer term housing outcomes. We tasked our housing officers to work on transitioning long-stay households that have been in hotels and motels for months, or even years, into homes. Since last September they have transitioned 1,918 households, and that is just some of the over 3,500 households supported by homelessness services to move out of hotels since last July alone. I want to commend Matt Nye, Kirby Cook and the entire HOME team in our department who have been prioritising that work. We have increased funding to homelessness services as well—almost $600 million in additional funding in last year's budget and a further $450 million this year—and we are spending it on better ways of delivering housing help. Our government is building a record number of social and community homes and we are delivering supported accommodation projects at scale across Queensland. Supported accommodation gives vulnerable Queenslanders a roof over their head with onsite services, creating a genuine path to long-term housing.

Right now our construction program has over 7,000 social and affordable homes under contract or construction across Queensland. That is a massive turnaround from the last decade, when an annual average of just 509 social homes were added across the system and nearly 2,000 social homes were sold by the Labor Party. How do those numbers compare? The member for Gaven in particular loves to talk about affordable housing, but how many affordable homes did the member for Gaven actually deliver when she had the chance to be the housing minister of Queensland? Over the entire last term of the former Labor government there were 100 affordable homes delivered—25 homes a year, 100 in four years. I actually had to triple check with the department that that figure was accurate because it is so low and it is so far from their rhetoric. How about us? How about the Crisafulli government? We hear those constant claims from the Labor Party that we have apparently cut affordable homes, but how many have we actually delivered compared to its 100 homes in its last term in office? So far—

Government members interjected.

Mr O'CONNOR: I am not taking those interjections, Premier, because they are far from the number. So far, the Crisafulli government has delivered 1,013 affordable homes, and in half the time.

Government members interjected.

Mr O'CONNOR: I take that interjection: 10 times more in half the time.

Mrs Frecklington: What were you doing? Seriously!

Mr O'CONNOR: What were they doing? I take that interjection.

Government members interjected.

Mr O'CONNOR: There are so many interjections to take such as those opposite being busy talking about the problem but not doing anything about it. We have a further 2,043 affordable homes underway right now. That is around 3,000 affordable homes that our LNP government will deliver in our first term against just 100 affordable homes delivered by Labor in its last term, and that is the difference—talk versus delivery, hotels versus homes. Our Crisafulli government is turning around the housing crisis and delivering more places to call home across Queensland.

Major Events

Hon. AC POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (2.36 pm): The Crisafulli LNP government unashamedly wants Queensland to be the events capital of the country, and we are going after it. We are out there chasing the biggest events. We are competing for the events that traditionally went to Sydney and Melbourne, and we are bringing them to Queensland. Next week is yet another example of that ambition. The Socceroos are coming home, and they are bringing Brazil with them—five-time world champions and one of the most famous sporting teams on the planet and they are not playing in Sydney and they are not playing in Melbourne. They are playing exclusively in Queensland—first in Townsville next Friday night and then at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane the following Tuesday. That is a big deal. We wanted this series in Queensland. We went after it, and we got it. We can compete for events like this because we have the ambition for Queensland and we are prepared to invest in that ambition. That is the difference.

The Crisafulli LNP government is fighting to bring the biggest events and the biggest names to Queensland, because when we land those events Queenslanders benefit. Visitors get on planes, they book hotel rooms, they eat in our restaurants, they spend in our pubs, cafes and local businesses and, importantly, they experience more of Queensland. That is why our ambition to become the events capital of the country matters, and that ambition does not stop at Brisbane. As I said, next Friday Brazil will play in Townsville. That is something special for North Queensland. The world's best should not only be something regional Queenslanders see on television; we want them experiencing it in their own backyard, and we are ensuring this event goes well beyond the 90 minutes on the field.

In Townsville, Flinders Street will come alive with a huge street party. In Brisbane, we are closing Caxton Street and turning one of the greatest sporting precincts in the country into a celebration of the world game, and there will be more to come. Over the coming days we will have more to say about how Queenslanders can get involved and be part of what will be a huge week of football for the state, because when we lure a major event to Queensland we want them to make the most of it. We want the city to feel it, we want local businesses to benefit from it, and we want Queenslanders to be a part of it. For 10 young Queenslanders that will mean something pretty special. Thanks to Football Queensland, five young Queenslanders in Townsville and five in Brisbane will have the opportunity to walk on to the field alongside the Brazilian national team. Imagine that as a young footballer: watching Brazil on television, dreaming about playing on the biggest stage and then walking on to the field alongside some of the best players in the world right here in Queensland.

Those are the moments that inspire the next generation and they are the opportunities that come from having ambition—something those interjecting from the other side never had. There is momentum building around major events in Queensland. We will not sit back and wait for the world to come to Queensland—we are going after it. We will chase the biggest events. We will compete with the other states and we will keep bringing the biggest and the best to Queensland. Our ambition is to make Queensland the events capital of Australia, and we are getting on with delivering it.

Small and Family Business

Hon. SJ MINNIKIN (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (2.39 pm): The Crisafulli government is supporting small and family businesses to grow and thrive by delivering a series of free small business micro-credential courses. I was pleased to join the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and member for Buderim recently at the University of the Sunshine Coast to announce a partnership to deliver this key election commitment. We were joined by Vice-Chancellor Professor Helen Bartlett and her staff to announce three new courses that will cover AI, cybersecurity and procurement. We have since had more than a thousand small and family businesses register an expression of interest. Why these particular areas of focus? On this side of the House we have taken a calm and methodical approach, speaking to small and family businesses across the state and listening to their direct industry feedback. I took on board feedback from a turf farm owner—Amanda, from the electorate of Glass House—who has recently identified opportunities to use AI to maximise her business yield. In Rockhampton, we met an industrial safety business where team leaders were saving up to an hour a day by audio-transcribing check sheets rather than manually transcribing.

With the right support and the backing of the Crisafulli government, small businesses can explore and learn about the opportunities AI can provide to support their staff and customers. This might mean automation of repetitive tasks like scheduling, rostering, invoicing or data entry. It could mean gaining a better understanding of customer habits to help businesses target local marketing initiatives and identify sales trends. Now we are delivering what we said we would as part of the Crisafulli government's Small and Family Business First Action Statement. I am pleased to inform the House today that the first tranche of free online and self-paced courses will include AI. We will also deliver a face-to-face option starting in Cairns from next month. We are making this training accessible to fit around small businesses' work and operational commitments. Registration is open for this round of courses from next Tuesday.

Artificial intelligence will be and is a game changer for many businesses—large and small—across all industries. Unlike larger businesses, small and family businesses often do not have the time or resources to take advantage of emerging opportunities. We want to make sure that small and family businesses have the same opportunities afforded to larger businesses so that they can invest significant time and resources into exploring and utilising the benefits of AI.

During Queensland Small Business Month in May, the Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce successfully hosted AI in Action for regional business. It was a breakfast panel supported by the Crisafulli government to deliver this particular function. It brought together 100 attendees from small and family businesses across the Darling Downs region and provided practical insights into leveraging AI for improved efficiency and competitiveness.

In addition to AI, we will also offer support to small and family businesses that told us they want a better understanding of procurement and tendering. Again, businesses want practical skills to help them compete effectively. We want small and family businesses to supply goods and services as part of the Crisafulli government's plan to deliver for Queensland, or even chase an Olympic and Paralympic dream as part of the procurement opportunities linked to the 2032 games. I invite small and family businesses—there are over half a million throughout the state—to jump onto business.qld.gov.au to check out the opportunities to learn more about AI and to join the Crisafulli government's plan for a better lifestyle through a stronger economy.

Nepal, Flooding

Hon. FS SIMPSON (Maroochydore—LNP) (Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism) (2.43 pm): It is with profound sadness that I rise to acknowledge the catastrophic floods which devastated Nepal and the border region with Tibet on 26 August. The scale of loss is immense: lives have been lost, families have been torn apart, communities have been devastated and many are still waiting for news of loved ones. Among those affected are Australians, including Queenslanders. We hold them and their families and friends in our thoughts and prayers. For Queensland's Nepalese community, this tragedy is not distant; it is deeply personal. In this moment of grief, Queensland grieves with you. I acknowledge the community leaders who are supporting others while carrying their own grief, including Mr Tikaram Sarma, President of the Nepalese Association of Queensland, and others who are in the gallery today. I am honoured to share this message from Tikaram to the Premier—

Dear David,

… I would like to sincerely thank you for your compassion, solidarity and support during this very difficult time.

We are deeply grateful for the support you, your parliamentary colleagues, the Queensland Government and all three levels of government have shown to Nepal and to our community following the recent devastating floods. The Candlelight Vigils held in Brisbane and across Queensland were particularly meaningful to our community. The presence and participation of parliamentarians and members of the wider Australian community provided great comfort and reminded us that we were not alone in our time of grief.

We also sincerely acknowledge the Australian government's financial, logistical and technological assistance provided, along with the deployment of specialist rescue personnel to support those affected by the disaster in Nepal. This generosity and commitment have meant a great deal to our community.

Thank you once again for standing with Nepal and with the Nepalese community in Australia. We deeply value your friendship, ongoing engagement and support, and look forward to continuing to work together in the future.

I table the letter.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 15 September 2026, from the President, Nepalese Association of Queensland Inc. (NAQ), Tikaram Sarma, to the Premier and Minister for Veterans, Hon. David Crisafulli, expressing appreciation for standing with Nepal and the community during recent floods [1629].

To Tikaram and your community: we greatly appreciate the Nepalese community, who contribute so much to our state as part of our Queensland story of hope, care and aspiration. To those who have lost loved ones we offer our deepest condolences, while remembering there are many still waiting for news. To those undertaking rescue and recovery we offer our gratitude. To the people of Nepal and to Nepalese Queenslanders: you are not alone. Queensland stands with you.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Visitors to Public Gallery

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the public gallery this afternoon by students and teachers from Kingston State College in the electorate of Woodridge. I wish to advise members that we will also be joined in the gallery by members from the Redcliffe Youth Advisory Council in the electorate of Redcliffe.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Economy, Credit Rating

Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.47 pm): I give notice that I will move—

That this House:

1. notes the member for Toowoomba South said in October 2024, 'I don't want to be a treasurer that has a ratings downgrade on my watch. It's that simple.'
2. notes that S&P Global downgraded Queensland's credit rating despite the Crisafulli LNP government:
   (a) cutting $42 million from emergency accommodation;
   (b) cutting almost $40 million from domestic and family violence prevention this year;
   (c) reallocating $10 million from domestic and family violence prevention last year; and
   (d) reallocating $90 million from domestic and family violence prevention during the machinery of government changes.
3. notes that S&P Global downgraded Queensland's fiscal position at the same time as the Crisafulli LNP government:
   (a) gave Adani a $500 million tax holiday;
   (b) spent tens of millions of dollars advertising itself; and
   (c) went against their own review recommendation and decided to build the National Aquatic Centre GIICA described as 'not fit for purpose'.
4. notes that S&P Global downgraded Queensland's credit rating and stated 'we believe there are risks to the budget, given no Olympic Games have been taken place within budget'.
5. calls on the Crisafulli LNP government to provide Queenslanders with a true cost of each and every venue for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I advise honourable members that question time today will conclude at 3.49 pm.

Domestic and Family Violence

Mr MILES (2.49 pm): My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier rule out narrowing the meaning of 'relevant relationships' as defined in the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Act?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the member for the question. The answer is yes. While I am on my feet I really want to talk about domestic and family violence because it is important to us. What I really want from the Leader of the Opposition today is just one kernel of truth—and maybe just one shred of decency—in acknowledging that the last two budgets in this place have been record budgets for domestic and family violence. That is all I want from those opposite.

Mr Dick: You've spent $50 million advertising yourself and you want another pat on the back?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I am going to take the interjection from the member for Woodridge. The advertising budget is less than in Labor's last budget. It is less than the member for Woodridge left to the Leader of the Opposition. The answer to your question is yes, but all I want is an acknowledgement from the Leader of the Opposition that there have been two record budgets for domestic and family violence.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Please pause, Premier. Sorry to interrupt you. Members on my left, there is too much noise coming from your side. The Premier is just there and I am struggling to hear him.

Mr CRISAFULLI: All it is about is sending mixed messages and creating a scare campaign for the most vulnerable in our community. It does not take much. If the member wants to advocate for even more funding that is fair and reasonable, absolutely, but you have to start with a kernel of truth. You cannot scare vulnerable women in the way that the member has done. All it is is base, low-rent politics. He keeps getting called out for it. It is a sign of desperation when you can get something that is in black and white and say what he does. But he will not stand up in this House and say it. I would love for the member to stand up in this House and acknowledge what he says outside this place, but he never says that inside, that the last two years have seen record funding for domestic and family violence—a 45 per cent increase. He could stand up now and say that it is not the case, but he would be found to be in contempt of this place.

Mrs Frecklington: Again!

Mr CRISAFULLI: He has form, is what the Attorney is saying. I make this point: what has happened with the way that domestic and family violence is policed is something that we are very passionate about. I see the work that the honourable police minister has done around PPDs, about trying to get more police to more vulnerable women and children. In answer to the member's question, no, there will not be a change to that definition. We have said what we are doing. We are fixing the broken PPN system that we inherited. The first steps were taken with PPD at the start of this year and we are going to continue to reform that because women and children at their most vulnerable deserve support and they deserve an opposition to show a kernel of truth from time to time.

Domestic and Family Violence

Mr MILES: My next question is also to the Premier. Will the Premier also rule out narrowing the meaning of 'victim' as defined in the Victims of Crime Assistance Act?

Mr CRISAFULLI: This question on National Victims of Crime Day, on a day when the Attorney-General and the youth justice minister are putting in legislation to mop up the mess? Let me tell members a few things.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members on my left. Your interjections are not being taken.

Mr CRISAFULLI: We are strengthening support for victims. There will be a strengthening.

Mr Miles interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: No, let me be clear, we are strengthening it. I will tell members why: because a generation of Queenslanders were failed. I will tell you why they were failed. You only have to listen to the member for Bulimba's contribution last night to know why they were failed. I do not think I have seen anything like it. Ten years after creating the mess, the honourable member can stand up in this place and repeat the chaos that they created. Victim numbers saw a 193 per cent increase in this state because they weakened the laws. There were fewer police per head of population because they did not back them. There was no early intervention, no rehabilitation, ministers were changing and there were revolving doors. What those opposite did led to a proliferation of victims. On this side of the House we are strengthening it. I am going to say it again: we are strengthening legislation in this House. All one can say about the Leader of the Opposition, the reason he is hanging by a thread—

Mr Power: You've been caught out!

Mr CRISAFULLI: No, we are strengthening it. I am trying to help you, member for Logan. We are expanding it. We are making it more accessible. We want to help more victims. I will tell you what there is: there are fewer victims of crime.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. This question also sought a clear answer, just as the first question did.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Members on my right, you may not have heard me because the microphone was accidentally off. Some of you are lucky for that fact. Manager of Opposition Business, I did not hear your point of order. Could you rise and make it again, please.

Mr de BRENNI: My point of order is on relevance. The question sought a clear answer, just as the first question did.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to that point of order. The Premier has answered the question clearly, articulately and he has expanded on it. He could not be any clearer.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I have been listening to the Premier's answer which is providing context around the Victims of Crime Assistance Act and the definition of victim. The Premier has 56 seconds remaining and I will ask the Premier to continue being relevant.

Mr CRISAFULLI: It is being expanded. Every single victim—

An opposition member: Yes or no?

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr Mellish interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Deputy Premier and Member for Aspley, I caution both of you.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I understand it is difficult for the Leader of the Opposition when his first two questions have been categorically dismissed and it has been categorically proven that the scare campaign is not there. All I would say to the Leader of the Opposition is whoever is next, you have three minutes to pivot. You have three minutes to try to write something different. Let me be clear: I answered the first question directly and I answered the second question even more directly. It is being expanded. More victims are going to be supported by a world-leading Victims' Advocate Service. I can say one thing categorically: under the LNP there are fewer victims of crime.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, that is the third time I have had to call you.

Crime

Ms MARR: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. How is the Crisafulli LNP government continuing to deliver the strong laws Queensland expects in the fight against crime, and is the Premier aware of any policies that failed to fight crime during a decade of decline?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the honourable member for the question. I will do my best to answer it fulsomely and relevantly—slowly at times.

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I take the interjection from the honourable member for Bundaberg. I was in the honourable member's city today. There were not a lot of people saying a lot of kind things about the honourable member for Bundaberg, but there were a lot of victims of crime and they were speaking up and they were driving reform. I have known the member for Thuringowa for a long time. For all of the member for Thuringowa's career, both in a professional and private capacity, she has been fighting for victims of crime.

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Bundaberg!

Mr CRISAFULLI: I remember when the honourable member was involved with Crime Stoppers. I remember the work that she did on the ground. I have seen the work she has done in her representative career. She has always put victims first.

Just the other day I was watching a video of the honourable member in which she spoke with great passion on behalf of her community. I thank her and her colleagues in Townsville and Far North Queensland for what they are doing. The member asks about what we are doing. I can assure the member that we are doing everything we can to drive down the number of victims. We will support victims and we will also support the people on the front line who are driving change. At times that means early intervention. At times it means rehabilitation. At times it means more police. At all times it means stronger laws.

Those opposite crowed about weakening laws and created the crisis, and the member for Bulimba doubled down more than a decade later, but they have not learned their lesson. They continue to vote against our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws, which shows they have learned nothing. I say to those opposite that one thing is for certain: with or without their support, stronger laws are coming. With or without their support, we are going to embark on the biggest bail reform in Queensland's history. With or without their support, Queensland will have the strongest bail laws in the country. They broke the system. There were no consequences for action under Labor.

This is about change and there will be more reform. If you breach bail, you will go to jail. I know that does not work for those with T-shirts about homies and prisons, but it works in places where I listen to people. It worked this morning in Bundaberg, at a barbecue held on a back deck where I listened to the stories of individuals who have not been heard by the local member. It works in Townsville, where I listened to people share their stories. Do members know what they say to the member for Thuringowa? They say, 'Keep going!' Every change will be about strengthening the laws, not weakening them; more police, not fewer; more early intervention, not less. Unlike the Leader of the Opposition, our heart is in it and we will see it through with or without their support.

Mr Whiting interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bancroft, I can see and hear you behind that chair. I caution you about your interjections.

Domestic and Family Violence

Ms McMILLAN: My question is to the Acting Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Can the minister advise what work the independent Domestic and Family Violence Advisory Panel and Reform Implementation Office have undertaken since their commencement?

Ms LEAHY: I thank the member for the question in relation to domestic violence. It is an important question. We should always be concerned in relation to matters around domestic violence, particularly on a day like today, National Victims of Crime Day. It is particularly important that we focus very closely on those people who are impacted by domestic and family violence. We care about victims of domestic and family violence. They are very important people and they are very impacted by domestic and family violence. Some of them are very seriously impacted. It is important that we continue to do the work and we continue to ensure that our budget delivers for victims of domestic and family violence. Our budget delivers a 45 per cent increase in funding for domestic and family violence, which is an increase on the former Labor government's—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I wonder if the minister could come back to a relevant answer to the question.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Is your point of order relevance?

Mr de BRENNI: Yes, it is.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is a sensitive issue. Domestic violence was referenced in the question. It is National Victims of Crime Day. The minister is being relevant. I understand there are other elements to the question that the Manager of Opposition Business would like answered. The minister is responding to the question referencing domestic and family violence on National Victims of Crime Day and she is providing a comprehensive response.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the House. I understand your point of order. I have been listening to the minister's response. I understand she is providing a broad context to domestic and family violence matters. There was a question relating to the work of the independent domestic and family violence panel, which the acting minister has one minute and 25 seconds to respond to.

Ms LEAHY: It is an important and sensitive matter. It is a very important matter to women. I have been acting in this portfolio for two weeks. One of the things that I have found disappointing in relation to domestic and family violence is seeing what happened in the past 10 years under Labor. As somebody who lives in a rural and regional community, I know that when someone is impacted by domestic and family violence one of the things that is really important is the ability to ring the DVConnect phone line. Under Labor, 60 per cent of those calls went unanswered and I find that really disappointing.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am being sensitive to this issue as well but I draw your attention to standing order 118(b), relevance.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you, Manager of Opposition Business. I will seek some advice around that. Manager of Opposition Business, I appreciate your point of order. I have been listening carefully. The acting minister is being relevant. As I often say in estimates, it may not be the answer that you are strictly seeking but it is relevant. I ask the acting minister to continue.

Ms LEAHY: In the past two weeks I have been disappointed to learn that in the past 10 years 60 per cent of calls were unanswered. We will continue to do the work to support those victims.

(Time expired)

Justice System

Mr JAMES: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. How is the Crisafulli LNP government continuing to embed stronger consequences for actions for perpetrators, and is the Attorney-General aware of any approaches that left perpetrators walking free during a decade of decline?

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Before I call the honourable Attorney-General, I want to put all members on my left on notice. Questions will be heard in silence. I am not going to ask the member to repeat the question on this occasion. It is a longstanding convention that members will be heard in silence when asking their questions.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I thank the member for Mulgrave for the question. He is a hardworking member for Far North Queensland. The member stood with me and the member for Barron River when we inspected the domestic and family violence safe rooms funded by the Crisafulli government. Those rooms were not funded in the last budget of the former Palaszczuk-Miles government. When I came in, the supposed budget for safe rooms for domestic and family violence victims was unfunded by those opposite. We talk about protecting victims of crime on National Victims of Crime Day and that is exactly what we are doing. The member for Mulgrave completely understands the importance of protecting victims not just in domestic and family violence matters but across the spectrum.

That is exactly why today I am expanding the number of victims who can utilise the victim impact statement regime within the courts. That is what we are doing. What the former government did instead was to give more support to the offenders. On this side of the House, member for Mulgrave, as you well know, we are expanding the number of victims. Go figure!

The other thing we are doing in this bill, which I will introduce straight after question time, is we will expand the way the victims—

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Gladstone!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON:—can actually present a victim impact statement into the court. They might be able to video record it and then that can be played in sentencing proceedings. That is one of the simple measures that we are introducing to support victims of crime in this state. It is important that we hear their voices. It is important that we listen to them. When those victims of crime said they were

left hanging by the former Miles and former Palaszczuk governments, we understand that completely. That is why we have worked with victims of crime, those people with lived experiences, who present a victim impact statement only to see it heavily redacted. We are working on that to ensure we can limit what redactions can take place and to ensure that, if they are unable to be given by the actual victim, another expanded category of 'victim' may be able to speak on behalf of the principal victim to present their victim impact statement. These measures are all about listening to victims and expanding the scope of victims in this state.

We have also listened to the Victims' Commissioner. We will enable someone like the Victims' Commissioner to submit a victim impact statement on behalf of a community if so required. These are practical measures to expand the scope of victims in this great state. We are doing exactly what we said we were going to do.

Domestic and Family Violence

Ms MULLEN: My question is to the Acting Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. I table a *Brisbane Times* article that notes documents relating to the independent Domestic and Family Violence Advisory Panel and Reform Implementation Office could not be found. Can the acting minister advise why the panel has not produced any progress updates, reports or documents in the past 16 months?

Tabled paper: Article from the *Brisbane Times* online, dated 13 September 2026, titled 'Minister said new panel would take on DV reform update work. It hasn't' [1630].

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: As the document has been tabled, if the acting minister would like to see it, I will enable that. Otherwise, I call the Acting Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Acting Minister for Child Safety and Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence.

Ms LEAHY: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. I would like to have a bit of a look at that document. I thank the member for the question in relation to this particular *Brisbane Times* article. What I do know from the time that I have been in the role as acting minister, two weeks—and I have taken a particular interest in domestic violence reform and—

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs Poole interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members! Order, members! Before I ask the acting minister to resume—

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Morayfield, I am trying to call the House to order. Please assist with that as a whip. Members, when I am seeking advice from the Clerk, it is not a cover for members to start quarrelling across the chamber, like you did just then. I am talking to all members, member for Logan and member for Mundingburra as well.

Ms LEAHY: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. I do appreciate the member tabling that document in relation to domestic and family violence. It is an important issue. It is an issue that we do need to talk about, particularly on National Victims of Crime Day. What sparks my interest from being in this portfolio for two weeks is looking at what Labor's record was in these areas. Labor's record on domestic and family violence was a 218 per cent increase—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I submit to you the question did not canvas previous records. It specifically—

Government members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members! Members, I will hear the point of order.

Mr de BRENNI: The question was specifically about progress reports, so my point of order is on relevance.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In relation to the tabled document, which I had a brief look at, there are some broad contextual elements related within the document as tabled, and the minister is entitled to have a look at the document. She has perused it and can respond to those matters which are contained in there as well.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the House. I will seek some advice. Order, members! Thank you for your points of order. I have not seen the tabled document, but the minister has been referring to it in her answer and also providing context to the advisory panel matters that I assume are referred to in the media article. The minister has one minute and 11 seconds left. There are other parts to the question as well, but you are being relevant at the moment, Minister.

Ms LEAHY: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. It is an important issue. As I was saying earlier, in relation to Labor's record on domestic and family violence there was a 218 per cent increase in incidents. Former failed ministers sit on the other side of the House. Under those opposite, 60 per cent of calls to the DVConnect line went unanswered, and we know that Labor knew about it too. We know that they knew about that. They may not like the answers about their record, but what I have seen in the last two weeks is an appalling record under Labor during a decade of decline when it comes to domestic and family violence.

Police Resources

Mr HEAD: My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. How is the Crisafulli LNP government continuing to back our frontline police in the fight against the crime crisis, and is the minister aware of any approaches that did not have the back of our police during a decade of decline?

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Before I call the minister, I warn the member for Lytton and the member for Logan for talking during the member for Callide asking his question. I gave you fair warning earlier, member for Lytton and member for Logan.

Mr PURDIE: I thank the member for the question. I know how committed he is to safety in his electorate, not only for young mums but also for victims of crime. He has seen firsthand, as communities have across Queensland, how Labor's decade of proudly watering down the laws, fewer police and weak laws led to a crime crisis not only in South-East Queensland and regional Queensland but also right across Queensland.

We are starting to see the results of our tough-on-crime approach. With more police and tougher laws, we are starting to see fewer victims. It was pleasing just last week to see the independent ABS data come out to show that Queensland is the only state where, across every crime class, we are starting to see declines. However, we know there is a lot more work to do—a lot more work to do—because every victim of crime is one too many, particularly those heinous crimes like robbery.

I need to alert the House in respect of one of those heinous robbery offences which was committed today. It was committed brazenly in broad daylight. I do not know if it has been mentioned here before—I think the Attorney-General mentioned it once—but I used to be a detective, so I took it upon myself to do a little bit of investigating. I found a clue as to who has stolen the LNP Crisafulli government's policy playbook when it comes to keeping people safe. The first clue—I am happy to tender to the court as evidence—is the Labor government in Victoria today has announced they have adopted our expanded Jack's Law. Hear, hear! They know it is working!

I need to report that the suspects on this occasion—their Labor Party comrades from Victoria—are serious repeat offenders when it comes to this, and I have another exhibit that I am happy to tender to the court. They have also announced 1,500 more police. Their comrades in Victoria seem to know that more police and tougher laws keep people safe.

They have also committed a third offence—three offences, Your Honour. They have announced Adult Time for Violent Crime. Is that it? It is close enough. I do not know where they got that from! Across the board, police data is showing our approach is working. ABS data is showing our approach is starting to work. A representative of the Insurance Council of Australia was on live TV last week saying that Queensland is leading the way with its tough-on-crime approach. Those opposite do not believe it. They did not believe it when the number of victims of crime was going up. They do not want to believe it now, but they need to listen to their comrades in Victoria and acknowledge that what they did was wrong and we are getting it right.

(Time expired)

Domestic and Family Violence

Ms SCANLON: My question is to the Acting Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. I table an interview with the Far North district's acting chief superintendent, who said—

Does the wider society who's not affected by coercive control and domestic violence know in detail what it is? Probably not.

