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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 17 September 2026

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JM KRAUSE
ACTING SPEAKER

MA RIES
ACTING CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENT

AL TAGUADA
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THURSDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2026

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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.

PRIVILEGE

Comments by Member for Murrumba, Withdrawal and Apology

Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.31 am): On 25 June 2026 I stated that the LNP have cut IVF care for women with cancer. It has come to my attention that in making this statement I may have inadvertently misled the House. In making that statement, I should have clarified that IVF care for women with cancer was due to commence in July 2025 under the former Labor government but had not commenced under the LNP. I withdraw my statement and I apologise to the House.

Comments by Member for Bulimba, Withdrawal and Apology

Hon. DE FARMER (Bulimba—ALP) (9.32 am): On 26 June 2026 I made four separate statements in relation to youth justice which were subject to complaint by the minister. One of those statements related to an allegation I made regarding the minister and a youth justice provider. This statement was made based on information provided to my office by stakeholders which I am unable to provide to the House. As such, I withdraw my statement and I apologise to the House.

ACTING SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Brisbane Airport Rail Link (Airtrain) Buy Back Amendment Bill, Withdrawn from *Notice Paper*

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 15 September 2026, on behalf of the Speaker, I ruled that the Brisbane Airport Rail Link (Airtrain) Buy Back Amendment Bill 2026 contains an appropriation and should not have been introduced without first being recommended by a message of the Governor, in accordance with section 68 of the Constitution of Queensland 2001 and standing order 174. The ruling found the bill is out of order and would need to be discharged and withdrawn by the member for Maiwar, failing which the Speaker would direct the removal of the bill from the *Notice Paper*. I note the member for Maiwar has not sought to move a motion to discharge and withdraw the bill. In accordance with the ruling, I now direct that the bill be removed from the *Notice Paper*, with immediate effect.

Chamber, Conduct of Members

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Honourable members, last night in a division on the private member's motion I ordered the member for Aspley to withdraw from the chamber for one hour. Subsequently, the Minister for Education and the Arts rose on a point of order questioning whether the member for Aspley acknowledged the chair when leaving the chamber, as is required by standing order 242(2). I have reviewed the overwatch footage this morning and I am satisfied the member for Aspley did appropriately acknowledge the chair before leaving the chamber. However, members—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members. Just as there is only one person with the call right now—and that is me—it is a requirement of standing orders to acknowledge the chair as you enter and depart the chamber and as you cross the chamber floor. I remind members of their obligations in this regard under the standing orders.

Australian Citizenship Day

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Honourable members, today, 17 September, is Australian Citizenship Day. Many councils are holding citizenship ceremonies around this date and the Australian flag will be flying high on government buildings across the state today, including here at Parliament House. Since its inception in 2001, this day is for all Australians to reflect on what being Australian means, on the responsibilities and privileges that come with Australian citizenship and on the parts we all play in, and how we contribute to, our communities.

Visitors to Public Gallery

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Woodcrest State College in the electorate of Jordan; Trinity College in the electorate of Macalister; Ipswich State High School in the electorate of Ipswich West; Pullenvale State School in the electorate of Moggill; Ingleside State School in the electorate of Currumbin; Clifford Park Special School in the electorate of Toowoomba South; Warwick Christian College in the electorate of Southern Downs; Brisbane State High School and Brisbane State Secondary College in the electorate of South Brisbane; and Russell Island State School, Bay View State School, Victoria Point State School, Redland Bay State School, Thornlands State School and Scenic Shores State School in the electorate of Redlands. It seems almost every Redlands school is here today!

PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following e-petition, sponsored by the honourable member indicated—

Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Act

Mr Berkman, from 4,184 petitioners, requesting the House to Repeal the provisions of the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Act 2026 that criminalise political expression; withdraw all charges brought solely under these provisions; and protect the democratic rights of all Queenslanders to protest, advocate for human rights, and participate in political debate [1644].

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

Beekeeping

1,264 petitioners, requesting the House to protect diverse and sustainable beekeeping practices in Queensland [1645].

Antisemitism, Definition

593 petitioners, requesting the House to ban the use of the IHRA definition of antisemitism in Queensland [1646].

Ipswich, Public Transport

369 petitioners, requesting the House to do all in its power to deliver public transport infrastructure for Ipswich [1647].

Community Areas

1,910 petitioners, requesting the House to implement stronger, coordinated responses, including housing pathways, outreach services, and public space management, to ensure both the protection of human rights and the safe, equitable use of community areas for all Queenslanders [1648].

Redcliffe and Bribie Island, Beach Enclosures

271 petitioners, requesting the House to install shark-safe beach enclosures at Redcliffe and Bribie Island [1649].

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

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

1650 Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Bleijie), to an E-Petition (4557-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 565 petitioners, requesting the House to uphold the environmental integrity of the South-East Queensland Regional Plan by halting residential expansion into the Halls Creek catchment area and mandate that independent sub-surface archaeological testing be conducted in direct partnership with the Kabi Kabi Traditional Owners

Minister for Police and Emergency Services (Hon. Purdie)—

1651 Response from the Minister for Police and Emergency Services (Hon. Purdie), to an E-Petition (4421-26), sponsored by the member for Hervey Bay, Mr Lee, from 1,051 petitioners, requesting the House to take action against hooning in Hervey Bay

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Delivery

Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.37 am): The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be a games for all of Queensland. Our 2032 Delivery Plan puts communities across the state at the heart of that vision. Brisbane will welcome the world with new and upgraded venues, including a new stadium at Victoria Park, the National Aquatic Centre, Queensland Tennis Centre and the athletes village at the Brisbane Showgrounds.

On the Gold Coast, events will be held across new and existing venues, while the city's famous beaches provide the backdrop for the triathlon. On the Sunshine Coast, the games will support upgraded venues and better transport connections for one of the fastest growing regions. Moreton Bay and Logan will benefit from new indoor sporting centres, while the Redlands will become home to a new whitewater-rafting facility. In Toowoomba, the showgrounds will be transformed into an equestrian centre of excellence, creating a lasting legacy for the Darling Downs.

In Cairns, upgrades to Barlow Park and the Cairns Convention Centre will strengthen the city's ability to attract major events for decades to come. Townsville will host football and sailing, showcasing its stadium, waterfront and the beauty of North Queensland. Mackay will host action at an upgraded Harrup Park, while the Whitsundays will share in the sailing competition and the tourism opportunities that come with it.

Maryborough will host archery, bringing competition to the Wide Bay and building on the region's proud sporting tradition. And who could forget Rockhampton, which is set to welcome the world for rowing and canoeing on the mighty Fitzroy River? It will be an extraordinary site—the world's best athletes competing in the heart of Central Queensland watched by spectators across the globe. Many have said that it cannot be done, including those opposite. We reject that view. We back in regional Queensland—no ifs, no buts.

Our commitment has been steadfast and our message is clear: regional Queensland can, and will, host events on the world stage. Today I have a major announcement: the IOC assessment for the site is complete. The Fitzroy has passed with flying colours.

Government members interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: It is official—signed, sealed and delivered.

Government members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Why the long faces?

Government members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members. Members on my right!

Mr CRISAFULLI: One's mad, one's sad and one's bad, but they are all there. Rockhampton knows how to host major events. It already welcomes tens of thousands of visitors for Beef Week and Rockynats, and the games will deliver extra accommodation for the future. Upgrades to the Fitzroy River rowing facilities will support local clubs, schools and future athletes. For a child growing up in Rockhampton, Yeppoon, Gracemere, Gladstone, Emerald, Biloela or further west, the games will no longer feel like something happening far away. This is genuine legacy and this is what we are delivering, because every Queenslander counts.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Delivery

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.41 am): The experts have confirmed it; World Rowing and Paddle Worldwide have endorsed it: Rockhampton is good for rowing and rowing is good for 2032 and beyond. The international federations of World Rowing and Paddle Worldwide have endorsed the Fitzroy River as it can provide fair racing conditions for international standard rowing for 2032. This settles what the Crisafulli government knew and what Central Queensland knew when the 2032 Delivery Plan was announced in March 2025.

Official endorsement of the Rockhampton flatwater course follows a comprehensive and independent technical assessment by renowned international engineering experts WaterProof, which is regularly engaged by World Rowing and Paddle Worldwide to consider courses, as well as site visits by international federation representatives. I have been advised on the key findings. The assessment included detailed surveys of the riverbed and the competition course; analysis of river flows, water levels and the Fitzroy barrage operations; assessment of wind, weather, environmental conditions during the proposed games period; and on-water testing and modelling to evaluate flow, wind and wave conditions across a range of scenarios. The assessment confirmed the location is capable of supporting a full-length, international flatwater course and providing fair, consistent and athlete focused competition conditions for Olympic and Paralympic rowing and canoe sprint events for the games in 2032.

The Fitzroy has the space for a full international standard course with a 2.7-kilometre-long section, providing sufficient distance for a standard 2,000-metre rowing race and full width of all eight lanes, with room for the necessary start and finish infrastructure—no widening, no dredging needed. The Fitzroy barrage is Rocky's secret weapon. It forms a distinct racing environment on the water, creating a mid-river dam separating the downstream tidal saltwater section from the upstream freshwater section where the proposed course is to be located. Flow velocities are low and largely uniform throughout the course, wind speeds are low and vessel generated waves dissipate rapidly.

The Crisafulli government has never underestimated regional Queensland. I am aware of the campaigns to move rowing from Rockhampton by the Labor opposition and, unbelievably, campaigns wanting to move it to another state in Australia. Madonna King wrote only four days ago that good governments should consider and indeed seek expert advice in subject areas. We agree, and that is what we did. Today we, along with regional Queensland and international federations, are ready to move to delivery mode on rowing in Rockhampton.

In LA, LA compromised games requirements for the Long Beach Marine Stadium by using a 1,500-metre course with only six lanes on a tidal ocean course. Tokyo's Sea Forest Waterway was purpose built, with dams at both ends to protect the course from rough water at an over $300 million cost. Rockhampton already has the Fitzroy barrage providing a major water flow control point. Let me read to members the endorsement from the international federations, and this is what will hurt the Labor Party the most.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Yes, member for McConnel, I meant you—and Ferny Grove, and Gladstone, and Schwarto.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair, please, Deputy Premier.

Mr BLEIJIE: World Rowing President Jean-Christophe Rolland reiterated that fair and equal conditions for athletes was the driver in requesting a thorough and robust assessment of the course. He said—

> Based on the extensive analysis undertaken, we now know that the Fitzroy River is capable of providing fair competition conditions during the period of the Games, consistent with the requirements of Olympic and Paralympic Rowing ...
>
> We look forward to continuing our collaboration with Brisbane 2032, GIICA, Paddle Worldwide, the IOC and IPC in the coming phases of venue planning ...

The Paddle Worldwide president said that the assessment has been characterised by a highly collaborative and transparent approach across all stakeholders. He went on to say—

> The quality and depth of the technical work undertaken has significantly improved our understanding of the field of play and provides confidence to us and our athletes that the course can deliver fair competition for Canoe Sprint athletes.
>
> We look forward to maintaining our strong partnership and continuing to work together to deliver an outstanding Olympic and Paralympic competition venue in Rockhampton for 2032.

GIICA will now finalise the investigations to deliver the PVR to government in the coming months, with concept design well advanced at 80 per cent complete. I want to thank my federal colleague Labor minister Catherine King, who will continue to work in close partnership with us. I spoke to her and delivered the great news to her this morning. Rockhampton is good for rowing and rowing is good for 2032. Now, let's get on with the job of delivering 2032 and beyond. Member for McConnel, consider yourself fully briefed!

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Delivery

Hon. TL MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.47 am): What an exciting day for Queensland! The 2032 games will be a games for all Queenslanders. From the moment the delivery plan was announced soon after we came into government, we recognised the decentralised nature of our state. We recognised that it was important that all Queenslanders felt that they were part of the games, that all Queenslanders would have an opportunity to see the games in person. As the Premier has already mentioned, that is why we will have new infrastructure such as sporting infrastructure, roads and hotels and will hold events in Cairns, in Townsville, in Mackay, in the Whitsundays, in Rockhampton, in Maryborough and in Toowoomba, as well as on the Sunshine Coast, the Gold Coast and Brisbane. It is important that everybody in Queensland feels like they are part of the games, and that has happened.

Legacy is not just about games venues; it is about the grassroots local clubs where tomorrow's Olympians start. Games On! is delivering the community legacy of the 2032 games, and demand shows Labor's neglect over 10 years. Since forming government, we have received more than $1 billion in unsolicited funding requests for local sporting clubs in communities. This is Labor's legacy: tired facilities, no lights, no female change rooms and clubs left to fend for themselves.

Round 1 of Games On! is delivering 119 projects, and more than $100 million of that funding is going to 36 regional projects. Rockhampton has already been mentioned but I will mention them again: there is $42 million for stage 1 of the Rockhampton Sports Precinct with the Rockhampton Regional Council, delivering a new home for Rockhampton netball with 16 outdoor hardcourts—another victory for women's sport. In Cairns there is $6 million for the Manunda Sporting Precinct redevelopment, with extra changing rooms and lighting. In Keppel there is $4.5 million to upgrade eight grass netball courts. In Burdekin there is $3.5 million for Burdekin netball—netball again! There is $3.2 million to upgrade the Clermont Swimming Centre. Mirani has $3.125 million for Wests Mackay footy club. Rockhampton, again, there is $3 million for a new shared clubhouse for Gracemere Junior Rugby League and Gracemere netball. In Thuringowa there is $1.575 million for lighting and female changing facilities at Jabiru baseball park and $505,000 for Greenwood Park fields in Kirwan. In Hinchinbrook there is $973,000 for stage 1 of the Ingham Tennis Court Complex upgrade. For the Burnett, Bundaberg and Hervey Bay region there is $620,000 for Bundaberg netball. There is more money for women's sport. The night lights for the Hervey Bay Bombers have now been completed. In Gregory there is $75,000 for concept plans and a business case for a multiuse sports precinct in Emerald.

We are now delivering round 2 of this hugely popular program. There will be another $30 million for grassroots clubs, which we will announce in the near future. Labor had 1,200 days and three different venue plans, yet not one had a genuine Olympic legacy plan for regional Queensland. Their thinking stopped at the south-east corner. Whilst Labor had no grassroots legacy plan, we are delivering more than $100 million to regional Queensland in round 1 alone. While Labor had no regional venue plans, we are delivering them for Barlow Park, the Fitzroy River, Harrup Park, the Townsville and Whitsunday sailing as well as for projects in Toowoomba and Maryborough. The LNP values the regions; Labor neglects them.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Tourism

Hon. AC POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (9.51 am): In 2032 the eyes of the world will be on Queensland. Our ambition cannot be for the world to watch us for six weeks and then move on. Our ambition is for people to come for sport, stay for the state and return for decades to come. After all, Queensland is the home of the holiday. From the Great Barrier Reef to the beaches of the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast, from the Whitsundays to the mighty Fitzroy and the outback, Queensland has everything the world wants in a holiday destination. We want people to experience every part of this great state.

The games are not the end point; they are the starting point for a tourism legacy that can benefit Queensland for generations. The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games are a once-in-a-generation opportunity to showcase our state. That is why the Crisafulli LNP government has developed our

20-year tourism plan, Destination 2045. It is why we are investing more than $1 billion in tourism over the next four years, and it is why we have set an ambitious target to more than double Queensland's visitor economy to $84 billion by 2045.

We are building the runway now. There will be more direct flights into Queensland, more world-class events, more ecotourism experiences, better tourism infrastructure and more reasons for visitors to go to our stadiums and sporting venues and then explore our state. We have already delivered seven new international aviation routes through the Connecting Queensland Fund, adding more than 280,000 inbound seats each year. We are unashamedly chasing the world's best events because we want Queensland to be the events capital of Australia. As I said yesterday, every major event we secure builds our capability, every new flight builds our connectivity and every new experience gives somebody another reason to stay an extra night in this great state.

This must be a games for all of Queensland. We want visitors watching an event one day and exploring the Great Barrier Reef the next—watching the rowing in Rocky one day and chilling out on Great Keppel Island the next. This will mean more visitors, more investment, stronger small businesses and more jobs right across our state. It is why the former Labor government's plan to gut tourism funding by 95 per cent would have been so damaging. At precisely the time Queensland should have been preparing for the greatest global showcase in our history, Labor was proposing to strip away the investment needed to attract visitors, support tourism businesses and build the industry's future. We chose a different path. We chose ambition, we chose investment. We have a plan and we are delivering. When the world arrives in 2032, Queensland will be ready and when the games are over, Queensland's tourism story will only just be getting started.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Housing

Hon. ST O'CONNOR (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (9.54 am): When we talk about the legacy of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, we cannot simply talk about what Queensland will inherit when the event is over. Legacy starts now. It starts with the decisions we make today about the kind of Queensland we want to be in 2032 and beyond. As we prepare to welcome the world, we will not lose sight of the vulnerable Queenslanders who deserve a safe place to sleep. That is why our games housing legacy begins with making sure no Queenslander is left behind. There is no better example of that commitment than right here in Brisbane, with our investment in Emmanuel City Mission's night shelter. Led by the inspirational Roby Curtis, ECM has been on the front line, supporting people experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping since 2010 by providing somewhere safe to go and people who are there to serve and ready to help.

Our budget this year included funding to upgrade their old Ozcare building, renovating it into the 110-bed Night Sanctuary, with beds available every night of the week and funding the services that will be required to run that service. We are proud to be the first state government to back their work, and we are doing so because of how ECM changes the lives of our most vulnerable. For more people sleeping rough, this will mean getting help with healthcare, rebuilding connections, accessing services and ultimately finding a pathway into longer term housing. That is the difference between simply managing homelessness and helping someone move beyond it. The measure of a successful games cannot simply be what the world sees for a few weeks in 2032; it must be about the legacy Queenslanders are left with afterwards. That principle sits at the heart of our 2032 Delivery Plan.

For housing that means creating new residential precincts across Queensland through the athletes villages in Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast, the Gold Coast and Rockhampton, where we will be proud to host our rowers in 2032 and to deliver hundreds of homes for Central Queenslanders. During the games those villages will accommodate thousands of athletes and officials from around the world, and after the games they will be homes for Queenslanders. That is more than 2,700 permanent homes with a mix of housing types delivered through the Games Villages Program, boosting housing supply and creating a lasting legacy in four fast-growing Queensland communities. That is a good investment in the games—not temporary infrastructure. They will be homes in communities that Queenslanders will love living in for generations to come. We are getting on with the job of delivering them.

In the year since the 2032 Delivery Plan was released substantial progress has been made, with designs nearing finalisation and early works across the main villages set to commence in 2027. We are not waiting until 2032 to start talking about legacy, we are delivering it now. This is a legacy that looks after our most vulnerable, a legacy that builds thousands more homes and a legacy that delivers for communities right across Queensland.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Transport Infrastructure

Hon. BA MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.57 am): Queensland is getting home sooner and safer will be a significant legacy from hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. That is because, long after the Olympic flame has been extinguished, the infrastructure that we are building now will be servicing our growing and prosperous state. Our 2032 Delivery Plan—the plan that ended over 1,000 days of chaos and crisis under those opposite—outlined our intention to bring the games to all of Queensland, bringing regional Queensland to the world stage. The 2032 Delivery Plan sets out the transport infrastructure priorities required for the games and meets the needs of our growing communities. Just as the games events will be experienced across the state, our infrastructure investments are also delivering for communities right across Queensland.

There is no more important road for Queenslanders than the Bruce Highway. We are spending $9 billion on safety upgrades in an 80-20 partnership with the federal government—something that those opposite gave up on. Instead of fighting for Queenslanders, they sided with their Labor mates in Canberra and accepted a 50-50 funding split that left Queenslanders worse off. We would not accept that, we fought for it and we reversed that decision. Now we are getting on with the job.

We are also upgrading the rail spine servicing South-East Queensland after years of neglect. Whether it is the Wave on the Sunny Coast, getting Cross River Rail back on track, Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail or our massive investment in new signalling systems to improve reliability, it is the Crisafulli government that is delivering a rail network to service 2032 and beyond. We have also recently made further commitments to infrastructure and service upgrades through the Gold Coast Transport Plan, including new light rail connections to Biggera Waters at Harbour Town and the introduction of the GC Surfer, providing the Gold Coast with high-frequency, metro style services, in particular on those east-west routes that were ignored by the former Labor government for so long. Gold Coast residents know that Labor forgot about the Gold Coast, but our government is getting on with the job of delivering off the back of strong advocacy from LNP members like the member for Bonney sitting next to me.

Building all of this infrastructure will not be easy. The greatest risk, however, is sitting opposite us here in the parliament. What projects will Labor cut in their endeavour to restore a credit rating that they destroyed? What projects will not be built and what legacy do they want to destroy that we would otherwise build for Queensland? At the 2028 election the people of Queensland will have a clear choice to make: a Crisafulli government that is delivering an infrastructure legacy that will get them home sooner and safer, or a Labor government that will only deliver a legacy of congestion and lost opportunity.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Regional Queensland

Hon. DR LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (10.00 am): The Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be one of the greatest events Queensland has ever hosted, but the measure of its success cannot simply be what happens during a few weeks in 2032. The real measure will be what is created in the lead-up and what remains for Queenslanders for decades to come. Under the Crisafulli government, that legacy will reach well beyond Brisbane and put regional Queensland on the world stage.

Last night, as part of Queensland Manufacturing Month, I hosted our manufacturing showcase. Looking around that room at the capability, the ingenuity and the ambition of Queensland manufacturers, one thing was abundantly clear: the opportunity presented by 2032 is enormous. Uniforms, towels, transport, food and technology—we make all of it, and most of it comes from regional Queensland. Take the Coulton family in Goondiwindi. Their family has farmed in the region for decades, and today Goondiwindi Cotton has taken that regional story from the paddock and turned it into a nationally recognised clothing business. They have put their hand up to supply the uniforms for games volunteers and officials. That is exactly the ambition that we are encouraging, because the games legacy can be a cotton grower in Goondiwindi supplying the fibre that ultimately becomes a uniform worn in 2032; it can be a Queensland manufacturer winning a contract that allows them to buy another machine, employ another apprentice and build capability that lasts long after the closing ceremony.

Regional Queensland will be part of the sporting legacy, too. The redevelopment of the Toowoomba Showgrounds to create a world-class equestrian centre of excellence, sailing in the Whitsundays, rowing on the Fitzroy River in Rockhampton: these are investments that will put our regions on the world stage and leave infrastructure for communities long after the medals have been awarded.

Then, of course, there is the transport legacy. At Torbanlea, Queenslanders are manufacturing 65 new six-car passenger trains through the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program to make sure we have the transport we need to move athletes and guests alike around efficiently. That is what legacy looks like: trains built in regional Queensland, skilled regional jobs and manufacturing capability that remains beyond the games.

For too long under Labor, regional Queensland was treated as somewhere beyond the Brisbane boundary rather than the economic engine room of this state. Under those opposite, regional Queensland would not have benefited from Brisbane 2032. The Crisafulli government sees it differently. We want regional businesses at the table; we want regional workers building the infrastructure; we want Queensland farmers supplying the eggs, the fruit and the vegetables during this time; and we want Queensland beef producers supplying athletes with our world-class meat. We know that under the Crisafulli government our manufacturers and producers are best placed to capitalise on this opportunity. Brisbane may be in the name but these are Queensland's games, and when the flame goes out in 2032 it is our regions that will be stronger because of them.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Small and Family Business

Hon. SJ MINNIKIN (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (10.04 am): As we have heard from my colleagues, so many parts of this great state will be at the heart of the action during the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. We will ensure local small and family businesses right across the state have the opportunity to benefit. The Crisafulli government's 2032 Delivery Plan has put Queensland back on track to deliver a successful 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. That is great news for Queensland small and family businesses. After nearly 1,200 days of Labor games chaos during their decade of decline, the Crisafulli government is delivering the foundations for the world's biggest sporting event. We have fired the starting gun and we are out of the blocks when it comes to Queensland small and family businesses preparing for and getting involved in procurement opportunities for the 2032 games. Whether you are a small business builder in the Redlands, an IT consultant in North Queensland, a fencer on the Gold Coast or a sign maker on the Sunshine Coast, we need you.

Our 2032 games procurement program gives Queensland small and family businesses the opportunity to bid for around $2½ billion in contracts to supply the goods and services needed to deliver the world's greatest sporting event. That is why it is vital to also provide the kind of support I spoke about yesterday: free procurement micro-credential support. Over the past year I have had the pleasure of joining my colleague the Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Hon. Tim Mander MP, at Olympic and Paralympic roadshows right across Queensland. Let us start on the Sunshine Coast, where we were joined by the Deputy Premier, the member for Caloundra and more than 400 local small businesses. There was genuine excitement in the room at Bokarina when we outlined the opportunities for local businesses to become involved in the preparation and procurement for the games. On the Gold Coast we were joined by more than 300 local small and family businesses. We have been to the Redlands and Townsville, and more recently more than 140 businesses joined us in Logan to hear about procurement opportunities. Tradies and suppliers, entrepreneurs and innovators: they all want to be involved.

The Gateway by ICN platform is being used by the organising committee to collect expressions of interest, identify market gaps and inform future tender planning, in addition to identifying opportunities to support local small and family businesses. In fact, recently I had a quick look at the portal and there were more than 50 work packages currently open, from ventilation and temporary air-conditioning technicians to providers of lifts, temporary fencing, village kitchens, stairs, ramps, portable toilets, backdrops and even flagpoles. Additionally, in a big opportunity for Queensland ICT small and family businesses, technology and ICT work packages have started to open, with expressions of interest commencing for software, computing hardware, AV systems and technology systems. Gateway by ICN unlocks partial tender opportunities for businesses of all sizes, helping ensure local capability is given every opportunity to participate in games delivery.

You name it, Queensland needs it, and there is a small and family business out there that can deliver it. The extraordinary level of interest is proof that our plan to deliver all aspects of the Olympic and Paralympic Games extends well beyond infrastructure and venues. They understand the chaos is over and there is a plan. Excitement is building. We are determined to make sure Queensland small and family businesses get their fair share when it comes to the games.

Domestic and Family Violence, Police Resources

Hon. A LEAHY (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (10.08 am): Our government was elected on a promise to make Queensland safer. We said that we would always put victims first and that we would hold perpetrators to account. Every day across Queensland, domestic and family violence continues to place significant pressure on our frontline services. We understand the importance of supporting our front line so that they can meet these challenges. That is why we are committed to ensuring our police are equipped with the resources they need.

Today we take another vital step in our fight against the scourge of domestic and family violence—another step that will strengthen our significant reforms since coming to government. The introduction of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 will further support our police and first responders in responding to domestic and family violence. These reforms are designed to reduce unnecessary administrative and operational complexity. They will mean that police protection directions, or PPDs, will become the primary mechanism for police responding to domestic and family violence. Under these nation-leading laws, police will be able to issue on-the-spot legally binding directions for immediate protection without waiting for an initial court hearing. That means more support for victims, more quickly.

The bill will introduce other major reforms, including the establishment of a new offence for repeated contravention of a police protection direction or a domestic violence order. The bill will also see a statewide expansion of the electronic monitoring pilot and the introduction of the requirement for the courts to consider a monitoring device condition as part of a DVO. That means that any Magistrates Court in Queensland will be able to impose a monitoring device condition on a domestic violence order where the device is available. This will increase the opportunity for perpetrators to be subject to electronic monitoring and accountability on those perpetrators.

For too long under Labor's decade of decline, calls for help from victims of domestic and family violence were left unanswered. These stronger laws answer those calls. The Crisafulli government made a commitment to keep Queensland safer and the introduction of this bill is another important step in keeping our promise.

Early Childhood Teacher Registration

Hon. JH LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (10.11 am): The Crisafulli government is committed to making the places where Queensland children learn and grow safer, more accountable and more supportive. Today, I will introduce the Education Legislation (Registration of Early Childhood Teachers) Amendment Bill 2026. This is a practical reform with a clear purpose: keeping Queensland children safe.

Queensland families should be able to send their children to an early childhood service with confidence that the teachers caring for and educating them are appropriately qualified, suitable to teach and accountable to clear professional standards. Currently, teacher registration is mandatory for teachers working in Queensland schools but remains voluntary for eligible early childhood teachers working in education and care services. The majority of early childhood teachers are already voluntarily registered. However, when it comes to the safety of our children, there should not be gaps in the system. This bill closes that gap.

From 1 July 2028, early childhood teachers working in relevant long day care, kindergarten and preschool services will be required to hold teacher registration. That means those teachers will be subject to the Queensland College of Teachers regulatory framework, including suitability and eligibility requirements and processes to investigate serious concerns about a teacher's conduct or competence. This is another important layer in the Crisafulli government's child safety reforms.

The former Labor government failed to prioritise the safety of our children. They failed to prioritise the Reportable Conduct Scheme and they failed to fund the childcare regulator beyond June 2025. We have taken a different approach. The Crisafulli government has accelerated the Reportable Conduct Scheme for the early childhood sector and strengthened the blue card system.

The former Labor government left the early childhood regulator unfunded from July 2025, leaving Queensland's youngest learners at risk. The Crisafulli government delivered an additional $12.7 million to the early childhood regulatory authority to keep Queensland children safe. We have also led the nation in delivering mandatory child safety training, with more than 70,000 Queensland early childhood staff and volunteers completing the foundation training. Those on this side of the House understand the importance of funding the safety and wellbeing of Queensland children.

This bill is not just about regulation. It is also about recognising early childhood teachers for what they are: qualified teaching professionals. The bill will also strengthen information sharing so that when serious concerns arise the Queensland College of Teachers will be involved and can take appropriate action.

Queensland families entrust early childhood services with what matters most to them: their children. They deserve to know that the people teaching their children are appropriately qualified, suitable to teach and accountable to professional standards. Early childhood teachers deserve recognition as valued members of Queensland's teaching profession, and our children deserve a system that puts their safety first. That is what this bill will deliver for Queenslanders.

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Report

Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (10.14 am): I lay upon the table of the House Ethics Committee report No. 248 titled *Matter of privilege referred by the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee on 21 April 2026 regarding the alleged unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings*.

Tabled paper: Ethics Committee: Report No. 248, 58th Parliament—Matter of privilege referred by the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee on 21 April 2026 regarding the alleged unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings [1652].

In this matter, there has been an unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings. However, the source of that disclosure remains unknown. A committee cannot properly function and maintain public trust if it cannot have fulsome debates on policy issues in developing and then making its recommendations public by reporting to the House and it cannot maintain the trust of those who inform them if proceedings are published inappropriately. The committee considers it highly disappointing that such a fundamental principle promoting public trust in the institution of parliament was disregarded in this egregious manner. I commend the report to the House.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Before we move to question time, I acknowledge the presence in the gallery today of the former member for Nudgee, Neil Roberts. Welcome to the Queensland parliament.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Today, question time will conclude at 11.16 am.