Tabled paper: Extract of article from the *Cairns Post* online, undated, titled 'The Big Questions: Acting Chief Superintendent Mick Searle' [1631].

Will the Crisafulli LNP government undertake a second stage of the coercive control education campaign, as recommended by the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce?

Ms LEAHY: I thank the member for the question in relation to the recommendations from the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce in relation to coercive control. These are very important issues. They are matters that the government is working its way through. They are matters that I have been overseeing for the last two weeks, and I have been in constant contact with the department as well as getting briefings.

Today, on National Victims of Crime Day, we are looking at delivering more support to victims. We are looking at delivering more to protect those people who are victims, which is something we did not see from the Labor Party. During their time in government we saw an increase in the number of victims, and we are committed to providing more support to those victims. It is important to do that. They are Queenslanders. They are people who need that support and deserve to have that support. There is a lot of work to do in that area because of the mess the Labor Party left us. They were not looking at protecting victims; they were only looking at protecting themselves, which is disappointing. It is very disappointing. They did not listen to the victims, so there is a lot of work to do.

We are constantly educating in relation to coercive control, which is important to do. Our government is very focused on making sure we are there to help and protect those victims of coercive control. We will continue to do that work. Unfortunately, victim numbers dramatically increased under the former Labor government by 193 per cent. We know that there is work to do. We will continue to do that work. We know that the members opposite will try to play games with this, but we will continue to do the work they did not do.

(Time expired)

Victims of Crime

Mr BAROUNIS: My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. How is the Crisafulli LNP government continuing to drive down the number of victims of crime across Queensland, and is the minister aware of any approaches that saw victim numbers skyrocket during a decade of decline?

Mrs GERBER: Mr Acting Speaker—

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I warn the member for Gladstone under the standing orders.

Mrs GERBER: I thank the member for Maryborough for the question and for his strong advocacy for victims of crime in his community not only to have them better supported but also to see they get the laws they deserve. His was one of those communities that stood up against Labor's youth crime crisis. His was one of those communities that called for stronger protections for victims of crime. I am proud to say that, as a government, we are delivering on that every single day.

Today, on National Victims of Crime Day, the Attorney-General and I are introducing two nation-leading bills to better support victims of crime and give them more rights in the justice process. The Attorney-General will be expanding victim impact statements and I will be introducing better supports for victims of crime through the Victims' Advocate Service after the previous Labor government let them fall through the cracks for a decade.

Our nation-leading Victims' Advocate Service will introduce a 24/7 call centre—a one-stop shop for victims of crime. They will have a central front door so they can be supported from the start of the justice process all the way to the end. It will mean that victims will no longer be passed around between services. It will mean that victims will no longer fall through the cracks the way they did under the previous Labor government.

We have heard too many stories from victims of crime who were let down by Labor, too many stories of victims who did not get any support. One of those victims sits in this chamber today: the member for Capalaba. When his family was rocked by tragedy, he did not get the support that he deserved from the previous Labor government. In fact, he presented to one of the committees that the then Labor government set up about victim support. Did they listen when victims presented to the committee and called for more support? No, they did not. Their heads are down now because they know that they stood on the side of criminals. They know that they supported the rights of criminals over the rights of victims.

The nation-leading legislation we are introducing today will allow for more victims of crime to be supported. It will expand the number of Queenslanders who are able to access support if they become a victim of crime. Not only are we delivering more support; we are delivering the laws that are needed to prevent Queenslanders from becoming victims of crime in the first place. We know that those laws

are starting to make a change in Queensland. Queenslanders voted for change. They voted to change the approach of the previous Labor government. They did not want to go back to that. They wanted to see safety restored to their communities, and that is exactly what we are doing.

(Time expired)

DVConnect

Ms BUSH: My question is to the Acting Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Can the acting minister advise how many DVConnect Mensline calls have gone unanswered in the past 12 months?

Government members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Members to my right! Member for Theodore! I call the Acting Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services—

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Minister for Health!

Mr Power interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Logan, I do not need your assistance. I call the Acting Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Acting Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence.

Ms LEAHY: I thank the member for the question. It is interesting to have a question in relation to calls to a domestic violence service when previous Labor governments during their decade of decline left more than half the calls of victim-survivors go unanswered. Only 40 per cent of calls to the DVConnect line were answered. What we know—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Can you pause, please, Acting Minister. Members on my right, I cannot hear what the acting minister is saying. I need to hear what the acting minister is saying. You are all interjecting. Acting Minister, you have the call.

Ms LEAHY: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. It is ironic to get a question from the Labor Party about calls to DVConnect that have gone unanswered. Under Labor, only 40 per cent of calls were answered. Under the LNP, 80 per cent of the calls to DVConnect are answered.

Mrs Poole interjected.

Mrs Nightingale interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members! Please pause, Acting Minister. Member for Mundingburra and member for Inala, you are both warned under the standing orders.

Ms LEAHY: That is what happens when you acknowledge that there is a problem and you go about fixing it. That is what we have done. We put victims first under the Crisafulli government. That is what we have done. We are making sure those calls to DVConnect are answered. That rate will continue to increase because I know that Minister Camm has done the hard yards. She has done what the Labor Party did not do in 10 years. This is a real result for victim-survivors. It is particularly important to us to make sure we do put victims first.

We have also launched the new Safer Families, Safer Communities strategy, taking a whole-of-community approach to domestic and family violence. Not only are we making sure calls to DVConnect are answered; we are launching this strategy to make sure we have an emphasis on prevention and early intervention. We are doing what we said we would do: we are making victims the centre of our focus. We are making sure that happens. The work that has been happening in just under two years is more than what the Labor Party did in 10 years. I can see that. In just two years of being in government I can see the massive change that is happening and the work that is being done on things that Labor ignored. They hid behind reports. They hid behind media releases during their decade of decline.

(Time expired)

Women, Safety

Mrs STOKER: My question is to the Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism. How is the Crisafulli LNP government continuing to prioritise the safety of women right across Queensland, and is the minister aware of any policies that failed to protect Queensland's women during a decade of decline?

Ms SIMPSON: I thank the member for Oodgeroo for her question about an issue that is dear to her heart not only with regard to looking after women and their safety in her community but with regard to looking after women and their safety throughout Queensland, as the Crisafulli government is doing. Queensland women told us they wanted change when it comes to crime, and we listened to them. It seems amazing that the previous Labor operatives, the previous Labor government members, have still not learned. In fact, they still have not listened. Under them we saw an amazing and disturbing number of people not having their calls to DVConnect answered when they needed someone at the end of a phone—less than 50 per cent had their calls answered. We are fixing that. It is now up to more than 80 per cent of calls that are answered.

We are also going to keep introducing stronger laws. We have introduced stronger laws with regard to DV to bolster support for police on the front line, helping women and men who are facing situations of domestic violence. As we know, women face the brunt of domestic violence in our community. We are delivering more police to help provide that support, along with victim support, as my colleagues the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and the Attorney-General have outlined.

Let's talk about the laws that we have been changing. Stronger bail laws will ensure greater safety for women in our communities. Let's look at Labor and their pro-criminal and anti-victim track record that left women who had been raped not getting their rape kits tested—more than 600 of them were left untested when we came to government. That was a disgraceful situation where the perpetrators were walking the streets and not facing justice. Those rape kits were left untested. That is a disgrace. We have fixed that. We are moving to fix the DNA debacle that Labor left behind where victims throughout Queensland were unable to get justice because of the failure in that sector.

I want to talk about the former attorney-general the member for Waterford, Shannon Fentiman, who was both the former attorney-general and the minister for women, who never called for an inquiry or took action throughout any of the CFMEU's appalling and criminal behaviour—the thuggery, particularly against women, and the disgraceful treatment of women. She never stood up for women. No. The member for Waterford actually thanked the CFMEU in her maiden speech.

On National Victims of Crime Day and every day, the Crisafulli LNP government is going to put victims first. We stand on the side of advocating for victims, addressing and pushing against crime, ensuring we do not go back to the bad old days of Labor's pro-crime approach.

(Time expired)

Uranium

Mr KATTER: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. In the wake of the state's credit rating downgrade, will the Premier unlock the $19 billion uranium industry and join the USA in declaring uranium a critical mineral or continue Labor's ban on uranium mining and its transport?

Mr CRISAFULLI: Speaking of people who like the CFMEU, the honourable member for Traeger has also fit that bill over the years. However, I thank him for the question about critical minerals. I note what happened in the last debate about critical minerals. When the honourable member's community needed someone to stand up for them, he was not there voting in favour of that critical minerals bill. I want to place that on the record. I will also place on the record that he is a supporter of mining.

Mr Katter: That's because no-one wanted it.

Mr CRISAFULLI: You can get both praise and criticism—criticism first; praise now. The honourable member does support the mining industry. I will make that very clear, and I want to thank him for his support publicly and privately for that. Firstly, I am going to address the issue of critical minerals. On this side of the House we are invested in it. We want to see it succeed. Yesterday we saw one of the single biggest signs of confidence in what we are doing in this state—a deal brokered with EQ Resources. I know that the honourable member for Cook is most excited about it. What it can do to bolster the tungsten industry in this state is something that we should all be very proud of.

When I was in the United States—and the honourable member asked about that in the question—I confirmed that there is an appetite for Queensland's critical minerals. There is. We have 51 of the world's critical minerals. I want to focus on those that we can unite behind and that we can get unequivocal support and confidence for people to invest in. I do not want to send mixed messages. I know that those opposite have over the years. I want to know that when I walk into a room I can look those people in the eye and tell them that we can deliver the things we are talking about. We can deliver those critical minerals, and I know the opportunities for it. I see projects like Graphinex. I know the opportunities that opens up for Townsville. Overwhelmingly, we are in it to deliver for regional Queensland.

The bill that the deputy leader introduced into the House was opposed by those opposite, which shows that their heart is not in mining. I want those opposite and the honourable member for Traeger to know that I see critical minerals as the next wave of opportunity the likes of which this state has only grasped a handful of times in the last 150 years. It is the equivalent of the gold rush in the late 19th century, base metals in the mid-20th century, tourism in the eighties and the gas industry over the last couple of decades. There is a golden opportunity for critical minerals, and the honourable member's part of the world will benefit more than anywhere else—it will.

Right now I am asking the Prime Minister and the federal government to support my push to upgrade the Mount Isa to Townsville rail line. It will increase opportunities for coal and critical minerals. They are the things we can get support for; they are the things we push.

Infrastructure

Mrs KIRKLAND: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering value for taxpayers' money and generational legacy for Queensland, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any approaches that wasted taxpayer funds while failing to deliver any legacy for Queenslanders during a decade of decline?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the member for Rockhampton for a question on behalf of all regional and rural members in this House. If we are talking about infrastructure then we are talking about all of Queensland—a $119 billion infrastructure spend by the Crisafulli government over the next four years, a record spend in infrastructure right across the state. I know that the member for Rockhampton has a particular interest in one infrastructure item in her electorate. One would be forgiven if one were thinking road, rail—

Government members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the numerous interjections. Whether it is a new hospital, new TAFE, CQ University or the Residential Activation Fund—whatever it is, Central Queensland is blessed by the Crisafulli government members because they are constantly delivering. This is all at risk if the Labor Party get their hands on the treasury benches again.

They let the cat out of the bag yesterday. If elected, they will return to 1,200 days of Olympic and Paralympic chaos. That is what they said yesterday. The Labor Party will can rowing on the Fitzroy River. The member for Gladstone cast doubt on rowing in Rockhampton and said that he is not confident it will ever happen. The member for Ferny Grove muddied the waters, calling rowing in Rockhampton a shambles. Time and again Labor members have called into question rowing in Central Queensland and Rockhampton. 'Schwarto', the leader of the Labor Party in Central Queensland, said that he does not want it in Rockhampton. Schwarto talks for the Labor Party in Rockhampton. Through the Leader of the Opposition they gave him the message to reject regional Queensland—do not have rowing.

That is not the case on this side of the House. We believe in regional Queensland. There are no ifs, ands or buts: regional Queensland must gain attention and infrastructure from the Olympic and Paralympic Games. These are the Queensland games. This government believes in regional Queensland. When regional Queensland is up against a wall, it powers on and fights. I thank the member for Rockhampton and all regional members. Whether it is—

Mr Barounis interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Yes, I know, member for Maryborough. Whether it is that, the Redlands Whitewater Centre, equestrian events, archery or sailing, we are delivering the Olympic and Paralympic Games right across Queensland.

(Time expired)

Domestic and Family Violence

Ms PEASE: My question is to the Acting Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. The Domestic and Family Violence Strategy says that it will drive reform across four domains. Can the acting minister please advise what the four domains are?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members! Member for Miller and member for Clayfield, we will have silence before I call the Acting Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, member for Currumbin!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Members, the quarrelling across the chamber must cease.

Ms LEAHY: I thank the member for the question. I have had a chance to have a look at the articles that have been tabled by the opposition. In relation to domestic and family violence, the government is delivering on reforms to support more victims and more victims sooner. When we look at the Labor Party's poor record over the last 10 years, it is so critically important that we do that. We certainly are a victim-centric government and we are investing in programs to put victim-survivors first and to hold perpetrators to account. You can see that from the laws we have introduced into this House in relation to Adult Crime, Adult Time and other laws in relation to bail reform that are before the House.

There is an interesting quote here in one of the articles which says that Labor did not listen to victims in the sector. The Crisafulli government's domestic and family violence reform advisory panel has been established and is operational. I know that the minister has been meeting with them. If members opposite had bothered to look at the minister's diary they would see that.

The opposition is not happy about their record in this area because they know it will be pointed out. They know that they had issues around the DVConnect phone line. They know that seriously impacts victim-survivors and victims, particularly in rural and regional areas, whose only way of getting help is through that phone line, particularly in very isolated communities. They know that they have a very poor record, but they also know that we are doing the work. We are doing the work to fix the broken systems they have left us. In the two weeks I have been the acting minister I have been able to see Minister Camm's work. I can see the contrast between what the LNP government is doing and the decade of decline under the Labor Party. They did not care about victims and they were not interested. Their record on domestic and family violence was a 218 per cent increase in incidents—

(Time expired)

Olympic and Paralympic Games

Mr HUTTON: My question is to the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Can the minister update the House on the preparations for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and is the minister aware of any approaches that threatened the long-term legacy of the games during a decade of decline?

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I call the minister for one minute.

Mr MANDER: I am thankful to have a question from another regional member who values the games not just for the six weeks but for the legacy it will leave his region and people all over Queensland. Not only do we have commitments in the member for Keppel's seat; we have another 118 commitments in our Games On! program right across the state where our community infrastructure will benefit and local sporting organisations will last for a long time yet.

At the elite level we have the National Aquatic Centre. Those opposite asked us who asked for the National Aquatic Centre. I will tell those opposite who asked for it: Swimming Australia asked for it, Cam McEvoy asked for it, Ariarne Titmus asked for it and Cate Campbell asked for it. All of those people asked for it because they want a legacy. They do not want a drop-in pool. They want a legacy, and there will be no greater legacy than the National Aquatic Centre. We are not going to have a temporary stadium out at QSAC. We are going to have a 63,000-seat stadium at Victoria Park.

(Time expired)

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: The time for question time has expired. Before I call the honourable Attorney, I will ask members leaving after question time to do so quickly, quietly and efficiently and we will proceed with the business of the day.

JUSTICE LEGISLATION (STRENGTHENING VICTIMS' RIGHTS) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (3.49 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Coroners Act 2003, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Justice Legislation (Strengthening Victims' Rights) Amendment Bill 2026 [1632].

Tabled paper: Justice Legislation (Strengthening Victims' Rights) Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes [1633].

Tabled paper: Justice Legislation (Strengthening Victims' Rights) Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights [1634].

I am pleased to introduce the Justice Legislation (Strengthening Victims' Rights) Amendment Bill 2026. The Crisafulli government is making Queensland safer with stronger laws, more police, early intervention and rehabilitation, and faster and better access to justice. There is much still to do, but new independent ABS data shows that, after Labor's soft-on-crime decade of decline, we are restoring community confidence, with more than 12,000 fewer victims of crime across Queensland in 2025.

We have replaced Labor's weak youth crime laws with strong youth crime laws: Adult Crime, Adult Time, which is handing down major consequences for 45 youth crime offences; and Breach Bail, Go to Jail, which is targeting serious repeat youth and adult offenders in legislation currently before the House. It is hard to comprehend why those opposite stood by and failed victims, but fail them they did. With light-touch ideology that made detention a last resort and the removal of breach of bail as an offence, victim numbers exploded by 193 per cent.

Today is National Victims of Crime Day, and this bill from the Crisafulli government marks another important step in repairing Labor's damage and taking serious crime seriously, by giving victims more opportunity to be heard in sentencing courts through a strengthening of the victim impact statement regime. We know from listening to the experiences of Queenslanders that a criminal violation can affect the course of many lives: one crime but many victims, including family, friends, communities as well as those who are direct witnesses to the crime itself. This private turmoil is often opened to the public spotlight of the courtroom, where many victims should, and do, have the right to express the toll as part of the sentencing process for offenders.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Marr): Excuse me, Attorney-General. There is a lot of chatter going on in the chamber. I ask members to take it outside or keep it down.

Mr Barounis interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I know that the member for Maryborough is very passionate about victims of crime on National Victims of Crime Day.

Currently, via a victim impact statement, the sentencing court must have regard to the harm done to, or impact of the offence on, the victim. However, the Crisafulli government is backing in victims with an even stronger victim impact statement regime. We do this because victims of crime can experience physical, emotional, psychological and financial impacts, and many continue to live with them long after an offender has been sentenced. We do this because a justice system that genuinely serves the community must acknowledge these outcomes and provide meaningful opportunities for victims to participate in and understand the processes that have affected them. We do this because we have listened to victims.

Ms Scanlon interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council's *Sentencing of sexual assault and rape: the ripple effect* report identified strong dissatisfaction from victim-survivors and community members with the current framework for providing a victim impact statement. This bill implements recommendation 21 of the *Ripple effect* report, which called for a holistic review of the victim impact statement regime under the Penalties and Sentences Act.

It is disappointing to hear the shadow attorney-general express dismay at why we would want to strengthen the victim impact statement regime in Queensland. It is disappointing but not surprising.

Ms SCANLON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and ask the Attorney-General to withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Attorney-General, would you withdraw, please?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. The bill has been informed by the council's consultations as well as further consultation by the Department of Justice with victims and legal stakeholders.

Ms Scanlon interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I know that the opposition is against the expansion of rights for victims. It is disappointing to hear the interjections I am getting about the introduction of a bill on National Victims of Crime Day, about something that is strengthening victims in our courts. It never ceases to amaze me that, when we introduce bills in this House, we hear sniping from the sidelines by those opposite, who like to diminish victims of crime in this state.

I will say it again. The bill has been informed by the council's consultations as well as further consultation by the Department of Justice with victims and legal stakeholders. This has helped clarify how certain types of offending can fracture communities—whether that be the community in general or a particular section of or group of people within the community. The bill also enables the Victims' Commissioner in limited circumstances to prepare a community impact statement to inform the sentencing court about harm caused, or likely to be caused, to an affected community.

Finally, it contains a separate amendment to the Coroners Act that better responds to the needs of family members facing a coronial investigation or inquest into the death of a loved one. I have listened to victims and heard from those who support victims as they prepare their victim impact statements. Victims and their families have repeatedly told us that they want to be seen, respected and kept informed, and that they deserve a justice system that recognises the profound impact of crime on their lives. I will now go through the amendments as proposed.

The bill amends the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 to provide a strengthened, trauma informed framework for victims to provide a victim impact statement as part of a sentencing proceeding. The bill broadens the purpose of a victim impact statement to expressly recognise its therapeutic benefit for victims. This is in addition to its existing purpose of informing the sentencing court of details of harm. Acknowledging the therapeutic benefits, a victim impact statement encourages healing for victims when they are freely permitted to express their story to the court in their own words. Practically, this amendment underpins new protections within other amendments to the Penalties and Sentences Act.

The bill expands the scope of offences for which a victim impact statement may be provided. Currently, the legislation limits victim impact statements to offences against the person and domestic violence offences. The bill broadens this framework to apply to all indictable offences and any offence, whether summary or indictable, that results in the death of, or bodily harm to, a person.

Importantly, the reforms will capture a wider range of serious offending, including property offences such as burglary and arson, fraud offences, unlawful use of a motor vehicle, and offences of possessing, distributing or administering child exploitation material under the Criminal Code. These offences can have, and do have, enduring impacts on victims, which should appropriately be brought to the attention of the court at sentence. This expanded approach recognises that victims can suffer significant emotional, psychological, financial and social harm as a result of a spectrum of criminal conduct.

Currently, a primary victim, a family member or dependant, or a person intervening in a crime can provide a victim impact statement. The bill creates a new definition of who is a victim for the purpose of providing victim impact statements in sentencing proceedings and builds on the existing definition. In particular, the bill expands the categories of people who may provide a victim impact statement to recognise—and I will state them for those opposite—

Mrs Gerber: Hence the definition of 'victim' expands it.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection from the victims minister because this is a very important point. I am going to say it again. This bill expands the categories of people who may provide a victim impact statement to recognise—and I will state it again—other family members such as grandparent and stepchild; those who share a close personal relationship with a victim; and,

importantly, a witness to a crime. These amendments recognise modern family and community arrangements, permit more victims to provide a victim impact statement, and allow the law to better reflect the real and sometimes far-reaching consequences of crime.

In addition, the bill broadens the circumstances in which a person may make a victim impact statement on behalf of a victim. Currently, another person may give a victim impact statement on behalf of a victim only where the victim is unable to do so because of age or impaired capacity. The bill expands these provisions to allow another person to provide a victim impact statement on a victim's behalf if the court considers it appropriate. Collectively, these reforms better recognise the diverse ways in which crime impacts individuals, allow more victims to have their voices heard during the sentencing process and provide greater flexibility to accommodate the diverse needs and circumstances of victims who want to provide a victim impact statement.

A key reform contained in the bill is the removal of the requirement for prosecutors to redact or edit a victim impact statement prior to tendering to the court. Legislation currently requires prosecutors to consider what details of harm in a victim impact statement are appropriate to provide to the court. This has created a practice where prosecutors redact or edit the content of a victim impact statement, following consultations with defence lawyers, before they are provided to the court.

I have heard from victims of their distress and retraumatisation when deeply personal accounts of harm are edited. The Crisafulli government has listened, and this bill recognises the importance of ensuring victims may describe the impact that offending has had on them personally. Accordingly, the bill removes the requirement for prosecutors to redact or edit a victim impact statement before it is tendered to the court. This does not mean removing appropriate legal safeguards.

There will be a limited discretion for the prosecutor to remove any content that is offensive, harassing, intimidating or threatening. The bill expressly provides that the court must not refuse a statement if it contains irrelevant or inadmissible material. However, consistent with current practice, the court is only required to consider relevant material in a victim impact statement for the purposes of sentencing. These amendments strike an appropriate balance by empowering victims with the autonomy to determine how their harm is presented to the court—within a sentencing context and legal process.

The bill also introduces important safeguards around the cross-examination of victims on their victim impact statements. The prospect of interrogation over personal impacts of offending can be distressing and potentially retraumatising. To acknowledge this, the bill expressly limits the circumstances in which a victim may be cross-examined on their victim impact statement. These provisions reinforce the purpose of a victim impact statement as a mechanism through which victims can communicate the effects of the offence on their lives, rather than becoming the subject of unnecessary challenge or scrutiny during sentencing proceedings. The bill includes a requirement that if cross-examination is permitted the court must make arrangements to protect the victim from unnecessary trauma, distress or intimidation.

The bill also clarifies process by making it clear that a victim impact statement may be provided to the prosecutor for the purpose of tendering the statement during sentencing proceedings. Recognising that victims may require time to prepare a statement that accurately reflects the full impact of the offending, the bill also expressly empowers courts to adjourn proceedings to allow a victim to provide a victim impact statement.

As well, the bill expands the ways in which a victim impact statement may be presented to the sentencing court to include a prerecorded audio or audiovisual recording of the statement. Victims will thus be provided with greater flexibility and choice in how they communicate the impact of the offence. The use of recorded statements may help to reduce the stress and anxiety accompanying court attendance and assist victims who live in remote locations, have health concerns or otherwise face challenges participating in person. Further, these reforms provide the ability for victims to nominate a person to read their victim impact statement to the court. This amendment recognises that some victims may wish for their experiences to be conveyed to the sentencing court but may not be able to read the statement personally.

The bill introduces a new mechanism to ensure sentencing courts are aware of the broader harm that certain offending can inflict on communities. This work has been informed by the experience of South Australia, which also has a community impact statement model. Specifically, the bill provides for the Victims' Commissioner to prepare and provide a community impact statement to inform the sentencing court about harm caused by particular offences to an affected community. The bill initially provides for community impact statements to be available in relation to offences involving serious

vilification and prohibited symbols and child exploitation material related offences. These offences have been selected because they are capable of causing widespread harm that may be experienced across entire communities or groups of people.

The bill also provides an ability to extend it to other offences through regulation over time. This measured approach will allow the government to evaluate the operation and utility of community impact statements in practice before considering whether they should apply more broadly across the criminal justice system.

Under the bill, the Victims' Commissioner will be able to consult with relevant stakeholders such as police or a representative of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions; seek community submissions; and gather research, expert analysis and data to inform the community impact statement. The approach ensures that community impact statements are informed by a broad range of evidence and perspectives and are capable of providing courts with meaningful information about the nature and extent of the harm caused by particular offending.

A community impact statement may include unique features or emerging trends in offending and will give a voice to victims who may otherwise not be represented in the justice process. This is especially relevant in relation to offences such as child exploitation material offences where individual victims may not be identifiable or are located outside Queensland or Australia.

The introduction of community impact statements represents another major step in the government's commitment to strengthening victims' rights and ensuring the voices of those affected by crime, whether individually or collectively, are heard. It provides an innovative and evidence-based mechanism to recognise community harm and further supports the bill's overarching objective of placing the experiences of victims at the centre of the administration of justice.

Given the significance of the reforms to the victim impact statement framework, the bill provides for these amendments to commence on proclamation. This will allow sufficient time for the establishment of the necessary support arrangements and services for victims, including the implementation of the Victims' Advocate Service that is being led by the minister and the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support. The Crisafulli government is committed to not only strengthening victim rights but also ensuring that these reforms operate effectively in practice. For that reason, the bill mandates a statutory review within two years of commencement to assess how the amendments are operating.

I now turn to the Coroners Act amendments. Coronial investigations, particularly inquests, may be a difficult and retraumatising experience for family members. Staying informed about key developments in a coronial matter helps family members understand the process, access information and feel respected while seeking answers about the death of their loved one. Providing clear communication and appropriate support promotes fairness, transparency and trust in the coronial system. To strengthen communication with families, the bill introduces a requirement for reasonable steps to be taken, as soon as reasonably practicable, to notify a family member of the deceased person when a decision or order is made to hold an inquest or reopen an inquest or investigation.

The bill I am introducing today continues the Crisafulli government's commitment to prioritising the voices of victims and ensuring their ordeals of harm are heard, acknowledged and respected. In summary, the bill creates a dual purpose that, as well as the purpose of informing the court about harm to the victim from an offence, now also recognises the therapeutic benefit for victims having the opportunity to provide a victim impact statement; expands the scope of offences for which a person may provide a victim impact statement to include all indictable offences and summary offences which result in death or bodily harm; expands the definition of who is a victim for the purposes of preparing a victim impact statement to include, for example, a witness to an offence; expands the scope of who may provide a victim impact statement on behalf of a victim; removes the requirement to redact or edit a victim impact statement prior to its use as part of sentencing proceedings, except for a limited ability to remove details of harm that are offensive, threatening, intimidating or harassing; provides that a victim impact statement is permitted to be given to a prosecutor for the purpose of a sentence proceeding to avoid early disclosure of a victim impact statement in the trial phase; clarifies the court's power to adjourn sentencing proceedings to provide more time for victims to prepare a victim impact statement; limits when cross-examination of a victim on their victim impact statement during sentencing may occur; expands options for how a victim impact statement may be presented to the court; allows, for certain offences, the Victims' Commissioner to prepare a community impact statement to apprise the sentencing court of harm caused to an affected community; and enhances connections between the Coroners Court and the bereaved Queenslanders that it serves.