Economy, Credit Rating

Mr MILES (10.16 am): My question is to the Treasurer. In 2024, it was said that if Queensland lost its credit rating—

... our ability to service our debt will fall in a screaming big hole. And if that happens, Queenslanders will pay more for their electricity.

Can the Treasurer confirm these will be the consequences of his credit rating downgrade, as warned by Premier Crisafulli?

Mr JANETZKI: I thank the honourable member for the question. Strap in because I am going to need a bit of time to answer the question.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause, please, Treasurer. Members on my left, he has just started. We will have silence.

Mr JANETZKI: It is a broad question and it is going to get a broad-ranging response. Where do I start with the question from the Leader of the Opposition?

Mr Crisafulli: Start with electricity.

Mr JANETZKI: I am going to come to electricity in a moment, Premier, but I will start with the fiscals. At the end of the day, let's remember where we landed fiscally here. We never said that their last budget was a 'clown show'; it was the *Financial Review* that called their last budget a 'clown show'. I ask members to consider: the most august journal in this country for determining financial affairs and services called their last budget a fiscal 'populist clown show'. Standard & Poor's then went on to say

that there was waning fiscal discipline and again, in last Friday's decision, they referred back to their actions. The build-up of the baseline of costs in this state was all achieved by those opposite. That is their fiscal legacy and their fiscal vandalism.

On this side of the House, in our first two budgets we have been making improvements to repair the fiscal vandalism that those opposite left us with. Turning to power prices, after the first year of their Energy and Jobs Plan, power prices went up by 29 per cent in Queensland. In the first full year after the release of our Energy Roadmap, power prices went down by 6.9 per cent for households in the regions, after a 29 per cent rise under those opposite.

That is the record those opposite left us with: higher taxes, record debt, worsening deficits. On this side of the House, over our first two budgets we are delivering improving deficits, lower debt—$73 billion in lower debt—and no new or increased taxes. Those are the budget improvements we are delivering compared to the fiscal vandalism from those opposite, and that is the record they can never run away from.

When it comes to power prices, we are the only party that has delivered downward pressure on power prices. The first year after their Energy and Jobs Plan, power prices went up 29 per cent. Under us, they are down 6.9 per cent.

Government Bonds, Yields

Mr DICK: My question is to the Treasurer. In October 2024, Queensland's 10-year bond yields were six points lower than Victoria's. Can the Treasurer confirm that Queensland's 10-year bond yields are now higher than Victoria's?

Mr Head interjected.

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

Mr JANETZKI: I hear echoes of a question that potentially has weighed on the mind of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for a couple of years, because I asked a similar question two years ago and he did not even know what a bond yield was. He did not have a clue. You did not have a clue, mate. Come on, mate, you can ask me questions about bond yields all day long. You can ask me questions about financial details all day long.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members! Members on my left and right, let's bring the House to order.

Mr JANETZKI: What a set-up! What a set-up from the opposition office. I do not know who wrote you that question, mate, but—

A government member: Fentiman!

Mr JANETZKI: She is not even here, but she has written the question from Johannesburg. Seriously! The years that the member for Woodridge spent as treasurer, he did not have the foggiest what a bond yield was. He did not have the foggiest. I think he was mixing it up. I remember two years ago he was mixing it all up. He did not have a clue. In fact, QTC said on the day of the downgrade, 'The 10-year bond yield is performing completely in line with its peers and with expectations.' That was according to the Queensland Treasury Corporation statement given on Friday afternoon.

What is most abundantly clear from the past two years—from the very first moment I became Treasurer and I had to pick up the pieces from the member for Woodridge; the $70 billion in revenue that he does not know where it has gone—is that he was clueless. He did not have the foggiest about what a bond yield was. He did not have the foggiest about what taxes would mean in respect of unintended consequences across Queensland. He did not have a clue! He did not have a clue about the unintended consequences of tax increases. He did not have a clue about what bond yields would mean—did not have the foggiest. They are entirely in keeping with what QTC said, and after two years of us making budget improvements, after I had warned from the very first speech—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I know that you allow plenty of latitude for context, but I would submit that the Treasurer should come back to the actual question about 10-year bond yields—are they higher or lower than Victoria's?

Dr ROWAN: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Not only has the Treasurer answered the question, he is providing—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Logan, I caution you.

Dr ROWAN: Not only has he answered the question; he is providing other context in relation to all elements of the question as well.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I will seek some advice. Thank you for your points of order. I have been listening to the Treasurer. He is talking about the bond rates and comparing and contrasting other positions of governments, so the Treasurer is being relevant. Continue your contribution.

Mr JANETZKI: The Acting Speaker understands bond yields, but the member for Springwood does not because he is now calling points of order to a question that has already been answered. Listen up, member for Springwood. Listen up, member for Woodridge. We have said that we are targeting budget improvements, and we have delivered on those. The bond yields under us are exactly as was forecast on Friday. Those opposite show their ignorance. They show how little they cared about the Queensland economy with these questions, with their fiscal legacy, and we will continue to target budget improvements.

Regional Queensland

Mrs KIRKLAND: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering for regional Queensland, and is the Premier aware of any instances where regional Queensland was failed during a decade of decline?

Mr CRISAFULLI: What a very good question on what is a very good day—a very good day for the people of Rockhampton, a very good day for the people of regional Queensland and a very bad day for the member for Woodridge. The member asks about regional Queensland. I say to the honourable member that if she needs proof about how this government listens to regional Queensland she need look no further than the ministerial statements today. In them you see a government that has fulfilled its view and its word and has honoured its promise to deliver for the people of regional Queensland.

When we came to office I reflected on what the Olympic and Paralympic Games had been. I reflected on the cabinet discussion from those opposite where they talked about cancelling the games because they knew how much they had squandered the opportunity to make it a games for all of Queensland. In 100 days we delivered a vision, and that vision is now being lived out. We see the sullen looks on the faces of those opposite, who know that they have backed the wrong horse when it comes to rowing and canoeing in Rockhampton. They said it could not be done, yet today rowing and canoeing in Rocky have passed with flying colours.

I want to recount a story which I have already told my honourable colleagues but I want to share with the House. I received a text message a week ago, after we went to Rockhampton, from a friend of mine in Townsville and he said to me, 'Whatever you do, don't back down from rowing in Rocky.' I said to him, 'I didn't know you had an interest in rowing and I didn't know you had any business interests in Rockhampton.' He said, 'I don't in either, but this is more than Rockhampton. It's about us.' That is what he said. He said, 'It's about us.' For generations we have been told, 'You can have the crumbs.' For generations we have been told we are not good enough. For generations we have been told, 'No, it can only happen in the capital.' No longer. We now have a government that understands how important Brisbane is. Brisbane is a great capital city and it will be a key part of this, but regional Queensland has a voice.

I look around this chamber and I see the faces of those voices—those who are prepared to stand up. There is not a Queenslander today who for one moment believes that the great city of Rockhampton would be an Olympic and Paralympic city if government had not changed. There is no-one who can say that—no-one opposite, no-one on the ground. They know they voted for change and they got it.

This is not about one sport in one city; it is about regional Queensland. It is about the beating heart of this state that has given and given but got nothing back. They voted for change, and it is being delivered. I am proud to lead a government that knows that Queensland is bigger than one city in the capital.

Economy, Credit Rating

Ms GRACE: My question is to the Treasurer. In February 2026, S&P Global said that successful implementation of the Treasurer's savings plan would be crucial to maintaining a AA+ credit rating. Will the Treasurer take responsibility for failing to deliver the Crisafulli LNP government's savings plan?

Mr JANETZKI: The honourable member actually said 'AAA'. Let's not forget that Labor lost that. They lost that one in the middle of a mining boom. They set down the groundwork for losing this one with their 10 years of fiscal vandalism. They cannot get it right on either count. They really need to work a bit harder and spend a bit of time understanding the issues. They have not done the work.

In respect of the question from the honourable member, we have been very clear all along that those opposite left us in the difficult financial position that we find ourselves in. We could go back over the 10 years of their fiscal legacy. There is no better example of how they lost control of the budget over that 10-year period than their project overruns and cost blowouts. That is what set the debt framework on its way. When we look at the debt improvements we have made—the $73 billion in debt improvements—we had the last question from the member for Woodridge, who did not understand bond yields. All he could ever get out was 'debt is a tool'. That was pretty much the depth of his understanding of the issues that were facing—

Mr Crisafulli: 'I don't lick the stamps.' He didn't lick the stamps.

Mr JANETZKI: I take that interjection; 'I don't lick the stamps', 'debt is a tool'. We had 15 new taxes from those opposite and 26 broken promises from the former treasurer. We know that was their legacy, but nothing explained the blowout in debt under those opposite more than cost blowouts.

They had them everywhere: Pioneer-Burdekin—$7 billion to $12 billion to $36.8 billion; and Cross River Rail—$5.4 billion to $19 billion. We have the hospital failures, which the honourable member has reminded me of—the unfunded hospital project blowouts. They did not even fund half the capex delivery costs of the hospital plan. That was their legacy: cost blowouts. Borumba went from $14 billion to $18 billion. It does not matter where you look, that was the legacy of those opposite when it came to debt in this state. I have not even turned to the CFMEU yet.

We have been clear. We have improved their debt profile by $73 billion. We brought debt per capita down, and we are delivering for Queenslanders while we do it.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Keppel, I issue a warning to all members: if your interjections are not being taken, cease interjecting.

Regional Queensland, Infrastructure

Mr HUTTON: 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 infrastructure across regional Queensland, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any examples where regional Queensland was denied the infrastructure it needed during a decade of decline?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the member for Keppel for the question. He is a great, hardworking Central Queensland MP, along with the members for Mirani and Rockhampton. When we look at infrastructure—roads, rail projects, transportation projects, Olympic and Paralympic infrastructure or housing projects—we are delivering for the people of Central Queensland. We are delivering for the people of regional Queensland. We are delivering for the people of South-East Queensland.

One thing is clear: we have been consistent in our position and support for regional Queensland and rowing on the mighty Fitzroy River for the Olympic and Paralympic Games 2032. The same cannot be said about those opposite. They have lots of members with lots of opinions and lots of differing views on that.

The 17 new and improved venues are well and truly across the state. Let's look at Victoria Park. Those who have driven past Victoria Park recently will have seen it is happening. It is game on. Rowing on the mighty Fitzroy River has been announced. The experts have endorsed it. Rockhampton is good for rowing and rowing is good for the 2032 games and beyond. Olympic medallist Alexander 'Sasha' Belonogoff said that the Fitzroy River is the 'best place in the world to row'. He said—

> The Rockhampton course is a gift from the rowing gods.

The rowing gods have spoken this morning and the Crisafulli government have listened, and we are going to deliver for the people of Central Queensland. The member for Gladstone said—

> I am not confident that it will ever happen in Rockhampton.

The member for Ferny Grove said that rowing in Rockhampton is in a shambles. He then posted a picture—

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Do not use props, please, Minister.

Mr BLEIJIE:—about rowing in Rockhampton, and I am led to believe that the river he is standing in front of is not the Fitzroy River. He can correct the record, but I am told the river he is standing in front of is in Brisbane! I table a copy of that.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from the Facebook page of the member for Ferny Grove, Hon. Mark Furner MP, in relation to the Olympics [1653].

If you are going to talk about rowing on the Fitzroy River, you have to go there. Your heart has to be in it. I ask the member to please correct me if I am wrong. Please correct the record. Who could forget 'Schwarto', the Labor leader in Central Queensland? He said—

Everybody from the premier down to the local member have egg on their face ... because if rowing doesn't go ahead, then Rocky gets nothing.

Rowing is going ahead in Rockhampton and the only people with egg on their faces are the member for McConnel, 'Schwarto' and the Leader of the Opposition. We have been consistent. The LNP backed regional Queensland and will continue to do it.

(Time expired)

Economy, Credit Rating

Ms MULLEN: My question is to the Minister for Finance. During estimates hearings, the minister was asked why she had not met with rating agencies. She said—

I have been leading the whole-of-government savings work program ...

S&P's February statement stated that successfully implementing that savings plan will be crucial to maintaining our AA+ credit rating. Does the finance minister take responsibility for Queensland's credit rating downgrade?

Ms BATES: I thank the member for the question. As usual, this is the laziest and most over-resourced opposition that has ever sat on the opposition benches here in Queensland. The Premier said it very early on in the piece—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! I could not hear the minister because of the noise from all sides of the chamber. Members, we will hear the minister.

Ms BATES: As the Premier said in our very first question time, those opposite need to get up earlier, work harder and do better. I thank the member for Jordan for the question, which was clearly penned by the shadow treasurer from Cape Town, who is not here today. They are clearly spending too much time focusing on highlighter colours. I answered the questions in the estimates hearing, which was more than two months ago—and they can pass the message on to the member for Waterford that I know that her favourite stapler colour is red.

I understand why the member for Jordan might not be able to follow the portfolio—it was a massive cluster. I thank those who are highlighting the highlighters over there, because for the rest of this term I will be highlighting all of Labor's failures. It will not matter what colour highlighter I am using.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Acting Speaker—

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Minister, would you pause, please.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Speakers' rulings have been quite clear that members of the House are prohibited from referring to a member's absence from the chamber, and I would suggest that the minister—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Members, I have not heard the conclusion of the point of order yet.

Mr de BRENNI: That is my first point of order. My second point of order is that the minister has in no way addressed the question. That second point of order is to relevance.

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

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Leader of the House, do you have a point of order on that point of order?

Dr ROWAN: I have a point of order to the first point of order. In relation to the first point of order as raised by the Manager of Opposition Business, the finance minister is providing broad context. She is obviously referencing the Treasury portfolio area, which is under the shadow minister. She is not

directly referring to the member's absence. She is talking about the broad nature of those matters in relation to that. Therefore, she is being responsive to the question as asked, which pertains to her portfolio area. She is responding to all of those areas and not directly reflecting on the absence of the member. She is obviously referring to the elements of the question as asked by the member for Jordan.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I will seek some advice.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, I will take the advice in silence, please. Thank you, members, for your points of order.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, I will have silence, please. To the first point of order from the Manager of Opposition Business, I sought advice around that. It is a matter of public record that certain members are at a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference at the moment. It is convention that we do not refer to the absence of members during sitting weeks where they have been on the precinct. Advice from the Clerk is that this is a different scenario. I would caution all members to reflect upon the words used in relation to these particular conferences.

To the second point of order, the finance minister is being relevant. She was asked about whether she takes responsibility for particular matters. That opens the question to a broad range of matters and considerations which the finance minister can elaborate upon. The finance minister is being relevant. I ask you to continue.

Ms BATES: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. As the Treasurer said, Queensland inherited an inevitable downgrade after Labor's decade of fiscal vandalism.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members! Member for Logan and member for Bundaberg, you are warned under the standing orders. That is highly disorderly.

Mr Bennett interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Burnett, I do not need your assistance.

Ms BATES: 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—

Ms Boyd interjected.

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

Ms BATES:—a deteriorating net operating balance with a $9.2 billion deficit in 2027-28, a debt blowout of $46 billion from their 2024-25 budget to $217.8 billion in debt by 2027-28, and the four-year capital program blowing out by $22.6 billion to $129.9 billion. That is the reality Labor left behind for Queenslanders—unfunded critical services and infrastructure, public servants without job security and project blowouts across the state.

In contrast, we are restoring respect for taxpayers' money. Expense growth has been contained, with average growth for the four years to 2029-30 limited to 2.6 per cent. This government has a calm and methodical approach in delivering improving deficits and a forecast surplus in 2029-30, with lower debt and no new increased taxes.

(Time expired)

Regional Queensland, Cost-of-Living Relief

Mr G KELLY: My question is to the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering real, recurrent cost-of-living relief for regional Queenslanders, and is the Treasurer aware of any policies that failed to provide ongoing cost-of-living relief to regional Queenslanders during a decade of decline?

Mr JANETZKI: I thank the honourable member for the question. Our second budget was all about delivering cost-of-living relief for those Queenslanders doing it tough in the middle of a national affordability crisis. We were very clear about that—whether it be fully funding Play On! Sports Vouchers that those opposite left utterly unfunded; whether it be the Back to School Boost overseen by the education minister; whether it be lifting the patient travel subsidy 11 cents, from 34 cents to 45 cents—an $11.7 million investment into the budget. All of those were fully funded, baked into the forwards, as good cost-of-living relief should be.

Importantly for regional Queensland, we are bringing down power prices. The honourable member for Mirani asks me about any alternative policies. As it turns out, his electorate was right in the heart of one of the alternative policies that those opposite wanted to implement in our state and that would have driven up power prices.

Mr Crisafulli: He fought against it.

Mr JANETZKI: The honourable member fought against it; I take the interjection from the Premier. He fought against it. He called it out and he saved regional communities. He did. Pioneer-Burdekin went from $7 billion to $12 billion to $36.8 billion, which they have never disavowed so I assume it is still in their policy platform. Under their Energy and Jobs Plan, which I mentioned earlier, in the first year power prices went up 29 per cent. Under ours, it went down 29 per cent. That is the affordable cost-of-living relief that we have baked into the budget—whether it be the patient travel subsidy or Back to School Boost and also the downward pressure we are putting on power prices here in Queensland.

That is cost-of-living relief. Through the Queensland Competition Authority, we know that regional Queenslanders are seeing power prices go down this year. We will continue to put downward pressure on it, but it runs deeper than that. What the member for Mirani did with his advocacy with the Energy and Jobs Plan was save communities—Eungella, Netherdale, Mount Dalrymple. He saved those communities.

I can reveal today that those opposite, under their Energy and Jobs Plan and modelling of that plan, would have had some units at Stanwell and at Callide B producing no more electricity this month. That is what their Energy and Jobs Plan would have done. They would have had some units at those two coal generators producing no energy by the end of this month. That would have meant communities right across Queensland—from Calliope in Gladstone to Chinchilla, Nanango and Kingaroy—would have been shut down and all the small and families business that went with it and all the community support that went with it. We are always going to back in regional Queensland, just like we have seen today.

(Time expired)

Western Downs Digital Park, Energy

Mr MILES: My question is to the Premier. The Premier stated that new data centres would lower power prices for Queenslanders. Will the Premier now release household power price modelling once construction of Australia's largest data centre on the Western Downs is completed?

Mr CRISAFULLI: The question is about energy but it might as well be about robbing regional Queensland. Today yet again we have seen that every time the embattled Leader of the Opposition opens his mouth it is about trying to cling to his job, which is propped up by a handful of people who do not understand regional Queensland, who do not understand how to deliver power. When power prices in this state rose 29.9 per cent because they wanted to send a wrecking ball through regional Queensland, we said no. We said no to the abuse of capital. We said no to the trampling on communities. We said no to the recurrent costs which would have jacked up power bills by over $1,000 every single year. We said no.

What did we say? We said, 'Let's take all the ideology out of power. Let's make it affordable, reliable and sustainable.' This is what we have done. We have the youngest fleet of coal-fired power stations in the country and we believe that they should continue to operate while they are there and while we are investing in maintaining them. We have done that to provide the baseload power, including power stations that would have closed down which would have ripped the heart out of regional communities right now.

The second thing is that we said we have an abundance of gas and we believe that gas is a key transition fuel that should be used. We have an abundance of it, and I want it to be part of the solution in driving down power prices. Then we turn to renewable energy. We have an abundance of opportunity in that space. There is no point putting $40 billion into ripping the heart out of a community. There is no point tearing up high-value agricultural land.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Members on my left, no interjections are being taken.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question was about modelling. My point of order is on relevance. I ask the Premier to respond to that question.

Dr ROWAN: To the point of order, Mr Acting Speaker, the Premier could not be more relevant in what he is saying. He is being completely relevant to the question as asked.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I have been listening. The question also involved a preamble relating to a statement by the Premier about power prices in relation to new data centres. The Premier is being responsive on that point. There is another aspect to the question as well which I believe the Premier will come to.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I sure will, Mr Acting Speaker. Then we have renewable energy. We are actually investing in CopperString, which was nothing more than a pipedream from those opposite. It was an absolute pipedream. We are investing in it. On the back of it, we have a great opportunity to have renewable energy in the areas where communities want it.

The honourable member asked me about data centres. Here is the difference: because of the fact that we own our own power generation and distribution—

Mr McCallum interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, member for Bundamba!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Members, the near explosion there was disorderly. The Premier is being responsive to the question as asked. We will hear the Premier.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I take the interjection from the Leader of the Opposition. They did not get a chance to flog it off before and they voted against us keeping it. Because of that point of difference and, I have to say, to the great credit of the Prime Minister—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In response to my earlier point of order, the Premier indicated that he would come back to the question around releasing modelling. There are 23 seconds on the clock. We would ask that he be relevant to that matter.

Mr Miles interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, member for Murrumba. I do not need your assistance in this regard.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Premier is being relevant and he is coming directly to that element of the question as asked.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I have continued to listen. The Premier is being relevant to the question. There are 23 seconds left on the clock in relation to the question. I call the Premier.

Mr CRISAFULLI: They get cranky when I talk about the relationship we have with Canberra, where we can actually extract money and opportunities. Anyway, we are for Queensland; they are not. On the back of that we have guaranteed a carve-out from Canberra. Because we control the electricity we can determine that data centres do not go in people's backyards, they do not suck up power and they do drive down electricity prices, something those opposite have never done.

Regional Queensland, Youth Crime

Ms JAMES: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering solutions to the youth crime crisis across regional Queensland, and is the Attorney-General aware of any policies that saw crime explode across regional Queensland during a decade of decline?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The member for Barron River asks a very relevant question because she, like all of the regional members on this side of the House, lived and breathed the soft-on-crime decade of decline from Labor's youth crime crisis. Year after year there were an increasing number of victims across this state and increasing crime all across regional Queensland. We know that Labor ignored regional Queensland during their soft-on-crime decade of decline. They ignored regional Queensland just like they continue to do now that they are in opposition. They have always ignored our regions. We know it is in their DNA. They weakened the laws and guess who wore the brunt of the weakened laws? It was regional Queensland. There are some figures—

A government member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is mums and dads—mums and dads from Bundy, mums and dads from all across regional Queensland. Some of the figures are atrocious. Under those opposite robberies in Townsville went up 287 per cent and in Bundaberg the number of stolen cars went up 282 per cent. By

the way, in Bundaberg the honourable police minister has installed an extra 91 police officers for the Wide Bay-Burnett region. That is about listening to regional Queensland. Under Labor, in Rocky the number of assaults went up 253 per cent. Crime was out of control all across regional Queensland whether it was on our streets, in our living rooms or in our workplaces. Their heads are down because they know it.

When I was in Mount Isa just a couple of weeks ago I visited the watch house, and a police officer there said to me, 'It is quite incredible. Property offences have gone down 20 per cent in and around Mount Isa.' We know there is more work to be done. I received this email in my electorate office just a couple of weeks ago. It says—

Deb, I worked as a police officer at Blackbutt and met you a few times. I would like to let you know my gratitude and appreciation for all the work you and the government have done. I am in Toowoomba now and we have not had an overnight burglary resulting in a stolen car in about three weeks. I have never experienced this in 12 years of policing. Thank you for your dedication.

This is a hardworking regional police officer who gets regional Queensland just like all of us on this side of the House. The Crisafulli government lives and breathes regional Queensland. Those opposite just do not get it and they failed regional Queensland. We will always stand up for rural and regional Queensland.

(Time expired)

Western Downs Digital Park, Water

Ms BOYD: My question is to the Minister for Water. The government is quoted as saying that the 725-hectare Western Downs Digital Park's water usage will be broadly comparable to a conventional office building of the same size. Can the minister advise of the expected water requirements of the Western Downs Digital Park?

Mr Chiesa interjected.

Mr Whiting interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Before I call the minister, I warn the member for Hinchinbrook under the standing orders. I warn the member for Bancroft under the standing orders. Member for Hinchinbrook and member for Bancroft, take note, please. I call the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers.

Ms LEAHY: This is rather interesting because I believe this is the first question we have had from the shadow minister for water during this term. I am pleased the shadow minister has finally found out that water is in her shadow portfolio.

Mr Crisafulli: She's broken the drought.

Ms LEAHY: I take the interjection from the Premier. She has finally broken the drought when it comes to water and acknowledging that water is in her portfolio. It does sound to me like the opposition does not really want this data centre in the Western Downs.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Deputy Premier!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members on my left and members on my right. I cannot hear the minister for all the din.

Ms LEAHY: In relation to the data centre, this is an important matter and—

Ms McMillan interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Mansfield!

Ms LEAHY: They do not see this investment in regional Queensland. We know they do not like investment in regional Queensland. They are particularly showing they do not like investment in the Western Downs. They do not want that investment. It is a massive opportunity for the Western Downs—

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Lytton!

Ms LEAHY:—and something that the council is working their way through. There is a development application that has gone to the council. There are requirements in there. What I can tell the honourable member who asked the question is that there is a robust water plan in the Murray-Darling Basin area in the Condamine-Balonne, where this sits, and had she looked at that water plan—this is part of her portfolio—she may have understood it and the requirements. They are robust water plans—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, Attorney-General!

Ms LEAHY: From what I have read in relation to water—

Mr McCallum interjected.

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

Ms LEAHY:—they intend to use some recycled water from the gas plants in that area. It is well placed to get energy and water, and I would encourage the member to look at the water plan.

(Time expired)

Regional Queensland, Health Services

Mr HEAD: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. How is the Crisafulli LNP government restoring health services across Queensland, particularly in the regions, and is the minister aware of any approaches that saw health services cut during a decade of decline?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member, who is another hardworking Central Queensland member, for the question today. I think I can say without fear of contradiction from my cabinet colleagues that the member for Callide is relentless in his advocacy for his seat and for the people of Central Queensland—unlike those opposite, who could not care less about it. I was listening to and reflecting on what the Deputy Premier said. We have had 'build, baby, build' and 'drill, baby, drill'; we now have 'row, baby, row'. That is going ahead in Central Queensland.

Ms Pease interjected.

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

Mr NICHOLLS: As a former rower a long time ago—I was slow but I was rough—I can say that I know that everyone is looking forward to rowing on the Fitzroy River.

I am asked about health services. Under Labor, rural communities were left with a 21 per cent gap in the medical workforce, a bush birthing crisis and aging facilities that did not even meet minimum standards to deliver care. In contrast, the Crisafulli government has delivered record intakes of first-year doctors for two consecutive years, we are building new and expanded and upgraded hospitals, and we have opened two new birthing centres in regional Queensland after Labor closed them. We are investing a record $140.4 million in the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme, which is a $21.9 million increase over Labor's last budget, with a 32 per cent increase in the private motor vehicle subsidy, from 34 cents a kilometre to 45 cents a kilometre. We are making it easier to attract and retain the health workforce in rural and remote areas.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Minister for Health, could you pause for a moment, please. Member for Bundamba, you have been chatting the entirety of the time the Minister for Health has been answering a question. You have been on a warning. I would ask you to leave the chamber for one hour under the standing orders.

Whereupon the honourable member for Bundamba withdrew from the chamber at 11.01 am.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Members to my left, when a minister is answering a question, it is not the time to start having a chat with your friends nearby. There is one person in the chamber with the call. If you are not interjecting in a way that is being taken, cease your conversation, please.

Mr NICHOLLS: We are making it easier to attract and retain the workforce in rural and remote areas. We have new and upgraded staff accommodation, and here is the list: Goondiwindi, Biloela, Longreach, Collinsville, Dajarra, Camooweal out on the border, Winton, Mount Isa, Charleville, Charters Towers and Ingham, which has somehow slipped onto the list as well.

I am asked about Labor's failures. Labor's failures are writ large. In fact, they are in the 2019 Rural Maternity Taskforce by the member for Murrumba—a blessed memory out there—and the half a million dollars he invested, and three years later when they closed it down there was $450,000 of it

unspent. They did not invest in regional Queensland. Biloela was on bypass for 800 days, Cooktown was on bypass for 1,000 days and Gladstone was on bypass for a year. The member for Murrumba's word, as we know, means nothing.

We are restoring services. The fact is that Labor closes them and the LNP government opens them. For the first time since 2022, women and families in Bilo and Cooktown have local birthing options. Before I embark on a few weeks leave, can I thank all of those involved in restoring those birthing services in Torres and Cape and Central Queensland. We believe in Central Queensland; Labor does not.

(Time expired)

Child Safety System

Ms ASIF: My question is to the acting child safety minister. I table reporting from the *Courier-Mail* after a young girl died in a residential care home. Can the acting minister advise if it is the Crisafulli LNP government's policy to move at-risk kids in care to multiple placements within one week?

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail* online, dated 14 September 2026, titled 'Probe ordered into teen's death in residential care' [1654].

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Before I call the acting minister, we will ensure the minister is able to see the tabled document if she would like to view it. Also, member for Sandgate, can you assure the House that the matter is not sub judice?

Ms ASIF: No, it is not.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you.

Ms LEAHY: The death of any child is something that is very sad. It is sad for the family, for the friends and also for the frontline workers. It is something that we should be very concerned about. We should allow privacy and respect for the family. When it comes to residential care, that is something our government has taken very seriously. It is why we actually instituted the commission of inquiry into residential care. That is particularly important because it shows what has happened over a decade of decline.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have received some advice that this matter may be sub judice and there are active processes and investigations. I want to bring that to your attention because I have received some indication that it may be the case.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I will seek some advice. I have not seen the document that has been tabled.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order to assist, if I may.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Is it on the same point of order?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Yes, it is. Just to assist, I am advised that this matter referred to by the member is under the active consideration of the coroner of Queensland under my portfolio and it would be inappropriate for these matters to be discussed. I understand there would be some court issues that would fall under sub judice.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The House only recently considered the full detail and scope of standing order 233. Nothing in the point of order from the Attorney-General would mean that this question would offend the sub judice provisions under the standing orders. The member for Sandgate has indicated that. I am sure you will be able to make a reasoned assessment of that and rule that the question is in order.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I will seek some advice, and I will take the advice with some silence, please. Members, thank you for your points of order and for your forbearance as I sought advice from the Deputy Clerk. We have heard the assurance from the member for Sandgate that it is not sub judice. Further to that, I have sought advice which indicates that a matter is only sub judice where there is a criminal matter before the courts or where a jury is being empanelled in a civil matter. The information before me does not indicate that there is a criminal matter before the courts. The sub judice rule does not apply in coronial matters. However, given that there may be a coronial matter ongoing, I think it would be prudent for the minister to exercise caution in the comments made, but the sub judice rule does not apply in this case.

Ms LEAHY: As I said earlier, the death of any child is very sad and it is something we are dealing with when it comes to the broken system of residential care. We know that under Labor's decade of decline unlicensed not-for-profit providers were allowed to thrive. They created a billion-dollar industry

with little licensing or regulatory oversight of the services they ran. We are dealing with a broken system. I have seen the absolute decline in residential care while I have been in this portfolio for the last two weeks. It is very disappointing to see that, and it needs to change.

There is quite a lot in the commission of inquiry report. I want to point out some of the things it said in relation to residential care because I think this goes to the heart of caring for children in the future. I think it is the turning point. We have seen a decade of decline under Labor when too many children were failed. There needs to be that change. I do want to thank Minister Camm for the work she is doing and for what the commissioner has done as well in relation to the commission of inquiry. I will read out a bit from the report because I found a very interesting line here. It states—

The evidence also indicates that many children are in residential care not because it is the right placement for them, but because no suitable alternative exists.

(Time expired)

Regional Queensland, Roads and Transport Infrastructure

Mr KEMPTON: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering better roads and transport solutions for regional Queensland, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches during the decade of decline?

Mr MICKELBERG: I thank the member for Cook for his question. I know that the member for Cook knows that those opposite just do not get regional Queensland. Unlike the hardworking regional members on this side of the House, those opposite ignore regional Queensland. By contrast, we are getting on with the job of delivering the roads, the rail and the infrastructure that Queenslanders need and, most importantly, that regional Queenslanders need. The list of the work that we are doing in that part of the world is long. There are sealing works along the PDR between Yarraden and the Three Sisters; that is underway. The Musgrave to Red Blanket section is out to market at the moment. All of those remaining sections are in design. We are getting on with the job, doing the work required and getting shovels in the ground.

On the Kuranda Range Road where we had significant disaster impacts, I am really pleased to inform the House that repairs at the skate bowl at Henry Ross Lookout have been carried out. I was there with the member for Barron River and the member for Cook not too long ago. Two-way traffic will return to that section of the road this weekend. That is a significant moment in recovery on the Kuranda Range Road. We know it has been a long time coming. It has been a significant piece of work. Rebuilding on that site has required a huge amount of work with multiple soil nails—enough to cover a considerable area. We are getting on with the job of doing what is needed.

If we look at the Bruce Highway we know those opposite rolled over and caved to Canberra. They agreed to a fifty-fifty funding split on regional roads. We did not. We fought for an 80-20 split and we got the deal. We are investing $9 billion in the Bruce Highway and $4½ billion will be in market or underway by the end of this financial year. What is that going to look like? There will be nine new overtaking lanes on the Bruce Highway, 300 kilometres of wide centreline treatment and 145 kilometres of pavement strengthening. This will mean better roads for regional Queenslanders. There will be 23 intersection upgrades up and down the Bruce and two new rest areas. I was up on the Bruce last week with the member for Callide looking at new intersection upgrades and rest areas in his part of the world. We are getting on with the job for the member for Cook and other Far North Queensland members. We are replacing eight narrow bridges between Ayr and Townsville, and Ingham and Innisfail, including Palm Creek, St Margaret Creek, Emmet Creek and Mackenzie Creek.

We know those opposite do not get regional Queensland. Their record is a litany of blowouts. Every single road project in this state was over budget under those opposite—$6.7 billion of QTRIP blowouts under the member for Aspley. Every single project was over budget or over time; that is their record. By contrast, we are getting on with the job of fixing the Bruce and building a better road network for regional Queenslanders after it was ignored by Labor during their decade of decline. Those opposite should hang their head in shame. Queenslanders know who will fight for regional Queensland and it is not Labor.

(Time expired)

Child Safety System

Ms McMILLAN: Mr Acting Speaker—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members. There is no need for that.

Ms McMILLAN: My question is to the Acting Minister for Child Safety. A child in distress about being forced to move residential care facilities wrote to me this week. This was brought to the attention of the acting minister's office. Can the acting minister confirm if this at-risk child will be moved from their placement this week?

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: One moment, Minister. Before you answer that question, I am going to seek some advice. Before I do that, I think I have a point of order from the Leader of the House.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to the minister's obligations. My point of order is that the question relates to a specific case and a child who may be under specific legislative and other obligations and provisions. I ask whether that question would be in breach as it relates to a specific case.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Nothing in the question sought the revelation of the individual's identity. I am sure the minister can answer whilst maintaining her obligations to preserve the anonymity of that individual.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Yes, I indicated I was going to seek some advice. It was on those very points of order, so I will seek that advice. Members, in relation to your points of order, I have sought advice. The question is in order because it does not specifically identify any particular matter. However, the minister will need to be mindful of her obligations in answering the question under the child safety act. You have one minute.

Ms LEAHY: I am briefed regularly. In fact, I think I have been briefed multiple times throughout the days that I have been the acting minister. It is inappropriate to discuss individual cases. I will not be furnishing information in the House.

Regional Queensland, Primary Industries

Mr DILLON: My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering support for our state's primary industries, which are at the heart of regional Queensland, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches during the decade of decline?

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I call the Minister for Primary Industries. You have one minute.

Mr PERRETT: If you call me, I am there. I thank the member for the question. There is no fiercer advocate in this parliament for rural and regional Queensland and particularly his electorate, so I thank the member.

I am going to touch on something very positive this morning. Along with the member for Lockyer, I visited the Brisbane Markets. We saw some of the most wonderful produce that has been produced in this state. We were there for the first tray of mangoes to be auctioned. It raised $70,000 for charity, and over $80,000 went to the Lady Musgrave Trust and Redkite. This demonstrates the commitment we have to rural and regional Queensland, particularly primary industries.

We have set a vision. We are delivering on it. It is something we are extremely proud of. We will continue to back them in with the vision that we have. We back in rural and regional Queensland and we will back in the hardworking people of this state.

(Time expired)

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

LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION

Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.17 am): I seek leave to move general business notice of motion No. 1 standing in my name.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

AYES, 30:

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

Grn, 1—Berkman.

NOES, 50:

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.

KAP, 1—Knuth.

Pair: Camm, Enoch.

Resolved in the negative.

EDUCATION LEGISLATION (REGISTRATION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHERS) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

Hon. JH LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (11.22 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005, the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Regulation 2016 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 Education, Arts and Communities Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Education Legislation (Registration of Early Childhood Teachers) Amendment Bill 2026 [1655].

Tabled paper: Education Legislation (Registration of Early Childhood Teachers) Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes [1656].

Tabled paper: Education Legislation (Registration of Early Childhood Teachers) Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights [1657].

I am very pleased to introduce the Education Legislation (Registration of Early Childhood Teachers) Amendment Bill 2026 to the House. This bill continues to deliver on the Crisafulli government's commitment to make the places where Queensland children learn and grow safer, more accountable and more supportive. Queenslanders expect our schools and early childhood settings to be places of safe and supportive learning, providing care, respect and opportunity. They also expect the people entrusted with teaching young children to be appropriately qualified, suitable to teach and accountable to clear professional standards. The bill modernises Queensland's teacher regulatory framework by providing for mandatory teacher registration for early childhood teachers employed in relevant education and care services. It is a focused reform with a clear purpose: to extend the safeguards of teacher registration to early childhood teachers, strengthen the flow of information when concerns arise, and recognise early childhood teachers as part of Queensland's teaching profession.

Child safety is the central purpose of this bill. The former Labor government failed to prioritise the safety of our kids. Labor did not prioritise the Reportable Conduct Scheme. Labor failed to fund the childcare regulator past June 2025. The Crisafulli government has led the nation with new mandatory child safety training for all childcare workers and volunteers. The Crisafulli government delivered an additional $12.7 million for the regulator. Since we came to government we have prioritised keeping Queensland children safe. This bill continues to strengthen safeguards for children and for our early childhood teachers.

The families of our youngest children are entitled to the same confidence in the professional safeguards surrounding their teachers as families with children in schools. Where a person is employed as an early childhood teacher as required under the National Quality Framework, families should know that the person has also undergone the suitability and eligibility checks required for teacher registration and remains subject to the regulatory framework of the Queensland College of Teachers. The Queensland College of Teachers has established functions and powers to administer teacher registration, monitor ongoing eligibility, investigate concerns and take action where a teacher's conduct or competence is in question.

At present, teacher registration is mandatory for teachers in Queensland schools but voluntary for early childhood teachers working in education and care services if they hold an eligible qualification. Whilst the majority of early childhood teachers are already voluntarily registered, the safeguards are not yet applied consistently across this cohort. The bill closes that gap. It extends the existing registration framework so that the professional safeguards applying to teachers do not depend on

whether a child is in a school or in an education and care service. This reform builds on the Crisafulli government's wider reform work to improve safety for children, including accelerating the implementation of the Reportable Conduct Scheme to bring forward commencement of the early childhood sector by one year to 1 July 2026; strengthening the blue card system under the Working with Children Check Act 2000; and introducing Daniel's Law to allow members of the public access to information about convicted child sex offenders.

Mandatory registration adds another important layer to our child safety reform agenda by ensuring that early childhood teachers and the services employing them are connected to the regulator for the teaching profession, the Queensland College of Teachers. The reform also responds, in part, to lessons arising from the 2025 Child Death Review Board report *In plain sight: review into system responses to child sexual abuse*. That report reinforced the importance of systems that identify concerns, share information and respond to risks to children.

Mandatory early childhood teacher registration was a key recommendation in the *Review of child safety arrangements under the National Quality Framework* undertaken by the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority, known as ACECQA. Queensland has led the implementation of this review on behalf of states and territories and has played a key role in delivering national legislative reforms to keep children safe, including prohibiting staff and volunteers from using or possessing personal phones and other image-capable devices whilst working directly with children, reducing notification timeframes for physical or sexual abuse from seven days to 24 hours, and mandating national child safety training.

Queensland is proud to have led the development of the national child safety training. More than 70,000 Queensland early childhood staff and volunteers have completed the foundation training, with advanced training now supporting educators, supervisors and leaders to prevent, identify and respond to child safety risks. This bill strengthens those systems. It ensures that when prescribed serious concerns arise about a registered teacher the Queensland College of Teachers is brought into the picture and can exercise its regulatory functions.

The bill amends the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005 to require persons employed as early childhood teachers in approved education and care services to hold teacher registration. The relevant services are long day care, kindergarten and preschool services regulated under the Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland). The reforms do not apply to outside-school-hours care or family day care services. They also do not affect state delivered kindergartens operating in state schools, where teachers are already required to be registered. The bill extends the definition of 'teacher' to include a person employed as an early childhood teacher at an education and care service under the national law. It makes it clear that an 'educator' who is not an early childhood teacher under the national law is not captured as a teacher for mandatory teacher registration.

Mandatory early childhood teacher registration must be accompanied by workable and fair registration pathways. For this reason, the bill broadens the qualifications eligible for teacher registration to include early childhood teacher qualifications approved by ACECQA, or assessed by ACECQA as equivalent where those qualifications are not currently recognised by the Queensland College of Teachers for teacher registration. This includes, for example, certain three-year degrees, qualifications focused on the care and education of children from birth to five years, and some diplomas and graduate certificates recognised for early childhood teaching.

The qualification reforms are important for two connected reasons. First, they support workforce supply by ensuring the widest possible range of appropriately qualified people can be recognised within the teacher registration framework for the setting in which they are qualified to teach. Second, they support the professional status of early childhood teachers by properly recognising qualifications approved for early childhood teaching under the National Quality Framework. The qualification changes will commence on royal assent. This will allow eligible early childhood teachers to begin applying for registration and it will provide a clear pathway for people completing recognised qualifications ahead of mandatory registration commencing on 1 July 2028.

This reform is also an important part of the Queensland Early Childhood Workforce Strategy 2025-2028, which sets out a vision for a sustainable, qualified early childhood workforce that is recognised for its contribution to improving outcomes for children. Its priorities include attracting and retaining professionals, professional recognition, qualifications and career pathways, strong leadership, wellbeing and resilience and quality. The strategy expressly commits to expanding teacher registration

pathways to all early childhood teachers and increasing the number of early childhood teachers registered with the Queensland College of Teachers. This bill gives legislative effect to that commitment. It recognises early childhood teaching as professional teaching, whilst ensuring registration aligns with the qualifications a person holds. The strategy recognises that regulation alone does not build a workforce. Early childhood professionals need clear pathways, accessible qualifications, practical supports and opportunities to develop throughout their careers.

That is why the Crisafulli government's broader workforce initiatives include scholarships to help early childhood professionals attain or upgrade qualifications, practicum placement support, mentoring and coaching, leadership development, wellbeing supports and incentives to attract and retain early childhood teachers in regional, remote and very remote communities. The Queensland Early Years Workforce Institute will further support workforce capability, professional learning, workforce engagement and sector-wide planning informed by data and research. Together, the bill and the workforce strategy establish a coherent direction. The bill sets clear professional expectations and safeguards. The workforce strategy supports people to enter the profession, gain qualifications, build capability, progress their careers and remain in the sector. This is how we strengthen child safety while supporting the people who deliver early childhood education every day.

The bill provides that registration will be recorded on the Queensland College of Teachers' existing teacher register. A single register is simple, clear and coherent. It supports equity across the profession and reinforces a clear message: early childhood teachers are qualified teachers and are part of Queensland's teaching profession. At the same time, the bill recognises that some early childhood qualifications prepare a person specifically to teach in an education and care service rather than in a school. Where a person holds an approved qualification that qualifies them to teach in an early childhood setting but not in a school, the Queensland College of Teachers must impose an education and care services condition on the person's registration—known as an ECS condition.

An ECS condition will restrict the person to teaching in an education and care service. It will apply to both provisional and full registration because it relates to qualification type, not a teacher's experience or professional standing. The ECS condition will appear on the publicly available part of the Queensland College of Teachers' teacher register and on the person's certificate of registration, providing transparency for employing authorities and the public. A registered teacher with an ECS condition is fully qualified to be employed as an early childhood teacher in education and care services. It is a sensible safeguard that aligns a teacher's employment with the qualification they hold. If the teacher later gains the additional qualifications required to teach in a school, the Queensland College of Teachers may cancel the condition. Permission to Teach will remain available for schools in appropriate circumstances, but it will not be an alternative to registration for a person employed as an early childhood teacher in a relevant education and care service.

The bill strengthens the responsibilities of approved providers as the employing authorities for education and care services. From 1 July 2028, an employing authority must not employ a person as an early childhood teacher unless that person is registered, subject to an applicable waiver under the national law exempting the education and care service from employing an early childhood teacher. An unregistered person must not work as an early childhood teacher in an education and care service. Penalties will apply to both an employing authority and an individual for noncompliance. Those penalties mirror the penalties applying where an unregistered person is employed or works as a teacher in a school.

The bill extends to education and care service employing authorities the notification obligations that already apply to school employing authorities. These obligations include notifying the Queensland College of Teachers about: particular allegations of harm, or risk of harm, to a child because of the conduct of a teacher; the outcome if the employing authority deals with such an allegation; and a dismissal where the circumstances call into question the teacher's competency to be employed as a teacher. I note that these requirements introduce additional regulatory obligations on education and care service employing authorities, but the obligations are necessary and proportionate. Notifications will only be required in prescribed adverse circumstances. Most services engage only one or two early childhood teachers. The protective benefit of ensuring the Queensland College of Teachers, as the regulator of the teaching profession, receives serious information outweighs the additional administrative requirement.

The bill also extends the Queensland College of Teachers' power to request relevant reports and returns from an education and care service employing authority and allows the Queensland College of Teachers to enter into information sharing agreements with the national early childhood authority. These provisions support a connected regulatory system. They reduce the risk that significant information remains siloed and informs the Queensland College of Teachers so it can take appropriate action within its statutory responsibilities. The director liability provisions that apply to relevant offences by school employing authorities will also extend to education and care service employing authorities. This reflects the seriousness of the responsibility carried by organisations that employ people to provide education and care for very young children. The reforms will apply to Queensland's centre-based education and care services, currently numbering 2,347, including long day care services and sessional kindergartens, based on the 2025 Queensland Early Childhood Education and Care Services Census.

The bill has been informed by substantial consultation. Between October 2025 and January 2026, the Department of Education held nine online stakeholder information sessions attended by about 180 people, including employing authorities, early childhood teachers, unions and peak bodies. The consultation received a total of 917 online survey responses and 11 written responses. There was broad support for mandatory registration, expanded recognition of qualifications approved for early childhood teaching and a transition period. Stakeholders identified benefits for child safety, consistency with other jurisdictions, professional recognition, skills and retention.

The Early Childhood Stakeholder Advisory Group, comprising key early childhood services employing authorities, was also consulted on the model in the bill and generally supported mandatory teacher registration. The Queensland College of Teachers was provided with a working draft of the bill and consulted on its model and key provisions where its feedback was incorporated into drafting. The Queensland College of Teachers supports mandatory registration, welcomes these changes and supports the progression of the bill.

The bill provides a staged and practical implementation pathway. The amendments enabling people with early childhood qualifications approved by ACECQA to apply for teacher registration will commence on royal assent. The mandatory teacher registration requirements, associated employing authority obligations and penalties will commence on 1 July 2028. This reflects further consideration of sector readiness and the importance of strengthening child safety and brings forward the initial transition period previously proposed while maintaining sufficient time for implementation. As I mentioned, a majority of early childhood teachers already hold teacher registration voluntarily, so the early childhood sector is already broadly familiar with the processes and benefits to the professional status of early childhood teachers.

The transition period will allow current and aspiring early childhood teachers to assess their eligibility, consider available pathways, assemble documentation and apply for teacher registration ahead of it becoming mandatory. It will allow education and care service employing authorities to identify affected roles, plan their workforces, verify registration and update their systems and practices. It will also give the Queensland College of Teachers time to update its information technology systems, policies, regulatory practices and communications. The Department of Education will communicate with the sector and work with the Queensland College of Teachers to support readiness and a shared understanding of the new obligations.

Since 2024, the Department of Education has committed a total of $1 million to the Queensland College of Teachers for preparation and implementation, including system changes, policies and communications. The Department of Education will also provide transition supports for an initial transition period, particularly aimed at supporting ECTs to transition to and maintain registration. These will be delivered in various ways, including through existing mechanisms for recognition of early childhood workforce expertise and elevation of the status of the profession within existing funding. This staged approach gives the sector certainty now and time to prepare properly. It ensures the reform is implemented in a way that strengthens protection without losing sight of workforce sustainability or operational readiness.

Queensland families entrust early childhood services with what matters most to them. They are entitled to expect that a person employed as an early childhood teacher is a suitable person to be registered as a teacher, appropriately qualified and accountable to professional standards. They are entitled to expect that serious concerns about a teacher will be notified to the Queensland College of Teachers and subject to the rigour of the regulatory framework for the teaching profession. The Education Legislation (Registration of Early Childhood Teachers) Amendment Bill 2026 delivers on

those expectations. It extends the safeguards of teacher registration to early childhood teachers in education and care services. It broadens registration pathways by recognising early childhood teaching qualifications approved by ACECQA. It maintains one teacher register while ensuring that a teacher's registration reflects the qualification they hold. It requires education and care services to employ registered teachers as early childhood teachers from 1 July 2028 and extends important notification and information-sharing obligations. It supports the Queensland Early Childhood Workforce Strategy by recognising expertise, elevating professional status and expanding pathways into registration. Most importantly, it strengthens safety for children.

This is a practical, proportionate and necessary reform. It recognises early childhood teachers as valued members of Queensland's teaching profession and gives families greater confidence in the people and systems supporting their children's early childhood education and care. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. JH LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (11.44 am): 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 Education, Arts and Communities Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Marr): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Education, Arts and Communities Committee.

YOUTH JUSTICE (CIRCUIT BREAKER) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 16 September (see p. 2913), on motion of Mrs Gerber—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Mrs KIRKLAND (Rockhampton—LNP) (11.44 am), continuing: Our communities know that these repeat offenders did not land here just because they woke up one day and decided they were going to be criminals. Circumstances and influences led them to that. Circuit Breaker is exactly as the name suggests: it breaks that current which has them heading in the wrong direction. It removes the influences that keep them there, it removes them from the temptation to offend again and it offers support and new opportunities to develop self-worth and a sense of purpose. For those reasons and because of the compelling evidence that was presented throughout the committee process, in particular by Central Queensland voices who understand these challenges firsthand, I commend this bill to the House.

Mr KNUTH (Hill—KAP) (11.45 am): I rise to speak to the Youth Justice (Circuit Breaker) Amendment Bill. This bill mirrors parts of the KAP's relocation sentencing policy. Our policy is about sending youth offenders to remote locations to teach them values and skills—skills such as driving graders to put in firebreaks. Give them a permit to drive a front-end loader, give them the opportunity to weld and build cattle yards. Put them out there mustering, tackling and branding cattle. I have seen this before, about 23 years ago in Charters Towers, with Teen Challenge, a drug rehabilitation program. I had participants on my property. They were branding yearlings, calves and steers. They were getting a good kicking at the same time, but it was a life-changing experience for them. After that they went back to their community and contributed to society. Most Indigenous people we have spoken to support bush sentencing because it puts kids out on country. It teaches them values and skills and gets them away from city life. In 2025, 96 per cent of the youths released from Cleveland Youth Detention Centre committed another crime within the first 12 months. The best thing we can do is get them out of these detention centres, send them out to remote locations and put them to work.

Naturally, the KAP supports this bill. KAP has brought up bush sentencing and relocation sentencing 165 times. We are very appreciative that the government has adopted this. It is great news and we say well done. KAP has had a big influence on raising the need for Adult Crime, Adult Time. It is a good policy that the LNP has put forward. I will read from Google, where it says—

The phrase "Adult Crime, Adult Time" was coined by Katter's Australian Party MP Shane Knuth in 2023 following the severe bashing and eventual death of 63-year-old Innisfail resident … by a teenager.

Further—

On Easter Monday (April 10, 2023) the victim was brutally assaulted on a footpath in Innisfail, suffering critical head and facial injuries.

He was hospitalised.

Following the violent assault, Shane Knuth released a prominent media statement declaring, "Enough is enough, adult crime deserves adult time," criticising existing juvenile justice responses.

The slogan later became a central tough-on-crime catchphrase leveraged broadly in Queensland politics.

I think it is a good thing that what we pushed for has been adopted in the Queensland parliament. That is a great thing about the crossbenchers. We are aware that the LNP was in opposition for 17 of the past 22½ years, certainly since I have been a member. With regard to their being in opposition, we could not say that the LNP has contributed too much in terms of delivery. However, we have worked well with the LNP on many things including on Circuit Breaker, which we are very pleased to help with, and Adult Crime, Adult Time. The LNP supported our sugar marketing bill, which was passed in the Queensland parliament. It is very important that, by working together, the LNP and the opposition brought the electoral reform bill to the House and the KAP supported it. Four seats were going to be abolished from rural and regional Queensland, one of which was going to be the seat of Callide which was to be absorbed by Gregory, Warrego, Mirani and Burnett. By passing that bill, four extra members entered the parliament and not one seat was abolished, except for the seat of Dalrymple, which was held by Shane Knuth MP.

Most importantly, we support victims of crime: those who have their cars stolen and trashed, their homes invaded or who are assaulted and bashed. I get really sick in the guts when I hear about the 'poor criminal'. This has been a step in the right direction. It is not perfect but it has come a hell of a long way—I am sorry, Madam Deputy Speaker; I withdraw. It has come a long way. I commend the bill to the House.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Marr): Member for Hill, thank you for your withdrawal without prompting.

Mr LEE (Hervey Bay—LNP) (11.51 am): Today I rise to support the Youth Justice (Circuit Breaker) Amendment Bill 2026. This bill delivers on a clear commitment made by the Crisafulli government to make Queensland safer and put victims back at the centre of our youth justice system. At the last election, Queenslanders were clear that they had had enough: enough of the fear, enough of the break-ins, enough of the revolving door that saw serious repeat youth offenders commit offence after offence with little consequence.

According to a Queensland Audit Office report titled *Reducing serious youth crime*, between 2019 and 2023 there was a 64 per cent increase in the average daily number of serious repeat offenders and 55 per cent of all youth crime was committed by serious repeat offenders. Throughout my electorate, residents have consistently raised concerns about Labor's youth crime crisis, including property offences, vehicle theft and repeat offending. Families deserve to feel safe in their homes. Small businesses want confidence that they can open their doors each day without becoming victims of crime. Elderly residents want peace of mind that they can enjoy their retirement without fear and uncertainty. Most importantly, victims deserve a justice system that takes their experiences seriously. This bill is about delivering on that expectation.

The bill seeks to reduce youth offending and reoffending, increase community safety, strengthen accountability for young offenders and provide rehabilitation and intervention pathways. This legislation identifies a fundamental truth: if we want different outcomes, we need different interventions. Circuit Breaker is not a standalone program. It complements a broader crime early intervention strategy, including the Kickstarter program at Susan River on the Fraser Coast. That is a life-changing program that I have been associated with over the past seven years.

Mr Perrett: A great program.

Mr LEE: I take that interjection from the Minister for Primary Industries. Circuit Breaker is designed as a genuine alternative to detention and remand for serious youth offenders. It removes young offenders from the environments that are contributing to their offending behaviour and places them in a structured and supervised rehabilitation program that is focused on accountability, education, skill development and reintegration. Importantly, this is not simply about punishment; it is about early intervention. It is about interrupting a cycle before it becomes a lifetime of offending. It is about giving young people one final opportunity to change direction while protecting communities at the same time.

This bill amends the Youth Justice Act 1992 to provide the courts with two ways to order a youth to go to Circuit Breaker. The court can either sentence a youth offender to Circuit Breaker for three to six months or order a youth to Circuit Breaker as a condition of bail. Clause 25 provides a new part 8B for the facilitation of Circuit Breaker conditions or Circuit Breaker orders. Circuit Breaker providers may be prescribed by regulation, pursuant to a new section 282O, subject to the minister being satisfied of the entity's experience or expertise, abilities and other relevant criteria. Participants will live at dedicated rural or remote facilities, subject to round-the-clock supervision, strict routines, electronic monitoring, education programs, vocational training, mentoring and rehabilitation activities.

Many Queenslanders will acknowledge that this is a practical and commonsense approach. Simply returning repeat offenders to the exact circumstances that contributed to their offending in the first place is absurd. Albert Einstein reputedly said, 'Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.' That is the Labor approach. We cannot keep returning repeat offenders to the same circumstances that contributed to their offending and expect a different result. Queenslanders cannot risk returning to the insanity of Labor. Circuit Breaker seeks to remove negative influences, provide structure, create routine and build skills that may give these young people a genuine chance of success in life.

It is important to recognise the balance this bill strikes. This legislation undoubtedly is focused on rehabilitation, but it is equally focused on accountability and that balance matters. Queenslanders have felt that their rights as victims have been subverted to the rights of offenders. Yesterday was National Victims of Crime Day. The Crisafulli government unapologetically stands with the victims of crime. Reducing reoffending is not simply about helping offenders; it is about preventing future victims. That point resonates strongly in Hervey Bay. When a family has their car stolen, a business is broken into or an elderly resident feels unsafe in their own neighbourhood then the impact is real. Victims deserve to know that the justice system is not simply processing offenders through the system but is actively trying to stop the behaviour from occurring again. That is why I support Circuit Breaker. Every young person who turns their life around through this program represents fewer crimes, fewer victims and safer communities. That benefits everyone.

The program is court ordered. It is not an arbitrary administration process. A court must be satisfied that the young person is suitable for the program. A suitability report must be prepared under new section 52AC for a Circuit Breaker condition or under new section 206C for a Circuit Breaker order. A place must be available and the court retains oversight throughout the process. New part 8B will provide substantial safeguards, including child safety requirements, mandatory reporting obligations, independent oversight arrangements, access to lawyers, a complaints mechanism and monitoring by the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support. Under Labor's decade of decline, youth crime became one of the defining concerns across Queensland. Communities repeatedly expressed frustration that consequences were weak, intervention was inconsistent and repeat offending continued unchecked. Queensland cannot risk a return to this Labor Party, whose dogmatic and left-leaning ideology will trash the youth justice reforms, weaken the youth justice legislation and raise the age of criminal responsibility.

Queenslanders wanted a government that was decisively and courageously prepared to do something different. They wanted stronger accountability, they wanted genuine rehabilitation and they wanted community safety restored as the No. 1 priority. This is exactly what the Crisafulli government is delivering. The Circuit Breaker program is the next stage of the Crisafulli government's Making Queensland Safer plan. It is a structured alternative, it is a purposeful intervention and it is supported by $80 million committed over four years to deliver meaningful rehabilitation outcomes.

Many young offenders lack stability, positive role models and pathways to employment. Giving them practical skills, training opportunities and support networks can be truly transformative. That is especially true in regional Queensland and Hervey Bay, where employment and practical trade skills often provide opportunities to build a positive future. These opportunities can be life-changing. The people of Hervey Bay are caring people. They believe in second chances but they also believe in accountability. They understand that rehabilitation works best when there are clear expectations,

structure and responsibility, and that is what this legislation seeks to achieve. It protects communities, it supports victims, it provides courts with an important new sentencing option and it gives a targeted group of serious repeat offenders a chance to break the cycle before they enter adult criminality.

There is no magic solution. Nevertheless, this bill is a serious and practical attempt to address a very real problem confronting Queensland communities. It recognises that protecting communities and rehabilitating offenders are not competing objectives; they are complementary ones. When rehabilitation succeeds, communities become safer. When reoffending declines, victims are prevented. When young people choose a better path, everyone benefits. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms PUGH (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (12.00 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate before the guillotine falls. I want to start by saying something that I think every member of this House can agree on, from listening to everyone's contributions. Queenslanders want to feel safe in their homes and in their communities. They want to be safe. They want to see less crime and they want to see fewer victims of crime. They want young people who offend to have the best possible chance of turning their lives around. That is what a circuit breaker should offer Queensland. The concern I have is that I am not convinced the bill achieves that. I think this bill is trying to solve a very complex, complicated problem with a rather simple solution. I know that we all want to break the cycle of offending, but, as we have said before, you cannot break the cycle of crime with a slogan. There are provisions in this bill that are deeply concerning to me because they go to the heart of whether this bill will effectively rehabilitate young people and whether those young people have the right to be safe while in custody and the care of the state.