Holding offenders to account means taking a measure of their crimes through the eyes and hearts of those they have harmed. While there is more to do, the Crisafulli government is making Queensland safer with tougher penalties for law-breakers, bolstered parole laws and a stronger, more inclusive victim impact statement regime that recognises and supports those who have suffered harm. We are reversing the trend of spiralling crime under Labor's decade of decline. We are creating faster and better access to justice for victims, with trauma informed transparency at the crucial sentencing juncture. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (4.13 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

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

VICTIMS OF CRIME ASSISTANCE (VICTIMS' ADVOCATE SERVICE) AMENDMENT BILL

Message from Governor

Hon. LJ GERBER (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (4.14 pm): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Marr): The message from Her Excellency the Governor recommends the Victims of Crime Assistance (Victims' Advocate Service) 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

VICTIMS OF CRIME ASSISTANCE (VICTIMS' ADVOCATE SERVICE) 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 Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009

GOVERNOR

Date: 16 September 2026

Tabled paper: Message, dated 16 September 2026, from Her Excellency the Governor recommending the Victims of Crime Assistance (Victims' Advocate Service) Amendment Bill 2026 [1635].

Introduction

Hon. LJ GERBER (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (4.14 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Victims of Crime Assistance (Victims' Advocate Service) Amendment Bill 2026 [1636].

Tabled paper: Victims of Crime Assistance (Victims' Advocate Service) Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes [1637].

Tabled paper: Victims of Crime Assistance (Victims' Advocate Service) Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights [1638].

Today is National Victims of Crime Day—a really significant day to recognise Queenslanders whose lives have been changed by crime, to hear their voices and to reaffirm the Crisafulli government's commitment to putting victims first. Therefore, it is a particular honour to rise today to introduce this

significant reform that will put victims at the heart of the justice system. The Victims of Crime (Victims' Advocate Service) Amendment Bill 2026 supports the delivery of the Crisafulli government's nation-leading Victims' Advocate Service—a dedicated one-stop shop to ensure Queenslanders impacted by crime get the support they need when they need it most. There could not be a more fitting day to introduce this bill, because today is about recognising victims, it is about hearing victims and it is about ensuring our justice system actually works for victims.

For 10 years under the former Labor government it did not. Victim numbers skyrocketed by 193 per cent while countless victims were left in the dark, falling through the cracks of the justice system without the support and the assistance they deserved. Under the former Labor government we heard from families who had experienced unimaginable loss and then found themselves fighting just to get information and support. They were passed from agency to agency in the aftermath of tragedy. We heard from victims who marched outside this parliament because they felt ignored and unheard. We also heard from victims who gave evidence to inquiries and committees in the hope that the system might be better for the person who came after them. For years their pleas fell on deaf ears. That is why, before the election, we committed to establish the Victims' Advocate Service. We promised a fresh start for victims of crime after Labor's decade of decline—a one-stop shop that would give victims someone in their corner, someone who could explain what happens next, connect them with the right support and help them find their way through the process. Queenslanders voted for that change, and the Crisafulli government is delivering it, because victims and their families have been calling out for this change.

The member for Capalaba knows all too well why that change is needed. Before being elected to this place he made a submission to the previous Labor government in which he stated—

> Neither my wife or myself have worked since the deaths of our son, partner and unborn child on Australia Day, 2021. We have had limited counselling, and still struggle everyday, more than 2 years after the event ... It appears more support is available for the perpetrators than what is available for victims. This needs to change.

Those were the words of a grieving father pleading with the previous Labor government for change, yet the gaps remained. Sadly, the member for Capalaba and his family were not alone. Cindy Micallef stood outside this building following the death of her mother, Vyleen White, and called on the previous government to listen. She said, 'We need victims to be heard.' Alongside her was Graeme Kimball, whose son had been killed in a crash involving an unregistered 17-year-old driver. Graeme spoke about his family's experience after that tragedy, including the fact that it took nine months before they were connected with support—nine months. Cindy and Graeme were not alone. Victims and their families stood outside this parliament calling for change because, after years of inquiries and reviews, they were still not being heard and had no action from the previous Labor government whatsoever. That day, my LNP colleagues and I thanked every victim who came to parliament to make their voice heard and I told them, 'We are listening to you, and we will act,' and we meant it. During Labor's decade of decline not only did victim numbers skyrocket by 193 per cent but also car thefts increased by 101 per cent, break-ins increased by 44 per cent and assaults increased by a staggering 198 per cent. Those figures represent Queenslanders dealing with the real consequences of Labor's crime crisis.

Labor weakened Queensland's youth justice laws, made detention a last resort and removed breach of bail as an offence. All this led to the number of serious repeat offenders increasing and more Queenslanders becoming victims of crime. Labor left victims without the support they needed to help them navigate the justice system. Labor's failure to act has meant hundreds of thousands of Queenslanders having to deal with the consequences of crime. For many, there is a long road ahead—from police investigations to court proceedings, applications for financial assistance, contact with support organisations and updates about an offender. That is why victims should not be left walking the path alone.

When Queenslanders did become victims, too many were left to walk the path alone under Labor. They were left trying to work out what came next, whom to call, where to get information and what support was available. The Crisafulli government promised a different approach. We promised stronger laws, more police, early intervention and rehabilitation. We promised to restore safety where Queenslanders live, ensuring fewer victims of crime, and to put the rights of victims ahead of the rights of offenders. The Victims' Advocate Service is a key part of the Crisafulli government's approach to delivering the practical support victims have been calling for that the previous Labor government failed to provide.

The Victims' Advocate Service has been developed following extensive consultation with victims, victim support groups and stakeholders. We have hosted round tables across the state, listening to Queenslanders about their experiences and what is important to them, to make sure this service meets

the needs of victims and addresses the current gaps in the system. That process began with a round table in Brisbane in February 2025, followed by further consultation with Queensland and national commissioners in March and regional consultations in Cairns in July last year. We have since taken the consultation round tables across the state—to Townsville, Logan, Emerald, Rockhampton, Mackay, the Sunshine Coast, Bundaberg, Maryborough, Hervey Bay, Toowoomba, Ipswich, the Gold Coast and Mount Isa. What we have heard from these round tables and forums has been central to the development of this Victims' Advocate Service.

Victims who have gone through the justice process understand better than anyone where the system can get them down. They know how difficult it can be to find the right service, how frustrating it can be to have to chase information and fill out forms when they are trying to grieve or process what has happened to them—

Mr Minnikin: And navigate the silos.

Mrs GERBER: I take the interjection; they know all about the different government department silos that have let them down. They know how distressing it can be to repeat their story simply because different parts of government are not working together.

During that consultation we heard from over 600 people including victims of crime, friends and family members of victims, victim advocates, Queensland community members and more than 150 organisations, agencies and service delivery areas supporting victims of crime. Through the public survey and regional round tables, participants called for better communication between services and clearer pathways and said that having support available outside ordinary business hours is crucial. We also heard strong support for one front door for victims, with a clear referral pathway, practical guidance and better information sharing between agencies. Those voices have directly shaped the service we are introducing today with this bill. That is what this reform is all about: making the system easier for victims to navigate and making sure Queenslanders impacted by crime are not left alone to work their way through a complex system on their own.

The Crisafulli government's Victims' Advocate Service will be a dedicated one-stop shop, providing targeted and comprehensive support through the entire justice process. It will launch later this year and include a central online hub and a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week call centre. The website will provide clear information about a victim's rights, the justice process and available support, as well as tools to help victims find the right service. The service will operate as the central front door for victim support in Queensland. It will help victims navigate the justice system, coordinate services across government and reduce the number of times victims are required to repeat their story.

When a victim contacts the service, staff will be able to access their needs, provide advice and connect them with existing support services. That might mean helping a victim seek an update about their case, understand how to access financial assistance, or connect with a service that can support them through the justice process. Importantly—and this goes to what the Premier said this morning; it goes directly to the questions asked by those opposite today—the Victims' Advocate Service will support a broader range of victims. In addition to supporting those recognised as victims under the Victims of Crime Assistance Act, the service will support victims whose property has been stolen, damaged or destroyed because of an offence. This expands the definition of victims and ensures more Queenslanders will be able to access victim support. This government stands on the side of victims.

Some victims will need significant support over a long period of time. Others may need to know what happens next, whom they need to speak to or where they can find help. Each of these victims will finally have a place to turn. The service will also securely record relevant information about a victim's needs, referrals and interactions with the Victims' Advocate Service, helping to reduce the number of times victims have to start again or repeat their story as they move through the system.

Victims' Advocate Service liaison officers will be embedded across various government agencies to help resolve more complex issues, access information and better support victims, breaking down those departmental silos that existed under the previous Labor government. Importantly, the Victims' Advocate Service will not replace the specialist victim support services that already operate across Queensland. Those organisations do incredibly important work. Instead, it will help victims navigate the complex system—including with those services—and make it easier for them to access the support they need.

I acknowledge the Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business and his department for their work as part of the whole-of-government effort to develop and deliver this service. A genuine central front door requires different parts of government to work together, and the minister and his department have brought an important focus to making the service simpler and easier for Queenslanders to access. I thank them for their work in helping us get the Victims' Advocate Service to this point.

That whole-of-government approach leads directly to the purpose of this bill. I want to make the role of this bill very clear. The Victims' Advocate Service is a reform we are delivering for victims. This bill helps make that reform work across government. Right now, relevant information can be held by different parts of government. When those agencies do not talk to each other, the burden falls back on the victim. That can mean another phone call, another referral, another request for information, another time the victim has to explain what happened to them, and more forms to fill out when they just want to move on or grieve. The Victims' Advocate Service must be able to work across government to break down those barriers. This bill makes that possible by providing the enabling provisions needed for information sharing, breaking down the silos between agencies and allowing better coordination of support around the needs of victims. This bill also provides clear safeguards around consent, privacy and how information is handled.

The bill amends the act in three ways. First, it establishes functions for the chief executive of victim support in relation to the Victims' Advocate Service. Second, it enables the information sharing needed to deliver the service, allowing the service to seek and coordinate relevant information across government with the victim's consent. Third, it ensures confidential information is protected and sets out who can access information through the Victims' Advocate Service.

The bill also recognises that victims may wish to nominate a trusted third party as an eligible person to access the Victims' Advocate Service on their behalf, helping to reduce the burden on them. This could be a family member, a support person, an organisation or another person who already has legal authority to act on the victim's behalf. Importantly, the victim remains in control: they can change or withdraw that nomination at any time, and existing safeguards for the disclosure of confidential information will continue to apply. This is another practical way this bill makes the system work around the needs of victims rather than expecting the victim to work around the system. That is what the Victims' Advocate Service is about: making government work better for victims, making it easier to access help and making sure that victims do not have to navigate the system alone.

The Victims' Advocate Service continues the Crisafulli government's work to put victims first and deliver more support than ever before for victims of crime. We are delivering a record $458 million over five years to support victims of crime and have made the Victims of Crime Community Response program statewide. We introduced Adult Crime, Adult Time and are now building on its success with Breach Bail, Go to Jail. We opened the Childrens Court to victims, their families and the media, strengthened sentencing laws to better recognise the harm caused to victims and, following our independent review of the Parole Board, we are strengthening victims' rights throughout the parole process. We have strengthened the rights and support available to victims at every stage and now the Victims' Advocate Service will bring that support together, giving Queenslanders impacted by crime one clear place to turn to from the beginning of the process through to the end. That is what putting victims first looks like.

With these reforms we are restoring consequences for actions, ensuring the rights of victims are put ahead of the rights of offenders and restoring safety where Queenslanders live. Putting victims first also means doing everything we can to stop Queenslanders from becoming victims of crime in the first place. We know we still have a long way to go to bring down victim numbers after they increased by 193 per cent under the previous Labor government, but we are seeing positive signs that we are starting to turn the tide with the latest independent police data showing victim numbers have fallen by 9.6 per cent. Further independent data from the Insurance Council backs that up, as well as data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics demonstrating victim numbers are falling. All of that means that after years of going in the wrong direction we are starting to see crime decrease. We will not stop delivering strong laws, backing our police and investing in early intervention and rehabilitation to continue to drive down the number of Queenslanders who fall victim to crime in this state.

Today, on National Victims of Crime Day, the Crisafulli government reaffirms its commitment to putting victims at the heart of our systems, to putting the rights of victims first and ensuring victims impacted by crime have the support they deserve. That means ensuring victims know where to turn, can access the support they need and are not left to work out what comes next on their own. That is

what the Victims' Advocate Service will deliver. For some victims it will mean having someone to call when they do not know what happens next. For others it will mean being connected with specialist support, getting help to find the information they need or simply knowing there is someone in their corner at an incredibly difficult time. The Crisafulli government listened to victims and their advocates. We took this Victims' Advocate Service commitment to the 2024 state election. Queenslanders voted for it; now we are delivering it. After a decade under Labor where victims were left too often without the support they deserved, the Victims' Advocate Service will put victims first and deliver more support than ever before for victims of crime.

First Reading

Hon. LJ GERBER (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (4.31 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

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

YOUTH JUSTICE (CIRCUIT BREAKER) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 15 September (see p. 2841), on motion of Mrs Gerber—

That the bill be now read a second time.



Ms McMILLAN (Mansfield—ALP) (4.32 pm), continuing: The National Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People warned—

Connection to family, community, culture and Country is fundamental to the identity, wellbeing and development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children…

and, importantly—

For many children, rehabilitation depends on strengthening these connections, not removing them.

They recommended not removing them from country nor community, yet this bill contains no specific requirement for culturally safe service delivery. That is particularly concerning given the overrepresentation of First Nations children in Queensland's youth justice system.

There are also concerns about children with disability, neurodivergence, cognitive impairment, FASD, learning needs, communication needs and mental health concerns. The Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak rightly points out that these children face heightened risks in restrictive residential environments. The bill does not expressly require suitability reports to assess those disability, neurodevelopmental, communication, therapeutic or health related needs. That is a significant omission.

We have seen this before. Multiple stakeholders have drawn direct comparisons between Circuit Breaker and the LNP's former boot camp model. The KPMG evaluation of the Newman-era youth boot camps found limited evidence that the program reduced recidivism. It reported reoffending rates as high as 86 per cent. Additionally, the report highlighted that the need for ongoing support for young people when they are released back to their home environments was a key factor in the high reoffending rates. PeakCare has asked the question that this government should have answered before introducing this bill—

… how has the proposed Circuit Breaker Program been designed differently to address the lessons identified through Queensland's previous experience?

That is the question: how has it been designed differently? Queensland cannot afford to repeat the same mistakes with another generation of children.

The government's responsibility does not end when a child enters a Circuit Breaker facility. In fact, the government's responsibility begins there. If the government is serious about rehabilitation, then children need evidence-based, trauma informed, specialist intervention, family and community connection, culturally safe services, proper disability and health assessment, safe facilities and genuine transition support.

Furthermore, there is overwhelming evidence that removing children from their family is not acceptable. It is absolutely imperative that families receive intervention and support in order to support their young child. They need independent oversight and they need a system where there is no reasonable excuse for failing to protect them from harm. The Labor opposition believes community safety matters, but community safety cannot be achieved by putting children in harm's way for the sake of manipulating community perception or selling a slogan reflecting populist right-wing policy. We need to learn from the failures of the past, not rehearse them. When it comes to the safety of children in the care of the state, getting it wrong is not an acceptable outcome.

There is little evidence provided that harm minimisation is being appropriately considered in the bill or in the relevant tender documentation. Further, there is little evidence that Circuit Breaker facilities, otherwise known as boot camps, reduce recidivism. There is little evidence that Circuit Breaker facilities will make communities safer. Therefore, the Labor opposition has significant concerns with this bill.


Mrs POOLE (Mundingburra—LNP) (4.37 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Youth Justice (Circuit Breaker) Amendment Bill 2026. Following on from the member for Mansfield and the comment that it is important that we learn from the failures of the past, I have to say I absolutely agree with that. We need to strengthen, not weaken, the laws. We must learn from the failures of the former Labor government.

I rise to speak in support of the bill not only as the member of Mundingburra but also as the Assistant Minister for Community Safety and someone who spent 28 years as a police officer working in my home town of Townsville working in the community and working in the child protection unit. During that time I saw young people at almost every point of the youth justice system. I have seen young people beginning to make poor choices and I have seen those who have become entrenched in offending. Importantly, I have seen young people who, with the right intervention, the right people around them and something meaningful to work towards, change the trajectory of their life. That is why I strongly believe there are two things that we must be capable of doing at the same time: we must hold offenders accountable for their actions and we must intervene early enough and effectively. Those two things are not mutually exclusive, they go hand and hand, and that is what this bill is about.

Circuit Breaker delivers on another commitment of the Crisafulli government, backed by an $80 million investment over four years, to establish the programs in northern and southern Queensland for up to 60 youth offenders. It gives our courts another option. It is a balance between a community-based order and detention for young offenders whose trajectory tells us that something significant has to change.

Circuit Breaker is not detention by another name. It is not a soft option. It is a court ordered intensive residential intervention. A young person can be ordered into Circuit Breaker for between three and six months or it can be imposed as a condition of bail where the court determines that the young person would otherwise have been remanded in custody. Participants will be required to live at the Circuit Breaker site. They cannot simply go and come as they please. They must participate in the program and directed activities, comply with directions, wear an electronic device and not commit another offence. If they fail to comply, there will be consequences. The court can vary or extend an order or discharge it and resentence the young person. Where appropriate, that can ultimately mean detention. This is accountability.

I am particularly passionate about our government's investment in early intervention, crime prevention and rehabilitation. We are investing $560 million to stop crime before it starts, to turn young lives around and to make Queensland safer. There is not one single answer to youth crime. Adult Crime, Adult Time matters, consequences matter, breach of bail matters and detention matters where detention is appropriate, but early intervention matters too and rehabilitation must have purpose. For me, these words are incredibly important: 'rehabilitation with purpose'. It has to be about changing behaviour, building skills, creating discipline and giving a young person a reason to see their future differently, and this brings us back to the Circuit Breaker model.

Young people will be removed from the negative influences and environments contributing to their offending and placed into a structured program with strict daily routines, hands-on learning, education, life skills, positive behaviour programs and pathways into vocational training and

employment. When that program finishes, the work does not simply stop. Through Staying on Track, those young people can continue to be supported in education, training, employment and other services as they reintegrate into their communities. That is what rehabilitation with purpose is all about. I have seen examples of that already in my electorate of Mundingburra. Gudjuda Rangers is one example that immediately comes to mind. It is an intervention program where young people have the opportunity to connect with culture, country, responsibility, practical skills and strong role models that give them something positive to belong to and something positive to work towards.

This matters because sometimes changing the trajectory of a young person's life starts with changing the environment around them and introducing them to people who expect something better from them. In my electorate of Mundingburra, I think about the Silver Lining Foundation and the importance of alternative education pathways for young people for whom mainstream education may not have worked. Education looks different for every single person and it is much more than just sitting behind a desk. For some of our young people, success comes from someone who finds a different way to engage with them, gives them structure, builds their confidence, believes in them and helps them discover that they actually can achieve something. That purposeful intervention and rehabilitation is what it is all about.

During the committee process, we heard that same message from people who work directly with young people and, importantly, from the victims themselves. The Victims' Commissioner told the committee that victims of youth crime want a greater focus on initiatives that prevent crime and provide long-term rehabilitation for young offenders. That is a really incredible and important perspective because effective rehabilitation is about victims as well. It is about one less stolen car, one less home broken into, one less business being targeted.

Our first obligation is to Queenslanders who obey the law. Today, on National Victims of Crime Day, this could not be more true. Our government will always put victims first—the victims whose homes have been entered, whose cars have been stolen, whose businesses have been targeted and whose sense of safety has been stolen from them. The best outcome for Queensland is not simply dealing with one offender after another when crime has occurred. The best outcome is preventing that next crime from happening in the first place.

For a decade, the former Labor government weakened Queensland's youth justice laws. They removed breach of bail as an offence and they made detention a last resort. Queensland saw the number of repeat serious offenders grow. In my home town, the epicentre of the youth crime crisis, we saw victim numbers rise 193 per cent under the former Labor government during their decade of decline. In that decade, in Townsville the number of break and enters rose 150 per cent and stolen car offences rose 199 per cent. By September 2024, the reoffending rate for young people leaving the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre was 96 per cent. A 96 per cent reoffending rate is not rehabilitation; it is a revolving door.

We came to government determined to change that and we have. Under Adult Crime, Adult Time laws, more than 4,000 young people have been charged with more than 19,000 offences. Victim numbers are already down 9.6 per cent across the state and in Townsville it is 17 per cent. Serious repeat offender numbers are down 29 per cent. We are investing in prevention, early intervention and rehabilitation, and when a young person commits a serious crime we are making sure there are consequences for their actions. However, we have not stopped.

Unlike those opposite, when we are asked about our plan we are able to tell people that we will always put victims first and there will be consequences for actions. When those opposite were asked what their plan was to fix the youth crime crisis, they famously answered that the cupboard was bare. They weakened the youth justice legislation. Under the former Labor government, rehabilitation was a 72-hour intensive support plan—72 hours. You can achieve absolutely nothing in 72 hours. It was an absolute failure. Not only did those opposite let down Queensland victims—289,657 victims in Labor's last full year in government—but they also let down the young people who needed intervention and rehabilitation.

I have listened to members from the other side of the chamber speak on the bill, and so far in the debate the common theme is that no-one has spoken about the victims. Today, on National Victims of Crime Day, I challenge those opposite to finally, please, give victims a voice and speak in support of this bill. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr WHITING (Bancroft—ALP) (4.46 pm): I rise to talk on the Youth Justice (Circuit Breaker) Amendment Bill. This is about the fifth bill that the government has introduced on law and order themes and I think there are a sixth, seventh and eighth coming, but nothing has changed for Queenslanders.

It is very clear that these LNP laws are not working and crime has continued. As we have heard from the member for Bulimba, this year in Queensland under this government the number of offences committed has increased by 6.15 per cent. It is very clear that this is why Queenslanders continue to feel unsafe in their homes and their communities despite the Crisafulli LNP government's pre-election commitments. If you ask Queenslanders what has changed under the LNP, they will say that nothing has changed. The laws are not working. Crime is at the same level. This proposed slogan-based solution is no solution. It is a bandaid. It will make things worse, with more offenders and more victims.

This bill will make things worse because it is the LNP's half-baked boot camp proposal 2.0 and the LNP will repeat the mistakes they made in the past when they put people into remote locations, disempowering my local community and stopping the community from taking part in justice and rehabilitation. In my community, we have always created a real change for young offenders. We have a very effective community ecosystem that works with those young people. Young offenders do the hard work, and that means facing consequences and facing victims as well, but they are surrounded by a community network and their families. That is key. If they need access to mental health facilities—and we have heard that half of this cohort do need that—then they can access those services.

This bill takes them out of a community system that already works for offenders and victims and it puts them into a boot camp that is not secure. The security measures outlined in the tender documents for these boot camps are little more than a fence. Like last time, you will see people hopping the fence and just taking off. It is no wonder that so many submitters compared this bandaid, slogan-based solution or proposal to the Newman-era boot camps—boot camps that the KPMG report found were ineffective in reducing recidivism. They did not work. Often it was found that the residential intervention, as the previous member spoke of, was counterproductive to reducing recidivism. Like the Newman-era boot camps, the providers can simply be chosen by the minister, overriding the director-general. Hello again, donors: it is time for you to come straight back in the door!

This bill also makes things worse because people will be placed in harm's way. Section 282X of the bill states—

> If a circuit breaker provider... becomes aware, or reasonably suspects, that a child has suffered harm while participating in the provider's circuit breaker program, the reporting entity must, unless the reporting entity has a reasonable excuse, report the harm or suspected harm ...

That reasonable excuse to not report a matter is that it 'might tend to incriminate the reporting entity'. That means if someone is injured, there is no obligation for the provider—perhaps the minister appointed provider—to even report it back to the government. So, what we have is a bill where the welfare of the business comes first.

For those people who are saying we are not putting victims first, I say this bill creates more offenders and creates more victims in the future. I would also remind them that this government has a record of putting vulnerable children at risk of harm. We have learned that, under the child safety minister, children in the child safety system are unaccounted for. They are simply missing. They are gone. What about the 6,400 whose cases were not even looked at? I remind the LNP that if we are talking about putting victims first, any child who comes to harm under the protection of the state is more likely to be an offender or a victim in the future.

I want to see fewer victims in the future. This bill will not lessen the number of victims. This is a bandaid, slogan-based proposal. It will make things worse in the future. It will not deliver rehabilitation or crime reduction. It means more offenders; it means more victims. Queenslanders, when asked, say nothing has changed about crime and feeling safer. This bill will not change anything. It will actually put more Queenslanders at more risk.

Mr CHIESA (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (4.52 pm): I rise to support the Youth Justice (Circuit Breaker) Amendment Bill on this National Victims of Crime Day. When we debate youth justice in this House, I believe there is one question that should sit above everything else: will what we are doing make our communities safer and help prevent another Queenslander from becoming a victim of crime?

In my nine months in this House, I have heard the Labor opposition time after time criticise every bill we introduce that seeks to make our communities safer. I make the following observations, if I can: they have no credibility to speak on that—no policy, no credibility—and I am yet to see a different plan to what they introduced which resulted in 10 years of increased victim numbers. There was a 193 per cent increase in victim numbers. But here is the one: between 2018 and 2023, the average daily number of serious repeat offenders increased by 64 per cent. That is their legacy. So, every one of those members opposite who say, 'Oh, that is not right,' or, 'We don't support that,' do not support victims. They do not support victims on this National Victims of Crime Day. That is the distinction here.

For too long Queenslanders have watched youth crime become worse. By September 2024, the reoffending rate for young people leaving detention had reached 94 per cent and 96 per cent for those leaving the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre. Those numbers tell us two things: firstly, there must be consequences for serious offending; and, secondly, if young offenders continually leave the justice system and reoffend, then we have not broken the cycle, and ultimately another Queenslander becomes a victim.

This is why the Crisafulli government has taken a fundamentally different approach. We have introduced Adult Crime, Adult Time. We expanded electronic monitoring. We are strengthening Queensland's bail laws through Breach Bail, Go to Jail, and now we are creating Circuit Breaker. Strong consequences and meaningful rehabilitation are not competing ideas; we need both. Accountability without effective rehabilitation can mean another offence when the young person returns to the community, but rehabilitation without accountability ignores the harm suffered by victims. Circuit Breaker sits between those two principles. It is designed as a last stop before detention for young offenders whose trajectory requires intense intervention.

The bill establishes two pathways: a court will be able to impose Circuit Breaker as a sentencing order for between three and six months, and it can also be imposed as an intensive condition of bail where the court determines that a young person would otherwise have been remanded in custody. I want to be very clear about what this means. This is not simply sending an offender home with another condition attached to their bail. Young people participating in Circuit Breaker will be removed from their environment and from influences contributing to their offending and they will be placed in a structured, residential program. They will be required to live at the site. They cannot simply leave when they want. They must follow directions and participate in the program. There will be structured daily routines, education, life skills, positive behaviour programs, hands-on learning and pathways into vocational training and employment. Electronic monitoring will be mandatory.

Importantly, Circuit Breaker is not a replacement for detention. Where detention is the appropriate consequence detention should be ordered, but where a court believes there remains an opportunity to intervene before a young person progresses further into serious offending, this gives it another tool to do so.

The evidence presented during the committee process demonstrates why that intervention matters. The committee heard from people who work directly with young people that, for some offenders, one of their biggest barriers to changing their lives is escaping the environment that helped put them on that path. That can mean getting away from negative peer groups, dysfunctional home environments, drugs and the influences reinforcing their offending.