Section 282X requires a Circuit Breaker provider, or an employee or contractor of that provider, to report harm or suspected harm of a child, and this is what Queenslanders would expect. But then the bill provides a reasonable excuse where reporting the matter might tend to incriminate the reporting entity. I listened carefully to many of the contributions this week, including the minister's explanatory speech, where I heard her refer to common-law principles, as if this provision is not particularly interesting. I find this provision incredibly concerning. There should be no reasonable excuse to harm a child, and there should not be a reasonable excuse for a taxpayer-funded organisation to not report the harm of a child in its care because doing so might incriminate that organisation. Legal Aid have raised this as a concern, and I agree. If the government does not intend for providers to be able to rely on that provision then they should listen to the experts' feedback on this incredibly serious issue.

If this rehabilitation is not effective then some of these young people will end up in the adult corrective system and they will create more victims of crime along the way, so it is important that while these young people are in the care of the state they have the right to be safe as it is tantamount to their prospects of success in being rehabilitated. If we care about victims of crime, we have to care about effective rehabilitation.

If a young person commits an offence and goes through our youth justice system, I want them to come out less likely to offend again. I know that this is at the heart of our adult custodial system. I am very lucky, as the member for Mount Ommaney, to have had the privilege of seeing the work that our corrective services staff have done just down the road in the Wacol precinct. I have attended many graduation ceremonies for the corrective services team over the year, and I would like to take the opportunity to recognise Paul Stewart for the work he has done. In our adult system, what has always struck me is that our corrective services staff are so dedicated to rehabilitation. It is part of their training, their continued learning and their organisational culture. They understand that if we want fewer victims of crime then we need fewer people reoffending. That means that in everything we do in this place, whether we are talking about adults or children, rehabilitation has to be at the heart.

Rehabilitation is not about being soft on crime; it is about making our communities safer in the long term. I know that Queenslanders understand that. They understand that there need to be consequences for offending, but they also understand that if we want fewer victims—which, of course, we all do—then we need to do everything we reasonably can to stop people offending. Part of that means that people in the custody of the state have the same right to and expectation of safety as everyone else, because effective rehabilitation depends on it.

Hon. AJ STOKER (Oodgeroo—LNP) (12.05 pm): For people in the Redlands, community safety is not an abstract policy debate. It is the family that wakes up to find that their car has been stolen. It is the small business owner who finds that they have to replace a smashed window yet again. It is the person who no longer feels quite as comfortable walking through our local shopping precinct at night, or the family that starts wondering again whether they need another camera, another lock or another security light just to feel safe in their own home.

We have seen these concerns locally. Police operations across the south Brisbane district, taking in the Redlands, have specifically targeted the kinds of offending that residents so regularly raise with me: break-ins, robberies, stolen cars and more. While victim numbers are down by more than nine per cent, there is no doubt there is still much more work to do.

The challenge for government is not simply what happens after an offender is caught. The question we have is: how do we stop them creating another victim? That is what this bill seeks to address. Circuit Breaker creates a new, intensive, court ordered rehabilitation option for young offenders whose behaviour has reached the point where an ordinary community-based response is no longer enough but where a court determines that detention is not yet an appropriate outcome either. It is for that in-between. It is designed to break the cycle of law-breaking before it produces another offence, another court appearance, another victim.

Under the bill, a court can place a young offender into Circuit Breaker in one of two ways. The first is as an order for a sentence, lasting between three to six months. The second—and I think this is a really important opportunity—is for it to be an intensive condition of bail in circumstances where that young person would otherwise have been remanded in custody. Circuit Breaker is not detention and nor is it intended to replace detention. Where detention is appropriate, detention should be ordered. What this bill does is give courts another option in the space between the ordinary community-based order and detention. It is a really serious option.

The young person will be required to reside at a program site while they are in Circuit Breaker. They cannot simply come and go as they please. It will require them to comply with directions, to take part in structured programs and activities, to wear an electronic monitoring device and, of course, to not commit further offences. Importantly, they will be removed from the people, places and influences that can be contributing to their offending and, instead, placed into that structured residential environment with better influences around them.

The Circuit Breaker program is backed by an $80 million investment over four years and will also have capacity for up to 60 young offenders. These young people will get the opportunity to participate in strict daily routines and, importantly, hands-on learning alongside education, life skills, positive behaviour programs, learning opportunities and pathways into vocational training and employment. That combination of consequences and intervention is really important. There is sometimes a false choice presented in youth justice debates that we have to either hold youth offenders to account or try to rehabilitate them, but the truth is that those things are not mutually exclusive. This LNP government is committed to doing both.

A young offender has to understand that serious offending has serious consequences, including for the victims they harm. If that young person is ultimately going to return to our community, there is also a practical community safety interest in doing everything possible to ensure they do not come back into the same neighbourhood and commit the same or escalating offences over and over again. Ultimately, we want to see them reach their potential as members of our community.

There are great programs in the Redlands that are contributing in this space already. Top Blokes and Traction are already supported by this government to do their important work, and there are many community-based groups, too. The Inspiring Brighter Futures Foundation has done great work over the years in the Redlands, and there are many more. They are providing structured mentoring, education and support.

This government is committed to making sure we are putting all of the supports in place at every step in a young person's life journey to make sure they understand that actions have consequences and scaffold them to make the right calls that not only keep the community safe but also set them up for a better life in the long term. With those things in mind, it is my strong view that this is an important contribution to the youth justice space. I commend the minister on the work she has put into it. I commend the bill to the House.

Hon. LM LINARD (Nudgee—ALP) (12.10 pm): The shadow minister, the member for Bulimba, articulated clearly when she spoke the other night of the significant issues with this proposed legislation and why the Labor opposition will not be supporting it. Her comments gave voice to the legitimate concerns raised by many submitters to the bill, practitioners and experts in this field, as many of my colleagues have likewise done in their contributions. I want to focus my comments on a few of the significant issues and questions this bill raises in respect of the practical operation of the proposed legislative framework—issues and questions that the minister's contributions and supporting materials have thus far left totally unaddressed.

Before doing so, I want from the outset, as I have always done in respect of this important issue, to acknowledge the right of everyone in our community to feel safe. Regardless of the regular and reductive contributions by many LNP members in this House, I believe that this is a goal that every member of this House shares equally. I acknowledge the right of victims to feel heard, to seek and receive justice and to not be retraumatised by systems. I acknowledge the rights of children, young people and all who come before the law to be afforded appropriate safeguards, presumptions and legal protections. The rule of law, natural justice, the presumption of innocence and the principle of proportionality are not abstract concepts: they are ultimately protections for us all, unless eroded. The Queensland Law Society said in their submission to the bill inquiry—

... effective, evidence-based interventions for young people can contribute to safer communities, better outcomes for victims, and a reduction in future offending. Measures which successfully address offending behaviour, encourage rehabilitation and support long-term engagement with education, employment, family and community have the potential to achieve enduring benefits for both young people and the broader community.

They further acknowledged—

... the legitimate expectation of the community that legislative responses to youth offending will be both effective and durable.

The core issue before us in respect of this bill is that the government has put forward absolutely no credible evidence as to how the proposed Circuit Breaker program will contribute to any of these goals. They have put forward a bill that raises more questions than it answers.

How will sending 60 children who are said to be high risk to a remote location, isolating them amongst the same offending peer group while restricting access to any positive prosocial connections, remove them from negative peer influences and deliver any demonstrable improvement in youth offending or rehabilitation? Who designed this program? It appears to directly contradict all available worldwide evidence of what is effective in reducing offending by children and young people in contact with the justice system. Is this detention, rehabilitation, a community-based order or another attempt at the LNP's failed boot camp policy just by a different name?

While the bill classifies the Circuit Breaker program as a community-based order, the provisions in the bill and descriptions contained in the explanatory materials describe mandatory conditions. Children will be removed from their families and must reside at a specific site. The facilities will be operated by non-government providers who can exercise significant control over their every activity. They may be searched. They must wear an electronic monitoring device. They are subject to 24/7 surveillance. They will be physically prevented from leaving and will have restricted visits and communication with their family. That is detention, just without the same safeguards and protections afforded those who are subject to detention orders.

Why not call it what it actually is? More importantly, why go to such lengths to not call it what it is: detention? The director-general said during the estimates hearing—

… Circuit Breaker Sentencing adds an additional 60 beds, so combined Woodford and Circuit Breaker Sentencing is an additional 30 per cent increase in capacity in the youth justice system.

The director-general is a youth justice expert. He did not misspeak or confuse genuine, preventive or rehabilitative system responses with detention. He was honest—something this government is not being.

This is not an alternative to detention or, foremost, an attempt at genuine diversion or rehabilitation. This is a desperate attempt to bring urgent overflow detention capacity online because the government has failed to plan and deliver real detention capacity. Real detention capacity keeps both detainees and, importantly, the community safe. Strong oversight and accountability mechanisms are built into the detention system. There is an Independent Inspector of Detention Services who must report to the Legislative Assembly and, therefore, the Queensland public on inspection visits and make recommendations for improvement. Why does the public not have the right to know the effectiveness of these sites from an independent party who will not fudge the figures, as this government was caught out doing with respect to crime data? Not only does the public have the right to know the effectiveness of these sites; we are all entitled to know what is going on in these remote and isolated camps.

While the bill makes the sites a 'visitable site' under the Public Guardian Act, the Public Guardian has already said it simply does not have the resources to monitor young people in remote locations. The shadow minister said it correctly—

We know it is a big ask for victims to have any sympathy for the young people who have caused so much trauma to them.

It is a big ask for any victim of any crime to have sympathy for those who perpetrated a crime against them, but it is quite another matter altogether for the minister and this government to knowingly and complicitly place children potentially as young as 10 years old at risk of harm. I do not believe any Queenslander accepts that, yet this bill has gone to great lengths to avoid describing these Circuit Breaker boot camps as anything but detention, arguably to avoid any such public reporting transparency and accountability. By doing so, I have no doubt that this program will ultimately erode public confidence, as the LNP's previous failed boot camps did, when things go wrong. Let's hope it is not disastrous.

It also goes one step further than their former failed boot camps and includes a reasonable excuse provision in proposed section 282X(4) to not report a matter where reporting the matter might tend to incriminate the provider, employee or contractor. If Circuit Breaker providers are subject to the reportable conduct framework under the Child Safe Organisations Act, which also covers harm to children and does not have an exclusion against self-incrimination, as the minister went to great lengths to outline yesterday, why create this legal uncertainty by creating two different compliance schemes in relation to the conduct? What is the possible reason? Who proposed this amendment?

The Public Guardian is concerned that this provision could discourage genuine harm reporting and reduce the accountability of providers who are operating in very isolated environments. It may impede their child advocacy and community visiting role, which depends on robust information sharing to help facilitate complaints and raise issues on behalf of children. What possible reason could the government have for not removing this provision?

Within the Circuit Breaker program, there is effectively no distinction between a young person who has been convicted and sentenced to a Circuit Breaker order and a young person who is yet to be convicted but is subject to a Circuit Breaker bail condition. This is effectively sentencing a young person to a sentence or punishment, even though they are yet to be convicted of a criminal offence. Are children afforded any presumption of innocence anymore in Queensland? If a child spends months at a remote site on bail and is then acquitted, how is the loss suffered to be remedied?

While several government members referenced the views of First Nations elders in their contributions to the House, and we know First Nations young people are over-represented in the system, the bill makes no mention of or reference to First Nations organisations delivering programs that are culturally appropriate, despite the well-established evidence of the importance of culturally appropriate and safe services in working with First Nations people. Why? If the goal is real and genuine rehabilitation to break the cycle of crime, why are effective cultural measures not even referenced?

The bill also relies upon removing children from the community and makes reference to 'reintegration'. How will this operate in practice? Who will do the intensive work to bring these young people back to community following completion of the program to ensure the community does not see an immediate return to offending? These are just 15 initial questions—issues and questions that the minister's contributions and supporting materials have, though raised by various submitters in various reforms repeatedly, left totally unaddressed. I will quote the QLS again—

> ... the legitimate expectation of the community is that legislative responses to youth offending will be both effective and durable.

This legislation raises more questions than it answers and seeks to hide under yet another slogan rather than actually provide the community with real answers about how this government proposes to keep the promises it made to Queensland.

Hon. DG PURDIE (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (12.20 pm): I rise to support the Youth Justice (Circuit Breaker) Amendment Bill 2026. The Crisafulli government is delivering what Queenslanders voted for, and this bill is another proof point. It responds to what victims, police and communities, particularly regional communities, have been telling this government for two years. During their decade of decline, Labor tipped the balance away from victims and towards offenders. They watered down the law, made detention a last resort and scrapped breach of bail as an offence. They created a generation of serious repeat offenders who knew there were no consequences for their actions. The result: victim numbers skyrocketed 193 per cent. Labor's social experiment failed and Queenslanders paid the price.

We said that we would act and we have. It is early days, but we are starting to turn the tide. Circuit Breaker builds on that—a court ordered last stop before detention, designed to break the cycle of repeat offending. Courts will be able to order it as a sentence of three to six months or as a condition of bail where a youth would otherwise be remanded in custody. Youth on Circuit Breaker will be removed from the communities they have harmed and from the influences driving their offending.

This is not just this government's judgement; it is what regional Queenslanders told the committee that scrutinised the bill. When the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee travelled to Mount Morgan to hear directly from the communities living with these issues, respected Darumbal elder Uncle George James put it simply: 'Go out there, sort yourself out and come back.' Asked directly by the committee chair, the member for Nicklin, whether removing a young Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person from family for rehabilitation was culturally appropriate, Uncle George's answer was equally direct: 'In my view, yes.' That evidence should not surprise anyone who has spent a career working with young people at risk. The member for Nicklin served 33 years as a police officer, including considerable time in youth crime prevention, and has spoken in this place about taking young people on the Kokoda Track and to Cambodia to help build housing for families in poverty, watching young people who struggled in a classroom discover leadership on a track and young people who had convinced themselves they were not capable prove otherwise.

Uncle George made a second observation at Mount Morgan that matters just as much as his first: 'We need to have the right people in the right spot.' That is why this bill places responsibility on providers for supervision, safety, wellbeing, education and program delivery, and requires them to have the experience and expertise to earn it. This is not about sending a young person away and expecting the scenery alone to change them. It is about deliberately replacing negative influences with positive ones—chaos with routine, disengagement with purpose and self-doubt with confidence. They will live onsite, wear a mandatory electronic monitoring device and follow strict daily routines of education, life skills and hands-on training. If they break the rules then they are back before the court, where detention remains an option.

Circuit Breaker is not a replacement for detention. Where detention is appropriate, detention should be ordered. What this bill does is give courts a real option between a community-based order and a cell. That balance—structure without abandoning accountability—is what this government promised and what this bill delivers. It is backed by $80 million over four years for up to 60 youth offenders. This is about intervening before another Queenslander becomes a victim of crime—like Bradley Neven, who gave evidence to the same committee that heard from Uncle George James. At around 6.30 one morning, five youths entered his home while his family were inside. He told the committee—

They were brazen because they knew there were almost no consequences ...

…

It is time for a change. That is why I support the Youth Justice (Circuit Breaker) Amendment Bill.

…

… a lot of victims of crime just want to see a change. They want to see something meaningful being done to interrupt the path that these kids are on.

Bradley supports the bill; so does Voice for Victims.

Some have claimed that this model is not appropriate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. Uncle George James answered that criticism directly, on the record, at Mount Morgan. This government will listen to the evidence of elders and regional communities before it listens to commentary from Brisbane.

The committee received 57 submissions, held hearings in Brisbane and travelled to Mount Morgan to hear directly from regional Queenslanders. After weighing all of that evidence, it recommended the bill be passed. As the member for Nicklin, the committee chair, told the House on Tuesday night, criticism from those who spent a decade presiding over the system this bill is fixing is hard to take seriously. Labor's statement of reservation and their contributions to the bill over the last few days show they cannot make up their mind. One minute Circuit Breaker is detention by another name; the next it is not secure enough. One minute it is an old program; the next it is so new there is no evidence. One minute it restricts offenders too much; the next not enough. The only consistent position Labor has found is opposition, because they are still defending the system they broke and left behind.

Strong laws and meaningful rehabilitation go hand in hand. That is how we turn the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis. If Circuit Breaker helps even one of these young people break their cycle of offending, the result is simple: fewer victims of crime. That is the test this bill should be judged against and why I commend the bill to the House.

Mr POWER (Logan—ALP) (12.26 pm): We are all working to make change in the lives of young people who are moving towards or are already committing antisocial and criminal acts. However, this bill raises a series of questions that, after listening to the minister and the committee chair, and even the police minister, I am not sure have been fully answered.

I am concerned that this week we see a government in a crisis of its own making with the government's finances being downgraded by the ratings agency Standard & Poor's. This government is seeking a circuit breaker from the media cycle of negativity they are in. They are seeking a circuit breaker from their failed policy, from the increasing crime that their own police report week after week. That is right, isn't it, police minister? We see increased reporting of crime from the police. Indeed, it is absolutely a fact. I am worried that this policy is focused less on the tough job of breaking the cycle of a young person beginning to commit crime and is more about the current crisis in the Crisafulli government. I know they need a media circuit breaker. We understand that this government is all about announcements. It is all about their media problems.

Mrs Gerber: You said youth crime was a media beat-up and Queenslanders voted you out!

Mr POWER: I am not taking interjections.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Members, order! The member for Logan has the call.

Mr POWER: We see here a minister who is out of control, screaming across the chamber, when the facts are not in their favour and when they are revealed as wanting more of a media circuit breaker. However, in doing so they should not increase crime and criminal behaviour.

As I said, I have concerns. My first concern is that we know crime and offences are up, so we should acknowledge that the government has admitted that Circuit Breaker sentencing is a method for the government to artificially inflate detention capacity. The minister does not want to speak about that, but Mr Michael Drane said that these 60 beds would increase the percentage of capacity in the youth justice system. That was quite clear. My second concern is that proposed section 52AB 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.'

I would emphasise that this is not an early intervention program; this is all about the crisis of high crime that this LNP government represents. Their own figures and police statistics reveal that; it is quite clear. For the benefit of those listening, if there was not an increase in crime being reported in the police stats then any of the members in this House could take me to the Ethics Committee. But we know there is an increase in crime being reported on the police stats website—

Mr PURDIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is being misleading. I am happy to write to you. He is attributing proactive police work like Jack's Law, drug possession and weapons possession, which we want to see go up.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have the opportunity to write to the Speaker.

Mr POWER: Which we know he will not, because his point is frivolous because he knows I am stating the fact that there is increased crime being reported on the police's own website. He knows that it is being reported on the website. This is a crisis—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, it is now 12.30 pm. Under the provisions—

Mr POWER: I have more to say.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, please sit down. Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House, I now call the minister to reply to the second reading debate.

Hon. LJ GERBER (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (12.30 pm), in reply: The Youth Justice (Circuit Breaker) Amendment Bill is another step towards making Queensland safer. I thank all members for their contributions to this debate. After listening to those opposite Queenslanders know exactly where Labor stands. Labor will today vote against Circuit Breaker. After a decade in which Labor weakened Queensland's youth crime laws, removed consequences for actions and presided over a youth crime crisis that saw victim numbers skyrocket 193 per cent, Labor will now vote against a circuit breaker designed to break the cycle of crime for young offenders. They are voting against giving our courts another tool to deal with youth offenders before they become further entrenched in the youth justice system. They are voting against removing youth offenders from the environments contributing to their offending. They are voting against intensive court-based rehabilitation, education, training and mentoring designed to break the cycle of crime. They are voting against a program designed to deliver fewer victims of crime, and they are voting against a program that Queenslanders voted for.

Circuit Breaker was an election commitment. We took it to Queenslanders before the election. We told Queenslanders that we would establish two Circuit Breaker programs in remote locations to remove youth offenders from the environments contributing to their offending, to impose structure and discipline, and to provide incentive court-ordered rehabilitation to intervene before these youth become further entrenched in the youth justice system. We told Queenslanders our plan and what we proposed to do and Queenslanders voted for it. Today, Labor is voting against it. That tells Queenslanders something very important about those opposite. Labor have not listened and they have not changed. Queenslanders spent years calling for change while Labor weakened their laws, made detention a last resort and removed breach of bail as an offence. They presided over a revolving door of youth crime, and all the while the number of repeat youth offenders grew and the number of victims of crime in Queensland grew. Queenslanders delivered their verdict at the ballot box. They voted for a different approach. They voted for stronger laws, for consequences for actions, for early intervention and rehabilitation, and for a government that would restore safety where you live, but Labor has still not listened.

Earlier this year those opposite voted against expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and today they are doing it again—voting against a circuit breaker for youth offenders. This is not a matter of Labor not knowing what Queenslanders are asking for—Queenslanders have told them. It is wilful ignorance. It begs the question: why do they refuse to listen? After listening to their contributions to this debate, it seems that Labor is more interested in finding a reason to vote against Circuit Breaker than they are in listening to Queenslanders who want it. The problem for Labor is that they cannot even settle on what that reason is. Regardless of the reason, they are voting against safer communities and yet again they are putting the rights of offenders before the rights of victims.

While victims who appeared before the committee spoke about the devastating consequences of repeat offending and the need to break that cycle, those opposite devoted contribution after contribution to the interests of the youth offenders who will participate in Circuit Breaker. We heard concerns that youth offenders will not have to consent to participating in the court-ordered Circuit Breaker program. What is that reminiscent of? It is reminiscent of their electronic monitoring laws, their failed electronic monitoring trial that required youth offenders to consent to a tracking device being put on them. How did that turn out? Only four youth offenders were fitted with an EM device in the first year of Labor's trial. It was an abject failure. What else did we hear? We heard criticisms around removing youth offenders from their home environments and the influences contributing to their offending. We heard concerns about requiring youth offenders to participate in these programs. We heard criticisms of the strict conditions imposed upon them and argument after argument about what Circuit Breaker will mean for the youth offenders who have to participate in it.

Mr Deputy Speaker, do you know what we did not hear about from the members opposite? We did not hear about the Queenslanders those youths have offended against, the family whose home was broken into, the Queenslander whose car was stolen, the business owner they targeted or the person they assaulted. What about the next victim of their offending if they are allowed to remain in the community and continue to cause harm? On this side of the House we will always stand on the side of victims. I reiterate my sincere appreciation to all of the victims and advocacy organisations who took the time to make a submission or appear before the committee. Their contribution was invaluable and it helped inform this debate. I thank those victims in particular for having the courage to tell their stories.

Mrs Poole: They were very courageous.

Mrs GERBER: Yes, I take that interjection from the member for Mundingburra. Circuit Breaker has been designed with that fundamental objective in mind, because the purpose of rehabilitation in the youth justice system is to change an offender's behaviour, to stop them from reoffending and ultimately to prevent another Queenslander from becoming a victim of crime. The victims who appeared before the committee understood that. Natalie Merlehan knows better than most what serious repeat offending means. She lives every day with the consequences of violent crime. She told the committee—

.. effective rehabilitation is one of the strongest tools for preventing future crime.

She also stated—

Circuit Breaker has the potential to reduce offending, reduce victimisation and deliver safer communities across Queensland.

That is what those opposite are voting against.

Bradley Neven also appeared before the committee after five youths entered his home in Central Queensland. He said—

... a lot of victims of crime just want to see a change. They want to see something meaningful being done to interrupt the path that these kids are on.

That is exactly what Circuit Breaker is designed to do, and that is what those opposite are voting against.

Queensland's Victims' Commissioner told the committee that a recurring theme in conversations with victims of crime was frustration that opportunities to break the cycle of offending were not being seized. She said that she believes most victims support the broad objectives of Circuit Breaker. Those are the voices that Labor should be listening to. Instead, they are voting against them. They are against the interventions that victims are asking the government to implement.

While those opposite have spent this debate fighting Queenslanders, the Crisafulli government is getting on with the job delivering the changes that Queenslanders voted for. Circuit Breaker does not stand in isolation. It is another part of our comprehensive plan to restore safety where you live with stronger laws, more police, early intervention and rehabilitation, and more support for victims of crime. We restored consequences for actions with Adult Crime, Adult Time. We removed Labor's principle of detention as a last resort. We made victims the primary consideration during sentencing. Alongside our stronger laws, we are investing more than ever before in early intervention and rehabilitation with $560 million to turn young lives away from crime before they create more victims.

Labor's decade of decline saw victim numbers skyrocket 193 per cent, proven youth offending increased 98 per cent, the number of serious repeat offenders increased 64 per cent, and the youth justice system turned into a revolving door on crime. Turning that around takes time, but Queenslanders are starting to see the results of our Making Queensland Safer plan. The latest police data shows that victim numbers are down 9.6 per cent when compared with Labor's latest full financial year. The latest Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows there are fewer victims of crime in Queensland, and new Insurance Council of Australia data backs this up, with stolen car claims down 12.7 per cent and home theft claims down 34.3 per cent over the past two financial years. We know there is a lot more work needed to undo the decade of decline under Labor. This is why we will continue to strengthen our laws and invest in the early intervention and rehabilitation that Queensland needs, just as we are doing with Circuit Breaker.

I want to respond directly to perhaps the most serious allegation made by those opposite during this debate. They repeated suggestions that this bill will allow harm to youth; in the shadow minister's words, the government is 'purposefully placing children at risk'. That is an outrageous allegation and, quite frankly, it is irresponsible scaremongering about the safeguards that will apply to youth in Circuit Breaker. It is not supported by the evidence the department presented at the committee hearing, it is not supported by the committee report that the shadow minister's name is on, and it is not supported by the legislation before the House.

This bill makes Circuit Breaker providers reporting entities under the Child Safe Organisations Act, meaning they will be subject to the Reportable Conduct Scheme administered by the Queensland Family and Child Commission. That means reportable allegations must be reported in accordance with that scheme: no ifs, no buts. Those obligations apply to Circuit Breaker providers as reporting entities.

Then there is section 282X, which those opposite have tried to conflate intentionally with the Reportable Conduct Scheme. This section creates an additional separate reporting obligation. It requires Circuit Breaker providers, their employees and contractors to also report harm or suspected harm to the chief executive of the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support. There are two separate reporting pathways operating here: the obligations that apply to Circuit Breaker providers under the Child Safe Organisations Act and the Reportable Conduct Scheme, and then an additional obligation to report harm or suspected harm to the chief executive of the department. Those opposite are conflating those two in a pathetic effort to create a fear campaign which has no basis.

With reference to section 282X, those opposite in particular are interested in subsection (4), which provides a reasonable excuse from the second additional reporting obligation where making the report might tend to incriminate the person. There is something very specific I want to respond to here. The member for Bulimba went so far as to suggest that this was a provision that no-one has ever seen or heard before. Those were her words—that this is a provision which 'no-one has ever seen or heard before'. What a load of rubbish. The history of Queensland's own youth justice legislation says otherwise—the very same legislation the member for Bulimba was responsible for administering while she was Labor's youth justice minister. That is right: a materially equivalent provision has existed in the Youth Justice Act for more than two decades, carried through in Labor legislation in 2020 and supported by Labor members.

In 2002, the former Beattie Labor government introduced a new mandatory obligation requiring detention centre employees to immediately report harm or suspected harm suffered by a child in youth detention. In their legislation—in Labor's legislation—they expressly provided that it was a reasonable excuse not to make that particular report where the report might tend to incriminate the employee. That provision remains in the Youth Justice Act today in section 268.

Mrs Nightingale interjected.

Mrs GERBER: I take the interjection. I will give you another example. In 2020, which is a much more recent example, the Palaszczuk Labor government created section 229BC of the Criminal Code. I note the member for Bulimba was sitting around the cabinet table when that decision was made. That provision makes it a criminal offence, punishable by up to three years imprisonment, for an adult without reasonable excuse to fail to report to police a reasonable belief that another adult has committed a child sex offence. Labor's own explanatory notes expressly stated that the offence did not override the privilege against self-incrimination.

When it came to the committee report for that Labor legislation, the members for Toohey, Mansfield and Macalister concluded that the reasonable excuse provision is sufficiently justified in the circumstances. How far they have come, because during this debate that very same member for Mansfield stated there could be no reasonable excuse for failing to report harm. Labor had no issue with a common law reasonable excuse provision when it was in their legislation, so they cannot come to this House now and pretend that a similar provision is somehow extraordinary, simply because it appears in a bill introduced by this government.

This is not some loophole or novel legal protection invented for Circuit Breaker. It follows a longstanding legislative approach that has already existed in Queensland's youth justice laws—an approach introduced by the former Labor government expressly into Queensland's youth justice laws, an approach the Palaszczuk Labor government expressly preserved when it created a serious criminal offence for failing to report child sexual abuse. Why? The privilege against self-incrimination is a longstanding, centuries-old principle of common law. Queensland's own Legislative Standards Act expressly identifies 'appropriate protection against self-incrimination' as a fundamental legislative principle when considering whether legislation has sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals.

Let me recap. A self-incrimination protection introduced into Queensland's youth justice laws by a Labor government in 2002 and which has remained in the Youth Justice Act for more than two decades is now being described by the Labor opposition and the shadow minister who was responsible for the very act as some extraordinary provision that no-one has ever seen before, in an attempt to justify why they are voting against this bill. It is not true and it is not credible. They simply want any excuse possible not to vote for strong laws, for rehabilitation and for a safer Queensland.

This bill also makes Circuit Breaker sites visitable sites under the Public Guardian Act, bringing them within the community visitor program and providing independent oversight. Labor have spent this debate trying to paint a picture of these youth being sent away to some rural and remote location where no-one knows what is happening to them. That is simply not true. There will be an independent oversight body, and that oversight body is the Office of the Public Guardian. In addition to that, the department will also monitor Circuit Breaker programs and sites and will have powers to enter sites for monitoring purposes. The bill provides for recordings, including CCTV, and is subject to appropriate safeguards.

Labor are purposefully misleading Queenslanders during this debate about the safeguards and the protections in this bill. They are doing it because they want to find any excuse possible to try to vote against strong laws and vote against what Queenslanders have voted for. Those opposite also repeatedly claimed throughout this debate that there is no evidence to support Circuit Breaker. Again, that is simply not an accurate reflection of the evidence that was put before the committee.

The committee heard from victims with lived experience of youth crime. It heard from victim advocates. It heard from professionals working directly with young people. It heard from teachers, educators, service providers, statutory bodies and regional community representatives. There was significant evidence supporting the fundamental premise of what Circuit Breaker will provide: intensive intervention, removing a youth from the environment and influences contributing to their offending, and structure, education, training and rehabilitation that can help interrupt the cycle of offending.

Take Paul Mitchell for example. During the committee hearing, the member for Bulimba herself described Mr Mitchell as an 'expert'. What did Mr Mitchell tell the committee? He said—

This is a great bill. I think it is fantastic what you are going to do.

Mr Mitchell spoke from direct experience working with young people. He told the committee that one of their biggest hurdles was getting a young person away from the negativity, the family circumstances and the environment influencing their behaviour and showing them a different way of life. That is precisely what Circuit Breaker seeks to do.