Uncle George James spoke practically about taking young people into the bush with the right people around them—fishing, camping, fencing and working. That is important. Circuit Breaker is not about putting a young offender in a room and telling them to behave. It is about changing their environment, changing their routine and changing the people influencing them, giving them structure, discipline, education, skills and work and ultimately giving them an opportunity to choose a different path.

Some of the most powerful evidence presented to the committee came from victims themselves. Bradley Neven told the committee about five young people entering his home early one morning while his family was inside. His son was asleep in the bedroom. His son's fiancee was in the shower. While thankfully nobody walk in on the offenders, Mr Neven described how that experience changed the way his family lived—like so many other victims. Suddenly, you start questioning whether every door and every window needs to be locked, whether you need more cameras and alarms, whether you need bars on the windows of your home. His conclusion was something that I think most Queenslanders will understand. He refused to accept that living like that should be normal, and neither should we. The committee also heard from Darren Bauman who described 20 break-ins over an 18-month period, staff being hospitalised and three vehicles written off.

These are Queenslanders whose lives have been changed because somebody else decided to commit a crime. That is why I found another part of the committee evidence particularly important. Victims themselves spoke about wanting us to break the cycle. The Victims' Commissioner told the committee that victims of youth crime want greater focus on initiatives that prevent crime and provide for the long-term rehabilitation of young offenders. Voice for Victims supported the bill because effective rehabilitation can reduce reoffending, reduce victimisation and create safer communities. That tells us something important. Victims are not simply asking us to punish yesterday's crime; they are asking us to prevent tomorrow's.

There is nothing soft about trying to stop a young offender from creating another victim. I represent communities across North Queensland that have lived with the consequences of youth crime. I have spoken with victims. I have spoken with families who have changed the way they live because they no longer feel as safe as they once did. They want consequences. They expect offenders to be held accountable, and they are right to expect that, but they also do not want to see the same young offender arrested on Monday, released, offend again on Wednesday and another family become a victim on Thursday. They want something that works.

Circuit Breaker will have strict safeguards and strict consequences: participants must be assessed as suitable, courts will retain oversight, electronic monitoring will be mandatory, providers will operate within child safety and reportable conduct requirements and sites will be subject to independent oversight. If an offender breaches their Circuit Breaker order, the court can respond. The order can be varied or extended or the offender can be discharged and resentenced, which, where appropriate, can ultimately mean detention.

This is not a free pass; it is an intensive intervention backed by consequences. Importantly, the support does not simply disappear when the residential program ends. Young people will be supported. In closing, I thank the committee for their work, and I support the Youth Justice (Circuit Breaker) Amendment Bill 2026.



Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (5.00 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the Youth Justice (Circuit Breaker) Amendment Bill 2026. Maybe I am a little bit slow, but I find it genuinely astonishing that I have to speak against a bill like this, the entire purpose of which is to create a framework to effectively legalise forced child labour in Queensland. The LNP wants us to believe that these programs will somehow make the community safer. Ultimately, this is forced child labour dressed up as youth justice policy.

This is not hyperbole. We just need to look to the terms of the bill and the explanatory notes. First, it provides for the recognition of a so-called Circuit Breaker program, which must be an 'intensive residential program with structured activities and strict routines and conditions'. They must provide 'access to a rural property where children can gain knowledge, skills and experience'. Let's not forget that it must be remote or rural. The program providers are responsible for the security, safety and wellbeing of these kids, and they are supposed to facilitate access to education. Let's not forget that these providers are not required to report harm to a child in their program to the youth justice department if it would tend to incriminate them.

It should be abundantly clear to everyone here that having for-profit providers running these programs would be entirely inappropriate, but the bill does not prevent that. Let's imagine for a second that a company that is profiting off these boot camps is exempt from reporting harm to the department that is funding the program. Even the Newman LNP's boot camps did not give this exemption to the corporate providers or contractors. They are going even further than that rot. With the sites established, the bill will empower courts to require a child to attend the Circuit Breaker program where they will wear an electronic ankle monitor and be required to satisfactorily participate in activities, and this can be imposed for three to six months as a sentencing order or as a condition of bail—that is, without having been found guilty of an offence.

The bill classifies the Circuit Breaker program as a community-based order so they can effectively avoid calling them detention centres. A description of the mandatory conditions includes that children must reside at the site, may be searched, will wear an electronic monitoring device, are subject to 24/7 surveillance, are physically prevented from leaving and are restricted in terms of visits and communication with their family. The government can treat us like we are stupid, but this is just detention by another name without the same level of oversight, and it will be run by private providers who will have a licence to force children to engage in activities in remote locations and out of sight. Tell me this is not modern child slavery.

This is nothing new for Queensland, though. It is a continuation of colonial violence. We know that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children continue to be over-represented within the justice system, with more than 50 per cent of the distinct child defendants being First Nations despite representing three per cent of the population. In 2024-25, 83 per cent of the 10- and 11-year-olds convicted of an offence were First Nations kids. Those statistics are a direct result of the historical and contemporary colonial violence and the intergenerational trauma and disadvantage.

Rather than starting to heal that trauma and end the violence, this government is doubling down with a whole new stolen generation. Again, this is not hyperbole. For over 60 years government policy implemented the forced removal of Aboriginal children from their families, their culture, their country

and their communities. They were taken by government officials, police and child welfare workers. Children faced abuse and coercion, and they were used as unpaid domestic servants. Now the government wants to dress up their boot camps—sorry, maybe we should call them 'missions' and 'reserves', or maybe we will go with 'boys' homes'. They want their Circuit Breaker program to somehow be framed as something new and different. It is not. It is more of the same, and it will not render different results from what we have seen in the past.

This bill, like so much of what we have seen from this cruel LNP, prioritises retribution and slogans over genuine, long-term safety for children, families and the wider community. They just cannot get enough of punching down. In 2024 the Queensland youth justice census found that of the children and young people imprisoned in youth detention centres and police watch houses: 54 per cent had at least one mental health and/or behavioural disorder; 71 per cent had at least one cognitive disability; 86 per cent had used at least one illegal substance; and 70 per cent had experienced or been impacted by domestic and family violence.

The response here is that we are just going to punish. Their response is not evidence-based. The evidence is absolutely clear that children and young people are still developing their ability to control impulses and weigh up the consequences of their decisions before they act. This is a punitive approach, and ever harsher penalties do not deter crime, especially for children. There is no reliable evidence that shows that the type of program they have proposed will reduce offending or improve rehabilitative outcomes in any way.

The only precedent we have to point to is the Queensland LNP's previous youth boot camps under then premier Campbell Newman from 2013 to 2015. An independent evaluation found that the boot camps had weak engagement from families and communities, had high costs and had difficulty reintegrating the young people involved. In their submission, YFS Legal put it really well when they said—

> Research consistently demonstrates that connection to family, culture, education, employment and community are protective factors against offending and reoffending. Effective interventions strengthen these connections rather than undermine them.

This proposal does the exact opposite. There has been no real acknowledgement of the practical or logistical difficulties in implementing this kind of program effectively with genuine rehabilitation and support. There is no realistic confrontation by this government of the likely challenges in attracting and maintaining an adequately skilled workforce to deliver programs in ways that are culturally safe or that meet the needs of children with learning disabilities, affected by substance misuse, with other mental health disorders or with severe trauma. Witnesses who appeared before our committee told us we needed all of these things if it is going to be anything close to effective.

On its current trajectory, the only thing this government can do to solve antisocial behaviour is lock people up or send them away. On this path they will have to do it indefinitely at some point because they do not have an alternative. Crime does not come from a few bad kids doing the wrong thing; it is driven by social conditions.

A government that will send kids who are already at the margins of society far away from support in their community does not care about their rights and freedoms, the wellbeing of our communities or creating the conditions that reduce crime. A government that will do that contrary to all of the evidence does not care about preventing crime; it is just attempting to disappear the product of their own failings and tell us that more violence and cruelty against these kids somehow equals justice.

As a community, we deserve better than this. We have the evidence of what works. It makes me sick to think of the Premier before the last election saying he was going to listen to the experts. What tosh! The man is talking out of both sides of his face. Fostering a culture and a society that prioritises everyone having what they need to live a good life and make good choices, to access support and health care, to have safe housing, to be able to enjoy their rights and freedoms, and to live free from violence—this is what will restore safety in our communities for everyone.

While that is a bigger project—and one that I and the Greens will keep fighting for—there are immediate, evidence-based responses available that we could use right now to address the cycles of offending: having individual rehabilitation and integration plans; and having a focus on reintegration by involving a child's family and community, strengthening the relationships for when they leave custody, not isolating them away from community. Programs have to be culturally appropriate and responsive. They have to be trauma informed. I have seen nothing that suggests we are going to have that in these programs. They have to be child centred and informed by developmental science. They need to involve

genuine education and employment pathways. They need to have access to alcohol and other drug services with genuine continuity after any program finishes. This is only going to be achieved in small-scale residential facilities that are engaged with communities and by focusing on building protective factors in community rather than managing individual risk.

(Time expired)

Mr DALTON (Mackay—LNP) (5.10 pm): I rise today in support of the Youth Justice (Circuit Breaker) Amendment Bill 2026. For people in my electorate of Mackay, community safety is not an abstract issue. It is something people speak to me about regularly. It is the family who wakes up to find their car has been stolen. It is the small business owner who has had their property broken into again. It is the victim who no longer feels completely safe in their home. It is the police officers who are called upon time and time again to deal with young offenders who have been trapped in a cycle of offending and reoffending. Queenslanders told us clearly they wanted change. They wanted consequences for actions. They wanted victims put first. They wanted a government prepared to tackle the causes of repeat offending rather than simply allowing the cycle to continue. That is what this bill is about.

The Circuit Breaker program delivers another important election commitment of the Crisafulli government. Backed by an $80 million investment over four years, it will establish Circuit Breaker programs in north and south Queensland for up to 60 young offenders. Importantly, this is not a replacement for detention. Where detention is appropriate, detention should be ordered. What Circuit Breaker provides is another option for courts sitting between community-based orders and detention. It is designed to be the last stop before detention for young offenders whose behaviour has reached the point where intensive intervention is required.

Under this bill, a young person can enter Circuit Breaker through one of two pathways. A court can impose a Circuit Breaker Sentencing order for between three and six months. Alternatively, Circuit Breaker can be imposed as a condition of bail where the court determines that the young person would otherwise have been remanded in custody. Imagine this scenario: a young repeat offender breaks into a house and manages to steal two sets of car keys. The young offender steals one car and later the young offender is caught and charged by police. Before this legislation was brought before the House, the offender would have had the opportunity to use the second set of keys at a later date to steal the second family car at the address where they stole the first one from. The offender is out on bail, but the community is not safe. This alleged serious repeat offender needs to be held in a secure facility to attempt to break that revolving door of crime. The offender needs—and the community expect—to be rehabilitated even while on bail. These are not young people being sent home with a slap on the wrist. Participants will be required to reside at a Circuit Breaker site. They will not be permitted to leave without approval. They will have to participate in the program and its activities and comply with directions and not commit further offences. Electronic monitoring will also be mandatory.

For young people participating through bail, this will be the most intensive bail condition available to the court. However, the purpose of Circuit Breaker goes beyond simply removing an offender from the community. We need to use that time to actually break the cycle. Participants will be removed from negative influences and environments contributing to their offending and placed into a structured residential program. There will be strict daily routines and hands-on learning, alongside education, life skills, positive behaviour programs and pathways towards vocational training and employment. Ultimately, if we can stop a young person from becoming a serious repeat offender we will prevent future victims.

Strong laws and meaningful rehabilitation are not mutually exclusive. They must go hand in hand. The evidence presented during the committee process reinforces why this matters. Victims understandably ask: where are the programs that work? Are we doing enough to break the cycle? That is precisely the problem Circuit Breaker seeks to address. Queenslanders should not have to accept being afraid in their own homes as the new normal. That sentiment is also reflected back home in Mackay. A local Neighbourhood Watch member wrote to me and made a submission supporting the Circuit Breaker program, highlighting the importance of giving young offenders rehabilitation and an opportunity to get back on track. The Neighbourhood Watch member goes on to state—

> It will provide relief to our Communities with offenders being housed away from their current neighbourhoods. With the existing bail laws, offenders commit the crime in their neighbourhood, go before a Magistrate and are given bail and are reoffending the next day.

Importantly, the submission said that Circuit Breaker could ‘assist our police with respect to having to chase down reoffenders on a continual basis’. That is an important point. Our police should not have to keep dealing with the same young offenders committing the same types of offences over

and over. Every time police resources are tied up responding to repeat offending, those resources cannot be directed elsewhere in our community. That is why rehabilitation matters. If we can intervene, break that cycle and help a young person move towards education, skills and meaningful employment, we are not only helping that young person but also helping the police, the neighbourhoods and, more importantly, preventing future victims.

Since coming to government, we have taken a different approach. We have introduced Adult Crime, Adult Time. More than 4,000 young people have been charged with more than 19,000 offences under these laws. While there is more work to do, we are seeing some encouraging signs. Victim numbers are down by 9.6 per cent. The number of serious repeat offenders is down by 29 per cent. Proven Adult Crime, Adult Time offences are down by 39 per cent. We are heading in the right direction, but nobody on this side of the House believes the job is finished. That is why our approach cannot simply be about tougher laws after a crime has occurred.

The Crisafulli government is also making the largest investment in early intervention, crime prevention and rehabilitation in Queensland's history, with $560 million committed to stopping crime before it starts. Circuit Breaker forms an important part of that approach. This is about consequences. It is about structure. It is about rehabilitation. Most importantly, it is about preventing the next Queenslander from becoming a victim.

As a former police officer, I know the importance of giving our police the laws and resources they need to protect the community, but policing alone cannot solve every problem. When a young person is already heading down a path of repeat offending, we need to intervene decisively. We need to remove them from the environment that is contributing to that offending. We need to impose structure and consequences and we need to give them a genuine opportunity to change direction. The people of Mackay deserve to feel safe in their homes. Our small business owners deserve to feel safe at work. Our families deserve to know that when someone repeatedly breaks the law there will be consequences. Victims deserve a justice system that puts their rights first while doing everything possible to prevent the next crime from occurring.

On this day—National Victims of Crime Day—let this be the day that we always put victims first on this side of the House. There is no single solution to youth crime. It requires stronger laws, better policing, early intervention, rehabilitation and consequences. Circuit Breaker adds another important tool to that system. We inherited a youth justice system that was not working. We said we could change it. We said we would restore consequences for actions. We said we would put victims first and we said we would work every day to restore safety where Queenslanders live. This bill is another step in delivering that commitment. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr KATTER (Traeger—KAP) (5.18 pm): I rise to speak on the Youth Justice (Circuit Breaker) Amendment Bill 2026. I will say at the outset that the KAP will be supporting the bill because it is our policy. I can speak with a lot of authority on this topic because I have talked about this more than anyone in this House. I can break that down for you if you would like, Mr Deputy Speaker.

I remember Father talking to Shane and me about this prior to 2017 and him calling it Buje-ka. He had been talking to an Aboriginal elder who told him that this is what we should be doing with the kids, that this is what they used to do in the old days. Their communities think this is the direction we should be looking because it would be a good answer for the kids. As with a lot of ideas coming from Dad, I thought, 'Gee whiz, that sounds a bit bold.' We started talking about it and canvassing it more and more. The more we talked to people the more support it generated, so we started talking about it in earnest at the 2017 state election and we branded it as a policy. It is often referred to as alternative sentencing, bush sentencing or relocation sentencing.

Following 165 mentions in parliament we introduced a motion in 2023, and I give credit to the LNP for voting for that motion. We introduced KAP amendments in 2021 for the removal of detention as a last resort, mandatory minimum sentencing for repeat offenders—which was meant to marry up with alternative sentencing—and mandatory sentences for youth prisoners who climb on the roofs of jails. Those amendments we introduced were all linked to this.

The member for Maiwar said that there is no evidence to back this up. The response we often got in the previous eight or so years of talking about this and pushing this policy in the House was, 'You don't have any evidence.' I did point to some evidence from Associate Professor Glenn Dawes from James Cook University, who produced a report titled *Keeping on country: understanding and responding to crime and recidivism in remote Indigenous communities*. It was given to me by a QPS officer back in the day who said, 'We've got to do things better. We've got to do better than this.' I went to the trouble of reading that, and it endorsed in principle the ideas behind what is being done with this bill.

For some eight years Keith Hamburger was head of the department of corrective services for this state, and he had some enlightened views on what we should be doing around alternative sentencing. He tried to address the spiralling youth crime rate and looked for solutions because he thought we could do better, and he reached the same conclusions. He probably had a little bit more sophisticated and detailed model but it was the same concept.

The KAP continually raised questions in parliament which resulted in the 2025 report into the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre in Townsville. The report stated that within 12 months of release from the CYDC 96 per cent had reoffended, so the rate of recidivism was 96 per cent. That tells you Cleveland is not working, so that is why there was a sense of frustration in this parliament every time we talked about breach of bail, detention as a last resort and ankle bracelets et cetera. That is fine, but it does not matter unless you change what sentencing means to the kids. At the moment there is still 96 per cent recidivism. You can give them bail, they can breach their bail, go to jail or whatever—it is fair enough that you get them off the streets—but they just come back. The trick is what happens beyond that. When you go back, like I did, and start talking to the stakeholders and the elders, you could barely get one person to disagree.

With regard to the point that this is forced, let me give you an example. The Mona program got funding and I pushed really strongly for it. A local Aboriginal family said, 'We're going out to a cattle station. We know which kids to take.' They were doing a great job and running on the smell of an oily rag. They got a really positive response from the kids. They got some funding and tried to upscale it, but one of the Aboriginal elders in town pulled me up on the street and said, 'It's not working, Rob, because we can't force the kids to get out there. There's no point.'

Try and logistically run a program in Mount Isa, Townsville or Cairns where you have to go and pick up some of the worst behaved kids around town from residential care or whatever at a particular time in the morning to attend school or their cultural awareness program. If you try and do that day in, day out you will spend your whole shift trying to chase people to even get them there on the bus. It is logistically just not practical. Whether you like it or not, initially you need to be able to force people into this.

I reflect again on Colin Saltmere, managing director of Myuma Group, who is probably one of the most successful Aboriginal businessmen we have in Queensland at the moment with his Dugalunji camp at Camooweal. He takes 90 or more Indigenous trainees a year, gets them job ready and puts them on his job crews. I can see the Minister for the Environment nodding; he knows what is going on out there. It is good; they are getting straight into work. Colin said, 'Mate, I've just got to get them up in the morning and making their bed. If I can get them through the first three weeks, get that routine, then the skill set is easy from that point on.' Not a lot of people, including myself, are going to willingly say, 'Yes, you beauty, I'd love to sign myself up for that,' but it is the best thing that could ever happen to them. That is their salvation. That is their pathway out of this cycle of crime. Someone has to be the strict parent, at some point put up some guardrails and call it sentencing. It is one of the softest forms of sentencing you could have. They get to go out on station. A lot of these kids are going to love this stuff, the fact that you are out in the open and someone cares about you. They are in smaller groups, which is a really important point to acknowledge.

If a kid offends in Mount Isa right now—and the magistrates told me this years ago—and you are sending them with 150 other kids, half of them are saying, 'Good. I smashed the police window outside the courthouse because I wanted to go back to Cleveland. Christmas is coming up, my mates are there and we'll have a good old time.' That is not exaggerating; that is what is happening. The point I am trying to make is that there are too many people, so it is guaranteed they are going to catch up with their mates and cousins in the Cleveland detention centre. If you say, 'Mate, you're not going with your mates and your friends. You're going out to this camp,' and deliberately separate them—magistrates often say, 'We know who the bad influences are. He's not bad, but we've got to break him up from them.' It is very hard to do that when you only have a few facilities in Queensland. They are all full up and they are all bunched in and they have these bad influences, so you are mixing the best of the bad kids with the worst of the bad kids. When you have more remote camps then you have more ability to address that.

That is a point that Keith Hamburger really hung on and that is where we can fine-tune this. Remoteness is important because how are you going to get past the point of getting people to attend every day? If they are out in the bush where they are not thinking about running away then they are more likely to participate. That is good news for them, their family and for everyone, because that is going to be their pathway to re-engaging with the community.

Yes, this will not be perfect. There will be some people who might have a crack at this and put their hand up and it fails, but this has to be part of the pathway forward. I do not know logically how you can arrive at any other conclusion. The volume of kids coming through now compared to 20 years ago is extraordinary. It is not a matter of just kissing and cuddling them at home. There are going to be more tools needed than just this, but it is very important that you provide a pathway for those kids we think we can bring back and give them vocational training and education. It is not all about cattle stations or cattle work. There will be a lot of kids who do not like that, but at least you have set a platform for discipline, just getting out of bed, and routines. A lot of these poor kids are in houses or environments where they have not known routines and it is so hard for them to go to school and that sort of thing. The point was made earlier that you cannot just dump them back in town. Yes, that is a problem you still have to address, but that does not mean you do not try to get them right in the first place.

As a smaller party in the House, often around election time we are criticised because 'they're nice, but they can't do anything'. We are here and we are trying to be constructive, and again I compliment the government. They have been big enough and mature enough to say, 'We're going to do this anyway, even though you have been talking about it.' I really mean that in a positive way and without any condescension. I think it is big of the government to do that. I do acknowledge that the previous government tried in part to do something like this, but they did not go far enough in terms of sentencing options and remoteness, which are critical parts of the strategy to make this effective. Yes, we can do things constructively. When we come in here with policy we are trying to relate that back to what we have seen that works and what can work for the state. This will play a major role in turning the wave of youth crime around and the bill should be supported.

Debate, on motion of Mr Katter, adjourned.

MOTION

Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance

Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.29 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. notes the member for Toowoomba South said in October 2024, 'I don't want to be a treasurer that has a ratings downgrade on my watch. It's that simple.'
2. notes that S&P Global downgraded Queensland's credit rating despite the Crisafulli LNP government:
   (a) cutting $42 million from emergency accommodation;
   (b) cutting almost $40 million from domestic and family violence prevention this year;
   (c) reallocating $10 million from domestic and family violence prevention last year; and
   (d) reallocating $90 million from domestic and family violence prevention during the machinery of government changes.
3. notes that S&P Global downgraded Queensland's fiscal position at the same time as the Crisafulli LNP government:
   (a) gave Adani a $500 million tax holiday;
   (b) spent tens of millions of dollars advertising itself; and
   (c) went against their own review recommendation and decided to build the National Aquatic Centre GIICA described as 'not fit for purpose'.
4. notes that S&P Global downgraded Queensland's credit rating and stated 'we believe there are risks to the budget, given no Olympic Games have been taken place within budget'.
5. calls on the Crisafulli LNP government to provide Queenslanders with a true cost of each and every venue for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Mr Acting Speaker, $1 billion—that is what new analysis shows the LNP's rating downgrade will cost Queenslanders over the next four years. That is $1 billion that will not be there for our hospitals, our DV support services and our schools. That is $1 billion lost because of the LNP's poor choices. In fact the *Australian* today described it aptly as 'Crisafulli's choices'.

The Deputy Premier last night tried to dismiss this as some kind of scare campaign, but it is not. These are facts stated by respected global ratings agency Standard & Poor's and facts reported in the *Australian* today in their analysis. Standard & Poor's assessed every single Labor budget, including our last one, and assessed the state's credit rating as AA+ stable, and now S&P have called out the LNP's choice to delay hospital builds and push them out into the Olympic building program and their decision to pursue a high-cost Olympics model. Standard & Poor's say that the Olympics will not be delivered on budget and that, as a result, Queensland will be in more debt for longer. That is what the report says.

These are the choices of this government: the choice to build a $1.2 billion swimming pool with a temporary stadium that even their own independent authority said was not fit for purpose; the choice to give Adani half a billion dollars when they should be contributing to our state, not getting a handout; the choice to bombard taxpayers and waste taxpayer money on ads all around the state; the choice to hide the true cost of each and every one of the Olympic and Paralympic Games venues; and the choice to delay $3 billion worth of infrastructure. At the same time, they have made the choice to cut $40 million from domestic violence services and $42 million from homelessness services.

They are the choices this Premier has made, and it is about time he took responsibility for those choices. Since Friday, he has been desperate to avoid any responsibility for this ratings downgrade. He has avoided the media gallery. He sent out his hapless Treasurer to bumble his way through it. Today he took the jet to Bundaberg and stood up the poor diggers of the Sherwood-Indooroopilly RSL Sub-Branch. He says he is the Minister for Veterans yet he stood up our diggers: what an insult to them. I am glad the hardworking member for Mount Ommaney was able to be there in the Premier's absence to make sure the RSL sub-branch felt supported. They advertised that the Premier would be there—'Opening by the Hon. David Crisafulli, Premier and Minister for Veterans'—but he was not there. He did not show up because he was so desperate to avoid anyone asking him a question about his government's choices and his government's rating downgrade.

That is typical of a premier who loves a photo-op but hates answering questions. The Premier is obsessed with renders of the fancy stadiums he promised he would not build, and he will not tell Queenslanders how much they will cost. In fact, he pretty much only shows up when they have renders or a fly-through; that is all he is there for. He is a premier determined to hand half a billion dollars to mining companies like Adani, giving a hand up to them rather than to hardworking Queenslanders. This decision is the result of the reckless spending of those opposite and it will cost Queenslanders more. 'Crisafulli's choices' will cost Queenslanders more.

(Time expired)

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Before I give the call to the Treasurer, I would like to acknowledge the former member for Ipswich West in the Speaker's gallery this evening, Mr Darren Zanow. I would also like to remind the members for Logan, Lytton, Gladstone, Inala and Mundingburra that you are still on warnings.

Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (5.34 pm): I move the following amendment—

That this House:

1. condemns the decisions taken by the members for Murrumba, Woodridge, Waterford and the Palaszczuk and Miles governments, which over a decade of decline, led to the credit rating downgrade issued by S&P Global.

Let me start by reflecting on the insipid performance of the Leader of the Opposition. He has literally had all day to prepare for this and that insipid performance was the best he could come up with. They are that lazy. Despite being the most well-resourced opposition in Queensland history, they have not even checked out what has been in the news today, where Queensland is the best performing economy in the country. It is all there, with a 16.8 per cent growth in dwelling investment and a nine per cent growth in business investment. They are that lazy that they could not even look at the motion again. Those are not my figures; they comes from CommBank.

Across government, we are seeing improvements after the failures that those opposite left behind. Our improvements include: the highest GSP growth in the country; the highest productivity growth in the country; record approvals; record construction; improvements in waitlists; and improvements in ramping. We are seeing fewer victims after a 193 per cent growth in victim numbers in 10 years; we have now seen a 9.6 per cent drop in victim numbers. For the resources minister, when we came to government the Fraser survey had us at 39th and we are already back down to 13th. That is because we are backing in our resources sector.

There are a couple of anomalies in the motion that the opposition moved tonight. I want to touch on three of them in particular because I know the Deputy Premier will have a lot more to say about the games shortly. They continue to mislead the House about domestic and family violence funding because it has increased 45 per cent in our first two years. Again, they keep talking about the Bravus royalty deal. Last year they missed it. They keep throwing the member for Woodridge under the bus. He came into this House and he confessed about the Bravus deal because he signed it. He signed the Bravus deal that they talk about, leaving rural and regional Queensland to rack and ruin without a single additional job. That is their legacy, yet they continue to throw the member for Woodridge under the bus.

I know the member for Bonney will address emergency accommodation. In our budget, there is a $450 million investment into specialist homelessness services, housing and emergency accommodation.

We know how we got here, and the member for Woodridge has an opportunity to explain that in a moment. He collected $70 billion more in revenue than what he forecast in his first budget. Where has it gone? There was $70 billion in additional revenue but that is gone. He introduced 15 new taxes after he promised no new or increased taxes 26 times during the 2020 election campaign. There was also: a $36.8 billion blowout for the Pioneer-Burdekin energy project; north of $200 million for the Wellcamp quarantine facility; $14 billion to $18 billion for Borumba; up to $13.9 billion for CopperString; a $638 million unfunded service delivery for the operation of a hospital at Springfield; and a $461 million hole left behind for Child Safety that would have seen children living on the streets.