Then there was the Queensland Family and Child Commissioner, Luke Twyford, whom those opposite have relied on heavily throughout this debate when trying to find a way to vote against this bill. They were considerably less interested in telling the House what Mr Twyford actually said. Mr Twyford told the committee, 'I do support the concept of an intensive circuit breaker.' He also spoke about the opportunity for Circuit Breaker to give young people new experiences, new skills and learning, and the support of a trusted adult.

Ms Farmer interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Marr): Member for Bulimba, the member is not taking your interjections.

Mrs GERBER: We heard from Uncle George James about the value of taking young people out bush and surrounding them with the right people and the right influences. Uncle George spoke about taking these youth fishing and camping, teaching them practical skills like fencing and giving them the guidance and support they need. His evidence is particularly important given some of the concerns raised by those opposite about what a rural and remote model could mean for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth. We heard from Lyn Harland, the principal of Carinity Education Rockhampton, who brought years of professional experience working directly with vulnerable young people. Most importantly, we heard from victims and victim advocates. Their evidence was clear: they support the bill. That leaves just one very important question unanswered during this debate: what would Labor do instead? They offered absolutely no alternative option to rehabilitate—

Mrs Poole: Their cupboard was bare.

Mrs GERBER: I take that interjection. We actually do know what they would do. They would unwind Adult Crime, Adult Time; they would not allow Breach Bail, Go to Jail; they would raise the age of criminal responsibility; and they would remove minimum mandatory penalties from our legislation. How do we know that? It is in their policy platform.

When a youth offender goes on to commit another crime, another Queenslander becomes a victim—another home is broken into, another car is stolen, another business is targeted, another Queenslander is assaulted, another family is left to deal with the consequences. Circuit Breaker is about intervening before that happens. It gives courts another tool to act before a youth offender becomes further entrenched in the youth justice system and before they can create another victim of crime. It will remove youth offenders from the environments and influences contributing to their offending, impose structure and discipline, and provide intensive rehabilitation designed to change behaviour.

Labor has spent this debate trying to find reasons to oppose Circuit Breaker, but they have offered Queenslanders no alternative—no alternative to fix the youth crime crisis that they created. The Crisafulli government does have a plan, and Queenslanders voted for it and we are delivering it. While Labor votes against the mandate that Queenslanders gave us, this government will continue to strengthen our laws, intervene early, break the cycle of offending and restore safety where you live. Circuit Breaker is another important step towards fewer offences, fewer victims and a safer Queensland.

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

AYES, 50:

LNP, 48—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, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Vorster, Young.

KAP, 2—Katter, Knuth.

NOES, 31:

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

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Pair: Camm, Enoch.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 3, as read, agreed to.

Clause 4—

Mr HUNT (12.56 pm): I am pleased to rise to speak to clause 4 because it deals with some of the scare campaign and scaremongering that the Labor side have put during this debate in relation to reporting requirements, pretending that children are going to be sent to remote locations and be in danger. They either have not read the detail of the bill, the committee report or the transcript from the department's briefing, or they are being deliberately misleading. I suspect it is the latter because they desperately do not want to vote for this bill. I am going to clear up some of the things that clause 4 makes clear.

Clause 4 is fundamentally about the safety of children participating in the Circuit Breaker program. It does something very specific. It brings Circuit Breaker providers within the Child Safe Organisations Act as child safe entities. That is important because these providers are not being placed in some regulatory vacuum. They will operate within Queensland's statutory child safety framework with obligations and external oversight applying to the way they care for and supervise children. I want to address one particular issue that has been repeatedly raised in relation to reporting harm.

We have heard it suggested that, because another provision in this bill provides a reasonable excuse to not report where a report may tend to incriminate the reporting entity, somehow a provider will be able to conceal harm done to a child. That is very misleading. It is not an accurate description of how these provisions operate together. I specifically asked the department about this issue during the committee's public briefing and the director-general explained that there are separate reporting obligations at work. Firstly, through clauses 4 and 5, Circuit Breaker providers are brought within the Child Safe Organisations Act, including the Child Safe Standards and Reportable Conduct Scheme. Secondly, proposed section 282X creates an additional reporting pathway under the Youth Justice Act. It requires the provider and its employees and contractors to immediately report harm or suspected harm to the youth justice chief executive with a criminal penalty for failing to do so without reasonable excuse.

The director-general was very clear about the distinction. He told the committee there had been a conflating of those obligations. The self-incrimination protection relates to that additional Youth Justice Act reporting requirement. The department advised that it reflects an existing provision of the Youth Justice Act and the longstanding principle against self-incrimination. Importantly, the director-general expressly told the committee it does not displace the separate requirements applying under the Child Safe Organisations Act and Reportable Conduct Scheme. Those opposite desperately want to find a reason not to vote for this bill.

Mrs POOLE: I also rise to speak in support of clause 4. In this chamber we have seen time and time again those opposite having to stand up and apologise for the mistruths and misleading our community—

Ms Farmer interjected.

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

Mrs POOLE:—and here we are again; we hear it again. Just this morning in this very chamber we had two members opposite stand up and offer apologies again for mistruths or false—

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

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, I now put all remaining questions necessary to complete consideration of the bill, including clauses en bloc and any amendments to be moved by the minister in charge of the bill, without further amendment or debate.

Division: Question put—That clauses 4 to 29, as read, stand part of the bill.

AYES, 51:

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.

KAP, 2—Katter, Knuth.

NOES, 31:

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

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Pair: Camm, Enoch.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clauses 4 to 29, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

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

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: A division has been called. Please ring the bells for one minute.

AYES, 51:

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.

KAP, 2—Katter, Knuth.

NOES, 31:

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

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Pair: Camm, Enoch.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

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

Motion agreed to.

Sitting suspended from 1.07 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance

Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Well, what a week it has been for a government that has fallen into a screaming big hole—its own words, 'a screaming big hole'. After less than two years, the LNP has lost Queensland's AA+ credit rating. It is now more expensive for the Queensland government to borrow than it is for just about every other state: more expensive than New South Wales, more expensive than Victoria—worse than Victoria—costing Queenslanders an estimated billion dollars over the next few years. The fact is that its budget is struggling under the weight of its $17 billion of election promises, under the weight of its reported more than $20 billion blowout in the Olympics budget.

The Treasurer found himself at the bottom of that screaming big hole this week. Instead of trying to find a way to climb out of the screaming big hole, he decided to just keep digging. He tried to blame everyone but himself for the giant hole that he had dug for himself. Then we had the scenes of the acting child safety minister. She told us that everything was very, very important. She told us that she had taken an interest in her acting portfolio over the last couple of weeks—good for her—but not so much interest that she was able to answer basic questions about what her department did or what its strategy was. We thought: if she does not know about her acting portfolio, maybe she knows a thing or two about her substantive portfolio, and so we asked her about water, but she did not know anything about that either! The most interesting thing, I think, this week are the divisions that have emerged—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): He is doing really well without your help, members on my left. We will keep the noise down and keep quiet. Thank you.

Mr MILES: The most interesting thing, I think, this week are the divisions that have emerged from within the government about its plans to narrow the definition of a victim of domestic violence. We have had senior ministers telling stakeholders that on Monday cabinet decided that it would narrow the definition. The police minister said at his media conference that it was considering it, despite the fact that the Premier ruled that out before the election. When asked in question time whether those opposite would narrow it the Premier said that they would not, but the Police Union says that it is still talking about it. I know that I trust the Police Union's word over any of those senior ministers, but we know what this is all about: a flagrant attempt to manipulate the victim data so that they can get themselves out of this screaming big hole.

Sport Infrastructure

Hon. TL MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (2.03 pm): Today is a great day for the Olympics and Paralympics and a great day to talk about legacy. I want to talk about legacy at the elite level and legacy at the community level. An amazing thing happened the day after the state election. The day after the state election, the condition of dressing rooms, playing fields, clubhouses and canteens in Labor-held seats suddenly went into disrepair, because I was inundated with letters from Labor members talking about the things that were desperately needed. The member for Bundamba wanted $150,000 for the Dinmore Bushrats clubhouse, which was lost to arson in 2009. The member for Gladstone—a former Labor minister—wanted women's change rooms at Central Football Club because they are currently changing in a storeroom and a donga. The member for Ipswich wanted $5 million for an athletics track—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): The member is not taking interjections. I will have the House remain quiet, please.

Mr MANDER: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. The member for Ipswich wrote that she needed a $5 million athletics track and was dismayed that her commitment would not be honoured, despite the fact that she had been the member for 10 years. The member for Ipswich West was asking on behalf of Rosewood United club because it has no change rooms and uses a drop toilet. These are the conditions that were in place for 10 years, yet these local members are now coming and asking the new government to fix their problems and to create legacy, as we are planning to do. The member for Pine Rivers came out and did a video for the Pine Rivers Football Club, saying that the dressing rooms and the clubhouse are in a state of disrepair and that it is desperate. That just suddenly happened—

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Pine Rivers.

Mr MANDER: That suddenly happened the moment those opposite lost government and realised, after looking around and seeing, that they have done nothing with their clubs—

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Pine Rivers, you are cautioned. I will warn you if you keep this up.

Mr MANDER: It is absolute hypocrisy for those opposite to come in here now and claim to be champions for their local sporting clubs while they neglected them for 10 years, and they themselves admit—

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Pine Rivers, you are warned.

Mr MANDER:—how bad they are and the state of disrepair that they are in. We have honoured every decision and every promise that we made during the election campaign, even if we did not win the seat, because we want legacy in our community sporting infrastructure right across the state so that people can look to something in their local community and say, 'We got that because of the games in 2032.'

(Time expired)

Crisafulli LNP Government, Ministers

Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.06 pm): What a performance we saw from the Queensland Treasurer this morning! He did not like the question about bond yields, did he? He did not like that question. I think 'not waving, drowning' was more like it. It might be six years away, but the Treasurer has been trying out for the Olympics this week—whether he is trying out for the gymnastics, tying himself in knots to blame anyone but himself for the S&P Global decision to downgrade Queensland's credit rating, or for the track, attempting to outrun his responsibilities. He must have forgotten to stretch because, given this week's performance, I doubt we will see the member for Toowoomba South in the fiscal green and gold for Australia.

The Treasurer blamed everyone but himself for the fiscal failure of this LNP government. He tried to blame the federal Treasurer. He tried to blame the federal government. He tried to blame the former Labor government. He tried to blame the former former Labor government. He tried to blame the former former former Labor government. He tried to blame the dog at the house at No. 7 down the road. He tried to blame all of them.

Those opposite say that the heart of the problem is the 2024 state Labor budget—the budget that the Premier accepted in full without even looking at it! However, no matter how hard he tried, the Treasurer could not outrun his own past comments. In 2024 the Treasurer 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. Queensland was downgraded for the first time in 17 years. Even the member for Clayfield avoided that!

The Premier and the Deputy Premier are fond of saying that Victoria is the fiscal and economic basket case of Australia. Well, if Victoria is the fiscal basket case of the nation then the Queensland LNP is the nation-leading artisan of basketry. They are basketweavers extraordinaire. Then we had to watch the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer all not talking about what they did. It was not just the member's comments that came back to haunt him. What about this one—

> … our ability to service our debt will fall in a screaming big hole and if that happens Queenslanders will pay more for their electricity.

Who said that? It was an assessment by the Premier of his own government! Let's cut to the chase: the Treasurer is to Queensland what the member for Hinchinbrook is to SET Solutions. That is the truth and Queenslanders will pay for it every day in the future.

(Time expired)

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Regional Queensland

Mrs KIRKLAND (Rockhampton—LNP) (2.09 pm): Today is a red-letter day for the people of Rockhampton, for the people of Queensland and for the people of regional Queensland. I will continue to be a strong voice for regional Queenslanders in celebrating this incredible injection to our regions with the Olympic and Paralympic Games 2032 delivering in spades—legacy infrastructure, roads, rail, air, accommodation and permanent new facilities.

Mrs Poole: Gold medals!

Mrs KIRKLAND: I take that interjection; there will be gold medals coming to the regions. Technical assessments have been passed with flying colours. Experts on the global stage have given Rockhampton and the Fitzroy River the tick of approval for the Olympic and Paralympic Games rowing and canoeing events in 2032. We always knew it. We are a little parochial. While we have been on the defence against negative naysayers, we always knew that we had a world-class facility.

Those opposite have treated the regions as second best for decades. They would never have supported the decentralisation of the games, and definitely not rowing in Rocky. We know this because of their commentary against it through their stalwart Robert Schwarten and through the members for Gladstone and Ferny Grove. Even the member for McConnel voiced her concerns about not knowing whether they are rowing up the river or down the river.

Since the announcement of the 2032 Delivery Plan, our communities have been excited and celebrating because we knew the facts. We knew there would be no need for the river to be dredged or widened. We knew we had a world-class facility with no tides. We knew we had a barrage there and we knew we could put in 2,000-metre lanes, as well as eight lanes across that river.

We will host the most incredible event in the regions. People from Biloela, Callide, Longreach, all across Central Queensland, up north and even down south will be in Rockhampton. The eyes of the world will be upon Rockhampton during the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Row, row, row your boat. Hallelujah. Today is a great red-letter day for the region of Rockhampton. I can see you are excited to jump up and celebrate with me. Thank you for jumping up early. She is ready to celebrate Rockhampton.

Mrs Gerber: Have we called it 'Row-hampton' yet?

Mrs KIRKLAND: 'Row-hampton' it will be! We have some wonderful athletes in Rocky. Gold all the way!

(Time expired)

Wynnum Centre Suburban Renewal Precinct Plan

Ms PEASE (Lytton—ALP) (2.12 pm): What a wonderful audition that was. I am not sure what position she is auditioning for, but she might need to get in the boat and do some row, row, rowing herself.

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

Ms PEASE: The member for Rockhampton should perhaps start row, row, rowing her boat. I was very disappointed when we lost sailing in Manly. Manly was part of the original discussions. I know how excited an area would be; we would have been that way too.

The bayside is growing, and it is about to grow considerably more. The Brisbane City Council has adopted its Wynnum Centre Suburban Renewal Precinct plan—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not want to keep doing this all afternoon. When someone is speaking, if they are not taking interjections the House will be quiet. I will start warning people.

Ms PEASE: Thank you for your protection. More people means more infrastructure and services such as roads, public transport and schools but—critically—it means health care. It is time this state government starts planning for the health needs of the bayside for the next 10, 20, 30 years. Planning is one of the hallmarks of good government, but the bayside, once again, feels like a forgotten part of Brisbane. We have been here before. The LNP government closed Wynnum Hospital. They closed Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit. However, Labor delivered Gundu Pa, the Wynnum-Manly Community Health Centre. This restored 24-hour primary care and expanded local health services, which has helped thousands of locals and taken pressure off emergency departments which are 30 minutes away. Gundu Pa is a community asset that provides 24-hour primary care for minor injuries and illnesses alongside outpatients, BreastScreen, mental health, dental, allied health, chronic disease and other services. We now need to build on this good work.

This week I heard from Tammy, a Wynnum West local whose son fell approximately three metres while working on a roof. Tammy knew he needed urgent medical care and took him to Gundu Pa, but his injuries required diagnostic imaging, which the centre does not provide. Advised that the wait for an ambulance from Gundu Pa would be two to three hours—even with suspected serious internal injuries—Tammy had to drive her son, who was in pain and unable to sit upright, to the emergency department at QEII. Her son was taken immediately into resuscitation when they arrived.

I do not raise Tammy's experience to criticise Gundu Pa or its hardworking staff—quite the opposite. Gundu Pa is designed as a primary care clinic for minor injuries. I encourage Queensland Health to start funding more services out there. Tammy's experience demonstrates why the bayside needs greater health service capacity closer to home—not at the Redlands or the QEII. That is why recent community reports about Gundu Pa's 24-hour primary care clinic closing concern me deeply.

My community is tight-knit. The closure of the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit and Wynnum Hospital still stings. That started with community whispers. That is why this week I asked the minister through a question on notice to guarantee in writing that funding for the 24-hour primary service at Gundu Pa for this financial year and beyond will continue. I look forward to his response. My message is simple: do not take any more services away from the bayside; build on what we have. We have already been robbed in the past by the Newman LNP government, and I will not stand for that.

(Time expired)

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Regional Queensland

Mr HEAD (Callide—LNP) (2.16 pm): The Crisafulli government is not only delivering for the regions but also delivering in the regions with the reopening of birthing services in Central Queensland at Biloela. The Crisafulli government is backing in legacy infrastructure for the regions with the 2032 Olympic Games. The Premier and the government at large have certainly been criticised for our plan to ensure the regions are not neglected.

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member for Bundaberg, you are cautioned.

Mr HEAD: We were steadfast in our support for regional events—whether it was rowing in Rockhampton, equestrian in Toowoomba, or the many events across the state. We were heavily criticised, especially regarding rowing in Rockhampton. We were criticised by many, including those opposite—even the member for Gladstone, who is obviously not so worried about backing the regions over events in Brisbane and other parts of the south-east.

Those critics should have egg on their face with the International Olympic Committee approving rowing in Rockhampton. This is fantastic for Central Queensland. It is fantastic, not just for Rockhampton but the broader region. I am incredibly excited that at both ends of my electorate I will be a stone's throw away from two fantastic premier Olympic events—whether it be the equestrian in Toowoomba or the rowing in Rockhampton. The infrastructure that will come along with that is fantastic. We know Rockhampton can host world-class events; they do that every three years with Beef Week which is happening next year. In fact, there are two Beef Weeks between now and 2032 where 100,000 visitors come to that region. We know it can host fantastic events. We will see investment across the regions. It is not just through these major infrastructure projects. We have a lot of community sport we are backing through things like the Go for Gold Fund projects. We back the regions, we back community sport and we back rural and regional towns, but we know that those opposite do not.

There are a lot of great community groups across the region, but the Mundubbera Rotary Club had their multivendor auction the other day. They made $23,000 from that auction with about 500 people in attendance. They cleared $143,000 with a $23,000 profit to raise money for important local projects. I give them a shout-out for their great work. It is a hardworking club and there are many Rotary clubs across the electorate of Callide which support the community and do great work, including in Biloela where we are working with the Rotary club to install a water cooler at the local skate park. I have been working with them on this to ensure kids who utilise the skate park can stay well hydrated with a cool drink on a hot day.

(Time expired)

Gladstone Ports Corporation

Hon. GJ BUTCHER (Gladstone—ALP) (2.19 pm): There has been a lot of talk this week about Queensland's credit downgrade. Queenslanders should be asking what this means for the future of our government owned assets. Under an LNP government, the prospect of an asset sale is a legitimate concern, particularly for my electorate of Gladstone given the party's previous approach to privatisation. Could the Gladstone Port again have a 'for sale' sign put on it as the government looks for ways to address Queensland's finances? Queenslanders deserve transparency about the government's plans for our publicly owned assets and clear explanations on how it intends to manage the state's debt without putting essential assets on the chopping block.

Workers also need security so that they can go to work and be heard. The fact that there are four public interest disclosures concerning Gladstone Ports Corporation is of great concern. Also of concern is how whistleblowers are treated when they raise serious concerns about the business. Two GPC HR professionals were suspended after intending to make disclosures concerning senior management.

The GPC referred allegations of corrupt conduct, maladministration, abuse of office and reprisal to the CCC. Seven days later, the CEO was terminated, reportedly receiving a payout of around nine months salary. Seven days after that, the CCC declared the disclosure was invalid because it was not signed by the CEO. The matter was then referred to Treasury. Critically, the CCC later confirmed Treasury had not provided it with the original disclosure or supporting evidence. Treasury's internal investigator was also not given the original disclosure in those two key reports. Twice critical material was not provided to investigators. A third disclosure identified 17 allegations, including governance failures, conflicts of interest, financial mismanagement and reprisals. A fourth disclosure concerned Treasury's handling of all of these matters. After years, none of the four disclosures have ever been fully investigated. A resignation is not an investigation and a redundancy is not a finding.

Queensland GOC workers deserve a lot better. Whistleblowers deserve confidence that their allegations will be properly and independently examined. This government must ensure its government owned corporations meet the highest standards of accountability in the state, alongside transparency in a government owned corporation that has now not one representative from Gladstone on the board. This government needs to do better and address right now what has occurred in this instance.

Central Queensland; Emu Park, Anzac Memorial; Yellow Ribbon Day

Mr HUTTON (Keppel—LNP) (2.22 pm): It is games on, Central Queensland! In late 2024, Senator Canavan; Michelle Landry; Donna Kirkland, the member for Rockhampton; Glen Kelly, the member for Mirani; Mayor Tony; and Mayor Adam—along with the Rockhampton Fitzroy Rowing Club, the Capricorn Enterprise group and RDA Central and Western Queensland—came together and put forward an audacious bid saying that we believe Central Queensland could play a role in the Olympics in 2032. After putting forward our application, we told the world what we have in Rockhampton. We told the world that Central Queenslanders have a story to tell and, not only that, we can achieve what you are looking for. We do Beef Week, we do Rockynats, we host tens of thousands of military personnel each and every year for exercises—Australian, European and American.

We have demonstrated we have capacity and we are keen to show what Central Queenslanders have always believed and the world will now know: rowing in Rocky and regional Queensland deserve a place on the world stage. It is refreshing to have a government that believes that regional Queenslanders deserve a voice—not only deserve a voice but actually deserve a chance to be celebrated on the world stage. We have the Great Barrier Reef at our doorstep. I can see images of Emu Park and the mighty Fitzroy River being shared on screens around the globe. It is games on, Central Queensland and games on, Rocky!

Today I take the opportunity to table a petition in relation to the stage 4 Emu Park Centenary of Anzac Memorial project. This project was started over a decade ago and is supported by the Emu Park RSL, the Emu Park Lions and the Emu Park Community Bank. Everyone has invested. They have put their backing into stages 1, 2 and 3 and are again up for stage 4. I table a nonconforming petition to the parliament on behalf of our community.

Tabled paper: Non-conforming petition regarding Stage Four Emu Park Centenary of ANZAC Walkway [1658].

We are keen to ensure this next stage is put forward. We are looking for every funding opportunity. I will keep fighting for the people of Keppel and Central Queensland to make sure that we honour our veterans and have an iconic place where people can come together each Anzac Day and acknowledge the service that has been given in our name.

As yesterday was Yellow Ribbon Day, it is important to mention that currently up on Mount Archer we can at times have upwards of 40 different brigades in response to the fires that are the result of some back-burning as well as outbreaks. Those amazing men and women in the red trucks, the amazing men and women in the yellow trucks and the amazing volunteers in the auxiliaries are doing a brilliant job. On behalf of Central Queensland, I thank them. They are there when we are in bed. They are there when we are here in parliament. They are there serving our community.

Sandgate Electorate, Public Transport

Ms ASIF (Sandgate—ALP) (2.25 pm): Commuters in my community are fed up with this government's incompetence and lack of seriousness when it comes to delivering train services on the north side. For months now commuters have been writing to me about the disaster that is commuting to work. I have been written to by numerous people who are highlighting the trouble they are having. On numerous occasions I have stood in this place to highlight that. I have written several letters to the

minister, but what we get back is a misleading statement saying that there have been no changes to train services and that services are running at 30-minute intervals at peak times. This is not true. Our community continues to face incredible issues.

Not everyone has a chauffeur who can take them to and from work in an air-conditioned car. People in our community need to work to feed their families so they rely on our public transport systems that are supposed to work for them. Those transport systems should get them to where they need to go safely, not leave them waiting in the dark or abandoned at Roma Street being told they have to wait another half an hour to catch a train. That can mean it takes almost two hours to get to work or that they miss dinnertime with their loved ones. It is completely unacceptable and the incompetence continues.

Several times I have asked the minister to come and join me to catch a train on the Shorncliffe line into the city to see what it is like for people living in my community. In the last two days I have been contacted by Oscar, Lisa, Kez and Tracey, who have highlighted it. Every day people are facing these issues and are coming to me. The government needs to do more and stop being so incompetent when it comes to this issue.

Yesterday when I called one of our constituents back he highlighted he is now concerned because of this credit downgrade. He worries about what that means. He is worried that these services will never be reinstated because the government is going to go looking for more money because of their credit downgrade—the first credit downgrade in 17 years because this LNP cannot manage the economy and cannot manage a budget. They now have a credit downgrade, which means they are going to look for revenue—so who knows what will happen to our services? We need to reinstate those services so people can travel safely. This government will leave a legacy as the downgrade government. This Premier will be known as 'Downgrade David'.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask you remind the member for Sandgate about correct titles.

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member for Bundaberg, you are warned. Member, please use correct titles. You know better than that.

Ms ASIF: It will be known as a downgrade government that cannot manage the economy. It will be looking to the pockets of Queenslanders to fix its budget black holes. We are on track for record debt in this state. The government simply cannot manage this economy.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Central Queensland

Mr G KELLY (Mirani—LNP) (2.28 pm): Today is a great day for Rockhampton, Central Queensland and regional Queensland. World Rowing and Paddle Worldwide have endorsed the independent technical assessment of the Fitzroy River course for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. How about that? It's great, isn't it? Come on, where's the gee-up? It's great. Be happy about it!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member for Mirani, address the chair, please.

Mr G KELLY: I am sorry, Deputy Speaker. In 2032, the mighty Fitzroy River will host rowing, para rowing—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry, member. Members on my left, that is not an invitation for you to join in. We will have quiet, please.

Mr G KELLY:—canoe sprint and para canoe, bringing some of the world's best athletes to Central Queensland. This endorsement follows comprehensive independent technical assessments including extensive on-water investigations and modelling looking at weather conditions, water levels and flood risks. The verdict is clear: Rockhampton can deliver. However, this is about much more than rowing.

The 2032 games are a once-in-a-generation opportunity and I commend the Crisafulli government for ensuring the benefits do not stop in the south-east corner. This government's 2032 Delivery Plan is about leaving a legacy for all Queensland. For Central Queensland that means investment in sporting facilities, infrastructure, tourism, local business and jobs. It means permanent upgrades to the Fitzroy River rowing facilities that will continue supporting local athletes, schools, clubs and major events long after 2032. It means a new athletes village for Rockhampton, creating accommodation for the games before becoming much needed homes afterwards. That is what a games

legacy should be. It is not about building something for a few weeks of competition and then walking away. It is about using the games to deliver the infrastructure that growing regions need for the next generation.

Regional Queensland deserves to share in the opportunities that come with hosting the biggest sporting event in the world and today Rockhampton has another reason to be proud. We have the river, we have the community, we have the capability and now we have the endorsement of the international sporting bodies. In 2032, the eyes of the world will be on the mighty Fitzroy.

There is one piece of luck when it comes to the member for Mirani: no-one will see me in a pair of shorts because, at the end of the day, that would not be good. However, I am very proud to be involved in this because of what it will bring to the regions. I can tell members that when you are from the bush you have a pair of white legs because we are comfortable wearing jeans just as the rowers will be really comfortable on the Fitzroy River.

Economy, Credit Rating

Mr McCALLUM (Bundamba—ALP) (2.31 pm): The LNP's economic ineptitude has delivered Queensland's first credit rating downgrade in almost 20 years and, boy, haven't the headlines been cruel to the Treasurer: 'Moping treasurer blames everyone for credit fail ... but does nothing himself'. A *Courier-Mail* article states—

Queensland's Eeyore treasurer blames Labor for a rating downgrade, but admits he did nothing to stop it.

The article contains a picture of *Winnie-the-Pooh* characters and a little caption that reads, 'Queensland's treasurer, like famous Winnie the Pooh character Eeyore, is moping and blaming others.' I table that article.

Tabled paper: Media article, undated, titled 'Hayden Johnson: Qld treasurer blames Labor for credit downgrade despite admitting his own inaction' [1659].

An opposition member interjected.

Mr McCALLUM: It is very sad. The member for Toowoomba South is there with his mates. His head is down. Winnie-the-Pooh, who is always after the honey pot, reminds me of the member for Broadwater. If only he really were a fictional teddy bear, but we are not that lucky. Tigger is energetic and flamboyant. With his signature catch phrase of 'Ta-ta for now', he can only remind me of the member for Kawana.

This downgrade is solely attributable to the LNP and their dismal fiscal decisions, which have led to blowouts on Olympics infrastructure and transport projects. Experts have estimated that the Olympics plan that the LNP has put forward will cost $20 billion. It includes a $1.2 billion aquatic centre that no-one asked for. Only yesterday, they stood in this place and voted against providing Queenslanders with the true costs of each and every venue under their plan. However, there is plenty of money—tens of millions of dollars—for LNP blue branding. They can change their motto to 'delivering downgrades for Queensland'. That is the only thing that this LNP government is delivering.

This downgrade is a damning indictment on the Premier, it is a damning indictment on the Treasurer and it is a damning indictment on the LNP government. Under the LNP, Queensland is drowning in debt, projects are delayed and taxpayer interest payments are soaring. It is nothing short of economic vandalism. Have they even apologised to the people of Queensland? There has been nothing from the Premier and the donkey of a treasurer has not apologised. In fact, he has doubled down. I say to the government: it is time for Eeyore—

(Time expired)

Mackay Community Foundation

Mr DALTON (Mackay—LNP) (2.34 pm): I rise to acknowledge the outstanding contribution that the Mackay Community Foundation is making in our community and to recognise the many organisations across the Mackay region that are benefiting from its support. In June, I was able to go to the grants presentation. The Mackay Community Foundation has a clear and important mission to grow and provide perpetual sources of funds to assist community-based organisations supporting individuals in need or at risk throughout our region. The foundation is ably led by the chair, Melissa Green, as well as Tina Sanders, Jade McAuley, Marcus Pillhofer and past chair Frances Easton. At its heart is a simple and powerful idea: building a community that gives where it lives. Through community, philanthropy, compassion and legacy, the foundation is helping to create a stronger and more connected Mackay region and the results speak for themselves.

Over the years, community grants from the Mackay Community Foundation have totalled nearly $2 million. More than $247,000 was awarded in 2025-26 alone. What is particularly impressive is the diversity of the organisations receiving that support and the very practical difference those grants are making. For example, CASA Mackay received $21,000 toward a new mobile outreach vehicle to strengthen housing services. The Clontarf Foundation received $9,000 to deliver driver training for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young men. CQUniversity received $5,000 to provide financial assistance to students experiencing unexpected hardship. Crossroad Arts received $35,000 towards a 15-metre-diameter dome for large-scale productions, supporting arts and cultural opportunities in our community. The Kidney Support Network received $35,000 for a replacement patient transport vehicle, which is a practical investment that will directly assist people accessing essential services. We have also seen support for Mackay Pet Rescue helping prevent avoidable pet surrenders, for Mackay Surf Life Saving with funding towards a replacement roof and for Mackay youth services.