That is their legacy of fiscal vandalism. Whether it is commentators or journalists, they all know and they have all said that the opposition left behind a mess which we inherited. It is not just us; if Jim Chalmers were here tonight he, too, would vote for our amended motion. Jim Chalmers on radio could not even defend his next-door neighbour the member for Woodridge. He could not defend his mate next door, so Jim Chalmers would join us.

The member for Murrumba scorched the earth with his last budget and his 'servos' and all the rest of it. The member for Woodridge squandered the windfall and Queenslanders have been failed by those opposite.

(Time expired)

Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.39 pm): What about Queensland's bumbling Treasurer, the member for Toowoomba South? Imagine claiming you are running the best economy in the country—No. 1—and you still crash the credit rating. That is the daily double. People would put money on that at Eagle Farm. That is what you would want.

I have a few words to say about the Premier. If you are listening, Premier—and I know you are. I know that you are in there listening. They are even laughing on the backbench! Thanks for that, LNP! I have a few things to say about the Premier—

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Woodridge, I would ask you to please address your comments through the chair, not towards the backbench.

Mr DICK: I meant the LNP backbench. I am sorry, Mr Acting Speaker; I did not mean our backbench, but I take your admonition. I will try to do my best, but there is so much to say about the LNP crashing Queensland's credit rating for the first time in 17 years. S&P Global's decision to downgrade Queensland's credit rating is a damning indictment on this LNP government, this LNP Treasurer and this LNP Premier. Today the *Australian* newspaper spelt that out in black and white. Senior reporter Lydia Lynch said—

No amount of spin from Crisafulli and Treasurer David Janetzki can change the fact the LNP in Queensland has abandoned its long-held fiscal principle that governments should live within their means.

The article goes on to say that the uncomfortable truth for the LNP—and isn't it uncomfortable?—is that this is 'Crisafulli's choice'. There is a slogan for the Premier. How about putting that on some glossy blue paper for Queenslanders to see? This is the party that claims to be the party of better economic management. What did the *Australian* say last year? I want to table an article; it is just so good. It is headed 'Queensland election: LNP's David Janetzki says "no downgrade on my watch"'. Let me table that.

Tabled paper: Article from *The Australian* online, dated 18 October 2024, titled 'Queensland election: LNP's David Janetzki says 'no downgrade on my watch' [1639].

What was the member for Toowoomba South's mission when he got the job? It was to 'stabilise government debt'—it is through the roof now—and 'avoid a credit rating downgrade'. He said—

I don't want to be a treasurer that has a ratings downgrade on my watch. It's that simple.

It is that simple, member for Toowoomba South. Clearly, on his own test the member for Toowoomba South has failed as Treasurer. This is an indictment on the LNP and its fiscal and economic management of Queensland. For the first time in 17 years Queensland's fiscal position has fallen and that has happened on the watch of this Treasurer, this LNP government and this LNP Premier.

Let's face it: if you ran a business like the Premier is running the state's budget, you would send that company broke. Hold the phone, Mr Acting Speaker. That is exactly what the Premier did! He ran a business while it was insolvent and crashed it, leaving $3 million in unpaid debts including a debt to the tax office. The Premier is a man who will not pay his tax debt. That is in black and white. He left mum-and-dad businesses holding the bag for his fiscal failure when he was a businessman. Then he gaslit Queenslanders by bringing his business partner, the member for Hinchinbrook, into the parliament. That is the trifecta.

Mr Chiesa: Read the report, mate. Don't let the truth get in the way of a good story for you. Read the report.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Hinchinbrook. We read the report, and I can say that the member for Hinchinbrook should be ashamed—and so should the Premier and so should every member of the LNP parliamentary party—for putting a man like that in charge of the state's finances.

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

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence, member for Woodridge. Would you withdraw, please?

Mr DICK: I withdraw. Every Queenslander knows this: the Premier has form. He will try to spin. He will try to run away from the media. He will abandon the diggers and the veterans at Sherwood because he wants to escape the media, but Queenslanders know the truth. The buck stops on this credit downgrade with this LNP Premier. It stops with Premier Crisafulli and his dishonesty. The independent referee has blown the whistle on this government and it is Queenslanders—every single Queenslander—who will now pay the penalty.

Hon. BA MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.45 pm): He has gone from treasurer to critic, but the architect of this ratings downgrade was most certainly the member for Woodridge. He laid the foundations and now he tries to walk away from it. It was Labor's budget 'clown show'. They are not my words; they are the words of the media. That is how they described the member for Woodridge's last budget. For those members who may have come into the parliament at the last election, the description of Cameron Dick's last budget was 'clown show'—

Mr Miles interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Murrumba, your interjections are not being taken.

Mr MICKELBERG:—and it most certainly was.

Mr Mellish interjected.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Aspley and member for Pine Rivers, your interjections are not being taken.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: I will take that interjection. I was waiting for that one from the member for Miller, the overrun overlord himself—the man who presided over a decade of incompetence when it came to transport and main roads projects. Cross River Rail under Mark Bailey was estimated at $5.4 billion and it is now over $19 billion. That is their record and the record of the overrun overlord. He never saw a project he could not blow. Every single project in QTRIP that we inherited was over budget and over time—every single one. To be honest, when the department briefed me on the fact that every single project was over budget I had to ask the question: were they serious?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: No interjections are being taken, members on my left

Mr MICKELBERG: I had to ask the question: were they serious? I should have known better. I should have known that with an architect like—

Mr J Kelly interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Greenslopes, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr MICKELBERG:—the member for Miller, incompetence would have been writ large and Queenslanders paid the price. Weak Labor ministers sided with the CFMEU—'just unions being unions'. Queenslanders paid the price because Labor sided with the CFMEU. The member for Miller still sits opposite and he still has not apologised. He still sides with CFMEU thugs. We know that he is incompetent. We know that he got the sack when Miles came to the leadership, and that was a good decision. However, by some miracle he worked his way back into the shadow cabinet—God knows how. We inherited an inevitable trajectory because of Labor's decade of fiscal vandalism. That is the truth. The path to this downgrade was laid by Cameron Dick and by Labor—Labor ministers who were incompetent and unable to do their job, and they still are. In fact, the S&P rationale confirms it.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I draw your attention to the use of proper titles. We have seen several times the minister has used names—

Mr Bleijie: How many times did he say 'Crisafulli' in his speech? Come on, mate. Hypocrite.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Manager of Opposition Business, could you resume your seat for a moment? Deputy Premier, I would ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language, please.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I will deal with the Manager of Opposition Business's point of order and then I will come to you, Deputy Premier. Manager of Opposition Business, I hear what you are saying. Any member is free to rise on a point of order about the use of proper titles, as you have. I will continue listening. Deputy Premier, do you have a point of order?

Mr BLEIJIE: Yes. The member for Woodridge and the member for Murrumba—at least the member for Murrumba—on four to five occasions referenced the Premier by his last name—

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Understood.

Mr BLEIJIE:—so the same rules apply, Mr Acting Speaker.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you, Deputy Premier, for your point of order.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Members! Deputy Premier, this is one of those things that needs to be dealt with in the moment. The moment has passed. I call the Minister for Transport and Main Roads.

Mr MICKELBERG: Let's look at some facts. Labor enjoyed a $70 billion uplift—$70 billion, rivers of gold. That is what those opposite enjoyed, and they blew it. They did not blow it building infrastructure; they blew it on budget black holes. They blew it because of incompetent ministers. With regard to their signature election commitment—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Members on my left!

Mr MICKELBERG:—50-cent fares—they could not even fund that.

Mr Mellish interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Aspley, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr MICKELBERG: Those opposite spent more advertising 50-cent fares than they did making them permanent. By contrast, we are getting on with the job. We have legislated it in spite of Labor and 50-cent fares are now permanent in Queensland. So it begs the question: what is it that they want to cut? Do they want to cut the $9 billion we are spending on the Bruce Highway? They said they could not even deliver that. They rolled over on the federal government and gave it a fifty-fifty deal. We fought for it. We got the deal. We are doing the work and $4½ billion on the Bruce Highway will be out the door this financial year. That is our record.

We are delivering in spite of the financial vandalism that we inherited from Labor. Those opposite can rewrite history. Their record is multibillion dollar project blowouts right across the state: the Coomera Connector, doubled; Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail, doubled under the member for Miller. Who could forget that one? He could not even remember the number! Then there is the QTMP. The list is so long, mate, I could be here all night. Then there were the $6.7 billion in QTRIP budget blowouts—every single project in QTRIP. The entirety of Labor's transport program over budget: that is its record and that is what we have inherited. We are turning the ship around and building the infrastructure that Queenslanders need and Queenslanders deserve, running the budget in a calm and methodical way and growing the economy, as evidenced by the CommBank report today. I know that the member for Woodridge liked to disparage it when it was against him and he liked it when it was for him, but the reality is Queensland is No. 1 in the country in the CBA report today.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: The member's time has expired.

Ms Grace: Mr Acting Speaker—

Mr MICKELBERG: I am looking forward to this one from the CFMEU architect.

(Time expired)

Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (5.51 pm): Isn't it interesting that we talk about vandalism, yet everything that has been outlined by those opposite shows that they cannot talk about themselves for more than five minutes in this House because it has to revert to what Labor did? None of those opposite can get up and talk about one good thing that they have done. After all that the member for Buderim said, at the end of the day I have this to say to him: AA+ on this side of the House, AA on the government side of the House. No amount of spin, suppression or secrecy, no amount of blame shifting, no amount of finger-pointing can change the fact that in September 2024 the government inherited a AA+ credit rating. That is what it inherited. That is what it was given. That was the gift, and what has it done? It has absolutely blown it to smithereens.

What is really scary is that those opposite take no responsibility, as the amendment says—'It's all Labor. Nothing to do with us'—but that is not what the S&P report says. It talks about the infrastructure overspends and spending more than what you are getting in, which is completely against what those on that side of the House believe. They want us to believe another little furphy: it is all our fault when they were downgraded to AA, but—guess what—it is all them when CommSec says, 'We're No. 1.' Let me tell you, Treasurer: you cannot have it both ways. You cannot blame Labor when things go down on your watch and you cannot take the credit for getting a CommSec report like you did, because that happened because they were all great Labor policies, and you know it, the Premier knows it and all of those on that side of the House know it.

The most concerning part of all of this—and what this motion is really about—is the secrecy that we are seeing at the moment with this government. In all the years that I have been in this House I have never seen the absolute suppression of openness and transparency so bad. Community organisations, sporting clubs or organisations that raise any issues with funding or planning are accused of being elite and are accused of being bullies in an attempt to belittle them. They are raising legitimate concerns but are branded as not supporting the games. Even worse, any criticism by any community organisation about reductions in funding—and there are many in our motion—means they are threatened with having their funding cut, but, according to the Crisafulli government, 'Nothing to see here. No-one did anything.' If we say that we had them coming out of the woodwork, those opposite will say, 'No, that did not happen.' Pig-headed arrogance is what is being displayed by the Premier and the Deputy Premier because they are drunk on power and, as always, they know best—'Don't worry about that. It's all okay.'

It is heartbreaking to read in today's *Courier-Mail* that athletes are in fear of speaking out against possibly being cheated out of rowing medals for 'fear of repercussions'. They are not my words; they are their words in the *Courier-Mail*. Four-time Queensland Olympic rower Bo Hanson is quoted as saying that raising legitimate issues was 'left to former athletes' and that—

> ... most of the current generation of athletes won't be speaking up on this issue ... there's repercussions, let's ... be honest, about speaking up ...

What an appalling indictment on the government—people coming forward with legitimate concerns being bullied and being labelled elites, and we saw this under the Newman government. A tiger does not change its stripes, and guess what? They're back. Those opposite want to call themselves out as something completely different, but they are exactly the same. The interesting thing about all of this secrecy is that those opposite never talk about costs. They never tell anyone what something is going to cost, whether it is approximate or whatever, and then when the quotes come in they say, 'Guess what? It's on budget!' Those opposite never mentioned a figure with the RNA development, it came back at $300 million and they said, 'It's on budget!' Who would know? Where is the transparency in this, and where is the finance minister in all of this? Constantly overseas. Let me say one thing: you are not going to find highlighters overseas to save you money, and I am told that no stationery cupboard is safe!

Hon. RM BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (5.56 pm): Labor has a lot of nerve coming into this chamber and lecturing anyone about Queensland's finances. The same people who deliberately hid their black holes and blowouts from Queenslanders now want Queenslanders to believe they had nothing to do with the consequences. The member for Woodridge and the member for Murrumba do not get to rewrite their record just because they have changed sides of this chamber, and let's not forget Labor's last budget update which revealed the true extent of the financial mismanagement and the deception by the Labor lemons on the opposition

benches. The future financial chaos and crisis under Labor was a path Queensland could not afford to take—a deteriorating net operating balance with a $9.2 billion deficit in 2027-28, a debt blowout of $46 billion from its 2024-25 budget to $217.8 billion in debt by 2027-28, the four-year capital program blowing out by $22.6 billion to $129.9 billion. This downgrade has Labor's fingerprints all over it.

Let's start with what happened while those opposite were still in government. In June 2024, S&P warned about waning fiscal discipline under Labor. It specifically identified the large spending measures announced before the October election and the pressure on Queensland's finances. That warning was given to Labor. The member for Woodridge was the then treasurer and the member for Murrumba was the then premier. They were responsible for the books and they were responsible for responding. Despite the overwhelming advice from experts, protecting their political jobs mattered more than protecting Queensland's financial position. By September 2024, Queensland's budget performance score had been cut following Labor's last budget—before the election, before the change of government—so let us stop this rubbish that everything was fine until Queenslanders voted Labor out. It was not fine. The warnings were there, the deterioration was already happening and the members responsible are sitting opposite, pretending that they have only just discovered that their recklessness cost Queensland taxpayers' money.

Every dollar needed to service debt is a dollar unavailable for another purpose. Queensland deserves a government that understands that before it makes an announcement. There is also federal Labor's contribution, which those opposite would rather ignore. The S&P expressly says—

Property tax changes by the Australian government in its May budget will also hit Queensland's stamp duties.

Jim Chalmers cannot make decisions that weaken the state's revenue source and then pretend Canberra did not play a part. Of course, I would be remiss if I did not raise the federal government's blatant attempts to cost-shift in a number of different areas including with fee-free TAFE. The Albanese Labor government's proposed free TAFE agreement was deeply concerning. It would have left Queensland $208 million worse off. Federal Labor's initial proposal would have put 11,000 fee-free places at risk in Queensland at a time when we need thousands of tradies. Queensland Labor left us with a dire skills shortage, Queensland Labor ruined relationships with our key trade partners and Queensland Labor left the budget in tatters. The federal Labor government have done nothing but add to the pressure.

There was a reason that Queenslanders voted to show Labor the door in 2024, there was a reason that Queenslanders voted for a fresh start and now we accept responsibility for the repair. That is what being in government requires. Accepting responsibility for fixing Labor's mess does not mean letting Labor walk away from the fact that they created it. It is the Crisafulli LNP government reducing the deficit left by Labor, it is the Crisafulli LNP government improving the state's debt trajectory and it is the Crisafulli LNP government that is restoring respect for taxpayers' money after Labor's decade of decline.

Our position is clear: repair the budget, protect frontline services and deliver the roads, hospitals, schools and housing Queenslanders need without new or increased taxes. We have a focus on responsible expenditure, enhanced productivity, new private investment and economic growth. We have a clear path back to surplus. Expense growth under the Crisafulli LNP government has been contained, with average growth for the four years to 2029-30 limited to 2.6 per cent, compared to Labor's expense growth, which grew an average of 11.6 per cent per annum over the three years to 2023-24 and grew 16.1 per cent year on year in 2023-24. Our calm and methodical approach is delivering improving deficits and a forecast surplus in 2029-30. We know that we will be judged on that work; those opposite should be judged on theirs. We will not let the people who left this state exposed stand there and lecture the government doing the repair, because Labor could never be trusted with Queensland's finances.

(Time expired)

Mr SMITH (Bundaberg—ALP) (6.01 pm): What a downgrade in contribution that was! Normally when you rise to speak in the 'scream' you are working on the energy of the speaker before you and have a few things to say. I am going to talk about Labor because that is all the minister spoke about: Labor, Labor, Labor. She wanted to blame everyone for the downgrade except the government of the day. It is the fault of everyone except the finance minister, the Treasurer and the 'kings' of SET Solutions, the Premier and the member for Hinchinbrook. Talk about hiding creditors—the member for Hinchinbrook will be all over it. In fact, I wonder which creditor he borrowed that new suit from, because he is looking very sharp today!

We have heard from the Leader of the Opposition that this downgrade will cost Queenslanders a billion dollars. This downgrade will have a serious impact on real people throughout regional Queensland. It is regional Queenslanders who will pay because of the downgrade of this Crisafulli LNP government, because of the Treasurer's inability to manage the finances. The Treasurer said that he did not want to be the treasurer responsible for a downgrade. Well, guess what, buddy? It is all on you.

This is what the downgrade means in regional Queensland. It means that the new Bundaberg Hospital will be downgraded. Instead of a brand new, single-campus Bundaberg Hospital with over 400 beds, by 2032 we will have half a hospital with 200 beds—which is 100 fewer beds than we have now. That is the reality of the downgrade from the LNP over there. What is worse is that they will not even say how much has been spent each financial year so far, nor how much it will cost to run two separate sites while we wait for stage 2, which has not even been announced. What this means is that the brand new Olympic stadium—which the Premier promised he would not deliver—will be built before even half of our new hospital is finished. That is exactly what you get from this downgrade LNP government.

Let's talk about the impact of the downgrade on the levee. The Bundaberg East flood levee is now being spoken about as just some gates on Saltwater Creek. It is no longer a levee that stretches out nearly two kilometres—just gates at one creek. That is exactly what you get under this downgrade Treasurer and downgrade Premier under the LNP. We know that Paradise Dam is the lifeblood of our regional economy throughout the Bundaberg-Burnett region. We made a commitment to deliver a brand new dam wall to ensure safety and the water security of the region. We made that commitment.

Mr McDonald: How much money?

Mr SMITH: I just heard the member for Lockyer interject: 'How much money?' They do not want to spend the money. $4.4 billion is what Sunwater said in November 2024. Because they do not want to spend $4.4 billion on ensuring our regional economy, they have decided to go back to the $1.2 billion plan—on a dam that Sunwater themselves said is a compromised asset that no amount of improvement work can fix. At Paradise Dam the clay is swelling, which means the dam wall gets weaker every day. The ingredients that bond the cement are leaching out of the concrete. In fact, it is so bad that carbon dioxide and moisture are causing a negative effect, which lowers the concrete's strength every single day. The LNP's downgrade decision means they will put 5.8 metres of concrete on top of clay—on a dam that gets weaker every single day. It is just like this Treasurer's credibility. When it comes to downgrades, he is the king of downgrades. Whether it is a new Bundaberg hospital downgrade, the Bundaberg East flood levee downgrade or the betrayal of our farmers in the Bundaberg region, who are the heart and soul of our economy—the Treasurer cannot even look at me when I am speaking—

Dr ROWAN: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Members directly addressing members and challenging them across the chamber is not in accordance with the standing orders; it has to be through the chair. My second point of order is a reminder to members about correct titles.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Bundaberg, address your comments through the chair. There is a reason we do not address members directly in this chamber. That is in the standing orders. I ask you to adhere to that and use proper titles at all times.

Mr SMITH: I encourage the Premier and the Treasurer to hear the words of people in the Bundaberg community. We want a brand new Bundaberg hospital that is not downgraded. We want a Bundaberg East flood levee that is not downgraded. We want a Paradise Dam that is brand new, that is safe, that will not collapse and put people's lives in danger and will not betray the farmers. The LNP are downgrading on their morals, on their values and on their credit rating as well.

Hon. AJ STOKER (Oodgeroo—LNP) (6.07 pm): Would you look at the gloating from members opposite? There is a deep dishonesty at the heart of Labor's motion today. They sit over there crowing about the credit rating when for a decade they spent like economic vandals, driving our state into economic and social decline. They left behind a state on a debt trajectory of $218 billion by the end of the forwards. It is quite a remarkable thing to have managed to do, given the rivers of gold they had coming in—in record royalties, property-boom-level stamp duty revenue and the three new or increased taxes they slipped in there. They run scare campaigns on homelessness services when this government's choice to fund long-term and ongoing housing is worlds better than just shoving the vulnerable into hotels without a plan. The funding for housing the vulnerable is at record levels. They frighten women with claims that we cut the domestic and family violence budget when it, too, is at a record level and has been rising for two budgets in a row. They are constant knockers of the Olympic and Paralympic build when they had no serious plan other than for a temporary QSAC stadium which, at the bargain price of $2.25 billion, would have left no legacy for Queenslanders at all.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Pine Rivers, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mrs STOKER: At least now we have a government prepared to do the hard work needed to assemble a plan and to deliver a transport and infrastructure legacy for the games that means Queenslanders get something from it. Let us be real about Queensland's credit rating. Let us be honest about how Queensland got here, when the warning signs first appeared and what is being done now to change the trajectory. Budgets have consequences. You cannot spend year after year as though temporary spikes in revenue will last forever, baking in high recurring expenditure, accumulating debt and then suddenly act surprised when the bill comes in. That does not work for Queensland's families as they balance their mortgages with bills, food, fuel and the cost of raising kids. It does not work for small businesses as they work to pay for materials, make payroll and keep the bank happy. It does not work for Queensland. Labor baked it into the books of this state for over a decade. Now they have the nerve to sit over there, cackling and crowing about a downgrade. The glee, the delight they seem to take in seeing it happen is actually something to behold. They actually seem happy to see Queenslanders saddled with higher costs of borrowing and, quite frankly, that is just low.

This downgrade is not a surprise. It was foreshadowed by Standard & Poor's at the time of Labor's last budget update. S&P Global put Queensland on a negative outlook when we had barely walked in the door. It is worth remembering what we got in Labor's last budget: underfunded frontline services, hidden project blowouts, unfunded 50-cent fares, over $70 billion of revenue squandered—so bad they called it a clown show; not us, but the AFR. The blowouts and mismanagement were endemic. I could talk about many of them, but let us just pick one for the moment—Cross River Rail. It was promised at $5.4 billion and we have now found it is over $19 billion partly because their CFMEU mates ran riot. There are so many more examples: CopperString, Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro, the Coomera Connector, faster rail. I can keep going, but you do not need me to.

Since those opposite like quoting S&P Global so much, perhaps they would like a reminder of what they had to say back in September 2024—just before the election. They said that Queensland's operating margins would weaken, its after capital account would move into large deficit, operating expenses would rise and debt would rise sharply. That is the context. That is the truth that Labor wants removed from this debate. They want to talk about the day the rating changed, but not the years of decisions that came before it that made it happen.

Identifying how we got here is only half the job. The better news is that we have a plan to turn that dog's breakfast of Labor's economic mess around and we are doing it in a measured, careful way with the state on a pathway to surplus. Already the government has reined in Labor's $218 billion debt trajectory by $73.5 billion and we are doing it with no new or increased taxes. That has to be uncomfortable for the member for Woodridge. How many times did he promise no new or increased taxes? Not one and not two but 26 times. I will not take lectures from those opposite.

Ms MULLEN (Jordan—ALP) (6.12 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. It looks like the economic geniuses sitting on the government benches failed the one significant test for our state: not being able to maintain Queensland's credit rating. It is humiliating for the government, but so much worse for the people of Queensland. Yesterday the Treasurer rushed through his ministerial statement on the decision, wanting it to end faster than a tooth extraction. He literally mentioned 'credit rating downgrade' once, but who can blame him. The recent credit rating downgrade is not just an economic headline, it is a warning about the direction of our state's finances and the consequences of decisions made by this LNP government.

S&P Global Ratings downgrading Queensland's long-term credit rating from AA+ to AA is the first downgrade in 17 years. S&P cited weak budget performance, rising debt and increased infrastructure spending. This should be a wake-up call for the Queensland government. Instead of accepting responsibility, what we have seen is a Treasurer finally lifting a finger and pointing it at everyone but himself. Almost two years on they are blaming the previous Labor government—except in September 2024, after Labor's last budget, S&P confirmed Queensland's AA+ rating. They confirmed our outlook was stable. The federal government is also being blamed, but as Jim Chalmers rightly pointed out, the Queensland government owns the downgrade because of the fiscal mismanagement of the Crisafulli LNP government. The Queensland Treasurer admitted that S&P Global had warned him of this possibility for well over a year, long before the Commonwealth budget was released. In fact, S&P Global warned the Crisafulli government on no less than three occasions that the budget was weakening. In February 2025 they said—

> The negative outlook reflects our view that Queensland's financial management or fiscal and debt ratios could weaken in the next year.

In October 2025 they said—

> The negative outlook reflects our view that Queensland's budgetary performance could weaken during the next two years, resulting in higher debt.

And in February 2026 they said—

> The negative outlook reflects our view that Queensland's budgetary performance could weaken during the next two years, resulting in higher debt, largely due to heavy infrastructure spending.

Seriously! Talk about not getting the hint! The Queensland Treasurer is trying to blame reductions in stamp duty revenue, but ignores the fact that stamp duty is actually up 58 per cent over the last two years. The argument that the Commonwealth budget was a decisive factor is completely undermined by the fact New South Wales had its rating upgraded by S&P Global on the same day and the federal changes applied in both states.

Where is the Premier in all of this? Looks like he has gagged himself. This is the guy who promised lower debt, lower taxes and no cuts, but could not explain how that would add up. This is the guy who supported Labor's last budget holus-bolus without even seeing it because he did not want to distract from his small-target strategy. This is the guy who promised $7 billion in savings on consultants, knowing full well that was pie-in-the-sky economics. It is why S&P said on 7 February 2025 that 'they were going through that midyear fiscal update because they really don't know what's real and what's politics'.

Queenslanders are entitled to ask a simple question: what is the LNP government going to do now? I don't know, maybe they could borrow some money from their mate Darren Zanow, who spends more time here in parliament now than he did when he was a member of parliament. The people of Queensland do not want excuses, they want responsible financial management. Every dollar borrowed today is the responsibility for tomorrow. Rising debt means more money spent servicing interest and less flexibility to invest in hospitals, schools, housing, roads and essential public services. Experts have warned that higher borrowing costs could place pressure on government services or increase the need for additional revenue.

Queensland is preparing for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Major infrastructure investment is important, but investment must be matched by sound planning, transparent budgeting and strict financial discipline. We cannot allow ambitious projects or the whims of egomaniacs to become an excuse for uncontrolled spending. We cannot leave future generations to pay for today's political decisions especially when they have been described by GIICA as not fit for purpose. The Queensland government must explain how it intends to manage debt, control expenditure and protect essential services. It must provide Queenslanders with a clear path to restore confidence in our state's finances. This is about accountability. Queensland deserves a government that treats taxpayers' money with respect—remember that?—makes difficult decisions when necessary and puts the long-term interests of the community ahead of short-term political gain. Queensland's financial future cannot be secured through blame. It requires leadership, transparency and action. The people of Queensland deserve nothing less.

Hon. ST O'CONNOR (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (6.17 pm): The Liberal National Party will not be supporting this motion. It is misleading. In particular, I want to contribute to the claims made in the motion around emergency accommodation. I am pleased to be able to get some facts on the table before we have the contribution of the member for Gaven which will be anything but facts. When it comes to housing and homelessness, the claims of the member for Murrumba and the member for Gaven simply do not stack up to the facts. The current Labor leader is choosing the numbers that suit his scare campaign to mislead Queenslanders.

Here is the reality: under the former Labor government $822 million was invested in homelessness services in their last three budgets. Under the Crisafulli government $1.389 billion has been committed for homelessness services over our first three budgets: between 2025-26, 2027-28—and a further $456.4 million has been allocated for 2028-29. Given that $1.389 billion is a bigger number than $822 million, that is not a cut; it is a nearly 70 per cent increase in homelessness services funding in a three-year period alone. Our first budget delivered $592 million in additional funding and our second budget built on that with a further $450 million in funding over four years for homelessness services and crisis responses. That is additional funding—the opposite of cuts. It is more than $1 billion in our first two budgets alone.

While the misleading member for Murrumba wants Queenslanders to believe homelessness services are being reduced, we have delivered a 20 per cent uplift to those services and locked it in all the way to June 2029. They no longer have to wait for a treasurer to stand in this House and deliver a budget before they know whether they will have funding in the new financial year. Let us be very clear about what we are doing with those funds: we are fixing the broken system that we inherited. We are moving away from bandaid solutions to homelessness and are actually reducing it. Of course, having a crisis housing response does remain an important safety net and, as I have outlined, we have continued funding it at record levels. To suggest otherwise, as the Labor Party continually do, is just playing politics with vulnerable Queenslanders.

Hotels and motels are not the answer to homelessness. That is why we are helping people into appropriate crisis and supported accommodation as a pathway to a permanent home. Success for us is not measured by how much government money goes towards managing a crisis. It is measured by how many Queenslanders we get into a permanent home, and supply is our No. 1 priority. As I outlined this morning, the numbers show that this approach is working. We have had thousands of Queenslanders transition out of the hotel and motel program into longer term housing. My message to Queenslanders is that help is available and we urge people to reach out, despite the disgraceful scare campaigns we see from the Labor Party.

I will address our amendment, which talks about the decisions made by the Labor Party, and contrast it to some of the other scare campaigns they have run. They say we are selling social homes at scale. The reality is that they sold nearly 2,000 social homes during their time in office, particularly the member for Springwood. It was Mick's Market Day every day, under the member for Springwood. He sold 1,377 social homes in his time as housing minister.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order on correct titles.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you, Manager of Opposition Business. Member for Bonney, you have been here long enough to know that you should address people through their titles. I thank you for doing that into the future.

Mr O'CONNOR: I am not as good a real estate agent as the member for Springwood. Only 31 social homes have been sold in my time as housing minister—and that was mostly to tenants, versus just 12 per cent of social homes sold to tenants under the Labor Party. Labor said that our tenancy reviews would see thousands of Queenslanders thrown out of social housing. The reality is that the only people no longer in social housing are property owners and high-income earners. Who would disagree with that? We have had 3,709 social housing households have their rent reduced. Despite the social media scare campaigns that we see from the member for Murrumba around rent rises, not one public housing tenant in Queensland will pay more than 25 per cent of their income.

We are building more homes than any government has before. We have over 7,000 social and affordable homes under contract or construction right now across Queensland. We are on track to deliver over 2,000 a year after just 509 a year on average were added by the Labor Party. Queenslanders deserve to hear those facts and not more scare campaigns from the Labor Party, which is why we will not be supporting this misleading motion.

Hon. MAJ SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (6.23 pm): Member for Bonney, thou doth protest too much. And wasn't that contribution by the finance minister like being flogged by a warm lettuce? It is no wonder they did not get her to stand up with the member for Toowoomba South, because if those two are the answer to confidence in the state's finances then I would hate to hear what the question was. How incredibly embarrassing. We had 17 years without a downgrade. This state has come through a global financial crisis, a pandemic, floods and cyclones and yet there was not a credit downgrade under Labor, despite what those opposite try to spin. Under Labor we had a AA+ credit rating. S&P, the same organisation that downgraded the credit rating under those opposite, said that Labor's budget had a stable outlook.

'Stable' is not an adjective I would use to describe those opposite, particularly not people such as the Deputy Premier, who spent most of the last sitting week reciting *The Little Mermaid*. He has been spending too much time under the sea or under a rock if he thinks that being a superior economic manager means building an aquatic centre that his own authority recommended against, spending tens of millions of taxpayer dollars on what can only be described as blue political advertising or giving Adani a half a billion dollar tax-free holiday. I have not watched *The Little Mermaid* since I was about four, but my memory is that Ursula told Ariel that life is full of tough choices. However, I do not think she meant slashing domestic and family violence prevention money. I do not think she meant cutting crisis accommodation funding or delaying hospital projects to give money to Adani or to spend money on themselves.

In February 2026, the member for Kawana said—

When the contracts are issued, we will disclose those figures to the public. We want transparency and accountability in all of this.

The contract for the Coomera Hospital has been awarded to the same company that had already been awarded the contract—just delayed. When the Deputy Premier was asked how much it will cost, he said, 'Oh, sorry, I can't provide you with that information.' I am not sure if the member for Kawana has just been off with the mermaids or whether he was deliberately throwing the Premier under the bus, just as the health minister threw the acting premier under the bus earlier this week. They are all over the shop.

I move the following amendment to the amendment—

That all words after 'That this House' be omitted and the following inserted:

'1. notes the member for Toowoomba South said in October 2024, "I don't want to be a treasurer that has a ratings downgrade on my watch. It's that simple."

2. notes the member for Kawana called for Olympics project costs to be publicly released while in opposition in August 2022;

3. notes the member for Kawana said in February 2026, "When the contracts are issued, we will disclose those figures to the public. We want transparency and accountability in all of this."

4. notes that S&P Global downgraded Queensland's credit rating and stated, "We believe there are risks to the budget, given no Olympic games have been taken place within budget."

5. calls on the Crisafulli LNP government to provide Queenslanders with a true cost of each and every venue for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.'

Queenslanders have a right to know this information. When in opposition, those opposite were very strong on letting the sun shine in and talked about how Queenslanders should know how much projects should cost. Now that they are in government, all we have is suppression and secrecy. Queenslanders deserve to know what some of the Deputy Premier's glamour projects are going to cost. He said that he wants gold-plated swimming pools, which his own panel recommended against. He needs to provide that information to Queenslanders.

The member for Toowoomba South has said that he did not want to see a credit rating downgrade on his watch. How incredibly embarrassing! He owes it to Queenslanders to explain why he can find all of this money for multinational organisations but then tell homelessness services that they do not deserve the funding they had last year. I hear the spin from the member for Bonney, but his own department said it was a reduction in funding. We have tabled the spreadsheets. It cannot be any clearer.

Mr McCallum: Politically sensitive.

Ms SCANLON: Politically sensitive; I take the interjection. His own department knew it would not be politically popular because it is wrong. Those opposite made that choice and they should own it.



Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (6.28 pm): Let me start with the member for Gaven. This government believes in home aspiration. I congratulate her because, while she could not afford to buy a home under the Labor administration when she was housing minister, when we were elected we changed the housing policy framework and she could afford a home. Well done, member for Gaven. I hear that she wants to upgrade and has been looking for a new home. She has been looking for a home in Greenbank. I hear she has been looking for a home in Toohey and Stretton. I hear she has been looking for a home in Woodridge and Waterford. I have been advised that she has not been able to find the home she has been looking for so, unfortunately, she has had to settle back in Gaven. I feel for her because the leadership team of the Labor Party did not find her a cushy home to go to.

Mr O'Connor: They're pretty happy about it.

Mr BLEIJIE: They are happy that she is staying. I heard they had a big announcement, congratulating her for staying. I say to the member for Gaven: that is what you call a set-up by the leadership team of the Labor Party. They did not want her to move from Gaven. However, the fact that she thought about it for two months shows the disregard she has for the people of Gaven.

The Leader of the Opposition will say and do anything. I said it before the election—he will say and do anything—and you saw it today, the mistruths that come out of his mouth. Today, to use Sherwood RSL veterans in his contribution shows the disgrace and the gutter that he will go to to score a political line.

Let me put facts on the record because you are not going to get facts from the Leader of the Opposition. The Premier's office received an invitation on 30 July extending an invitation to the Premier to attend a function of the RSL sub-branch that the honourable opposition leader talks about. The Premier's office replied on 6 August. This is the response from the RSL—

Thanks for the email and also the notification the Premier is unable to attend. We are very much looking forward to Ms Janelle Poole, assistant minister, attending on his behalf. Ms Janelle Poole MP certainly aligns with everything under our banner of defence industry.

He comes in here and tarnishes the reputation and tells mistruths that the Premier was meant to be there today to speak when, in fact, he was invited on 30 July and he responded on 6 August that he was not able to go, and he was thanked by the RSL sub-branch, and they acknowledged Ms Janelle Poole, assistant minister, would be attending in his place. That is the gutter that the Leader of the Opposition goes to. That is the desperation. He is not up to the job. He was not up to the job of being premier. He is not up to the job of being the opposition leader because mistruths know no bounds as far as it relates to the Leader of the Opposition. He will come in here and say and do anything, including allowing the member for Jordan to attack the former member, Darren Zanow, who is sitting up in the gallery, who left parliament due to serious health reasons, and she jokes about his health, that he is in the gallery more than he was here as a member of parliament. He left parliament. You know what? I think it is shameful! I think—

Ms MULLEN: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the Deputy Premier's comments and ask him to withdraw.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, the member for Jordan has taken offence. Could you withdraw, please?

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. The Labor Party come in here and they forget their 10 years in office. Our Treasurer and our government is mopping up the mess of the Labor government—mopping up the mess of the member of Woodridge. He points and he points and he points, but all he did for 10 years was drive the debt up. Now our Treasurer, our government is fixing it. They were not going to deliver under their hospital plan. They were not going to deliver the hospital expansion program. It was fake. They did not put the money in the budget, just as they did not put the money in the budget for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, which we have saved. We have saved across Queensland. They have clearly shown their lack of support. The member for McConnel was attacking the investment in the RNA which, I might add, is in her electorate and it has already started—$287.5 million!

Ms GRACE: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence. It is not true. I ask it be withdrawn.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: You are taking personal offence. Member for Kawana, would you withdraw?

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. The member for McConnel also does not support Victoria Park Brisbane Stadium in her electorate—

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

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, would you withdraw, please?

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. The member for McConnel also said she is happy for rowing not to be in Rockhampton but at another place. That is the disdain she has for regional Queensland.

Ms GRACE: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is not true. I take personal offence. I ask that it be withdrawn. Tell the truth!

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for McConnel! Member for McConnel, you are warned under the standing orders. Please just put your point of order simply without further interjection. Member for Kawana, would you withdraw, please?

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. And the member for McConnel says the National Aquatic Centre in her electorate is a vanity project. She does not back the National Aquatic Centre either. Oh, she is offended by that!

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: The member's time has expired.

Mr BLEIJIE: We are fixing the terrible time of Labor's 10 years in office!

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

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, would you withdraw, please?

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.

Interruption.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (6.34pm): Mr Acting Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: You have a matter of privilege suddenly arising?

Mr BLEIJIE: I will, Mr Acting Speaker. The member for McConnel said the word 'untrue' before with respect to quotes I made from *Hansard* with respect to her comments about rowing on the Fitzroy River. I believe she has misled the House and I will be writing to you about that to have her referred to the Ethics Committee for, like, the 30th time!

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, I appreciate that matter of privilege and I look forward to seeing the correspondence in the Office of the Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER'S RULING

Amendment Out of Order

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Members, I have to make a ruling in relation to the amendment to the amendment moved by the member for Gaven before putting that amendment. Having sought advice from the Clerk, I am ruling that items 1, 4 and 5 of the amendment to the amendment moved by the member for Gaven are out of order in that they deal with the same issue already contained within the primary motion. Accordingly, when I put the amendment to the amendment in a couple of seconds, we will be voting on only matters 2 and 3 referred to in the amendment to the amendment moved by the member for Gaven. I so rule.

MOTION

Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance

Resumed.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: The question before the House is that the amendment to the amendment moved by the member for Gaven in line with the ruling I have just made be agreed to.

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

In division—

Mr Mellish interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Aspley, you have been warned under the standing orders and I am ordering you to withdraw from the chamber. I will inform you when you can come back.

Whereupon the honourable member for Aspley withdrew from the chamber at 6.36 pm.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I have ordered the member for Aspley to withdraw from the chamber. He can return after a one-hour period.

Mr LANGBROEK: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I draw your attention to the fact that the member for Aspley, on leaving the chamber, offended standing order 244(2). He did not acknowledge you as he left the chamber, and I ask you to follow up on that, please, Mr Acting Speaker.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Surfers Paradise.

AYES, 30:

ALP, 30—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Farmer, Furner, Grace, J. Kelly, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richmond, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

NOES, 49:

LNP, 49—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Chiesa, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Hatcher, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Vorster, Young.

Pair: Camm, Enoch.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Ms Scanlon) negatived.

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

AYES, 49:

LNP, 49—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Chiesa, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Hatcher, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Vorster, Young.

NOES, 30:

ALP, 30—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Farmer, Furner, Grace, J. Kelly, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richmond, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Pair: Camm, Enoch.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Amendment agreed to.

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

AYES, 49:

LNP, 49—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Chiesa, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Hatcher, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Vorster, Young.

NOES, 30:

ALP, 30—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Farmer, Furner, Grace, J. Kelly, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richmond, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Pair: Camm, Enoch.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House:

1. condemns the decisions taken by the members for Murrumba, Woodridge, Waterford and the Palaszczuk and Miles governments, which over a decade of decline, led to the credit rating downgrade issued by S&P Global.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Members, I apologise for the delay in informing the member for Aspley of his time of withdrawal from the chamber. I was seeking advice about whether it includes the dinner break or not. It does not include the dinner break. The member has withdrawn for one hour.

Sitting suspended from 6.45 pm to 7.45 pm.

MOTION

Orders Discharged

Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (7.45 pm), by leave, without notice: Pursuant to paragraph 2(e) of the business program motion agreed to by the House earlier this week, I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing or sessional orders:

1. general business notice of motion, House to take note of committee reports, No. 1 the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee Report No. 14, 58th Parliament, *Improving Queensland's Container Refund Scheme*, tabled on 16 October 2025; and

2. general business notice of motion, House to take note of committee reports, No. 8 the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee Report No. 21, 58th Parliament, *Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland*, tabled on 4 March 2026.

be discharged from the *Notice Paper.*

At the outset, I acknowledge that this motion pertains to two committee reports, both of which represent important work undertaken by their respective committees. This involved consultation, consideration of evidence and detailed examination of issues important to Queenslanders. I acknowledge the committee chairs and members of the parliamentary committees, the secretariats, the stakeholders, the organisations and individuals who made submissions and those who appeared before the committee to provide evidence.

The discharge of these reports is not diminishing the importance of either the reports or the work undertaken in preparing them. In each case, the substance of each committee's work has subsequently informed legislation which has been considered by the House. The findings and recommendations contained in the report on Queensland's container refund scheme were relevant to the development and consideration of legislation to strengthen that scheme. That legislation has now been introduced, examined, debated by members of this House and passed. Similarly, the findings of the inquiry into e-mobility safety and use informed the development of legislative reforms relating to the safe use of e-mobility devices, and those matters have also been considered by the House through the legislative process and the relevant legislation passed.

Therefore, members have had an opportunity to address the substantive issues contained within those reports as examined by the committees in the context of legislation arising from the work. The legislative debate allowed members to examine the relevant policy questions, consider the evidence and recommendations of the committee and express their views on the proposed reforms with respect to not only constituents within their respective electorates but also stakeholders and other organisations, and the House has made its decisions on the relevant legislation.

Leaving these separate motions to take note on the *Notice Paper* would create unnecessary duplication. It would require the House to revisit matters which have already been substantially considered through the debate and passage of legislation in the 58th Queensland Parliament. The purpose of this motion is very straightforward. It is about the orderly and efficient management of the business of the House. The *Notice Paper* should provide an accurate and practical account of the business that remains to be considered. Where the substance of a committee report has already been dealt with through legislation, retaining a separate motion to take note of the relevant committee report does not necessarily serve a purpose.

Importantly, this motion does not set aside the reports themselves. They remain reports of parliamentary committees. They remain publicly available and their evidence, findings and recommendations remain part of the formal parliamentary record. Nor does their discharge prevent the government, relevant agencies, stakeholders or members continuing to consider and refer to the work undertaken by the committee. It simply recognises that the principle issues raised in these two reports have now progressed beyond the reporting stage and, as I say, have translated into legislative proposals which were scrutinised through the parliamentary process, debated in the chamber and subsequently determined by the House.

Accordingly, discharging the associated motions to take note avoids duplicating work already completed and assists in maintaining the operation of the House. As all members would be aware, there are a number of reports on the *Notice Paper* which will be debated, including later this week. It is important that we get through those reports in a timely manner, as well as ensuring we optimise the time that is available with respect to not only those processes but also the entire work that has to be undertaken by the Queensland parliament.

It is for those reasons that I commend the motion to the House. It is a straightforward procedural motion. I have had the opportunity to discuss these matters with the Manager of Opposition Business prior to the bringing on of this debate.

Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (7.51 pm): I rise to respond to the motion moved by the Leader of the House. At the outset I want to acknowledge the dignified way that the Leader of the House has approached this matter. I also want to associate myself with the remarks of the Leader of the House in respect of the important work of committees hearing and expressing the views of Queenslanders to this House so that we can legislate according to their views. I agree and associate myself with the words of the Leader of the House up to and excluding where the Leader of the House started to talk about unnecessary duplication. I will come back to why this is not a straightforward procedural motion as described.

It occurred to me to identify other circumstances in which a motion has been brought to this House to discharge something of this nature. I am advised that, as best we can tell, a motion like this occurred in 2016. That motion took very similar steps to what this motion does which is discharge two reports from the *Notice Paper*. On the face of it, it might seem that this is a straightforward, somewhat

procedural motion. A procedural motion, we all know, is about the orderly functioning of this House. That is what happened in 2016 when the leader of the House, the then member for Sandgate, moved to discharge two reports from the *Notice Paper.*

I am advised that the procedural reason those reports were commended to the House to be removed from the *Notice Paper* was that then Speaker Wellington identified and ruled that considering those reports would anticipate debate on a very significant bill—I am advised the National Injury Insurance Scheme bill. To prevent a loss of conferring of significant rights to Queenslanders through the National Insurance Injury Scheme bill, those reports were discharged from the *Notice Paper*. That is fundamentally different from what is being put to this House tonight.

I want to acknowledge the member for Bulimba, who spoke yesterday about the International Day of Democracy. She talked about whether or not the current Crisafulli government has respect for democracy. We are only one day after the International Day of Democracy and democracy is out the window. What this motion will in fact do—I say this through you, Mr Deputy Speaker, to all members—is limit the opportunity for members of this House to express the voices and the views of their constituents in relation to, in particular, e-mobility. The issues of implementation of the e-mobility reforms and how we are attempting to keep Queensland safer through the e-bike laws introduced in this state would have the opportunity to be ventilated. Given that that item is No. 8 on the *Notice Paper*, there would have been a significant experiential period for Queenslanders to have engagement with their MP and for that MP to express those views in this House.

What this motion does tonight is not procedural. It limits the voices of Queenslanders. We cannot accept or support motions that limit the voices of Queenslanders expressed through this House. We cannot endorse steps that limit consideration of issues that Queenslanders know are important, particularly when it comes to community safety. That is what this motion does: limit the opportunity for debate in this House around community safety.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

YOUTH JUSTICE (CIRCUIT BREAKER) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 2886.

Mr BAROUNIS (Maryborough—LNP) (7.56 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Youth Justice (Circuit Breaker) Amendment Bill and to address the amendments currently under consideration. The bill amends the Youth Justice Act 1992 to introduce Circuit Breaker as a bail condition and standalone sentence order, to provide courts with a new tool to respond to serious youth offending. Circuit Breaker is intended to provide youth offenders with a 'last stop before detention' by providing a program that offers support, rehabilitation and reintegration.

The bill creates a new Circuit Breaker condition, which is a condition imposed on a bail undertaking granted to a youth. This condition requires the youth to participate in the Circuit Breaker program, including residing at the Circuit Breaker site, for the time they are subjected to the bail undertaking. The bill provides that a court can order a Circuit Breaker condition on a grant of bail where the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support has provided a suitability report advising that the child is suitable to participate in a Circuit Breaker program; where there is a place available in a Circuit Breaker program that is appropriate for the child; and where the child has not been previously sentenced to a Circuit Breaker order and the court is satisfied that such a condition is appropriate. Further, the amendments provide that a Circuit Breaker condition can only be imposed if the court would have otherwise made an order keeping or remanding the child in custody.

The framework for granting bail to a child will continue to apply. There are several mandatory conditions that must be imposed on a bail undertaking if the court imposes a Circuit Breaker condition, including that the child: wears a monitoring device; abstains from violation of the law; satisfactorily participates in activities as directed by the chief executive; complies with every reasonable direction of the chief executive; complies with the Circuit Breaker program; and resides at the Circuit Breaker site and does not leave without prior approval of the chief executive. The bill provides that the court may also impose any other condition that it considers necessary to facilitate the operation of the monitoring device or the participation of a child in the Circuit Breaker program.

The bill also requires the court to consider making an order to detain a child in custody until they start the journey to the Circuit Breaker site or can be fitted with a monitoring device. This is to allow risk to the community and other bail related risks to be mitigated as appropriate. If a child subjected to a Circuit Breaker condition is unwilling to comply with a condition, the bill provides that the child can make an application to the court to vary or revoke the bail. On such an application the court must either revoke the bail or vary the bail to rescind the Circuit Breaker condition, or it may impose another condition.

Breaking the cycle of crime does not end when Circuit Breaker concludes. Youth will be supported to reintegrate into their communities and continue engaging with education, training, employment and support services through the Staying on Track program. Circuit Breaker is about intervening before another young person progresses further into a life of serious offending and before another Queenslander becomes a victim of crime.

Strong laws and meaningful rehabilitation must go hand in hand. Youth offenders must face consequences for their actions while being given every opportunity to turn their lives around and stop offending. Since introducing our Making Queensland Safer Laws more than 4,000 youth have been charged with over 19,000 offences under Adult Crime, Adult Time. It is still early days and we are coming off an extremely high base, but we are starting to turn the tide of Labor's youth crime crisis. Victim numbers are down 9.6 per cent, the number of serious repeat offenders is down 29 per cent and proven Adult Crime, Adult Time offences are down 39 per cent.

In the Maryborough electorate we have two wonderful organisations that are already working on Circuit Breaker style programs to ensure that our youth are encouraged to break the bad choices they have been making in life. 'Sir' Bob Davis has established Hard Yakka, a program that helps both male and female youth on different days of operation. This 12-day program has been operating for the past 18 years and has a success rate close to 90 per cent.

I am also proud to have another extraordinary individual within the Maryborough electorate, Dan Smith. Dan is the founder of the The Smithery program. Dan is working with our local high schools and helping young males aged 15 to 17 who have been disengaged from our education system and are at risk of youth justice involvement. Both Hard Yakka and The Smithery are making positive changes to our community. I thank the Hon. Laura Gerber, the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services, for supporting these two programs.

Our government, the Crisafulli LNP government, has made a promise to Queenslanders. We promised to make our communities safe, put victims first and give youth offenders the chance for a better life through our early intervention and rehabilitation programs. Our youth can change their behaviours for the better, not only for themselves as individuals but also to benefit our whole community. Working to improve the youth crime mess we inherited from the former Labor government will take time and it is not going to happen overnight, but are we going to give up? No.

The poor decisions made by some of our youth who have committed multiple offences have resulted in fatal outcomes. They have destroyed the lives of many local families and changed our Maryborough community forever. Unfortunately, some of these youth offenders will be out of jail soon and they are going to carry on with their lives. My question is: what is the future of the victims and their families affected by these youth offenders? I very strongly commend the Youth Justice (Circuit Breaker) Amendment Bill to the House.

Ms BOLTON (Noosa—Ind) (8.04 pm): Crime, repeat offending, antisocial behaviours and the devastating impact on victims remain the greatest of concerns to us all across Queensland. We all deserve to feel safe in our homes, on the streets, at work and in school. We also deserve confidence that our justice system is reducing offending rather than delaying it. This is especially relevant with youth, as there is ample evidence to show that if you can turn a child's life around before entering detention reoffending is reduced.

This bill establishes what is called Circuit Breaker, a residential rehabilitation program that courts may order as either a condition of bail or a standalone sentence for eligible young offenders. It is intended as a last stop before detention, combining intensive supervision, education, mentoring, practical skills, rehabilitation and reintegration. This is a positive move and one that I raised in 2021 to address glaring gaps in our responses to crime. Other members, including the member for Traeger, have also raised this. A genuine sentencing option involving remote, live-in facilities with work and education options was needed.

Since 2019, over 80 per cent of Noosa responders to our annual community survey—yes, we are going back eight years—have supported remote rehabilitation for youth offenders. It was also a recommendation of the former youth justice select committee, even though government has said that all of those recommendations basically became defunct once the government changed—such a waste of effort and taxpayer dollars. As submitters to the inquiry demonstrated, there are problems with the program's evidence base and lack of transparency and clarity around the program's procurement and evaluation.

Will Circuit Breaker reduce youth crime and reoffending? We do not know; however, whilst serious offenders are detained they cannot do further harm, which is a positive. Government says the program is the only one of its kind in Australia. However, submitters felt it is reminiscent of a previous LNP boot camp which a 2015 KPMG report noted saw a 63.5 per cent reoffending rate of the 74 young people who attended, which is a higher reoffending rate than other community-based interventions available at that time.

Submitters to the bill, including YAC, PeakCare, Sisters Inside and RANZCP, stated that, due to the lack of an evidence base put forward by government, it has not demonstrated how the model would achieve better outcomes than those previous boot camps. Moreover, KPMG found that the average daily cost back in 2014-15 to keep a young person at one of the four boot camps, Lincoln Springs west of Ingham, was $2,350 a day compared with $999 for youth detention. As for current costs, Cairns mayor Amy Eden said in their submission that the average daily cost of keeping a young person in detention is $2,713.94 in Queensland. Hence, we do need to know how much Circuit Breaker will cost; however, the bill is light on details.

While I remain supportive of the option for residential rehabilitation programs, we have not yet been provided with sufficient clarity to address some concerns. Circuit Breaker is proposed to support up to 60 youths across two remote locations in North and South-East Queensland, which brings me to the next issue raised by submitters. Who are those youths going to be? The former youth justice select committee inquiry said that this type of intervention should be for those serious repeat offenders. At that time, some 500 young Queenslanders were committing the majority of crimes. We have not been able to ascertain how high that number is now, as there seems to be a lack of information on this and what is actually happening with them.

These youth are often victims themselves, coming from domestic violence households where alcohol and drugs are normalised. Many have multiple morbidities, including fetal alcohol syndrome and physical and mental trauma. Many are homeless and targeted by organised crime to do their bidding. These are the ones who need long-term rehabilitation away from their communities and away from opportunities to do harm. This is where Circuit Breaker may fail Queenslanders, as it is not long enough and it does not appear to be targeted to those repeat offenders. The reality is that you cannot take a child or adult with multiple issues that have taken a lifetime to develop and change that in three to six months. However, combined with the Staying on Track 12-month post-release support—which is another recommendation from the former youth justice select committee—positive outcomes could result, but that is not a given. It has been interesting hearing the various contributions, including that of the member for Maryborough. He said that the post-release support would be available; however, according to evidence the department gave at the inquiry, only circuit breakers who have also served time in a detention centre would automatically be eligible for that program.

The Uniting Church in Australia Queensland Synod and the Office of the Public Guardian, amongst others, argued that gains achieved from structured residential programs are unsustainable unless accompanied by ongoing supports in the community. Earlier this year I asked where the long-term wraparound supports were. Unless education, mental health, housing, family support and community services continue beyond programs and detention, any gains can be lost. The reality is that detaining someone at great cost and then releasing them back into the same situation that caused the criminality in the first place has a result. QAO data from 2022 shows that 53 per cent reoffend within two weeks and 71 per cent within 12 months. That is not the formula for safer communities and fewer victims.

Submitters who supported the bill included those who have been directly impacted by youth crime. Understandably, they are angry, frustrated and out of patience. However, regardless of data and fact cherrypicking, the percentages speak for themselves. The environment itself must be part of rehabilitation. As the Queensland Family and Child Commission stated—

> The key question is not only whether children are removed from environments associated with offending, but whether the alternative environment provides the relationships, supports and opportunities necessary to reduce reoffending, improve long term outcomes, and support successful reintegration into the community.