There is no doubt that the Mackay Community Foundation provides many grants to organisations that provide support services within Mackay. The foundation demonstrates what can happen when local people look at their own community and help out. Thanks to all those who have contributed.

Domestic and Family Violence Prevention, Acting Minister

Ms BUSH (Cooper—ALP) (2.37 pm): This week, the parliament and Queensland witnessed the abject disregard that this LNP government and ultimately Premier Crisafulli has for the prevention of domestic and family violence. Yesterday during question time, the acting minister, the member for Warrego, was asked serious questions relating to this portfolio. She was asked to update the House on the work of the independent Domestic and Family Violence Advisory Panel and the Reform Implementation Office. She was asked why the panel had not produced any progress updates, reports or documents in the past 16 months. She was asked whether the government would undertake a second stage of the coercive control education campaign, as recommended by the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, and she was asked how many DVConnect Mensline calls have gone unanswered in the past 12 months. In 12 minutes, the acting minister could not answer any of those questions. What she did do was tell us repeatedly that she had taken an interest in the portfolio. That is something that I thought would be a basic prerequisite for accepting an acting ministerial role. However, clearly she has not taken enough of an interest to learn even the most basic headline updates for such a critical portfolio.

Last month, four women were killed in Queensland as a result of male violence. We have major sporting codes in this country publicly downplaying violence against women and protecting alleged perpetrators. A recent report by the University of Melbourne quantifies the current situation, publishing how a third of boys aged 13 to 17 do not believe in equality and think feminism has gone too far and should be resisted with violence. We have next to no DV perpetrator programs operating in this state. This government has been silent on how to tackle the radicalisation of boys online and silent on the exposure of young people to violent pornography, despite the death of a 16-year-old girl. We have schools that do not have enough support to implement respectful relationships education. Teachers are reporting high levels of violence and misogyny. This week we had a building and construction peak body put on public record that they would not categorise a sexual assault at work as a matter for the workplace health and safety regulator.

At the same time, we have a government that has cut funding to the domestic and family violence prevention sector, a government that has created a culture of fear in speaking up for funded services, a government that refuses to be transparent about program implementation, a minister on leave, an acting minister not across her brief and a Premier more concerned with photo opportunities in the US with JD Vance than keeping Queensland women safe.

We are in the middle of a crisis. I do not want a minister who 'cares' about her portfolio or who is interested—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Time has expired.

Ms BUSH: I want capability.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Time has expired.

Ms BUSH: I want capability.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member! You heard me. You stood there and deliberately looked at me and kept talking. You know when the time has expired. When time has expired, you will sit down. Thank you.

Redlands, Transport Safety and Infrastructure

Hon. AJ STOKER (Oodgeroo—LNP) (2.40 pm): I rise to update the House on how we are improving transport safety and accessibility in the Redlands. Firstly, work is underway at the intersection of Gordon Street and Shore Street West. We are adding new traffic signals, pedestrian crossings and bike lanes to enhance safety at this intersection, which has historically had a high accident rate. Many residents have raised with me concerns about the nearby Wellington Street-Shore Street West roundabout. While that one can be challenging for less confident drivers to navigate, it actually has fewer accidents, and the cost of installing signals there is quite significant. The upgrade at Gordon Street provides an affordable alternative signalised route to Shore Street West for people who find the big roundabout daunting, alleviating pressure at that location and offering an alternative option to using Delancey Street to access Shore Street West.

The upgrade will also improve pedestrian and cyclist crossings, which are crucial for nearby retirement village residents and schoolchildren commuting to school. The best news is that this project will be completed within a month. Additionally, the next stage of the Cleveland-Redland Bay Road upgrade has been confirmed. It is especially welcome for Thornlands residents who travel in the direction of Redland Bay.

In public transport, I am excited to welcome the Better Buses Build, with 630 new accessible buses being manufactured here in Queensland, with our share expected to hit local roads in 2027-28. We are also keeping transport affordable with 50-cent train and bus fares now permanent under the Crisafulli LNP government.

For Straddie residents, we have pedestrian safety upgrades funded and on the way for Dunwich at Ballow Road and Junner Street intersection, and the East Coast Road and Cunningham Street intersection. Those upgrades reflect direct feedback from locals.

I have also gathered reports from residents about potholes that were troubling them on Straddie, documenting each one. I am really pleased to give a shout-out to the TMR officers who acted really swiftly in response, filling those on the state controlled East Coast Road within three days. Some council roads have also received attention following my reports, and I am really encouraged to see that.

We are progressing with the $41 million Dunwich Ferry Terminal upgrade, planning a better and safer gateway to the island. This includes a new dual-berth passenger pontoon and improved bus, vehicle and pedestrian connections. It is really important for people to know that this is common infrastructure open to any and all ferry providers; it is not exclusively for any one, and it addresses a longstanding safety concern that really was not treated as a priority or progressed under the previous government.

Finally, big congratulations to everyone involved in the recent Redlands Softball Grand Final Day at the Redland Softball Park, Ormiston. The Redlands consistently produces extraordinary talent in this sport and they contribute some 25 per cent of the Australian team's players. Well done to all. To the club president, Troy, and the committee: have another great season to come.

(Time expired)

Prince Charles Hospital

Mr RICHMOND (Stafford—ALP) (2.44 pm): The LNP cannot manage money and their hospital building program is a mess. At the Prince Charles Hospital staff and patients are paying the price. The LNP like to say that performance at our hospitals is improving. Comparing July 2024 and July 2026 performance data at the Prince Charles demonstrates that that is not so. Ramping has become worse. ED wait times are up. Ambulance lost time has increased by 112 per cent. Our hospital system is bursting at the seams under the LNP. It is taking a toll on staff and it is leaving patients waiting for longer, which is why the LNP need to come clean on the timeline for delivering the 93 beds at the Prince Charles Hospital. These beds would provide real relief to staff and patients. The LNP are happy to say that they are delivering the beds, but they cannot tell us what the budget is, when construction will start and when the beds will be accessible for patients. Until they do that, patients and staff will continue to pay the price for the LNP's neglect.

When it comes to staff, they are paying the price quite literally. I have been told by staff that the open-air car park that they have been using for free has now had a parking fee imposed upon it. That is despite the fact that there have been no improvements made to the open-air car park—other than the fact that there has been a boom gate put there to charge staff. It has pushed staff to park on the

streets. It means crossing busy roads to get to work and walking dark streets to the car after a late shift. It is clogging local streets and making it harder for residents to get around. That is why I am running a petition calling on the government and Metro North to reverse a decision to charge Prince Charles Hospital staff for the open-air car park so they can park onsite for free. Doing so would provide real relief to the hip pockets of health workers and clear our local streets.

The LNP want to talk a big game about our health system, but they need to stop with the talk and deliver some action. It is worth concluding with a reflection on why there has not been action. It is because of the LNP's incompetent and reckless mismanagement of our economy and their warped priorities driving record LNP debt. They are spending more money promoting themselves when they could be spending on hospitals. They have handed over $500 million to Adani while reportedly trying to cut the pay of cancer care workers. They are spending more than a billion dollars on a pool while denying allied health workers a pay rise. The fact is: the LNP cannot manage money, so they are coming after the money of Queensland's health workers. The LNP need to build the beds and cut the parking fees.

Pumicestone Electorate, Events

Miss DOOLAN (Pumicestone—LNP) (2.47 pm): As we approach October, I want to begin by acknowledging Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month and International Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day on 15 October. In particular, I recognise Crystal and Ryan Zeeman, who founded Whittaker's Wings Foundation following the stillbirth of their beautiful daughter, Whittaker, at 40 weeks in 2021. This cause also has a personal connection for me as my mum taught Crystal at Redcliffe State High School many years ago.

Since Whittaker's passing, Crystal and Ryan have turned unimaginable heartbreak into something that is helping families across Queensland. They have provided more than 300 care packs to Queensland hospitals and continue to advocate for greater choice, dignity and compassionate care for families experiencing pregnancy and infant loss.

This year marks another important chapter for Whittaker's Wings with the foundation holding its inaugural fundraising gala in Brisbane. On 15 October, families across the world will light candles as part of the International Wave of Light. Here in Queensland, we will join them in remembering the babies who never got to stay and the families who will carry their memory forever. I acknowledge Crystal and Ryan for ensuring Whittaker's legacy continues to bring comfort to so many others.

September is also an incredibly busy month in Pumicestone with some fantastic community events still to come. I am very proud to once again be sponsoring and supporting Bribie Big Arvo coming up on 21 September at Brennan Park, Bongaree. It is a free afternoon of live music, food and activities for young people aged 12 to 25. Given my singing performance at the last two events, I cannot promise there will not be any Dolly Parton from me, but I can promise the House that the member for Cook and the member for Mulgrave will not be returning as my backing singers! In all seriousness, it is going to be a fantastic afternoon, and I am proud to support an event that gives our young people a free, safe and positive way to come together and have some fun.

On 27 September, from 9 am until 1 pm, Brennan Park will host the Bribie Island combined Emergency Services Expo. It is the largest event of its kind in the South-East Queensland region, bringing together our emergency service partners while promoting an incredibly important message of getting ready for the summer season. We in Pumicestone know how important our emergency services are, particularly when severe weather strikes our community. Our community has seen firsthand the difference that preparation, local knowledge and dedicated emergency service personnel make.

Finally, one of the great privileges of representing Pumicestone is going into our local schools and seeing the incredible work being done by our teachers, staff and students. It was a pleasure to recently welcome the Minister for Education and the Arts, the Hon. John-Paul Langbroek, to Pumicestone to visit some of our local schools. We had the opportunity to see firsthand the investments being delivered for our students, including a new flexi space at Pumicestone State School, upgraded senior classrooms at Bribie Island State School and a new flexi space at Bribie Island State High School. We also visited Banksia Beach State School, where our government is delivering a new shade sail over the school playground as part of the $5 million investment providing new shade sail structures across 17 Queensland schools.

(Time expired)

Redcliffe Hospital

Mr WHITING (Bancroft—ALP) (2.50 pm): We have heard a lot today about the rating downgrade Queensland received this week. The S&P report shows that the wrong priorities of this LNP Premier and the wrong decisions made by this LNP government have led to this downgrade. As the shadow treasurer said, Queenslanders will pay more and get less under this LNP government. We are facing delays, delays, delays to critical infrastructure. That is clear. The report states that the state has—

... reprofiled its capital pipeline, shifting planned capital expenditure ... to later years from ... 2027.

...

... Queensland has deferred or cancelled around A$3 billion of spending for fiscal 2027 ...

What does that mean for the people of Moreton Bay? It means delays, delays, delays to things like school buildings. We found out that no new schools will be built in the Caboolture area for at least four years. It is one of the biggest growth corridors in Queensland, and we will have no new schools for four years.

Mr Ryan: Beyond 2030.

Mr WHITING: I take the interjection from the member for Morayfield; beyond 2030. He knows all about it, and well done to him for discovering that. This downgrade confirms that there will be more delays, delays, delays for Redcliffe Hospital. The LNP said that they have a contractor to build the hospital extension. When are they going to build it? When will they start? Will it be this year? Will it be next year? When will it be finished? I noticed that the member for Stafford had the same question about what is happening at the Prince Charles Hospital.

At Redcliffe, the previous expansion project had already started. The piling foundations were in the ground, but they had to stop and rip them out. Contractors were already onsite when those opposite abandoned this expansion. They cut this program. You have heard me say it before: the day they announced they were building a brand new stadium at Victoria Park was the day the piling contractor pulled out his last piling rig from the hospital expansion site. We would have a structure in place now if they had not abandoned it. We would not be looking at an empty site wondering when something will be built. Again, the question is: when will they build it? They need to let us know.

We know that the member for Pumicestone may have let the cat out of the bag when she said that they will start it when they finish the car park. Will that be in two years or so? We do not know. I table that document.

Tabled paper: Comments in response to Facebook post by the member for Pumicestone, Miss Ariana Doolan MP, in relation to the Redcliffe Hospital [1660].

The other thing we want to know is: how much will this cost? The main reason they said this project needed to be cut was cost. They say they are going to build it for less, but people are never going to expect it when you build it three years later.

(Time expired)

Nicklin Electorate, Awards

Mr HUNT (Nicklin—LNP) (2.53 pm): Recently in Nicklin we held our inaugural Above and Beyond Awards, celebrating the outstanding contributors to our community who go above and beyond in service. Congratulations to all of the nominees and finalists, who are all worthy of recognition. I particularly want to say congratulations to the award winners, who were voted for by the community.

I want to record their achievements on the record of the Queensland parliament today. The Wellbeing Provider of the Year was The Shack Community Centre. The Nightingale Award went to Joseph Jennings. The Educator or Skills Provider of the Year went to the wonderful STEMM program at Burnside State High School. The Young Achiever of the Year was Mia O'Neill. The Community-minded Business of the Year went to Wren Souvenirs and Promotional. The Community Spirit and Collaboration Award went to the great Daniel Morcombe Foundation. The Excellence in Prevention Award went to the Sunshine Coast Animal Refuge. The Supporter of the Year went to Denise Morcombe. The Environmental Leadership Award went to the Nambour Creek BushCare Group. The Agricultural and Rural Innovation Award went to River Ridge Dairies. The Great Neighbour Award went to Wendy Scott. The People's Choice Award, with the most overall votes, went to Jackie Mott. Thank you all for your service in making our community stronger and the best place to live in Queensland.

On a different note, it was a real privilege to have our Treasurer, David Janetzki, come to Nicklin last week to officially open The Everyday Foundation's new community supermarket in Currie Street, Nambour. I remember first walking through the empty shell of the building about two years ago and hearing the foundation directors describe their vision. It was ambitious, but with a $1 million commitment from the Crisafulli government and an extraordinary effort from the foundation that vision is now a reality.

This facility is about far more than bricks and mortar; it brings food relief, emergency support, meal services and social enterprise together under one roof, providing practical help, dignity and support to Sunshine Coast families. This is about delivering practical, long-term cost-of-living relief for families and individuals in our area. By partnering with organisations like The Everyday Foundation, we are supporting solutions that not only help people when they need it most but also build stronger, more sustainable support for our community into the future. To Jono and Chloe Gullo, Karen Gullo, all of the directors and all of the wonderful volunteers at The Everyday Foundation: thank you. Thank you for supporting our community, and thank you for your wonderful work locally.

Democracy

Ms BOLTON (Noosa—Ind) (2.56 pm): As we watch our parliament continue to disintegrate amongst the increasing abuse of powers and standing orders and decreasing transparency and scrutiny, we have another issue: a lack of responses. To the ministers and their departments that do provide answers openly and without running everyone in circles: I express deep gratitude on behalf of all Queenslanders. There are those who respond but avoid the question. This leads to more correspondence and adds to everyone's inbox overload, which makes no sense. Then there are the ones who do not respond. This is offensive to Queenslanders. It is rude. We are all paid by their taxes and they deserve answers.

After years of asking, just a 'yes' or 'never' is all that is needed to the following questions. When will the hoodwinking stop on those misleading postal vote applications and deceptive how-to-vote cards? When will all major donations be banned to end the real and perceived influence? When will information, data and expert advice be made transparent? When will those taxes—whether payroll, land or transfer duties for seniors—be remodelled for Queenslanders and businesses who are least able to afford them? When will a truly independent crime statistic agency be implemented? When will governments urgently prioritise our homeless? We need van parks, tiny homes—anything except cars and tents. When will advertising of gambling on state infrastructure end? Why will government not include the impacts external to environmental authority permits as other states do? Why do governments waste millions, possibly billions, of dollars by disregarding the findings and recommendations of inquiries? Before they commit their next crime what is being done with those 300 to 400—however many—serious repeat youth offenders who commit the majority of crimes? Finally, will Queenslanders get a say on how the failings of this parliament can be addressed?

Let's be real: internal reviews of our parliament by the CLA or others instead of an independent body do not pass the pub test, neither does government assessing whether this chamber is serving Queenslanders as it should. Why? It is because governments continue to demonstrate they are serving themselves.

I have a question: why would any government not agree to greater integrity, scrutiny, transparency and accountability in our parliament? Why would they not agree to allow Queenslanders to have a say in this? I have five words: scrutiny, transparency, accountability, representation and integrity. They are not slogans; they are just five of the most important aspects of Queensland's parliament that are missing in action. Actually, there is a sixth: democracy, which is diminishing every sitting week, as we saw again this week. Every Queenslander should be more than concerned; they should be outraged by what is occurring.

Moggill Electorate

Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (2.59 pm): Across the electorate of Moggill, commitments made by the Liberal National Party state government continue to be delivered, and our community is seeing the results. From better transport connections to improved sporting facilities, community infrastructure and local services, the Crisafulli LNP state government is delivering for the western suburbs of Brisbane.

Next week marks an exciting milestone, with the 444 bus service extending directly to the Moggill District Sports Park and providing direct public transport access to this important sporting precinct for the first time. This is a significant win for local residents and the delivery of an important election

commitment that I made to our community. A new footpath connecting the sports park with Priors Pocket Road will also be constructed from late September, further improving safety, accessibility and active transport options.

Progress also continues on our $75 million commitment to improve safety and reduce congestion on Moggill Road at the Kenmore roundabout and Our Lady of the Rosary School intersection, with the Department of Transport and Main Roads commencing community engagement with immediately impacted residents on the relevant road corridor, along with geotechnical investigations, scoping and design work progressing.

The Liberal National Party is also getting on with delivering an innovative community and neighbourhood centre—a $3 million commitment by the LNP which is also matched by a $3 million commitment by UnitingCare, taking the total commitment to $6 million. I also continue to progress support for the Moggill Heritage Hall redevelopment project as a part of our community and neighbourhood centre hub-and-spoke model, providing modern, accessible facilities and expanded community services across the Moggill electorate. I have secured funding from the LNP state government for this project.

Last weekend I was delighted to join our local UQFC following the delivery of $75,000 for new infrastructure and essential equipment. This weekend I look forward to joining with local residents at our Mount Crosby Bowls Club as we officially open its refurbished facilities, supported through the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government's $100,000 election commitment.

Earlier this month, I welcomed the Minister for Youth Justice to 'Reason to Thrive' to see the positive outcomes being delivered through our almost $300,000 investment in its early intervention programs. Soon I look forward to welcoming the Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers to see how our support is strengthening the Brookfield Show Society, the Karana Downs Garden Club, the Chapel Hill Community Garden Club and the Brookfield Rural Fire Brigade.

Political opportunists and local Labor and Greens supporters may want to constantly talk down the western suburbs of Brisbane and champion misinformation and disinformation, including at the expense of ethical and journalistic integrity, but the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government will continue to lead with vigour, vision and purpose.

Local residents are providing overwhelmingly positive feedback about the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government. I thank local residents for their support and the trust that they continue to place in me because I am delivering what I promised to do, both in government and also when in opposition previously. The Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government continues to invest in additional infrastructure services and local support to further strengthen our community in the electorate of Moggill.

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

Resumed from 27 August (see p. 2678), on motion of Mr Molhoek—

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

Hon. AJ STOKER (Oodgeroo—LNP) (3.02 pm): I rise to speak to the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee's report No. 15. Given the beauty of Queensland's natural environment and the degree to which Labor like to talk about ecotourism as being vital to our future of tourism, you might think they had a long pipeline of ecotourism projects on the way for our state. Sadly, the Queensland Audit Office's report shows that Labor talked about ecotourism for a decade but could not get projects moving. They found that there was no coherent statewide approach, approvals took too long and were too costly and, despite all the big talk, just three ecotourism projects were approved in a decade.

There are great ecotourism ingredients in the Redlands. Bay Island Lifestyle is a great example—a local small business offering kayaks, water experiences and even floating yoga on Moreton Bay, with a particular emphasis on making our local waterways accessible to people with disabilities and reduced mobility. Ashley and Karen do an amazing job. This year they were the first Redlands business ever to get a national tourism award.

Likewise, the ecotourism offering on Straddie is first-class. There are great tours, walks and opportunities for fishing and enjoying our beaches, expertly patrolled by the Point Lookout Surf Life Saving Club—and I will be joining them for the opening of their season this weekend. I know that the Redland City Council has a tourism economic strategy that is oriented to adventure and ecotourism, weaving the Olympic whitewater facility into the tourism offering with a range of family-friendly activities in the mainland offering, which is rich as a gateway to making memories in nature on Straddie, just an hour from the city or even less.

Our coastline, birds and wildlife are a real attraction. I am so pleased to observe that koala populations have been scientifically verified to be healthy and stable, despite the growth our region has experienced. As a government, we are supporting that with our ecotourism strategy and our Zero Litter to the Bay commitment, which is keeping our beaches clean and our marine life thriving, as well as our investment in wildlife care at IndigiScapes.

Just as this report showed delay and underperformance by Labor in ecotourism statewide, we have had a localised QAO examination of the Minjerribah Futures transition for Straddie from sand mining to a tourism, and particularly ecotourism, based economy, and it is damning. It was meant to cost $20 million but, like so many Labor projects, it blew out—ultimately costing taxpayers a whopping $39.4 million. The audit was particularly scathing about Labor's mismanagement and poor governance of the program. It operated with what could only be described as indifference as to whether it was achieving its objectives. It was never a good deal for locals or for taxpayers.

The Labor government did not reconcile the projects to make sure that as the money was paid the value was being delivered. They did not provide proper public reporting on the status of funding and they did not make clear who was responsible for key elements of the strategy so that important limbs of it—like, for instance, seeking third-party investment—never happened. While governance standards were not being met, Labor continued to keep on handing over that money anyway, with no accountability, particularly for our local traditional owner corporation, known as QYAC. The Audit Office held—

> QYAC rarely met the financial or progress reporting requirements set out in the funding agreements. Where QYAC did submit financial acquittals, it did not provide sufficient detail and evidence to demonstrate how it used the funding to achieve the project objectives.

If you want an example of what that looked like, here it is. The package included $2.2 million for the provision of 36 glamping tents in the campgrounds run by Minjerribah Camping, wholly owned by QYAC. Only nine were delivered. That means taxpayers ultimately paid $246,444 for each and every tent. Even the most high-end glamping tents I can find on the web—fancier than what we are talking about here—cost around 30 kay. Let's allow some funds for installation. That might bring that up to, say, 40 kay. There is still a lot of money missing here. It is our local ecotourism offering that has suffered from Labor's failure to drive value for money under this program.

Think about that low return on investment when amplified over the $39.4 million of the program. It makes me so sad to think what that funding could have done for new ecotourism attractions, for residents' housing, for better roads, for better marine infrastructure. The good news is that those days are over. Unlike Labor, we are delivering record investment in the experiences and attractions that drive visitation, support jobs and strengthen our strong reputation. We have a plan for ecotourism and we are delivering it.

(Time expired)

Ms BUSH (Cooper—ALP) (3.07 pm): I rise also to make a contribution to the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee's report No. 15 on the Auditor-General's report No. 12. There is one principle that I think should really sit at the heart of this debate—that is, the need to apply a nature-first principle to our policy development generally but specifically when it comes to tourism. The Auditor-General's report makes that distinction really important. It defines ecotourism as ecologically sustainable tourism that fosters environmental and cultural understanding, appreciation and conservation.

Before we ask what we can build in our national parks or our forests and our natural areas, we should first ask what needs to be protected. Before we ask how many visitors we can attract, we should ask what level of visitation that environment can really sustain. Before we ask how much economic activity can be generated from a place, we should really understand what makes that place valuable in the first place. Our natural environment is not simply an economic asset waiting to be commercialised. It is a habitat, it is biodiversity, it is public land and it is our country. That last point is particularly important because the Auditor-General repeatedly recognised the role of traditional owners.

The report says that consultation with traditional owners is an integral part of proposals in protected areas. Its first recommendation says that Queensland's statewide approach must respect the cultural and traditional ownership of First Nations people. The report envisages something stronger than consultation and talks about government and proponents partnering with traditional owners. That is why I am concerned about what we have seen from this government in what has been described as 'Project Invisibility'—the removal or diminishing of First Nations' voices from positions, institutions and processes right across government. You cannot say that traditional owners should be partners in managing and presenting country to the world while simultaneously removing First Nations people from the tables at which decisions about that country are made. These two approaches are fundamentally in conflict. We should remember that ecotourism is not just about approving new private developments.

The Auditor-General specifically recognises government funded and managed ecotourism infrastructure such as walking tracks, lookouts, camping grounds and visitor amenities, so before governments start announcing the next new ecotourism development we need to exam how well we are looking after the natural assets we already have. Are our walking tracks maintained? Are our national parks properly resourced? Are weeds and invasive species being controlled? Are visitor facilities keeping pace with demand? Are we protecting biodiversity?

Becoming a world leader in ecotourism should not be measured simply by the number of projects we approve. It should be measured by whether, after people have visited these extraordinary places, the environment, its cultural heritage and the communities responsible for caring for it are stronger because of that visitation. That is what a nature-first approach to ecotourism should mean, and I hope the government heeds that as it moves forward with its ecotourism 2045 strategy.

Mr JAMES (Mulgrave—LNP) (3.10 pm): I rise today to speak on the importance of growing ecotourism in Queensland and the findings of the parliamentary committee's report into this critical sector. Queensland is home to some of the most spectacular natural environments in the world. From the Wet Tropics and the Great Barrier Reef to our rainforests, islands and outback landscapes, we are blessed with natural assets that attract visitors from across the globe while also supporting thousands of jobs in regional communities. As the member for Mulgrave, I see firsthand the significant opportunities ecotourism creates for local businesses, tourism operators and communities across Far North Queensland.

The committee's report highlighted a concerning reality. For more than a decade Queensland lacked a clear and coordinated statewide approach to ecotourism development. The Queensland Audit Office found that approval processes were lengthy, complex and costly and that only three ecotourism projects were approved over a 10-year period. The report also identified the absence of a statewide policy that clearly defined how tourism and environmental agencies would work together to achieve Queensland's ecotourism vision. These findings demonstrate why reform was needed. That is why I welcome the government's response through Destination 2045, Queensland's 20-year tourism road map, which is backed by a record $1 billion investment over four years. This strategy recognises that our natural environment is not only something to protect but also one of Queensland's greatest tourism assets.

Importantly, the plan sets a clear goal of delivering 45 new ecotourism experiences by 2045. This is a practical vision that will encourage visitors to stay longer, explore more of our regions and support local jobs and businesses. In my region we are already seeing progress. The Wangetti Trail project continues to move forward, building on the Palm Cove to Ellis Beach section that opened in 2024, providing a world-class coastal and rainforest experience for visitors. The Smithfield mountain bike trail project is progressing and has the potential to further strengthen Far North Queensland's reputation as an adventure tourism destination. Across the state projects such as the Ngaro Track in the Whitsundays are already delivering new opportunities for visitors to experience Queensland's unique natural cultural heritage.

Equally important is the work being undertaken to improve the approvals process for tourism operators. The Tourism Support Hub is helping businesses navigate permits and approvals, particularly for small operators who once faced challenges dealing with red tape. Significantly, more than three-quarters of the inquiries have come from regional Queensland, highlighting the demand for practical support in our communities.

The government is also investing in environmental protection with the delivery of 150 new park and Indigenous land and sea rangers to help manage weeds, invasive species and other environmental pressures. This re-enforces the principle that ecotourism and environmental stewardship must go hand in hand.

The committee noted that three of the four Auditor-General's recommendations have already been fully implemented, with further work continuing to streamline regulatory processes and support the sector's growth. This is encouraging progress and demonstrates a clear commitment to addressing the issues identified in the original audit.

Ecotourism is about more than attracting visitors. It is about creating jobs, supporting regional communities, showcasing Indigenous culture, encouraging environmental conservation, and ensuring future generations continue to enjoy Queensland's remarkable natural assets. For communities across Mulgrave and throughout regional Queensland the growth of ecotourism represents an enormous opportunity. With a clear strategy, targeted investment and a commitment to protect our environment, Queensland is well placed to become the nation's leading ecotourism destination.

Ms BOLTON (Noosa—Ind) (3.15 pm): As all in the chamber are aware, the QAO report on growing ecotourism is important and relevant to communities throughout Queensland. For Noosa, where 42 per cent of our shire is protected land, including national parks and a UNESCO listed biosphere reserve, it is especially relevant. Residents, visitors and our businesses are passionate about our natural environment, which is a major asset and economic driver. Our iconic international status is reliant on this being properly managed—which it is not, regardless of the wonderful efforts of both QPWS and QPS.

As I raised in the committee's public hearing, the controlled measures DETSI mentioned have failed in the Cooloola Recreation Area, and the solution advocated by the community to reduce impacts through smoothing visitor volume and transitioning a percentage—just a small amount—from peak periods to the shoulders has continued to fall on deaf ears for eight years now. It is unacceptable and no rationale has been provided as to why.

On the surface ecotourism sounds positive; however, the Cooloola Recreation Area example I just mentioned and previous efforts of government to develop a combined walk and accommodation ecotourism project demonstrate why it is so important to get this right before doubling tourism in Queensland. During the Cooloola Great Walk process we saw numerous issues arise. What became clear in the end was that any private commercial accommodation, eco or otherwise, must be built adjacent to national parks, not in areas set aside specifically for conservation.

If you look back in history, the National Parks Association of Queensland approved the previous government's amendments to the Nature Conservation Act but stated that further reforms were needed. They recommended that—

> ... provisions for ecotourism facility within national parks be removed from the Act. The concept of tourism facilities (eco or otherwise) in national parks has not been fully reviewed, and the potential impacts not thoroughly investigated.

We have not ascertained whether that review has been done. As I raised in my statement of reservation, the committee report stated that the current government's new policies have met the requirements of all QAO recommendations, which I believe is incorrect. Why? At the hearing, the department stated that Destination 2045 and *45 by 45: getting ecotourism moving in Queensland* reflect the total implementation of QAO recommendation No. 1. However, both documents are high-level statements of intent with limited detail on the practical aspects of implementation, so they fall short of the mark.

Some additional information is provided in the *Ecotourism Plan for Queensland's Protected Areas 2025-2030*, although this is simply an update of the previous government's *Ecotourism Plan for Queensland's Protected Areas 2023-2028,* with the same level of existing detail which prompted the QAO's recommendations in the first place. A similar issue arises with both recommendation 2 for an ecotourism road map and recommendation 3 that both the department and Tourism and Events Queensland have individual implementation plans.

The other issue regarding the conclusion made in the first 'committee comment' on page 14 is that the department has considered the impacts of tourism on the natural environment, including where ecotourism is taking place in protected areas. The evidence provided was that the department and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service have tools and control measures, such as management plans and visitor strategies, to address overtourism. However, the tools or controls are not being effectively utilised, as I evidenced earlier regarding the lack of action on the impacts from uncontrolled visitor numbers to the Cooloola Recreation Area. We do not want to see that happening elsewhere.