Whilst acknowledging elements of this bill reflect an approach that has been advocated for, its inadequate timeframes and lack of focus on serious repeat offenders could lead to a program being utilised by those who would be equally suited to other programs at less cost. Legislation and programs should never be judged by their intent alone, as much as we yearn to. It must ultimately be judged by whether it works, and we need transparent data to ascertain this. However, we may never know if the assessment criteria and post-release monitoring are nonexistent, not available or skewed to suit government, which we have experienced many times over the years.

Voice for Victims recommended that the bill be implemented with the governance, data, evaluation and service delivery safeguards necessary to reduce serious repeat offending. Queenslanders deserve that.

Will this piece of legislation reduce crime and victims? Not alone, because the complex nature of offending can only be properly addressed by targeting the contributors and not by slogans and touting to unsuspecting Queenslanders that removing detention as a last resort would reduce crime—which it did not—then saying that Adult Crime, Adult Time would do the job, knowing that the evidence said these would not change anything. The government now says that it will take time, and that is correct, as resolving the reasons why crime is committed is going to take time, money and bipartisan multi-term agreements, not politicking. The Justice Reform Initiative said in their submission—

The Bill does not provide an evidence base for the proposed Circuit Breaker program.

This House has sadly moved away from evidence-based policy, independent analysis, transparent reporting and honesty with Queenslanders—all in the name of winning elections instead of delivering real outcomes that all can support. However, I do thank the government for at least moving beyond slogans in this bill towards implementing some recommendations from that youth justice select inquiry of 2023. There were 60 of them and we are seeing at least three. I can only hope that more are actioned to demonstrate respect for Queenslanders and ensure the nine months and the taxpayer dollars utilised during that inquiry are not totally wasted.

Mr LISTER (Southern Downs—LNP) (8.14 pm): I rise to speak to the Youth Justice (Circuit Breaker) Amendment Bill 2026. In doing so, the House can be confidently assured that I will express the voice of Southern Downs. I have listened intently during this second reading debate yesterday and today. One of the things which astonishes me is the stubborn revanchist dogma that I hear from the other side of the House criticising the intent and the provisions of this bill. They are coming from a position where not only did they give us the youth crime crisis we are now dealing with but they set up the very causes which I have heard speakers talk about. Members have said that we need to leave kids with families and ensure they are culturally safe, and then they have said in the very same breath that we need to deal with the causes of this youth crime crisis—the delinquency, the failure to go to school, the abuse, the trauma and the failure to thrive.

I put it to those people over there that the very experts who they quote and suggest we need to be listening to and implementing their strategies are the very ones who got us into this mess in the first place. The street commonsense of the good country people of Southern Downs will have nothing of that. As I said, it was the experts who egged on the Labor Party who got us into this mess in the first place. This bill is trying to deal with a problem which emerged from when the Labor government came to office in 2015. They could not wait, and with Tarquin's ravishing strides they went in and their very first item of business was to water down the Youth Justice Act. It was the crusade of socialist dreams.

Mrs Poole interjected.

Mr LISTER: I take that interjection from the member for Mundingburra. As a former police officer from Townsville and not that long out of uniform, she actually knows a bit about this, as does my good friend the member for Mackay.

This bill is necessary. It is a measure which conforms to the promises that the LNP Crisafulli government took to the last election in late 2024. We said that we had a full strategy. We were going to have consequences for action and we were going to have proper early intervention, support and rehabilitation. This is one of the spokes in that particular wheel.

I have heard a kaleidoscope of objections from the other side of the House which have shone a remarkable sidelight on the thinking of the Labor Party when it comes to youth crime. I do not know what their intent is when we vote on this, but you can hear in the shrill appeals to social justice, human rights, culture and all those things the same tin ear which prevailed for that decade of decline which gave us this crisis. That is no small thing because the people of my community have not suffered least

in the youth crime crisis. I talk about communities like Goondiwindi, where offenders are probably beyond help because of the very measures that the Labor Party implemented for so long. Many of them are now adult offenders.

The only way to protect the community is to lock up offenders if they insist on offending whenever they are at liberty. This Circuit Breaker program is a very good way of doing that because it gives them the opportunity to learn a bit about themselves and acquire a bit of discipline and self-respect. If they do not, I am not too fussed because I know they are away from my community and they will not be stealing a car, invading a home, breaking into a business or assaulting an innocent, law-abiding Queenslander night after night after night. Any argument which criticises the purposes of our crackdown on youth crime is effectively saying that the communities I represent simply have to tolerate the crime—just put up with it—until the discredited social measures of the lefties on the other side of the House have prevailed.

We know that is not going to happen. They had a decade to get it right and they were wrong. I heard some members talk about the security being only one fence. The hypocrisy there is glaring, because they wanted these very same offenders to be on the streets, to be on bail, when they committed the same offences.

Mrs Poole: They don't even want them to have a fence.

Mr LISTER: I take that interjection. The member for Mundingburra, having been a police officer in Townsville not that long ago, knows what I mean when I talk about offenders who, whenever they are at liberty, steal cars, invade homes, break into businesses and assault people night after night. I see hand-wringing about the costs. Whatever the cost is, I very much doubt that it will be any more than the price of a stolen car every night or a burnt down business or the trauma and the disadvantage which is occasioned to the victims of this crime crisis.

Victims must come first, and not just those who have already fallen victims to the crime crisis but those who will become a victim if these offenders are left at large. As I say—and I am quite certain I speak for the overwhelming majority of my electors in Southern Downs—these young offenders who will be selected for this program, who I think are fortunate, will have a real opportunity. If they choose not to take it, the answer is that they will go back to prison. If they reoffend they will go back to prison. We should never base our policy for community safety on the needs or the proclivities of the offenders; they do not have a say in this. Good, law-abiding people—people who live by and uphold the law; who work hard for their living; who work hard to put food on the table, to put their kids through school, to buy a house and to pay it off; who work hard to acquire their possessions, their cars and so forth; who work hard in their small businesses to employ people, generate a bit of tax and be a contributor to the community—are sick and tired of the wailing and the woke hand-wringing over the interests of offenders.

If Labor had not been in power for that decade we would not have the crisis we have now and we could probably have indulged talk about rehabilitation. I suspect that many of those who are the product of that decade of decline under Labor will never be rehabilitated. I hope I am wrong, but that is the view of my community.

Mrs Poole: That is Labor's legacy.

Mr LISTER: It is Labor's legacy; I take that interjection. This is a measure which is available to magistrates to sentence youth offenders: to either give them bail with a condition that they undertake this particular program, Circuit Breaker, or sentence them to Circuit Breaker. It is not sending them straight to prison, so those who say that it does not do the offenders good to have them locked up should be grateful for this. At the end of the day, it is one more measure in a suite of arrangements that the LNP government has an unquestioned mandate to implement, and the people of Goondiwindi, Warwick, Millmerran, Stanthorpe, Inglewood, Texas, Allora and Killarney who have fallen victim to crime because of the rampant youth justice failure of that last decade will thank us for this. I say to the Labor Party: criticise this at your own peril. I do not think they are doorknocking their electorates and saying, 'Did you hear about this dreadful stuff that the government is doing to crack down on youth crime?' I bet they do not do that, because the word on the street is fatally disconnected from what the Labor Party is up to.

I am proud to support this bill. It is good legislation. I want to thank both of the ministers who have had a role in this, particularly the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services, the Hon. Laura Gerber. A great deal of work has gone into this and it is what my community needs. It is what my community demands.

Ms MULLEN (Jordan—ALP) (8.23 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Youth Justice (Circuit Breaker) Amendment Bill 2026. What a truly misleading bill this has turned out to be. Here we were thinking we were finally going to see some of the rolled-gold intervention programs that the Crisafulli LNP government was spruiking before the last election, but, alas, it looks like the only people who will be rolling in gold may be the potential LNP mates being given the contracts for these facilities. I want to start with that point.

A very concerning aspect of this legislation, amongst a number of concerning elements, is around the procurement process for these facilities. New section 282O(1) provides that a regulation may prescribe an entity as a Circuit Breaker provider. Subsection (2) provides that the minister may recommend to the Governor in Council the making of a regulation if the minister is satisfied that the proposed Circuit Breaker entity has appropriate experience or expertise to be a Circuit Breaker provider. It is clear that the minister has some pretty significant authority to determine the entity and there seems to be nothing within the legislation that prevents the minister from overriding a departmental recommendation. This was the point that the director-general confirmed, albeit after a long and winding response to a question from the shadow minister about procurement. He confirmed that an independent panel will evaluate tender responses and make recommendations to the director-general as the delegate and they will make that recommendation to the minister. He went on to say—

It is a matter for government about its appointment of providers and prescribing those providers in regulation.

What I will say is that the Queensland opposition will be watching very carefully to see who is ultimately successful in running these facilities, because we have already seen enough examples of this government's outrageous conflicts of interest. What is a $50,000 lunch between friends and approvals?

The legislation before us proposes supporting up to 60 youth across two remote locations, in North Queensland and South-East Queensland. It has become evident that the department of youth justice is seeing these facilities as nothing more than increased capacity for the beleaguered youth justice system. The director-general was quick to point out that combined Woodford and Circuit Breaker Sentencing will see an additional 30 per cent increase in capacity in the youth justice system. This begs the question: is this actual and real rehabilitation and crime reduction service or just a quick way to artificially inflate detention capacity? Of course, given the lack of real security for these facilities one would wonder if they are, in fact, detention. As leaked tender documents show—

There will be a requirement at a minimum for a fence with lockable gates to provide a physical boundary, to support supervision, and to monitor authorised access and egress of the location.

However, what is concerning is that section 52AB of the bill states—

(2) The court may impose a circuit breaker condition on a child only if the court would have made an order keeping or remanding the child in custody had the court not imposed the condition.

As the statement of reservation makes clear, it is reasonable to assume, then, that the cohort of young offenders who will be on those remote facilities are simply offenders who would otherwise be on remand in a secure facility—a secure facility fenced with a locked gate. Same, same!

The most concerning aspect of this bill is the potential harm to children and the lack of transparency around this. Section 282X of the bill states—

If a circuit breaker provider, or an employee or contractor of a circuit breaker provider, (each a reporting entity) becomes aware, or reasonably suspects, that a child has suffered harm while participating in the provider's circuit breaker program, the reporting entity must, unless the reporting entity has a reasonable excuse, report the harm or suspected harm to the chief executive ...

That reasonable excuse is later explained to include—

(4) It is a reasonable excuse for the reporting entity not to report a matter that reporting the matter might tend to incriminate the reporting entity.

This is pretty unbelievable stuff. Whilst the minister has tried to explain away the inclusion of a reasonable excuse, citing reporting requirements under the Reportable Conduct Scheme in what was clearly a train wreck of an interview on ABC Radio, it does beg the question: why include a reasonable excuse on the grounds of incrimination in the first place? The QFCC, the Queensland Family and Child Commission, summed it up best when they submitted—

When it comes to the safety of children, adults should be required to self-incriminate where they have taken on paid responsibility for the care of a child.

However, we are being asked to accept that everything will be fine with these remote, out-of-the-way facilities because, as highlighted by the Public Guardian, Ms Shayna Smith—

The Bill does not include standards of care for children staying at circuit breaker sites, such as minimum standards for accommodation, food, recreation, health services, disability supports (if required), family contact, cultural support, or reintegration planning. It does not align with the detailed charter of youth justice principles for children detained in youth detention centres.

Finally, this does feel like deja vu with a side of a KPMG report, the kind the LNP government did not bother to read. Stakeholders were very clear that the model for these so-called Circuit Breaker facilities seemed eerily similar to the Newman government's failed boot camps. The final report for the evaluation of these Queensland youth boot camps by KPMG saw them scrapped for their clear ineffectiveness at reducing recidivism. PeakCare raised an important question—

... how has the proposed Circuit Breaker Program been designed differently to address the lessons identified through Queensland's previous experience?

QFCC also noted—

The evaluation of Queensland's Youth Boot Camp program undertaken by KPMG in 2015 identified limited evidence that the program reduced recidivism and found that objectives relating to family and community engagement were largely not achieved.

Ultimately, who cares? The LNP government just want to be able to say they have approved a Circuit Breaker program because it sounds good in a media release and on the news. They do not care whether these facilities will be secure and safe. They do not care whether providers will be held accountable for potential harm to children. They do not care whether there will be proper probity in the selection of the providers. Ultimately, they do not care whether these facilities will actually provide true and meaningful rehabilitation—a real circuit breaker for these young offenders.

Mr BAILLIE (Townsville—LNP) (8.29 pm): What we on this side of the House do care about is victims, and this is the only side of the chamber we hear the word 'victims' coming from. We are concerned about victims, and that is why we have taken the strong stance that we have. I rise today to speak in support of the Youth Justice (Circuit Breaker) Amendment Bill 2026, a key Crisafulli government election commitment to make our communities safer and reduce the number of victims in this state. Today, on National Victims of Crime Day, we recognise that victim numbers increased by 193 per cent during Labor's decade of decline. Since the Crisafulli government was elected, we have seen victim numbers falling by 9.6 per cent. While these are positive early results, we know we still have a long way to go.

Adult Crime, Adult Time is starting to yield results, but repeat offenders are committing more crimes when they appear before the courts and are granted bail. We have other legislation to reform bail before the House so I am conscious not to anticipate debate, but the Circuit Breaker programs provide the courts with an alternative to bail and an alternative to a stay at a youth detention centre. Circuit Breaker does three critical things: it removes these offenders from the community where they have caused harm; it creates increased capacity in the youth justice system by providing another option between community-based orders and detention; and it provides these young offenders with an environment where there is structure, discipline, education and hands-on regional learning—an opportunity for them to learn real skills and be rehabilitated.

Under Labor, the reoffending rate was at 96 per cent from the youth detention centre in Townsville. That is Labor's record. Labor removed rehabilitation programs, weakened laws and saw offending and reoffending skyrocket. The Crisafulli government has taken a different approach—stronger laws, providing police with the resources they need with more boots on the ground, and investing in early intervention and rehabilitation. The first legislation we introduced was our Making Queensland Safer Laws, removing detention as a last resort and introducing the first tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time offences, restoring consequences for actions. We have continued to expand Adult Crime, Adult Time to include 47 offences. We have seen more than 4,000 youths charged with over 19,000 offences under Adult Crime, Adult Time. In addition, we have passed Daniel's Law to protect our most vulnerable, Jack's Law to take weapons off our streets, and legislation to tackle antisocial behaviour and take a stronger stance on drugs, and there is more legislation on the way to further strengthen our laws.

We are delivering more boots on the ground, with more than 13,000 police—the largest the service has ever been—and dedicated teams like the Flying Squad to surge police resources to where and when they are needed. In addition to new Tasers and Polair assets in regional areas, we are providing our police with the resources they need. If we turn our attention to early intervention and rehabilitation, we are investing in initiatives and programs to help at-risk youths before they fall into a life of crime and appear before a court. We have announced a crime prevention school in Townsville to deliver learning differently and re-engage at-risk youths in education. We are funding programs that were cut under Labor like the Garbutt youth hub, providing a safe place for youths to go after school hours, and many other early intervention and rehabilitation programs. This bill and Circuit Breaker are different. This bill will provide the courts with a new option to deal with repeat youth offenders. It will provide the courts with the ability to order a sentence for between three to six months for a Circuit Breaker rehabilitation program. I know a little bit about circuit breakers.

Mr Stevens: Sparky!

Mr BAILLIE: I take the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. Before serving the electorate of Townsville in this place, I was an electrical contractor. Circuit breakers are a safety device. They are designed to protect an electrical circuit from damage caused by current in excess of that which the equipment can carry safely. In the event there is a circuit failure, the circuit breaker will interrupt the current before further damage can occur. Once the circuit breaker is activated, the fault can be identified and rectified. Testing would occur and, once confirmed the circuit is safe, it can be reset. Unlike a fuse, which performs the same task but must be replaced once activated, a circuit breaker can be reset once the fault is rectified and normal operation restored.

That is what Circuit Breaker does. In the event that a young member of our community is not participating in our community safely and breaking the law, when they appear before the court the court can order them to participate in Circuit Breaker. The offender will be removed from the negative influences and environments contributing to their offending and placed in a structured residential program designed to break the cycle of repeat offending. It will provide strict daily routines and hands-on learning, alongside education, life skills, positive behaviour programs and pathways to vocational training and employment—an opportunity to reset, an opportunity for the youth to turn their life around, an opportunity for them to break the cycle of crime.

Circuit Breaker is facilitating a reset when it comes to a youth offender's behaviour and provides an opportunity for law-abiding behaviour to be restored. We know that many young people who come into contact with the justice system face complex challenges. Returning young people to the same circumstances without intervention often produces the same outcomes—more break-ins, more car thefts and more victims—and we must do more. We have listened to the community. Townsville residents are fed up with being targeted by the same group of young offenders committing multiple offences a day. Why do they do this? Because up until recently there have been no consequences. Thanks to Labor, there were no consequences.

For victims of crime, there is the financial cost of fixing and replacing damaged cars, upgrades to security for homes and businesses, smashed storefronts, windows, lost trading hours and stolen stock. For some, there are physical scars. However, much more common is the occurrence of psychological scars. Many victims of crime are living in a permanent state of anxiety—afraid to go out of their driveway, lying awake at night in fear, looking out the window at every noise, listening to every footstep, double and triple checking their locks. Police are fed up too, arresting the same group of repeat offenders day after day, only to have them charged and released back out on to the streets.

The Circuit Breaker program is designed to deal with the revolving door of the youth justice system. It draws a line in the sand and puts a stop to an offender, giving them an alternative to being locked up in a detention centre under Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. It provides them with the opportunity, particularly for the high-risk offenders, to be removed from the environments that have caused them to conduct that offending and puts them in a different environment where they have more of an opportunity given that there is discipline and a place to learn practical skills—transferable skills—for up to six months.

This bill is supported by an $80 million investment over four years to fund Circuit Breaker programs for up to 60 youth offenders, increasing the capacity of our programs. They will be in regional locations away from urban centres and the location itself will be a barrier to the repeat offending. It provides them with that change of scenery that they need to be able to focus on learning those new skills. This bill recognises that breaking the cycle of offending requires a circuit breaker—an intervention to stop the offending and redirect young people towards something more positive. The bill says to victims of crime and to the residents of Townsville that they deserve to feel safe in their homes, safe in their businesses and safe on their streets, and that is why I commend the bill to the House.



Mr SMITH (Bundaberg—ALP) (8.38 pm): I rise to contribute to this debate. At the outset, of course this side of the House acknowledges that any victim of crime is one victim too many. We do not want to see young people falling into the criminal justice system because of acts of crime, just as we do not want to see victims.

Ms Grace: It is insulting to suggest otherwise.

Mr SMITH: It is insulting to suggest otherwise; I take that interjection. It is important to remind ourselves that the best way to stop someone becoming a victim of crime is to prevent crime. The government says that this is about rehabilitation, about prevention and about changing the pathways,

yet there are still too many questions that remain unanswered with regard to this bill. One of the first ones is: who will go into these Circuit Breaker camps? There is no clear definition. There is nothing specified. We are hearing things from all over the joint. The explanatory notes read—

… Victim Support has provided a suitability report advising that the child is suitable to participate in a Circuit Breaker program and that there is a place available in a Circuit Breaker program that is appropriate for the child ...

What is a 'suitable' child? What is an 'appropriate' child? We are hearing that these children will not be a risk of escaping the Circuit Breaker camp and going into the community; however, they have to wear a monitoring device in case they jump over the fence and escape into the community. We hear that these children will be 'suitable,' but the member for Townsville says they are high-risk offenders, so we do not know which children will be going in here. As we heard throughout the committee process, it is ultimately up to the director-general's discretion. Section 52AB(2) states—

The court may impose a circuit breaker condition on a child only if the court would have made an order keeping or remanding the child in custody had the court not imposed the condition.

As the member for Jordan highlighted, this is effectively saying that this is a child who would have gone into detention, where there would have been an appropriate facility to maintain safety for that child, for the staff and for the community around that centre. We do not know what the security measures are, nor what will actually be there. The leaked tender document was quoted as saying there will be a requirement, at a minimum, for a fence with lockable gates to provide a physical boundary. That will not keep them in. I saw primary school kids climb over fences when I was a teacher.

Ms Grace: I have seen toddlers.

Mr SMITH: This is a joint contribution; I take that interjection. When I was teaching at a particular high school in Bundaberg—I will not say which one; it is pretty easy to work out, though—I saw a kid in year 10 climb over a six-foot fence to go to the fish and chip shop. What is going to happen here? We do not know what security settings will be in place for staff, for the children and for the local community—except they will have a fence with gates that are lockable. We have security fences around our schools and kids still manage to find a way out.

How is this not boot camps 2.0? How is this different to the former failed boot camp program that was put forward by the Deputy Premier? How is this model in any way different? Let's have a look. We have the Queensland Family and Child Commission stating—

The evaluation of Queensland's Youth Boot Camp program undertaken by KPMG in 2015 identified limited evidence that the program reduced recidivism ...

PeakCare said—

... the proposed Circuit Breaker Program has been designed differently to address the lessons identified through Queensland's previous experience.

How, though, is their question. How is it in any way different to the boot camp? The Bar Association of Queensland said—

However, the program's mandatory statutory features ... share significant common ground with the discipline-focussed model.

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): Just one moment, member for Bundaberg.

Mr SMITH: No, let him go, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Southport, the member is not taking your interjections.

Mr SMITH: I only take relevant interjections by people who are important.

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

Mr SMITH: To help the House, I withdraw. Every now and then you get one and you are not even trying!

This is the important thing: how will this model differ from the boot camps we have seen? How will it actually change children's behaviour? Any suggestion that this will be anything more than a bunch of weekend warriors wanting to take kids out to their farms or cattle stations, dress up in camo gear and make kids run through tyres—that is basically all we have at the moment. These camps will be run by a couple of blokes who have watched *Full Metal Jacket* too many times and think they can make children do that. If I am wrong, the government should be able to tell me how many registered teachers

will be employed at each location. I will wait for an interjection. They were keen to interject before. How many registered teachers will be at these Circuit Breaker camps to roll out the education? How many TAFE teachers will visit the sites so that these young people can gain the life skills they will apparently be getting? Will there be RTOs linked to these? I am waiting for interjections and I am not hearing them, because there are no answers in the bill. There are no answers from the government as to what they are putting in place for young people to be reformed. Will there be individual learning plans put in place for students with ASD or kids with dyslexia and dyspraxia? Some of those opposite are having to google what that means. What purposes for Circuit Breaker will be put in place? What childhood experts will be put in place—or will it be a bunch of weekend warriors out on the cattle station?

The minister needs to come forward in her reply speech tomorrow and outline how many registered teachers, psychologists and counsellors will be present. How many trainers will go out from TAFEs into these Circuit Breaker camps? How do we know what underlying mental health issues these kids will have, and will they continue to have access to counselling services? Will they continue to have access to psychologists? What world-class, leading evidence do they have to show that they can in any way change the behaviours of children if they are not putting professionals who are trained to teach children, engage with them, assess mental health capacity and identify risks of harm and self-harm?

Mr McDonald: Read the report.

Mr SMITH: I heard the member for Lockyer say, 'Read it.' We have read it. I have asked for an answer and the government cannot provide it. Maybe the member for Lockyer has the answer. How many registered teachers? Go, comrade, go. Read the report.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bundaberg, please address your speech through the chair.

Mr SMITH: The member for Lockyer cannot answer; the minister cannot answer; no-one on the treasury benches can answer. They have no idea. What about the harm to children and the risk of self-harm? Who will we have onsite identifying when children are self-harming? Let me tell you, it is not that easy to tell unless you are trained in understanding the cues around self-harm. As someone who has worked in a private school and in a public school—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SMITH: I take personal offence at the comments by the member for Mermaid Beach and I ask him to withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Mermaid Beach, I did not hear what you said but the member is not taking your interjection. Member for Bundaberg, can you resume?

Mr SMITH: I take his interjection. That way, the member for Mermaid Beach can go off to Ethics. Got him! What skilled person will be able to ensure children are protected?

Government members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Bundaberg, you have one minute and 19 seconds left.

Mr SMITH: They have been quiet for most of the day, but all of a sudden the chickens have come home to roost. They cannot answer basic questions. How many registered teachers? They cannot answer it. How many psychologists? They cannot answer it. How many counsellors? They cannot answer it. How many people will have to report when a child is harmed onsite? According to their legislation, none. Not one person employed at that facility will have to report when a child has either harmed themselves or has been harmed by an employee at one of these weekend warrior camps.

I can see they all want to laugh at that and celebrate. The member for Hervey Bay is giggling at the idea of a child self-harming, giggling at the idea of a child possibly being sexually assaulted. Now he is dancing at the idea of a child being sexually assaulted. This legislation says that that child does not have to have an adult report it. That is what those opposite believe. They believe if a child is sexually abused in one of these Circuit Breaker camps they do not have to report it. That is what they think about children. That is why this will be a failed piece of legislation. Minister, answer my questions! Do it! Do it!

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think we have to reflect on what has just happened here and everybody take responsibility for their behaviour moving forward.

Mrs KIRKLAND (Rockhampton—LNP) (8.51 pm): I rise tonight to support the Youth Justice (Circuit Breaker) Amendment Bill 2026. It is a bill that reflects a simple but powerful principle: Queenslanders deserve to be safe, victims deserve to be heard and young people at risk of becoming entrenched offenders deserve a genuine opportunity to change course before it is too late. We cannot keep doing the same thing and expect a different result. We have seen where that lands after 10 years of a government that failed to even acknowledge that there was a problem with youth crime—until now, of course. Now they say the problem is so big where are you going to fit them all, but argue that programs offering 60 beds with 24-hour supervision and supports will not work. Then they say that we need to give intervention options, but not this option, yet they have no alternative option except to go back to the soft laws that got us all here in the first place. That is madness from those opposite.

This bill seeks to intervene at a critical point in a young person's offending trajectory. It recognises that for a small cohort of serious and repeat youth offenders the current options have too often proven inadequate. Community-based orders have not always interrupted the cycle of offending, while detention frequently occurs only after significant harm has already been done. It creates a new court ordered Circuit Breaker program that sits between traditional community-based supervision and detention. It provides courts with the power to remove young offenders from the environment and influences that are driving their offences, placing them in structured, residential rehabilitation and equipping them with the education, life skills, behavioural supports and vocational pathways necessary to turn their lives around. This is not about being soft on crime, nor is it about replacing detention where detention is warranted. The bill expressly recognises that detention remains appropriate in certain circumstances. Rather, Circuit Breaker is intended to be the last stop before detention, providing a meaningful intervention before another victim is created and before another young person becomes permanently entrenched in criminal behaviour.

What is particularly compelling about this legislation is the strong support it received throughout the committee process. The committee heard not only from government agencies and service providers but also from victims, educators, Indigenous community leaders and experienced practitioners from across Queensland, including many from Central Queensland. One of the strongest endorsements came from Queensland's Victims' Commissioner Kate Connors. She told the committee—

> Victims of youth crime have shared with me their desire to see a greater focus on initiatives that will prevent crime in their community and provide for the long-term rehabilitation of young offenders.

She went on, further observing—

> A recurring theme of my conversations with victims of youth crime is frustration that opportunities to break the cycle of crime are not being seized. I believe that most victims of crime will support the broad objectives of the Circuit Breaker orders,

These comments are significant because they challenge a false choice that often emerges in debates about youth justice.

Victims are not asking only for punishment, many are asking for interventions that work. They want consequences but they also want fewer victims. They want a system capable of breaking the cycle of crime rather than simply documenting it. The committee also heard from Natalie Merlehan, the director of Voice for Victims Foundation, whose personal story was deeply moving. She outlined the lifelong physical consequences that she continues to live with after becoming the victim of a serious repeat youth offender. Despite those experiences she supported the bill because she recognised the importance of preventing further victimisation. She told the committee—

> Voice for Victims support this bill because we believe that effective rehabilitation is one of the strongest tools for preventing future crime. With strong implementation, Circuit Breaker has the potential to reduce reoffending, reduce victimisation and deliver safer communities across Queensland.