The department's response—that day-permit controls to manage this volume is a policy matter for government—is concerning. Therefore, the conclusion that the committee was satisfied that DETSI has considered the impact of tourism on the environment is one our community cannot agree with.

Understandably, the lack of details and changes being made to bring about greater tourism numbers into Queensland leads to concerns, especially without solid assurances and commitments—hence my recent question on notice regarding the sale of Elanda Ecocamp in the Great Sandy National Park to a multibillion dollar business, G'Day Australia.

In closing, I thank our secretariat, the chair, my fellow committee members, departmental staff and agencies, all of whom have laboured under significant resource challenges and unrealistic timeframes.

Ms JAMES (Barron River—LNP) (3.20 pm): For the people of Far North Queensland, this report is a report card on a decade of lost opportunity under the former Labor government, because there is perhaps nowhere in Queensland with greater potential for ecotourism than Far North Queensland. We have the Great Barrier Reef, the Wet Tropics, some of the oldest rainforests on earth, extraordinary national parks, landscapes and culture that people travel from around the world to experience. Tourism is not something that happens on the margins of our economy in Far North Queensland; it supports local businesses, local jobs and livelihoods right across our region. So when a government gets ecotourism wrong, Far North Queensland pays the price. This report lays bare what happened under Labor.

The Queensland Audit Office found the state's success in developing ecotourism had been limited. It found lengthy, complex and costly approval processes. It found vague and poorly defined processes for identifying and planning opportunities. Despite all of the natural advantages our state possesses, the Audit Office found that since 2013 just three ecotourism facilities in national parks had been approved across the entire state, with another two in development. Think about that from the perspective of someone living in Cairns. We sit on the doorstep of two World Heritage areas. We know that people want to go there, we know that they want to experience our natural environment, and we know that those experiences can support jobs, small businesses and communities while protecting what makes our region special, yet for years the system simply was not delivering, and that is a story this report tells.

For Far North Queensland, it is a report card on opportunities squandered under the former Labor government. My community cannot afford another decade of talking about potential. It needs a government prepared to take that potential and turn it into opportunity. From the outset, the Premier made a deliberate decision to change the way the government thinks about ecotourism. We brought tourism and environment together in the same portfolio because we do not accept the old argument that protecting our environment and allowing people to experience it must somehow be in conflict. We can do both. We can protect the extraordinary places that make Far North Queensland special, and we can create a carefully managed experience that allows people to see them, understand them and appreciate why they are worth protecting. That is why we moved to put in place our 45 by 45 ecotourism policy—45 new ecotourism experiences by 2045. It is a clear ambition to get Queensland's ecotourism moving, to create new reasons for people to visit, to support regional jobs and businesses, and to turn potential into experiences.

We are already seeing the green shoots of what happens when you have a government with the right priorities for Far North Queensland. Look at the Wangetti Trail. This is a 94-kilometre vision to create a world-class walking and mountain-biking trail connecting Palm Cove and Port Douglas. It should be one of the great ecotourism experiences of Far North Queensland, but under the former Labor government the project became synonymous with delays, cost increases and lost community confidence. Just 7.8 kilometres of trail between Palm Cove and Ellis Beach was delivered, at an extraordinary cost of $22.5 million.

We changed the way the project was being delivered. We put Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service in charge. We moved the project out of Brisbane and put it where it belongs—in Cairns—because we knew that we needed people who could work directly with the community and were accountable for getting this project moving, and look at the momentum now. Twin Bridges has reopened and planning has progressed, and we are now getting on with the next 22-kilometre section between Ellis Beach and Wangetti. The Crisafulli government has committed $31.2 million in this year's budget to keep Wangetti moving. Importantly, we appointed Cairns-based World Trail to deliver the next section. That is local expertise, local knowledge and people based in Far North Queensland delivering a project for the Far North.

This is what changing priorities look like. It is putting decision-makers closer to the community. It is listening to locals. It is backing local expertise. Most importantly, it is getting things moving. Wangetti matters because it shows what is possible, but it is not happening in isolation. We are also investing

$15.5 million to transform Smithfield Mountain Bike Park, growing its trail network to more than 85 kilometres by 2028. This is another world-class adventure experience and another reason to visit Cairns. The lesson from this Audit Office report is not that Queensland lacks ecotourism potential; it is quite the opposite. The potential is extraordinary. The failure was Labor letting ideology block opportunity.

Mr BOOTHMAN (Theodore—LNP) (3.25 pm): It is a pleasure to rise to make a contribution to what the Auditor-General said in *Report 12: 2022-23—Growing ecotourism in Queensland*. Being a member on the Gold Coast, I can say that ecotourism in Australia's tourism capital is critically important. Ecotourism on the Gold Coast is something that our region is built on. We have the green behind the gold, with some of the most pristine places anywhere in the world. We have the Gondwana Rainforests in the hinterlands behind the Gold Coast—

Mr Stevens: World Heritage at Springbrook.

Mr BOOTHMAN: That area is World Heritage listed, and I take the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. I want to give an overview of that region and talk about a very important person in history who was instrumental in ensuring this area was locked up for national park so that it could be appreciated forever. There is a region in that area which has Antarctic beech trees that are up to 300 years old. Some of the root systems in those trees are over 1,000 years old. One person who was critically important in protecting this region was Romeo Lahey because he campaigned for Lamington National Park to be formed. He was a local businessman, the son of a timber-getter in the Canungra region. He was very passionate as a conservationist and he believed in protecting this region because it was a critically important area that was diverse with beautiful rainforests, open scrub et cetera. I would like to quote some of his words about Lamington National Park and the McPherson Range which highlight that ecotourism has been around a long time. He said—

> ... it is a land of mountains, waterfalls, valleys, rivers, scrubs, forests, magnificent panorama and charming spots teeming with native animals and plant life. Its mountains run up to 4000ft. high, and its waterfalls are not equalled outside the State. Within a five mile radius of the head of the Coomera River, there are fifty falls from 20ft to 600ft high, some of them the finest I have ever seen.

These words are from Romeo, a proud and strong Queenslander. His business actually folded because, even though he was a timber-getter, he decided the region needed to be locked up and protected for generations to come. He actually worked with the Queensland government at the time and spoke to Macartney, the then minister for lands, to have the land transferred so it could be protected. It shows that Queensland is built on ecotourism, and there have been generations involved in ecotourism. The Gold Coast is certainly key to that. We have some beautiful areas in the Gold Coast such as the natural arch, Springbrook and Tamborine Mountain. Tamborine Mountain is an ecotourism hive for the Gold Coast. It is something that the Gold Coast is built on. About 30,000 individuals are employed by the tourism industry on the Gold Coast. In the Scenic Rim itself about 1,500 people are employed by the tourism industry. That again shows it is a major and important employer.

Having said that, in the Scenic Rim we also have some of the best dark skies of anywhere in South-East Queensland. This is creating a new type of tourism where people come out to look at the stars. This type of ecotourism is becoming more popular because of the advent of better technology and automatic telescopes. A lot of people are now heading out to the Scenic Rim on a dark night to admire the wonders of the universe. Therefore, it is something we need to look into protecting because city lights cause issues when it comes to dark-sky photography.

I commend the minister for taking a very proactive approach and getting on with the job of ensuring that the Auditor-General's recommendations have been looked into and properly dealt with. It shows that the Crisafulli government is here for ecotourism and tourism on the Gold Coast and in the Scenic Rim. Tourism is one of the most important drivers in our region.

Mr BAILLIE (Townsville—LNP) (3.30 pm): I rise to speak on the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee's report titled *Consideration of Auditor-General report 12: 2022-23—Growing ecotourism in Queensland*. The Auditor-General's report identified a number of important shortcomings of the former Labor government's approach, or lack thereof, when it comes to ecotourism. Most significantly, it found there was no overarching statewide ecotourism policy, resulting in fragmented planning, inconsistent approaches and a lack of clarity regarding the future direction of ecotourism across the state. The report highlighted the absence of a coordinated road map, unclear investment priorities and regulatory processes that were often complex and difficult for proponents to navigate.

The committee heard that the Queensland Audit Office recommended four key reforms. They included: developing a statewide ecotourism policy, establishing a clear road map for implementation, aligning agency plans and priorities, and simplifying approval processes for ecotourism developments. Importantly, the committee found that significant progress has now been made through the release of the Destination 2045 plan as well as the accompanying ecotourism policy *45 by 45: getting ecotourism moving in Queensland.*

Townsville is the tourism capital of the north. With regard to ecotourism, we are rapidly expanding, and we have so many good developments on the horizon. We already have Townsville Billabong Sanctuary, which is a favourite coming up to the school holidays, which start at the end of this week. There is also the Townsville Town Common Conservation Park, which is not as well known. It is a premier destination for world-class birdwatching. I encourage all the birdwatchers out there to come to Townsville and check out our town common conservation park. The wetland and grassland ecosystem provides critical habitat for hundreds of avian species, from the iconic brolga to the migratory shorebirds. It is a must-see for birdwatchers.

Then we turn our attention to Magnetic Island with the majority of the island being national park and on the doorstep of the Great Barrier Reef with dive sites all around the island as well as the underwater museum of art. There is Adrenaline Snorkel & Dive taking tours around the island, watching the sunset with a sailing experience from Pilgrim adventures, ecotours from Poseidon Adventure, our award-winning tourism provider Aquascene doing many dives across the breadth of opportunities in Magnetic Island waters, providing national park as well as whale watching tours which are also provided by SeaLink and many of the providers I have already mentioned. Magnetic Island is also a hotbed of activity when it comes to wild koalas and rock wallabies which can be seen on one of the many walks. People can have breakfast with koalas at Bounce, which earlier this year found themselves without koalas. Thanks to facilitation from the Crisafulli government, they now have two permanent new residents, Max and Coolabah, who are very happy in their new home and welcome visitors on a regular basis.

We can still do more and we are. We are restoring Radical Bay road after it was closed by Labor in 2021 without any community consultation. Even at that time the former member for Townsville said it was important that police, fire and ambulance services were able to access the track with a vehicle in case of an emergency situation. Sadly, that was just another broken promise from Labor because the road was not maintained, resulting in long delays and even emergency vehicles being written off when trying to access tourists who had hurt themselves and needed assistance. Restoring functional access at Radical Bay will allow visitors of all physical abilities, including a large section of the community who cannot currently get there such as elderly, young families and those with physical limitations, to again enjoy that area.

I will quickly turn my attention to Palm Island. The work we are doing there should not be understated. We are kickstarting a tourism master plan with walking trails and new amenity facilities at the ferry terminal as well as investing and delivering, in partnership with the Palm Island council, the cultural walk, which has been a high priority for the local council for over a quarter of a century. Now the Crisafulli government is getting things done and we are delivering for all of North Queensland.

Mr G KELLY (Mirani—LNP) (3.35 pm): I rise to speak on the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee's consideration of the Queensland Audit Office report *Growing ecotourism in Queensland*. I want to acknowledge the Minister for the Environment and Tourism, the Hon. Andrew Powell, and his team for the direction they are taking Queensland's tourism in. There is a buzz around Queensland tourism again. There is optimism in the industry. People are talking about investment, new experiences and what regions have to offer. Importantly, we are asking what we can do to responsibly open up our incredible natural assets rather than starting with all the reasons something cannot happen. Destination 2045 gives Queenslanders a long-term direction and through 45 by 45, the government wants to see 45 world-class ecotourism projects delivered by 2045.

I also acknowledge the work of the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee in looking into this Audit Office report. The committee looked at the original findings and then asked a pretty simple question: has anything actually been done about it? It found that Destination 2045 and 45 by 45 respond directly to the issues raised. That includes having a clear statewide policy, getting government agencies working together, setting clear goals and making the approval process easier to navigate.

There certainly were problems that needed to be fixed. Queensland has natural assets that other destinations around the world would give anything to have. We have the Great Barrier Reef, ancient rainforests, ranges, waterfalls, beaches, islands and extraordinary national parks. However, having a

national park is not enough; you have to look after it. Weeds and pests need to be controlled. Fire needs to be managed properly. Roads, walking tracks, toilets, lookouts and visitor facilities need to be maintained.

Government also needs to work with the people who live beside these places. There is an old saying I have heard plenty of times across regional Queensland: the worst neighbour you can have is a national park. That is a pretty damning thing to hear. Often it comes from people who genuinely care about the environment: farmers, landholders, rural fire volunteers and people who have spent their life looking after the land.

For too long Queensland did not have a clear statewide plan for ecotourism. When it comes to Eungella, there is no doubt about it; that is the place when it comes to ecotourism. If you look at the great wrecking ball that the Pioneer Valley was going to suffer because of the previous government, we had to change that for the people who live there. When we look at what we have we see these places are some of the most pristine on this earth. When it comes to visiting these places it was the Crisafulli government and Minister Powell who recognised what we could do there moving forward.

Whether it be Finch Hatton, Eungella or Top End of the Valley, people knew what was there but did not recognise what they could do with it. Given the decisions made by Minister Powell in terms of where we want to go with Destination 2045, that brings those communities back together and tells the people who live in that valley, as well as the region of Mackay, how important that asset is to those communities when it comes to ecotourism. Whether it is the walks, the rainforests, the platypuses in Broken River, Finch Hatton's bike trails or just having an afternoon with the family, the great region of Mackay has so much to offer. Places like Eungella have put it on the map—where it needs to be—in terms of tourism, because tourism is key to this great state of Queensland.

When it comes to tourism, we should not just recognise the south-east corner. Rural tourism in this great state is the key to getting this state ahead. If there is one thing this state needs it is Eungella. With regard to Minister Powell and the future of Eungella, I get very emotional about it in terms of it being the tourism key we needed to have. Moving forward with Eungella, it is all ahead of us and it has a bright future for the right reasons, not the wrong reasons. Eungella is the key, so well done to those communities for the fight they put up. We are here to support you.

Mr DILLON (Gregory—LNP) (3.40 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee's report titled *Consideration of Auditor-General Report 12: 2022-23—Growing ecotourism in regional Queensland*. Obviously, it was a report commissioned and delivered by the Auditor-General for a period quite some time ago, but due to machinery-of-government changes and then, fortunately, the best machinery-of-government change of all—a change in the parliamentary team from the 57th Parliament to the 58th Parliament—that has delivered us the time to consider the report, which obviously identified the clear systemic failings of Labor, especially in the ecotourism area of this state. An electorate like Gregory does not have the raw rainforests of the Far North or the terrific Great Barrier Reef off the whole eastern seaboard; however, what we do have are horizons. We do have big sky. I want to acknowledge the new director-general of the department and her submission to the inquiry in which she identified a number of issues. She said—

> ... for example, increasing the state's dark-sky tourism experiences, which I think will open up a lot of potential for Queensland across the state, especially in some of our outback regions.

There is no greater example of dark sky than exists at the Age of Dinosaurs Museum in Winton which is administered by the Elliott family. There are broad natural history ecotourism opportunity experiences right throughout the Winton region thanks to the Elliott family, who are great leaders in this state in terms of preserving our natural history. We identified that our state needed a strategy and then saw the failings rectified in such short order by the development of 45 by 45. It is a clear strategy to implement ecotourism initiatives that do not just cherrypick one or two of the great iconic tourism destinations that we have. I, for one, applaud the work that people do in the Great Barrier Reef and in the Far North around the Wangetti Trail, but we need to look right across the state of Queensland at the broad expanses that we have for dark sky.

On top of that, we have beautiful Western Queensland national parks. Whilst they are not the rainforests, if we look at the Carnarvon Gorge National Park between Rolleston and Injune, right on the southern end of my electorate, we see an established ecotourism operation. There are a number of them operating in and around there. There is Sandstone Park—

Mr Stevens: Porcupine Gorge at Hughenden.

Mr DILLON: Porcupine Gorge is a little bit to the north. I take that interjection and will go there if time allows, but I go back to the south and look at the operations that we see in and around Carnarvon Gorge National Park. A very short drive from Emerald, which is a short flight from anywhere in the world, realistically, we see the opportunity with 45 by 45 to expand on the work that is being done there in terms of the new national park acquisitions that are coming online in the Longreach area. We need to have a 'light-footprint approach', to quote the director-general once again, to unlock things that a lot of people only ever see broadcasts of on TV. Instead, we need them to come out and experience these national parks—the raw, rugged beauty of them. Yes, there is the Porcupine Gorge National Park to the north up on the basalt wall and right through to the northern side of Gregory, where there is a wonderful addition. You can jump on the Dinosaur Trail and follow that right the way through to another dark-sky opportunity in the Murweh shire in the wonderful electorate of Warrego.

What we are doing through this plan is not only shining a light on the failures of Labor to look at ecotourism but also delivering a concrete plan under a minister who gets tourism, a minister who understands the natural beauties that exist within Queensland and how to open that up—from simply facilitating better drive itineraries to allow people to experience it in their own surroundings, with their own company in a caravan or a camper, right through to light-footprint stays in national parks and experiencing all that we have to offer in terms of dark-sky and big-horizon country. Nothing beats sitting on the banks of the creeks between Aramac and Muttaburra—and you can pick any one of them—and watching the sun set on a winter afternoon. There is literally not one physical man-made obstruction to that sunset and it truly is one of the more beautiful parts of my electorate.

In closing, I thank all of the members of the committee who contributed to this report and in particular the minister and his director-general, who have contributed more importantly to the solutions that we needed in ecotourism.

Mr DALTON (Mackay—LNP) (3.45 pm): I rise to make a contribution to debate on *Consideration of Auditor-General Report 12: 2022-23—Growing ecotourism in Queensland*. From some of the largest electorates—such as those of my colleagues in Gregory and Mirani—to one of the smaller regional electorates of Mackay, there is an opportunity sitting right on Mackay's doorstep. It is an opportunity to grow tourism, create jobs, support local businesses and showcase some of the most remarkable assets in Queensland. The opportunity is ecotourism. The Queensland government's Destination 2045 tourism strategy—together with getting ecotourism moving in Queensland—recognises the enormous potential of connecting visitors and our natural environment, and the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee has highlighted an important principle: ecotourism must benefit both our economies and our communities.

Mackay has everything we need to make it happen. We have rivers, wetlands, gardens, trails, forests, coastline, wildlife and a rich cultural and industrial history. Take the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens. At approximately 51 hectares, they are more than a beautiful place to walk; they are a living classroom—a place for conservation, education, research and tourism. The Tropical Shade Garden showcases rare and threatened fauna. The Coal Garden tells another uniquely Mackay story—the story of coal and its importance in our region. For me, the botanic gardens have an even more personal connection: it was there in 2004 that I became an Australian citizen, with former mayor Julie Boyd presiding, so for me the gardens represent not just an environment but also Mackay's community and its story.

Then there is Sandfly Creek—a fantastic destination for birdwatchers and nature lovers. Its wetlands provide important habitat for birdlife and connect with the Bluewater Trail. The Bluewater Trail itself has become part of the fabric of our community—just ask Murray MacGroarty. Murray, a dedicated cadet sergeant, took on the extraordinary challenge to raise funds for veterans experiencing homelessness. He completed a massive 382-kilometre journey by repeatedly lapping the Bluewater Trail. That is the power of community assets. A trail can promote exercise, it can attract visitors and connect people with nature, and it can bring the community together behind a cause.

Then we have the Pioneer River, one of Queensland's rare blue rivers, travelling approximately 120 kilometres from the Clarke-Connors Ranges to the Pacific Ocean. It offers opportunities for kayaking, canoeing, fishing, walking and simply enjoying the river with family and friends, including a good old feed of fish and chips at places such as Bluewater Quay. They are experiences modern ecotourists are looking for. You do not just want to see a place; you want to experience it.

Then there is Queens Park and the Ken Burgess Orchid House, showcasing a remarkable collection of rare and exquisite orchids. Again, it is an environmental asset but it is also a visitor experience. Recently, I attended the open day at the wetlands on Keeleys Road supported by the

Pioneer Catchment Landcare group. It was a terrific example of community-based ecotourism in action. There were guided walks, family activities and conservation displays. Visitors were not just looking at wetland; they were learning why it matters, and that is key. Ecotourism does not always mean building something new. Sometimes it means recognising what we already have—protecting it, telling its story and making it an experience for people. Mackay already has those ingredients. Support our local guides, tourism operators, conservation groups, traditional owners and community organisations. We should make sure tourism works with the environment and not against it. The goal should be simple: leave nothing but footprints, taking nothing but photographs and leave our natural environment better protected for the next generation.

Mackay does not need to become something it is not, we simply tell the world what we already have. Our botanic gardens, Sandfly Creek, Bluewater Trail, the Pioneer River, Queen's Park and our wetlands are not separate attractions; they are pieces of the same story. It is a story about a region where nature, community, culture and industry exist side by side. We do not need to invent a new Mackay, we just need to share the Mackay we already have.

Mr VORSTER (Burleigh—LNP) (3.50 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise in this House to not only support this committee report but also support the work of our environment minister who I think is doing an extraordinary job of lifting resources in our natural areas and creating an environment where more people have the opportunity to experience—in a Gold Coast context—the green behind the gold. Of course, the environment minister is no stranger to my fine electorate, having visited on multiple occasions to see the impact of our election commitments which are delivering extraordinary change in areas like Burleigh Head National Park, Tallebudgera Creek Conservation Park, Fleay's conservation park and the Burleigh Knoll Conservation Park. These areas are extraordinarily beautiful. Every time I step into them I realise that, although the sign in the middle of Burleigh village says 'Beautiful Burleigh' is decades old, the reality is that Burleigh has been beautiful since time immemorial.

Unfortunately, under the former government during a decade of decline—dare I say, decades of decline—those who visited the Gold Coast to enjoy and explore these spaces, as locals have done for generations, were quite underwhelmed by how they were being maintained. At first blush, an area like Burleigh Head National Park might look lush and green. The reality is that it had become hopelessly infested by ochna, mile-a-minute vine, asparagus fern, cocos palms and all sorts of invasive species that undermined the natural values of our national park.

We are reversing that. We have delivered $630,000 to supercharge the work of environmental volunteers. We are partnering with contractors and our hardworking Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service team to restore those areas. When visitors come to the Gold Coast seeking out a natural experience to complement that which they might find in the fine electorate of Surfers Paradise or Mermaid Beach—and to seek refuge from the glitter—they can come and enjoy a natural experience along the coast in Burleigh. It is often said that Surfers Paradise might be the jewel in the crown of Gold Coast tourism, but I think the jewels exist in the Burleigh electorate. In my case, sapphire and emerald blend in our gorgeous national parks and waterways.

I want to place on the record my deep desire during my time in this place to see more done to restore, rehabilitate and look after our waterways. I believe our waterways give us an opportunity to not only provide a good natural habitat for marine life but also unlock extraordinary recreational opportunities. I think of the many launch points along Tallebudgera Creek which could give people safe and easy access to explore its length to its mouth and to glimpse the Gold Coast as it was thousands of years ago. These are opportunities that do not currently exist because we had a government that did not take ecotourism seriously. I am highly motivated to support the minister and his work because it is important to bring more people into these spaces. You cannot value what you do not get to experience. Lifting the potential for these experiences will build political, financial and community support to do even more for them.

I conclude by saying that investing in ecotourism and our natural spaces is worth doing. It is part of our great conservative tradition, and it makes economic sense. As a former city councillor I served as an observer on the Destination Gold Coast board supporting tourism businesses. They saw the writing on the wall. They knew that ecotourism was part of our economic future. They were not supported by the then state government. It frustrated them every step of the way but, gladly, we now have a minister who is willing to work in partnership with the sector and local government to act responsibly and to create economic opportunity but to protect the crown jewel: the natural values of these precious spaces.

Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (3.55 pm): I rise to speak to this excellent report by the Auditor-General in relation to ecotourism, and the disappointing fact that over the last 10 years under the Labor government, we have had only three ecotourism projects go ahead in Queensland. There is only one reason this has happened over the past decade. The reality is that the Labor Party cannot win an election without Green preferences. That is true not only at the state level but also at the federal level. In other words, the Labor Party in government dances to the tune of our Greens friends up the back. It is the Labor-Greens alliance that has stopped ecotourism in this state over the last 10 years.

That has changed. We now have a government that will utilise the wonderful ecotourism assets we have in ecotourism in Queensland. We have World Heritage areas. On the Gold Coast, the protected Springbrook National Park is a World Heritage listed area. The member for Mudgeeraba is a great representative for Springbrook and she knows how important that wonderful World Heritage area is. We also have the Daintree up in Cairns. The Skyrail Rainforest Cableway, which glides over the top of the forest canopy, was approved many years ago by the Goss Labor government. Unfortunately, it has 19 towers inside the Daintree National Park, which is one of the oldest rainforests in the world. If you tried to take it away from the tourism sector in Cairns today, you would see how popular it is. That was approved by the Goss Labor government. There were enormous protests. A guy sat in a tree for 12 months—there were 18 months of protests against it—yet the Goss government went ahead and built that wonderful project in Cairns.

As a part of the World Heritage listing, the fourth criterion is that a World Heritage area for designation must be displayed to the public in the best possible manner. You could not find a more wonderful way to showcase the Daintree National Park, allowing elderly people, young people, and people with disabilities to glide over the top of that beautiful forest in Cairns? That is the last project of significance that a Labor government delivered in Queensland. Unfortunately, because of their reliance on Green preferences and the power of some of the strong green advocates—I mention Aila Keto as one of the leading activists not only in Queensland but also Australia—the Labor Party is not game to do anything against their wishes. They fear losing preferences, which cost the Goss Labor government their time in parliament in 1995.

This report highlights the necessity to tie tourism with the environment because they both rely on each other. In fact, green tourism is the fastest growing tourism in the world. For international tourists visiting Australia, Kakadu, Tasmania, the Great Barrier Reef and the Daintree are all major attractions.

Mr McDonald: And the dinosaurs!

Mr STEVENS: We are not talking about me! The bottom line is that we need the areas of tourism and the environment to be combined to get projects done for our international tourists. Many of them, particularly those from Asia, do not want to lie on a beach or go to a theme park; they want to go to the green spaces in Queensland. That is why there is seven per cent growth in international tourism in that green area.

I congratulate the Auditor-General on highlighting the mistakes of the past 10 years. I look forward to our new minister going forward in a proper manner. We have to get over the federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, which is run by the feds under pressure from our green friends. One of our former state members, Murray Watt, is hanging out and causing trouble in Canberra. We will deliver over the top of that and utilise our wonderful Queensland assets to develop the tourism industry in Queensland.

Debate, on motion of Mr Stevens, adjourned.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates

Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (4.00 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, that the Primary Industries and Resources Committee report on the Mineral Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 6 November 2026; that the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee report on the Justice Legislation (Strengthening Victims' Rights) Amendment Bill, the Protecting Queenslanders from Dangerous Prisoners and Strengthening Victims' Rights Amendment Bill and the Victims of Crime Assistance (Victims' Advocate Service) Amendment Bill by 6 November 2026; and that the Education, Arts and Communities Committee report on the Education Legislation (Registration of Early Childhood Teachers) Amendment Bill by 6 November 2026.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (4.01 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 13 October 2026.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

Hon. A LEAHY (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (4.02 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Bail Act 1980, the Criminal Code, the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012, the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Regulation 2023, the Evidence Act 1977, the Explosives Act 1999, the Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Victims' Commissioner and Sexual Violence Review Board Act 2024, the Weapons Act 1990 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights on behalf of the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence.

Tabled paper: Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 [1661].

Tabled paper: Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes [1662].

Tabled paper: Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights [1663].

The Crisafulli government was elected on our commitment to put victims first and hold perpetrators to account. Across Queensland, domestic and family violence continues to place significant pressure on frontline services. Every day, police and first responders are faced with growing complexity and demand as they work to keep victim-survivors safe. We recognise the importance of supporting our front line and are committed to equipping police with the tools and resources to meet these growing challenges.

Following significant reforms already delivered by the Crisafulli government, we are further improving approaches for frontline police officers. The bill will improve the legislative framework for police responses through amendments to the police protection direction framework, the repeal of the police protection notice framework and amendments to the domestic and family violence custody framework. These reforms will reduce unnecessary administrative and operational complexity while maintaining safeguards for victim-survivors, freeing police to focus resources on responding to domestic and family violence matters.

Building on the success of last year's reform, police protection directions will become the primary mechanism for police responding to domestic and family violence. The bill puts protections in place for victim-survivors as soon as possible by extending the duration of PPDs, removing existing restrictions on police issuing a PPD and increasing the range of conditions which police may impose on a respondent as part of a direction. As a result of this reform, police protection notices will be repealed from the legislation, creating a more streamlined framework for frontline police.

The bill also seeks to ensure there is appropriate court oversight in complex circumstances. Police will be required to file a PPD with the court as an application for a protection order in certain circumstances, including where related proceedings are before the court, conditions affecting contact between a respondent and their child are necessary, conditions are required that can only be imposed by a court or where cross-directions are issued. Police will be required in all other cases to consider whether to file a PPD with the court when issuing it. This may be where an officer considers additional judicial consideration is warranted.

The bill modernises the custody framework to further streamline police responses to domestic and family violence. As all limitations on police issuing PPDs are to be omitted, the bill replaces release conditions with PPDs as the principal police response on releasing a person taken into custody in relation to domestic violence. The bill requires that a police officer issue a PPD on releasing a person from custody and consider making an application for a protection order. Where urgent court

consideration is required, police will be required to consider seeking an urgent temporary protection order. The requirement to make a direction and consider applying for a protection order will not apply where a domestic violence order is already in place between the parties. Further, to manage the risk of misidentification, the bill provides that police are not required to issue a PPD naming the person in custody as the respondent if they determine that person is the person most in need of protection.

The bill will enable police to facilitate the recovery of personal property by an aggrieved person through a PPD. It will simplify existing review arrangements by instituting the court review process as the primary avenue for challenging a PPD. At the same time, the bill will provide appropriate administrative flexibility by allowing the Police Commissioner to amend a PPD where necessary or when relevant details have changed. The Police Commissioner will also be able to revoke a direction issued in error, with the effect that the direction no longer forms part of the person's domestic violence history. The safety, protection and wellbeing of the victim and any named person will remain the paramount consideration in all police decision-making.

To ensure the effectiveness of the reforms, a statutory review of the amended PPD framework will commence as soon as practicable after one year of operation. The bill also creates new offences for repeated contraventions of a domestic violence order or a PPD and increases the maximum penalty for contravening a PPD. The creation of new offences recognises that repeated breaches of a domestic violence order or PPD within a short period can indicate an escalating pattern of behaviour, putting victim-survivors at risk of harm. They also provide police and prosecutors with a targeted response where the perpetrator repeatedly disregards conditions. The offences will also provide a clearer and wider range of charging options because, under the Crisafulli government, persistent domestic and family violence offending will not be tolerated.