Those words should resonate throughout this chamber because they are the voices of the people we represent. They are the voices of the victims. Importantly, some of the most persuasive evidence came from Central Queensland witnesses who have worked directly with disengaged young people or experienced the consequences of repeat offending in our communities. At the Mount Morgan hearing Lyn Harland, the principal of Carinity Education Rockhampton, spoke from eight years experience working with students and families facing highly complex challenges. She offered her support—

> It is from that vantage point I offer these remarks in support of a Circuit Breaker approach that places the young person at its centre.

Her evidence matters because it comes from someone working on the front line every day. She understands that some young people need a genuine reset, an intervention that is capable of reconnecting them with education, with support and with hope.

Similarly, Central Queensland educator and youth services leader, Karla McPhail, chief executive officer of The Real Group, offered unequivocal support, drawing on more than 25 years of educational and youth engagement experience, including work across Central Queensland. She told the committee—

I am extraordinarily supportive of the document. I think it is a great program and an exceptional initiative.

Perhaps most importantly she framed the question facing policymakers in these terms—

This program strongly supports whether we are creating criminals or whether we are proactively intervening at a critical point in time where we can change the course of their lives.

The bill recognises that if government waits until a young person has committed dozens of offences, disconnects entirely from education and positive influences, and has become a habitual offender, then the social, economic and human costs become exponentially greater. The committee also heard support from Uncle George James who advocated for culturally informed approaches that remove young people from harmful influences and reconnect them with positive guidance. He described the importance of taking young people out into the bush and engaging them in meaningful activities under the guidance of the right mentors. His evidence reinforces one of the central features of the Circuit Breaker model: removing young people from the environment and the peer groups that are often sustaining their offending behaviour.

Paul Mitchell, described during proceedings as an expert witness, told the committee—

As far as their own personal growth goes, their biggest hurdle is getting away from the negativity.

He explained that many young offenders are products of destructive environments and that their pathway to success depends on being separated from those influences and shown a different future.

For regional communities across Central Queensland that evidence resonates strongly. People in Rockhampton, Mount Morgan, Gracemere, Yeppoon, Emu Park, Dingo and communities right across our region have witnessed the impacts of repeat youth crime firsthand. They have seen families victimised multiple times. They have seen businesses suffer repeated break-ins. They have seen confidence in community safety eroded.

The committee heard directly from Bradley Neven, a Central Queensland victim of crime who described five youths entering his family home while his family members were inside. Reflecting on the proposal before us he stated—

It gives courts a genuine option between what we have now and full detention.

He recognised that removing young offenders from the community they have harmed and placing them in a structured program will be the difference between a young person continuing to reoffend and becoming a productive member of society.

This bill offers accountability through strict court orders, mandatory electronic monitoring, structured supervision and significant consequences for noncompliance. It also offers rehabilitation through education, behavioural programs, vocational training and support services. That balance is why the bill attracted support from victims, practitioners, educators and community leaders alike.

Debate, on motion of Mrs Kirkland, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the House do now adjourn.

Brisbane City Council, Holland Park Ward

Mr J KELLY (Greenslopes—ALP) (9.00 pm): Residents in my community have been screaming out for someone at the council level to listen to them as they feel ignored by the councillor for Holland Park who, quite frankly, is in the check-out lounge. Under the tired LNP council, Holland Park residents have seen two decades of decline when it comes to basic council services and no plan for the future. My community have just copped their 23rd consecutive rates rise. For unit and apartment owners, this year's rates jumped by 14 per cent. Not only is livability getting harder; the community is not being listened to. Residents were not consulted when the Lord Mayor wanted to slap pickleball courts in an environmental corridor on their back doorstep, finally buckling when the community stood up. Well done to the community for using their voice, even when they were not asked.

Residents have been begging for upgrades to an unsafe, noncompliant zebra crossing on Logan Road, where we have seen countless near misses and, frighteningly, earlier this year there was an accident involving a teenager on a bike who was hit by a car. However, Krista Adams and the Lord Mayor have barely bothered to respond. In fact, they have announced plans to make that crossing even more unsafe. They did not listen to the community and they are certainly not listening to the experts on pedestrian and road safety. As managing director of Amy's Foundation and Olympian cyclist Katherine Bates said, it is just not good enough.

Councillor Krista Adams announced her retirement last year, some two years before the next election. Many in my community tell me that they think she has already retired. Today, the LNP announced the candidate who will be parachuted into her seat when she inevitably goes. Yesterday was the International Day of Democracy. Well, there is nothing democratic about this. This is the height of arrogance. Today's announcement demonstrates that the LNP takes the people of the Holland Park ward for granted. I certainly will not be letting that happen.

Here is a thought: why doesn't Krista Adams just go now and let the people of Holland Park ward decide who should be their councillor? If the Lord Mayor is so confident that he has picked the right person, why not let the people of Holland Park decide who the candidate should be? Does this mean that for the next six months we are going to get no action on important issues such as the pedestrian crossing on Logan Road? Does this mean that Krista Adams is going to use the resources of her office not for the benefit of her community but instead to support an LNP candidate?

Today, the new candidate said that she was going to be mentored by Krista Adams. Seriously, is she to be mentored by Krista Adams in the check-out lounge? Is she to be mentored by the person who stood in council and said that every suburb does not need to have every opportunity for every single person? We need a community champion who will work with and for the community, not someone who has been mentored by someone in the check-out lounge.

The people of Holland Park ward have shown that they will stand up to this tired LNP controlled council and speak out for road safety and for a livable community. They are not going to be taken for granted. If they were asked, with one voice they would say to Adrian Schrinner: this is just not good enough.

Burdekin Electorate, Festivals

Hon. DR LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (9.03 pm): Tourism and Events Queensland CEO Craig Davidson describes events as the connector of Queensland communities. In the Burdekin electorate there are many events that not only connect our community but also provide a connection that stretches across the state, across the nation and around the world. Two of those events are the Don River Dash and the Burdekin Water Festival. In 2026 both events again raised the bar.

Year after year, we have seen the Custom Lithium Don River Dash increase both competitor and visitor numbers. As I drove into Bowen a few weeks ago, the evidence of that growth was clear. Bowen came alive for the eighth staging of the event with hotels, motels and spare rooms filled with visitors. Caravan parks, camping spots and a dedicated camping area for competitors at the Bowen Showgrounds were full to the brim. More than 3,700 visitors came to Bowen specifically to attend the Don River Dash, generating over 21,000 visitor nights and adding more than $5 million to the economy.

This year, influencer and motorsport tragic Grant Denyer got his first taste of the Don River Dash. Grant Denyer may be best known as the former weather man on *Sunrise* or the host of *Deal or No Deal*, but his motor racing credentials include the V8 Supercar Series; and the Bathurst 1000, rallying and endurance events. To see Grant stand up in Bowen and describe the Don River Dash as the best event he has been to is proof positive of the quality of this event. The 82 vehicles and 200 motorcycles driving 350-kilometre loops in the bed of the Don River certainly brought the community alive and provided a unique experience for both competitors and visitors to that community.

That same weekend, Ayr's main street came alive for the culmination of one of Queensland's longest running festivals—the Burdekin Water Festival. A bumper crowd lined the streets as community groups, local businesses and even the local member of parliament joined the colour and smiles of the parade where literally hundreds of kilograms of lollies were handed out to spectators, young and old, from the 48 floats which participated in the parade this year. In addition to bringing people from across the region together, the Burdekin Water Festival is definitely a memory that the region's backpackers will never forget.

Both of these events spread smiles across the community and create memories that are shared far and wide. I encourage all members and all Queenslanders to include both of these events in their itineraries, to add to the smiles and create amazing memories. The Burdekin Water Festival and, of course, the famous Harvest Festival in that community are signature events that have been going for many decades, and to see these events continuing and growing in that particular community is a real credit to the spirit in both Ayr and Home Hill. I certainly commend the organisers and their committees for the work they put in to bring forth these events.

Jordan Electorate, Public Transport

Ms MULLEN (Jordan—ALP) (9.06 pm): My community is becoming increasingly frustrated with this inept LNP government and their complete disregard for our local commuters. This is not about one issue or one grievance; we are seeing systemic failure on multiple fronts, so many in fact, but here are my top five.

No. 1—the stairs at Springfield Central Station. For more than 12 months, the western staircase at the station was cordoned off, and all we were being told by Queensland Rail was that the matter was 'under assessment'. Then only after I complained to the minister, the stairs were completely removed 'for important safety reasons'. No timeframe was given for the replacement of the stairs, only saying 'assessments continue for a long-term solution'. Whilst I understand the need to close the stairs for the safety of commuters if there is significant structural damage, it should not have taken more than 12 months for these assessments to be completed. This is one of our busiest stations in Ipswich, and the situation is completely unacceptable.

No. 2—reduced train services. Commuters are still facing frustrating waits as a result of trains running on a reduced timetable due to protected industrial action. Locals have reached out to me sharing their stories about the impact this is having on them and their families and asking when full services will be restored. Of course, the minister is refusing to get involved in resolving this now longstanding dispute, hiding behind Queensland Rail which is too busy leaving comments on our MP pages rather than doing their actual jobs.

No. 3—where are our bus stops? Stage 1 of the Ipswich Bus Improvement Project, instigated and funded by Labor, saw new bus routes 501, 522 and 523 begin in November last year. However, 10 months on, we are still waiting for new bus stops to be built, which is seriously hopeless for anyone actually wanting to catch buses from these locations.

No. 4—where are our station staff? I am getting a heap of complaints about the government's decision to cut staff from our local train stations. Springfield station is now staffed Monday to Friday until 1pm only and is completely unstaffed on weekends. Almost every time I am at the station, I witness situations where commuters need assistance from station staff, including elderly and younger commuters. They cannot even open the toilets, for goodness sake. It is absolutely unacceptable.

No. 5—what is happening with our rail extensions? The options analysis for the Ipswich to Springfield rail extension, funded by Labor, is done, but we keep hearing conflicting stories on why it will not be released. The detailed business case is meant to have started, but, again, we are hearing nothing. The Salisbury to Beaudesert rail line business case has gone dead quiet, with no updates and no progress. I could say so much more about the failings in transport, but with the multiple crises facing this government it is no wonder public transport has gone off the rails under the LNP.

Yellow Ribbon Day

Mr G KELLY (Mirani—LNP) (9.09 pm): Today I rise to recognise Yellow Ribbon Day and say thank you to the extraordinary men and women of our Rural Fire Service brigades across Queensland. It is particularly fitting that we recognise them at a time when firefighters are, once again, on the fireground protecting Central Queensland communities. Overnight, around 40 firefighters conducted strategic back-burning operations along the Rockhampton fringe to strengthen containment lines and protect properties backing onto bushland. Today, those crews continued their work of strengthening buffer zones, monitoring burnt edges and dampening down hotspots. While most Queenslanders go about their normal day, these men and women put on the yellow, get in the truck and head towards the smoke. Yellow Ribbon Day is about recognising those volunteers who step forward when their community needs them most.

Since becoming the member for Mirani, it has been a privilege to get to know the men and women of the rural fire brigades and primary producer brigades across my electorate. From the Pioneer Valley and Sarina district through to our coastal and rural communities and down through Marlborough, Mount Morgan and the communities surrounding Kabra and Stanwell, our brigades are part of the backbone

of the bush. They are farmers, graziers, canegrowers, miners, small business owners, workers, mums and dads. When the call comes, they put down their tools and leave their farms, businesses and families to protect their neighbours.

I have now held two rural fire forums across the Mirani electorate because I wanted to hear directly from our volunteers about what is happening on the ground and, importantly, what we as members of parliament can do to make their job easier. One message continues to come through loud and clear: let our volunteers be volunteers. They did not sign up to spend their evenings filling out paperwork; they signed up to protect their communities. We need to keep looking for opportunities to cut unnecessary red tape, simplify processes and give local brigades greater ability to get on with the job. These are people who already give up enormous amounts of their own time. Every unnecessary hour spent behind a desk is an hour they could be maintaining equipment, preparing firebreaks, training new volunteers, undertaking mitigation work or spending with their own families.

I give a particular shout-out today to every brigade across the Mirani electorate. To our brigade first officers, our firefighters, our support volunteers and our primary producer brigades: thank you. Thank you for the training nights. Thank you for maintaining the trucks and equipment. Thank you for the hazard reduction and preparation that happens long before anyone sees smoke.

Our job in this parliament should be simple: back our brigades, cut the red tape and let our volunteers get on with protecting Queensland communities. To everyone who puts on the yellow across Mirani and Queensland: thank you for your service.

Ferny Grove Electorate, Road Infrastructure

Hon. ML FURNER (Ferny Grove—ALP) (9.12 pm): The issue around the Samford Road and Shearers Close intersection near England Road has been around for many years. Members may remember it as The Australian Woolshed area. In 2016 I made it a priority and worked with the Department of Transport and Main Roads North Coast and the then minister for transport and main roads, then minister Bailey, to study the section of road and consider solutions to fix the traffic access and near misses in that area.

In 2017 the department delivered three options for further consideration. Option 1 involved construction of a new intersection. This involved the resumption of private land, including having an impact on my community's largest local tennis centre, Pure Tennis, and cost millions of dollars. Option 2 used the existing intersection and existing firebreak land owned by the state, costing millions less than option 1. I supported this option, along with the City of Moreton Bay council and an overwhelming number of members of the public. Option 3 was not supported by anyone.

In September last year TMR advised my constituent who owns Pure Tennis that it would be applying an overlay to his property as part of strategic planning for a variation of option 1. I stress that TMR were not suggesting this LNP government would fund the proposal. They may merely make the decision for future governments, over local objections, and impact a local business used by hundreds of residents for vital exercise activities.

It is a decision which is typical of this LNP government. They make a decision that future generations will have to pay for and clean up. With the crisis in health gripping this state, showing no signs of slowing down under this LNP government of failure and inaction, making decisions which threaten the exercise and health options of whole communities is ill-advised. Naturally, when I was advised this was occurring, I wrote to Minister Mickelberg—and I am pleased he is in the chamber to listen to this speech—and requested a meeting with him to discuss the situation. After nine weeks, the minister's staff wrote back to me advising Minister Mickelberg was too busy to meet with me or my constituent.

What has become increasingly recognisable with this LNP government is an indisputable characteristic of not listening or engaging with anyone. This is just another example of that characteristic of this LNP government. We are seeing it day in, day out with bills—not listening to our farmers and not listening to stakeholders. Here is a typical case of not listening to my constituents of Ferny Grove. When governments stop listening to the community, they have stopped governing. As I indicated, this is just one example. There are copious examples. I could spend more time in future adjournment speeches delivering those examples to embarrass this government in respect of not engaging, not listening and treating Queenslanders in the arrogant manner they always do.

(Time expired)

Buderim Electorate

Hon. BA MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.15 pm): The famous Krauss 6854 locomotive is finally home and on display in Buderim. It has been a long time coming. The Krauss steam train carted people and produce between Palmwoods and Buderim from 1915 to 1935. After its last run, it was moved here and there and everywhere before the loco ended up on a scrap heap at Murrumba Downs. Something about the people of Buderim is that we value our history, and our dedicated community members could not rest until the Krauss was returned home. The Buderim-Palmwoods Heritage Tramway group spent more than two decades securing and restoring the old train, with incredible tenacity and attention to detail.

I made our community a promise before the last election that our government would fund a $350,000 commitment to build a permanent display for the 12-tonne loco. Last Friday night I had the privilege of officially opening the Buderim Krauss museum space, right in the heart of Buderim, next to the 'Old Post Office'. It was a wonderful evening of celebration. It was well attended, including by descendants of former stationmasters, drivers and railway workers. I want to sincerely thank Helene Cronin and all the members of the Buderim-Palmwoods Heritage Tramway group for their sheer determination in seeing this project through for the benefit of Buderim today and into the future.

Last week was a big one in the Buderim electorate. I hosted my fifth annual volunteer awards. I am often told by locals one of the reasons they choose to live in Buderim is our sense of community. I am proud to say that volunteerism is strong in the Buderim electorate. I often see the same faces at different community groups. They do not just give their time and energy for recognition. They want to do it to help a neighbour and make our community a better place.

Importantly, their generosity does not go unnoticed. To acknowledge them, I teamed up with the Buderim War Memorial Community Association to host a celebration. We had a record number of people attend, and 57 people and groups were nominated for an award. I want each and every one of them to know they are worthy of recognition. However, I particularly want to congratulate this year's winners: the Buderim Private Hospital Auxiliary; Richard and Vanessa Harvey from Bloomhill Cancer Care; James Moir from the Buderim Concert Band; Chris James, the Young Volunteer at Bloomhill Cancer Care; Fiona Rothwell from Palmview State Secondary College P&C; and Desley Payne from the Sunshine Coast Table Tennis Club.

While we are on the topic of volunteers, I want to finish by wishing a big happy birthday to Allan Quartermaine, who today turned 103 years of age. Allan has dedicated more than 60 years of his life to Legacy, supporting widows and families of veterans, after having served in the Australian Navy in World War II. Allan is a long-time member of the Buderim Bowls Club, and I know that they will be celebrating with him this week. To reach the age of 103 is an incredible achievement. Happy birthday, mate. I hope you have a great day.

Public Transport

Mr MELLISH (Aspley—ALP) (9.18 pm): Every week we see more and more evidence that the LNP hates public transport. This week the member for Mermaid Beach was on the news saying there had been an increase in crime and antisocial behaviour around Nobby Beach due to the opening of light rail stage 3 and the introduction of 50-cent fares. The story starts by talking about light rail stage 3 now being open to the public. The member for Mermaid Beach then jumps in to say—

> Wonderful restaurants, but there's a lot of dining, a lot of alcohol that's been consumed in the area and now it's a 50-cent fare on the tram to get there. So we have heard that there's an increase in bad behaviour and I'm expecting police to do more patrols in the area.

There you have it: light rail and 50-cent fares are the cause of crime, according to the member for Mermaid Beach. Let's not forget that the member for Burleigh, just down the line, said of light rail in 2023—

> Locals worry that the state is transporting public nuisance on public transport, and that could import crime into southern communities as the light rail snakes south.

The member for Burleigh said that, but of course he was happy to cut the ribbon on a fantastic Labor project.

Mr Vorster interjected.

Mr MELLISH: I am not taking his interjections. No wonder the transport minister—

Mr Vorster interjected.

Mr MELLISH: I am not taking interjections.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): Member for Burleigh, the member is not taking interjections.

Mr MELLISH: No wonder the transport minister is doing the best he can to shut down the rail network: he probably thinks he is preventing crime. I thought I would look at the LNP's Gold Coast Transport Plan to see what other crime they want to bring to the Gold Coast, but the Gold Coast Transport Plan tells you nothing. It is more of an aspirational document.

Mr Vorster interjected.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh and member for Bonney, no further interjections.

Mr MELLISH: We knew pre budget that the government hid their cut to Coomera Connector stage 2. It is now pushed beyond the forward estimates, meaning it will not be delivered before the 2032 Olympics. The centrepiece of their transport plan, the largest project on the Gold Coast, we know they secretly cut. The plan says—

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bonney, you are now on a warning.

Mr MELLISH: The plan says that it aligns with the 2032 Olympic delivery plan, which is fundamentally not true given how many projects in the document we know will not even start construction until after the Olympics. We know that this minister and this Premier like to bang on endlessly, saying they are delivering transport projects on time and on budget. I looked into the Gold Coast Transport Plan, and guess what? There are no timeframes and no budgets. We have a 16-page document and there is not a single delivery timeline and there is not a single dollar sign or figure in it.

We may as well call it the Gold Coast Fish and Chips Wrapping Plan or the Gold Coast Emergency Toilet Paper Plan, because that is all it is good for. We know that this transport minister loves his AI slop renders, so there is the Gold Coast Transport Plan as fish and chips.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Aspley, if you are going to table something, just table it. Do not use it as a prop.

Mr MELLISH: I am very happy to table those documents.

Tabled paper: Photograph depicting the member for Burleigh, Mr Hermann Vorster MP, and the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth, Hon. Sam O'Connor, cutting a ribbon [1640].

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Gold Coast Transport Plan' [1641].

Tabled paper: Image depicting fish and chips wrapped in the Queensland Government's Gold Coast Transport Plan [1642].

Tabled paper: Image depicting the Queensland Government's Gold Coast Transport Plan on a toilet roll [1643].

Here is the Gold Coast Transport Plan as toilet paper. That is about all it is good for. There are no timelines and no budgets. This is a joke of a government when it comes to transport on the Gold Coast.

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

Mr MELLISH: They make it up as they go. There are no timelines and no budgets. It is not good enough.

Mr VORSTER: I take personal offence at the member's earlier comments and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member has finished speaking so we will move on now, thank you.

Yellow Ribbon Day

Mr BAILLIE (Townsville—LNP) (9.22 pm): Today is Yellow Ribbon Day, a day to say thank you to the more than 27,000 Rural Fire Service Queensland volunteers who give up their weekends, their weeknights and time with their families and friends to educate and protect their communities. Tonight we had a function here at parliament. It was great to meet Max Pearce, the Volunteer of the Year, and Young Volunteer of the Year Keira Danziger and her father, Kenneth.

Ms Marr: From Thuringowa.

Mr BAILLIE: From Thuringowa; I take that interjection. Our rural firies in Townsville have been particularly busy at the start of the season, so we do give a shout-out to them. I went to Palm Island recently and caught up with local volunteers there after handing over the keys to a new light vehicle. I look forward to coming back with the delivery of a new satellite connected asset that will soon be ready for delivery.

Last weekend I was on Magnetic Island for the Recovery Roadshow, where I caught up with volunteers right across the board, not just rural firies. You name it, we caught up with first responders on Palm Island preparing for disaster season. In rural Queensland we are a bit disconnected, but even more so on our island communities like Palm Island and Magnetic Island, so it was great to catch up with the whole community and get ready for what is known as disaster season up in the north.

Townsville continues to cement its reputation as the sporting and events capital of the north. Our city is buzzing at the moment, with momentum building. This weekend is the start of the school holidays, and we are starting them off with a bang with the TechnologyOne WNBL Townsville Tip Off when all the WNBL teams come to Townsville from across the nation for their preseason tournament. There are four days of action, with children under 12 free to attend. It is shaping up to be a big weekend of basketball in Townsville.

As we enter the middle of the school holidays, the Socceroos will take on Brazil at our stadium. It will be a bit of a preview for the 2032 Olympics. Teams will be arriving on Thursday night, with a street party along Flinders Street headlined by Sneaky Sound System before the game on Friday to get everyone in the mood. The atmosphere will be buzzing, as people spill out onto the street and flow into the stadium before the big game.

Saturday night is opening night for the North Australian Festival of Arts for two weeks of community activities, shows and entertainment right across Townsville. We finish off the school holidays with the season opener of the 2026 AUSX Supercross Championship—a high-octane event that is sure to thrill everyone who attends. Hotel beds in Townsville are filling up which is good news for our hospitality providers and tourism operators. We will continue to get these big events into Townsville and celebrate the region.

Woodridge Electorate, Active Transport

Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (9.25 pm): I rise once again in the House this evening to speak about the future of active transport in the Woodridge electorate and the latest cuts to the Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail project implemented by the Crisafulli LNP government. Recently, the Department of Transport and Main Roads provided even more clarity about what the LNP government is actually delivering—or should I say not delivering—for the community of Woodridge when it comes to active transport. It is another example of LNP duplicity and dishonesty.

The bikeway and walkway between Woodridge and Kingston train stations is now confirmed to be on road rather than within the rail corridor as planned by Labor in 2024. The LNP can call it a 'continuous active transport link' until they are blue in the face, but a corridor is not continuous if cyclists and pedestrians are forced to leave the dedicated path, get onto the road and then get back onto the path, potentially in two or even three places. That is not the safe, separated connection that Labor would have delivered, but it gets worse. We now know the planned active transport connection from Kuraby train station to Compton Road has been removed from the rail project altogether. It has been 'held for future planning', and we all know what that means. There is no commitment to build it, there is no construction date and there is no guarantee that it will ever happen.

Under the LNP, we saw Queensland's credit rating downgraded just last week. This is a prime example of what happens when a government mismanages its budget: Queenslanders get downgraded and local projects in communities like Woodridge get downgraded, too. The LNP downgraded the credit rating and people in my community get a downgraded bikeway and walkway as a consequence. What is most disappointing about all of this is that this was meant to be a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build a dedicated walking and cycling connection alongside the new rail infrastructure. Labor's plan was to deliver a continuous active transport corridor between Kuraby and Beenleigh. Instead, the LNP have taken that vision and destroyed it. One section is now on road and another has been removed from the project altogether, and now the LNP expect Woodridge locals to accept that this is still a continuous active transport link. Well, it is not; it is the opposite.

On behalf of my community, I call on the Crisafulli LNP government to reverse the decision and restore the dedicated Woodridge to Kingston connection and reinstate the Kuraby to Compton Road section into the rail project. 'Held for future planning' is not a commitment. It is not a continuous active bikeway and walkway. An active transport corridor that sends people onto the road is not the continuous corridor the people of Woodridge deserve. Woodridge deserves its fair share of infrastructure, and it is about time the Crisafulli LNP government stopped downgrading Woodridge.

Caloundra Community Awards

Ms HATCHER (Caloundra—LNP) (9.28 pm): I rise today with immense pride and joy to speak about the annual Caloundra Community Awards I hosted last week. We had around 200 people attend to celebrate the volunteers, individuals, sports clubs, businesses and community groups all doing amazing things to make Caloundra such a special place. Together we celebrated eight categories of finalists narrowed down from hundreds of nominations.

I would like to acknowledge our Caloundra Community Group of the Year, the Sunshine Coast Kerala Association. This amazing group of people now has over a thousand members and brings people together to celebrate culture, family and fun. I am so happy and excited to know them and they are so welcoming in the true spirit of Caloundra.

The Sunshine Coast Performing Arts College, known as SCPAC, took out Business of the Year, having influenced thousands of local kids on their dance journey. Alicia and her team are very special and iconic in our town. Educator of the Year had so many nominations this year, a testament to how strong our community is in true mentorship. The winner this year was Jake Mangano from Kairos College, who works with kids and young adults in our gorgeous alternative school, really making a difference to the lives of so many students. Our Volunteer Group of the Year was Cycling Without Age where members take those with limited mobility out on custom bikes. This gives those people the ability to be connected out in nature for a truly enjoyable social activity.

A new category this year, Innovator of the Year, did not disappoint. This year the title was awarded to our boys from Padel House, a purpose-built facility for both pickle and padel ball. It is amazing and a first of its kind in Caloundra. Our Sporting Club of the Year was awarded to Caloundra Sharks' Rugby League Juniors. With over 700 junior players this year it makes for a thriving club with a wonderful group of volunteers running it.

Our Young Achiever of the Year went to the very talented Tom Murray from GoFly Aviation, who turned 21 yesterday. Happy birthday to our Tom. Tom became a pilot in year 11 and has progressed to be Australia's youngest flight instructor at 18, to operations manager at GoFly and is set to become the country's youngest chief flight instructor.

The Caloundra Champion of the Year category is made up of individuals who go above and beyond to give back to Caloundra: Alana Hall, Mike Shadforth, Glynis Lennon, Martin Duncan, Neville Woodforth, John Tagg, and Kath Morris, with the ultimate prize going to our gorgeous Don McLachlan, Caloundra State School principal for 20 years and giving 50 years service with Caloundra Lions. We all love you, Don, and appreciate everything you do.

Lastly, the Inspirational Person of the Year for 2026 was awarded to James and LJ Weder, who were instrumental in taking Caloundra Basketball from 20 members and almost folding to the thriving well run organisation it is today with 76 teams. Thank you to everyone including our sponsors and thank you to everyone who makes Caloundra so special.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.32 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Asif, Bailey, Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, Chiesa, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, de Brenni, Dick, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Farmer, Field, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Grace, Hatcher, Head, Hunt, Hutton, James B, James T, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly G, Kelly J, Kempton, 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, Whiting, Young