A respondent will commit one of these new offences where they contravene a condition of a domestic violence order or PPD on at least three occasions within a 28-day period. The offence will carry a maximum penalty of 240 penalty units or five years imprisonment. The bill will also increase the maximum penalty for a breach of a PPD to apply the same penalty that applies to a breach of a domestic violence order. The breach of a direction within five years of a previous contravention will be a circumstance of aggravation attracting the same maximum penalty that currently applies to a further contravention of a domestic violence order. This will align the penalty framework for the PPDs with the framework applying to domestic violence orders and will reinforce the seriousness with which repeated noncompliance will be treated.

The creation of the new offences and alignment of the applicable penalties is important given the expanded role of the PPDs under the reformed framework. Our government makes no apologies when it comes to restoring consequences for criminal behaviour. Respondents who repeatedly engage in domestic and family violence should be subject to consequences, regardless of whether the relevant protection is provided through a court ordered domestic violence order or a police issued direction.

The bill will also strengthen responses to domestic and family violence risks by enabling the court to make or vary a domestic violence order at any stage during or at the end of a proceeding for a domestic violence offence, including where the proceeding ends without a conviction. This will allow the courts to respond to emerging risks and ensure the appropriate protections can be put in place.

The bill also addresses the misuse of court proceedings by persons using violence. Systems abuse can take many forms, including vexatious applications, deliberate delays, noncompliance with court orders or directions, inappropriate access to sensitive material and direct cross-examination of victim-survivors by the alleged perpetrator. The bill will better safeguard victim-survivors from these behaviours and strengthen the court's ability to manage proceedings by strengthening the court's powers to restrict the direct cross-examination of victim-survivors and to manage how sensitive evidence is disclosed and accessed during and after civil domestic and family violence proceedings. It will do this by providing for the aggrieved person for an existing protection order to be recognised as a protected witness for a subsequent proceeding in which they are named as respondent or where cross orders are in place and one person applies to vary an order. This will allow the court, in that subsequent proceeding or related application, to apply the existing protections against cross-examination of aggrieved persons by self-represented respondents to cross-examination of the person most in need of protection.

The bill also strengthens protections relating to sensitive material relied upon in domestic and family violence proceedings by providing courts with greater control over access to evidence, including video recorded evidence-in-chief statements and other sensitive material. Parties will not be entitled to view or obtain copies of such material unless the court is satisfied there is a reasonable purpose for

access and has determined the appropriate safeguards that should apply. This means perpetrators will be prevented from using the court process to further harass or victimise victim-survivors. The Crisafulli government is striking an appropriate balance between ensuring procedural fairness and protecting victim-survivors from further harm. This bill will enable the courts to make tailored orders about how sensitive material may be accessed or viewed, reducing the risk of evidence being misused as a means of harassment, intimidation or coercive control, and the risk of the unauthorised copying and circulating of sensitive material by unrepresented respondents.

Our electronic monitoring pilot has been in place since 1 October 2025 to bolster offenders' compliance with domestic violence orders and enhance the ability of authorities to respond swiftly to breaches. The pilot enables prescribed courts to require a person named as a respondent to be fitted with an electronic monitoring device as a condition of a domestic violence order. Building on the pilot's early implementation, the bill includes amendments to enable the statewide expansion of the pilot. Having regard to the experience from operation in Townsville and Caboolture, the bill will expand the pilot's reach to allow any Magistrates Court in Queensland to impose a monitoring device condition on a domestic violence order where a monitoring device is available.

Expanding the pilot across Queensland will enable more victim-survivors to access the enhanced protections offered through electronic monitoring, in conjunction with specialist safety planning and support services. It will also support an increase in the number of respondents subject to electronic monitoring, strengthening oversight and accountability for perpetrators. This will support a more timely and informed response to potential risks and improve the capacity of authorities to intervene before violence escalates.

The bill will also boost the electronic monitoring pilot by requiring courts to specifically consider whether a monitoring device condition should be imposed in all cases when issuing a domestic violence order with non-standard conditions. The courts are not currently required to consider imposing a monitoring device condition and may only impose a condition where a respondent is charged or convicted of a domestic violence or violent indictable offence or has a history of charges for domestic violence. While the decision to impose a condition ultimately remains a matter for the court, this mandatory consideration is consistent with the prioritisation of the safety of victim-survivors.

These amendments send a strong signal that courts should routinely consider monitoring device conditions in all instances where a respondent satisfies the eligibility criteria. The bill further emphasises this intention by simplifying the exercise of the court's discretion in considering a monitoring device condition. It does this by removing the requirement to consider subjective and contextual matters, enabling courts to focus their decision-making on more practical matters in relation to whether a device would be suitable in the circumstances. By encouraging magistrates to consider monitoring device conditions in more circumstances and across more locations, we are reinforcing our commitment to putting victims first and holding perpetrators to account.

The bill also amends the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Regulation 2023 to allow the Police Commissioner to request monitoring device information where they reasonably suspect the information may assist for a law enforcement purpose such as supporting police investigations and preventing and responding to offending, and protecting community safety should not be underestimated. While the amendment expands the purposes for which monitoring device information may be requested, it does not create an unfettered power to access that information. Each request will continue to be assessed on its individual merits and must be made for a proper and lawful law-enforcement purpose. The Police Commissioner must be satisfied that access to the information is justified in the particular circumstances of the case.

Police will not be empowered by this amendment to obtain information relating to safety devices worn by victim-survivors. Further, access to or use of the information must be reasonable, necessary and proportionate to the law enforcement objective being pursued. These requirements will help ensure the collection, use and disclosure of sensitive monitoring device information appropriately balances community safety outcomes with individual privacy considerations, while providing our police with greater flexibility to utilise monitoring device information where it may assist legitimate law enforcement activities.

The Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 delivers a comprehensive package of reforms that enhances accountability for perpetrators and supports more effective and timely police and justice responses to domestic and family violence. The bill will improve the operation of domestic violence laws, provide the courts and the police with stronger tools to respond to risk, streamline processes for frontline officers and support the continued operation

and expansion of the electronic monitoring pilot. Together, these reforms reinforce our commitment to reducing the devastating impacts of domestic and family violence, because putting victim-survivors first will always be at the centre of Queensland's response to domestic and family violence.

First Reading

Hon. A LEAHY (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (4.19 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 Education, Arts and Communities Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Education, Arts and Communities Committee.

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

Hon. A LEAHY (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (4.20 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, under the provisions of standing order 136, the Education, Arts and Communities Committee report to the House on the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by Friday, 6 November 2026.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

CRIMINAL CODE (DANGEROUS DRIVING) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

TRANSPORT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Criminal Code (Dangerous Driving) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill resumed from 26 June (see p. 2220) and Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill resumed from 26 June (see p. 2223).

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Hon. BA MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (4.21 pm): I move—

That the bills be now read a second time.

Every year, crashes on Queensland roads cause devastating impacts on individuals, families and communities. The numbers are frightening. In 2019, 222 people lost their lives on Queensland roads. In 2024, this number increased to 301. That is a 35 per cent increase over the last five years of the previous Labor government. Last year it was even worse, with 307 lives lost. These are more than growing statistics. These are brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers and friends who are no longer with us—families and communities torn apart, thousands of lives impacted by road trauma. Urgent action is needed to address dangerous driving behaviours and reduce this unacceptable trauma on our roads. Unfortunately, there is no silver bullet that will fix this problem. There is no single action that will reverse this dangerous trend. That is why the Crisafulli government is working on multiple fronts to get people home sooner and safer.

I acknowledge the work done by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, who has put over 800 more officers on the beat—10 times more than the previous government delivered over their last term. That delivers an increased visible police presence on our roads. The Crisafulli government has also invested more to deliver safer roads. This, of course, includes the $9 billion Bruce Highway Targeted Safety Program, an 80-20 partnership with the federal government that will see safety improvements on this vital artery. Government can only do so much. Motorists must also recognise the role they play. Those motorists who do the wrong thing put every road user's life at risk and should be

held to account. That is why we are here today debating the Criminal Code (Dangerous Driving) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I would like to take this opportunity to outline for the benefit of the House the matters addressed by this legislation.

The Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill contains a broad range of reforms to Queensland's transport legislation, but its primary objective is to address road safety. Key initiatives include the introduction of new combined drink- and drug-driving offences, with tougher penalties and longer disqualification periods applying to drivers who choose to drive while impaired by both drugs and alcohol. The bill also strengthens Queensland's response to drug driving by increasing penalties for driving with relevant drugs in a person's system, introducing minimum court imposed fines for drink- and drug-driving offences, and requiring drug-driving offenders to complete a mandatory education program before they can be relicensed. The bill further supports the enforcement efforts by streamlining the roadside drug-testing process. These changes will reduce the time and the resources required to undertake roadside testing, allowing for more efficient enforcement while maintaining the integrity of the testing regime.

The bill also delivers broader transport reforms, led by measures to support the timely and cost-effective delivery of the Wave stage 3 passenger transport services. In addition, it improves transport operations, protects customers and supports the efficient administration of Queensland's transport laws.

The bill was introduced to this House on 26 June this year and referred to the committee for examination. The committee received 20 submissions, held a public briefing and heard directly from stakeholders at a public hearing. I thank the committee, chaired by the member for Lockyer, for its careful examination of the bill. I also want to thank the committee secretariat for supporting that work. I extend my thanks to every individual and organisation that made a submission, appeared at the public hearing or otherwise contributed to the committee's examination of the bill. Their participation gave the committee and the parliament the benefit of a wide range of views and practical experience. The committee recommended that the bill be passed and made no other recommendations. The committee's examination raised a number of important issues covering the drink- and drug-driving reforms, minimum fines, passenger seatbelt offences and administrative licence disqualifications. I will address these matters as I outline the bill's key reforms.

Drink and drug driving continues to put lives at risk on Queensland's roads. The community expects the law to respond firmly when a person chooses to drive after drinking alcohol, taking drugs or both. The evidence provided to the committee demonstrated strong support for decisive action to address impaired driving and the serious risk it poses to road safety. While views differed on some aspects of the bill, there was clear recognition that reform is needed to make Queensland roads safer.

The bill creates combined offences for drivers who commit a drink-driving offence and a drug-driving offence at the same time. This recognises the seriousness of mixing alcohol and drugs before getting behind the wheel. Overall, submitters generally supported the creation of a combined offence; however, some submissions to the committee raised concerns that the new combined offences may impact medicinal cannabis users because roadside testing detects the presence of THC rather than driver impairment. I acknowledge these concerns; however, the Queensland Drug Driving Review, commissioned by the previous government, found there is no scientifically reliable THC threshold or impairment-based roadside test that accurately distinguishes impaired from unimpaired drivers. The review also identified broader concerns about medicinal cannabis prescribing practices, medication misuse, illicit THC products and the increasing crash risks associated with THC. Until these issues are addressed, the safety of all road users must remain our primary consideration.

The bill also streamlines roadside drug testing, increases the maximum penalty for driving with a relevant drug present, and requires drug-driving offenders to complete an education program before they can regain a Queensland driver's licence. This was broadly supported. The bill recognises the significant advancements in roadside drug-testing technology since legislation was first enacted which has now rendered the current second screening test redundant. Although some submitters raised concerns about the removal of a second roadside test, I can confirm that the existing process, where specimens are analysed in a scientific laboratory, is being retained. The removal of the redundant second roadside screening test is designed to improve efficiency without compromising evidentiary integrity.

The bill introduces minimum court imposed fines for drink- and drug-driving offences. I make no apology for taking a strong position against drink and drug driving. The increased penalties will better reflect the seriousness of the offending and send a clear message that dangerous behaviour is

unacceptable and that choosing to drive while impaired will have strong consequences. I would remind those who raised concerns about these consequences during the committee process that they are completely avoidable if motorists do the right thing.

The bill also improves the process for administrative disqualifications for low-range drink-driving offences. These changes are designed to make the process operate more clearly and consistently for the courts, enforcement agencies and affected drivers.

The bill strengthens the immediate response to extreme speeding. A driver detected at the roadside committing a high-range speeding offence will be subject to immediate licence suspension to reflect the imminent danger that a person travelling at those speeds creates for everyone around them.

Further, seatbelt reforms will address the practical operation of the camera-detected offences. A registered operator will be able to nominate the passenger responsible for a camera detected passenger seatbelt offence. The bill also removes demerit points for passenger seatbelt offences, but the financial penalty will remain. This approach maintains a strong deterrent while better directing responsibility for the offending conduct.

In addition, the bill addresses a technical issue affecting evidentiary certificates used to establish the calibration of speed cameras. The amendment will support the effective prosecution of camera detected speeding offences while preserving the ordinary safeguards that apply to evidence in court proceedings.

The bill also addresses a number of other matters. This includes the facilitation of the timely and cost-effective procurement and delivery of the Wave stage 3 passenger transport services. The Wave is one of the most significant public transport projects for the Sunshine Coast. The amendment provides the legal certainty needed to progress procurement of these services efficiently and deliver better public transport connections for the region.

The bill also includes a range of practical reforms across the transport portfolio. It protects personal information by preventing vehicle registration information from being released to private car park operators for parking enforcement. It streamlines the process available for private car park owners wishing to partner with their local government to enforce parking restrictions, and also confirms that local governments can make local laws to regulate the parking of trailers.

For rail safety, the bill simplifies the way that drug and alcohol testing laboratories and devices are prescribed. This will make it easier to keep the regulatory framework current without weakening safety requirements.

The bill supports customers obtaining a strong, biometrically bound Queensland Digital Identity and allows photo identification card replacement fees to be waived for victims of crime. We are doing this because our government—the Crisafulli government—is on the side of victims.

The bill also enables the removal and disposal of watercraft that are unlawfully aground in regulated waters. This provides a practical response where grounded watercraft interfere with the safe and effective management of those waterways.

Since the bill was introduced, several additional matters have been identified that require resolution. To that end, I intend to move amendments during consideration in detail. These amendments do not arise from the committee's report and do not change the central policy of the bill. They address separate legal, operational and drafting issues that have been identified as work on the transport statute book has continued.

The amendments will align the bill with the Criminal Code (Dangerous Driving) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, which we are debating in cognate. They will refine the review framework for severe hardship permit decisions, clarify the operation of evidentiary certificate provisions and update a cross-reference in transport legislation. These are targeted amendments. Their practical effect is to make the law clearer, ensure related reforms work together and avoid unnecessary uncertainty for courts, enforcement agencies and affected Queenslanders. During consideration in detail, I will table the explanatory notes and the statement of compatibility with human rights for these amendments for the assistance of the House.

I will now briefly address the matters covered by the Criminal Code (Dangerous Driving) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill ensures there is an appropriate framework in the Criminal Code to recognise the seriousness of these offences and to hold offenders accountable. The bill will repeal existing dangerous-driving offences and replace them with a stronger, clearer and more modern framework, including four categories of offending covering motor vehicles and non-motor vehicles.

To recognise the different risks and culpability associated with conduct involving motor vehicles and conduct involving non-motor vehicles, the new framework separates offending involving motor vehicles such as cars, motorbikes and buses from offending involving non-motor vehicles such as bicycles, e-scooters and boats. The bill creates two new offences related to dangerously driving a motor vehicle. One offence captures driving that does not cause death or grievous bodily harm to another person. Another more serious offence captures driving that does cause death or grievous bodily harm.

The bill also introduces a range of other targeted reforms, including: increasing maximum penalties, particularly for motor vehicle offences, including up to five or seven years imprisonment where no death or grievous bodily harm is caused and up to 16 or 25 years imprisonment where death or grievous bodily harm occurs; increasing minimum licence disqualification periods with tougher consequences for offences involving death or grievous bodily harm, aggravated offending and repeat offenders; and expanding mandatory imprisonment requirements for serious and repeat dangerous-driving offenders, ensuring jail sentences apply in more circumstances. I look forward to the Attorney-General providing additional information about that bill during her contribution to the debate.

The bills before the House are practical legislation designed to target dangerous drivers and reduce road trauma. Taken together, these reforms strengthen Queensland's approach to road safety. They target high-risk behaviour, support safer choices and ensure our enforcement processes work effectively in practice. We want fewer families receiving the knock on the door that brings the worst news possible. That is what this legislation aims to deliver. I commend the bills to the House.

Mr MELLISH (Aspley—ALP) (4.35 pm): I rise to speak primarily to the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. After a record number of deaths on our roads under the LNP, Queensland Labor welcomes the Crisafulli government's recognition of the importance of road safety. The stronger measures needed to address dangerous driving behaviours across our state should have roots in evidence and deliver greater justice. Unfortunately, this bill falls short. Instead of striking the right balance between public safety and individual rights, the LNP government uses road safety as a crutch to justify measures unsupported by evidence, to remove judicial discretion and to disadvantage everyday Queenslanders.

This bill would increase penalties for presence-based drug-driving offences, introduce mandatory minimums and reduce transparency across bus contracts. The government's poor handling of the drug-driving review tells Queenslanders everything they need to know about how the LNP operates. We were just one of many voices calling for the government to release the findings of the DTMR review into drug-driving laws. Refusal and resistance persisted until the LNP quietly published the review's findings the day it introduced the bill. The department's review concluded that no legislative changes should be made at this time, yet here we are debating substantial changes to increase penalties and reduce existing safeguards.

The review of Queensland's drug-driving laws, commissioned in 2023 under the then Palaszczuk Labor government, asked a simple question: should Queensland change its existing approach to drug driving? The overwhelming majority of respondents engaging in the consultations supported changing the laws to support medicinal cannabis users. In fact, less than one per cent called for stronger laws. We know that the LNP has a strong history of backing the one per cent.

This bill represents the Crisafulli LNP government's failure to differentiate between impaired drug driving and presence-based drug driving. Queensland already has some of the highest fines in Australia, yet this bill would increase existing financial penalties and introduce mandatory minimum fines for impaired drink- and drug-driving offences. Penalty units for a presence-based drug-driving offence will now double from 14 to 28, with a maximum fine of over $4,600.

Appearing before the committee, the RACQ said that stronger road safety laws have to come with stronger enforcement. They have called for 'greater police presence on our roads' with high-range speeding penalties backed up by improved speed detection and more police patrols. The RACQ stated that research shows people change their behaviour when they think they are being observed and monitored. That is what is missing here. As we heard during the e-mobility inquiry earlier in the year, police were asked to divert road enforcement resources to a Christmas crackdown on e-mobility all because the government had not sorted its legislation out yet. Despite all of this disappointing LNP bravado of reducing road enforcement policing and being tough on crime, we have not seen any additional police resources committed to support their approach on road policing.

This bill would also introduce mandatory minimum court imposed fines for drink- and drug-driving offences. Currently, Queensland's courts allow for the consideration of individual circumstances in each case, providing the magistrates with the discretion to review an offender's personal circumstances and consider exceptional hardships. This discretion matters because not every case is the same.

Legal Aid Queensland cautioned that mandatory minimum penalties would reduce the magistrates' ability to appropriately deal with exceptional cases and could result in increased financial hardship and SPER debt. The Queensland Law Society highlighted the practical consequences of mandatory minimum fines, highlighting the simple truth that two people may technically commit the same offence while being in vastly different circumstances. Professor Gannon says that forcing repeat offenders to 'face higher fines and potentially jail time is not supported by science, does not work and will not address their underlying health needs'. These differences deserve consideration. There is no one-size-fits-all approach.

If we are serious about reducing risks on our roads, we have to first address the reasons drivers offend. That is why Queensland Labor supports the delivery of greater education and rehabilitation programs to reduce offending and improve road safety outcomes. Experts like Professor Armstrong told the committee that effective education must be tailored, with different drivers requiring different interventions, but we have our concerns over the lack of detail for the government's program scope and no clear funding commitment for its delivery.

The Alcohol and Drug Foundation argues that Queensland can maintain strong drug-driving laws while adopting a more targeted and evidence-based approach to medicinal cannabis. This requires policies that identify and respond to impairment rather than relying solely on the detection. We know that Queensland has one of Australia's largest medicinal cannabis patient populations. These roughly 300,000 Queenslanders are more than just a number. They are everyday Queenslanders suffering with chronic pain. They are cancer patients trying to manage their symptoms. They are pensioners. They are rural and regional Queenslanders who live in areas where driving is a necessity. They are veterans—veterans who have written to me out of fear. They are scared that harsher penalties for the presence of a legal prescribed drug that works for them could force them back onto stronger opioid-based medications to manage their conditions.

Medicinal cannabis users have described the impossible situation they face, having to choose between genuine medical advice and risk losing their licence or abandoning effective treatment to keep their mobility and independence. This is not a choice that should be forced on anyone. We believe that anyone who gets behind the wheel while impaired on drugs, no matter the drug, should be held responsible. Our laws should target dangerous driving behaviours and protect road users. They should not punish the use of a medical treatment where impairment cannot be demonstrated.

When the government say that it is too hard, that there is just no way to account for unimpaired drivers who provide a positive roadside test, they fail to account for the other states that have done the work. As former magistrate David Heilpern said, 'Queensland is out of touch with the rest of Australia.' States across Australia show us that governments striking the right balance between public safety and individual rights is possible. The Minns Labor government in New South Wales has revised their drug-driving laws, providing a carve-out for medicinal cannabis users. In Tasmania, medicinal cannabis use does not prevent your ability to drive. Users can legally drive unimpaired when THC is still detectable. Mr Heilpern goes on to say, 'There is absolutely no evidence that medicinal cannabis users, using consistently within their prescription, have increased road trauma anywhere.' If other states can manage road safety while acknowledging the difference between impairment and presence, why can't Queensland?

It is clear that, with this bill, the LNP is putting ideology over evidence. Whilst the government is desperately trying to maintain its 'tough on dangerous driving behaviours' facade, it plots to rip $300 million out of the Camera Detected Offence Program in future budgets—revenue that under the TO(RUM) Act must be used to fund road safety education and awareness, and infrastructure to improve road safety. In doing so, the LNP may contravene the TO(RUM) Act, displaying their total lack of integrity in this process. They cannot claim to be tough on road safety when they are attempting to claw back funding meant to support road safety measures.

I know that members of my community are frustrated over the increasing incidences of hooning and antisocial behaviour on our roads. I know that the member for Logan has a lot of issues in his area, too. Ripping away these funds is a real slap in the face for all those who have advocated for more cameras and an increased police presence in our communities. We only know about this creative accounting decision because of leaked documents obtained by Channel 7. It was never declared by the government.

This bill will ensure the LNP's flagship public transport offering—what some may call an expensive bus—will be delivered shrouded under a wave of secrecy. This bill would remove existing safeguards in the TO(PT)A designed to help the bus industry, all under the guise of a timely and

cost-effective procurement and delivery of the Wave stage 3. The Queensland bus industry rejects this. The Queensland Bus Industry Council is concerned about these changes and how they could disadvantage existing local small and family businesses and instead benefit large consortia.

The amendments would exempt the Wave stage 3 from the existing passenger transport contracting framework, removing existing protections like seven-year contract limits, amendments to contracted routes and areas, contract termination, and compensation where a contract is not awarded. These changes would alter the existing balance between government flexibility and the rights of the industry and their sense of certainty. The Crisafulli LNP government is hiding behind efficiency efforts to push through this legislation that would reduce competition and harm the industry and potentially favour their donors. This should concern every Queenslander.

The bus industry argued, 'If the Wave stage 3 is a public passenger transport service, and if it is to be contracted under TO(PT)A, then existing operators should not be denied their ordinary rights merely because the department describes the service as new, complex, integrated or Olympic related.' Efficiency should not come at the expense of transparency. The bus industry has fears for the removal of existing operator rights and the potential closed tendering processes. They are right to be worried, because these are not just minor administrative changes made in a vacuum. They are simply the latest in a series of changes from this government to diminish public oversight over how taxpayer dollars are spent and significant public transport infrastructure is delivered.

Queenslanders deserve to have faith that major transport projects are subject to fair competition, an open procurement process and appropriate oversight. Instead, with this bill, the LNP asks Queenslanders to simply trust them—to trust a government that has shown no cause to be trusted. Queensland Labor's attempts to advocate for the bus industry fell on deaf ears, with QBIC denied the opportunity to appear before the committee to put its concerns on the record. What are they trying to hide? What is this procurement about? Is this about the $5 billion cost of the Wave—again, not declared by the government but found out by Channel 7? Are they trying to smooth the cost of this to beyond the forward estimates and beyond the 2032 Olympics?

The Premier promised that his government would listen to the experts, but they failed to consult the bus industry on these important amendments that go to the very heart of their industry. This is the latest in a series of broken promises by the LNP, just like the ultimate broken promise of delivering heavy rail to Maroochydore—no ifs, no buts, no maybes.

This bill sums up everything we have come to know about how this government operates—ignoring evidence that does not suit its narrative, dismissing stakeholder concerns, limiting consultation and ultimately reducing transparency. We have seen some last-minute amendments come in as well. We have a couple of hours to look at these, unlike the 10 minutes the minister gave us last time. It is still very poor form and typical of this government. Queenslanders deserve better.

Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (4.46 pm): The Crisafulli government's focus on victims means accountability and consequences for offenders. With stronger laws to make Queensland safer, including on the roads that permeate this vast state, whether commuting to work or returning home to loved ones, clocking up the kilometres to visit family and friends, or just simply setting out on school holidays, which are upon us again, most Queenslanders who get behind the wheel do the right thing. They follow the rules. They take care. They share the road cautiously. Yet in an instant it can turn to tragedy with the fatal or serious harm done by a dangerous driver—innocent lives forgone, families shattered, communities torn.

That is why the Crisafulli government is sending a clear message that high-risk driving behaviour will not be tolerated under a strengthening of laws for dangerous driving related offences. Too often grieving families have been let down by the system—people like Letitia Smith-Saunders, who is in the gallery today. I really want to acknowledge Letitia. Three years ago today to the day, her baby brother died after being hit by a drink driver who had lost his licence six times before. He was hit coincidentally on my birthday and passed two weeks later—three years to the day today. While Dawlon Smith-Saunders will not get to grow up, his name will forever be in the pages of history as a catalyst for change. I thank Letitia for being in the gallery today. I also acknowledge Steven Dennis, who I know is listening, and I will turn to his tragedy later in my contribution. My gratitude goes to the committee and those organisations and individuals who made submissions and gave evidence. Again, I want to acknowledge the families and friends who have lost loved ones from dangerous driving.

I note that the committee tabled its report on the bill on 14 August 2026 and made two recommendations: first, that the bill be passed; second, that the Queensland government consider the merits of creating a specific offence of knowingly participating directly or indirectly in an unlawful race or speed trial that results in, or contributes to, the death of, or grievous bodily harm to, another person.

This recommendation is accepted in principle. The Crisafulli government acknowledges the need to better recognise the seriousness of unlawful racing and speed trials. I am currently working through the changes required to better achieve that outcome. I table the government's response to the committee's report. I foreshadow that I propose to move some technical amendments to the bill during consideration in detail.

Tabled paper: State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 30, 58th Parliament—Criminal Code (Dangerous Driving) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, government response [1664].

The bill ensures there is an appropriate framework in the Criminal Code to recognise the seriousness of these offences and to hold offenders accountable. The bill replaces the existing offence provisions in the Criminal Code with a new chapter that sets out a clear and contemporary offence framework for dangerously driving, operating, or interfering with driving or operating a vehicle. I acknowledge that most stakeholders were generally supportive of the new framework—but obviously not the opposition.

The bill creates two new offences relating to dangerously driving a motor vehicle. One offence captures driving that does not cause death or grievous bodily harm to another person; another more serious offence captures driving that does cause death or grievous bodily harm. To ensure the new dangerous driving offences apply to the same types of vehicles as other driving offences such as drink driving, drug driving and speeding, the bill adopts the definition of motor vehicle under the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995 for the purpose of the new offences.

Importantly, the bill addresses gaps in the current circumstances that aggravate the offences. One important change is the inclusion of drug driving. The bill recognises the dangers of drug driving and adopts the same zero tolerance approach as transport legislation. The new framework introduced by this bill provides that a dangerous driving offence is aggravated if a person commits the offence when they have MDMA, methamphetamine, cocaine or THC in their system. This means that dangerous drug drivers will be accountable for the full extent of their behaviour and will be subject to an aggravated penalty. They will no longer be able to circumvent the full consequences of the dangerous behaviour through evidentiary technicalities, an ordeal that Gympie's Steven Dennis and his family have endured after losing his wife, Kathleen, and when his son Luke was seriously injured in 2022. I acknowledge the advocacy to the member for Gympie and myself from Steven Dennis and his family to ensure his wife's legacy will be remembered. In one small way we are hopefully doing that today with this monumental change. Drug drivers should not be on our roads.

Under the new framework introduced by the bill, both offences relating to dangerously driving a motor vehicle will be aggravated if the offender: is under the influence of alcohol or a drug; is over the high alcohol limit; has a prescribed drug in their blood or saliva; is excessively speeding or taking part in an unlawful race or speed trial; is disqualified from holding or obtaining a driver's licence or their licence or authority to drive is suspended; has been convicted of a prescribed offence in the past five years; leaves the scene if a person has been killed or injured other than to obtain help before a police officer arrives; commits an offence of evading police.

Additionally, to better recognise the seriousness of dangerously driving a motor vehicle, the bill increases the maximum penalties for these offences. These strengthened maximum penalties are complemented by increased minimum periods of disqualification from holding or obtaining a licence. To make clearer the sanctions applying to dangerous driving offences, the bill relocates the provisions regarding disqualifications to the Criminal Code.

Importantly, the bill also strengthens consequences for repeat offenders. The bill provides that the court must impose imprisonment as the whole or part of the punishment if a person convicted of dangerous driving has been previously convicted of dangerous driving causing death or grievous bodily harm or careless driving causing death or grievous bodily harm or has been twice previously convicted of dangerous driving, a drink- or drug-driving offence, or an indictable offence involving driving a motor vehicle in a way that causes, or is likely to cause, injury or death.

These measures reflect the Crisafulli government's commitment to holding offenders accountable, with the bill ensuring the penalties for dangerously driving reflect the seriousness of the offending and the harm caused. As part of the new framework the bill also creates two new offences for interfering dangerously with driving a motor vehicle. Consistent with the new offences for dangerous driving, one offence captures conduct that does not cause death or grievous bodily harm and another more serious offence captures behaviour that does cause death or grievous bodily harm.

Reflecting the increased risks associated with the dangerous use of motor vehicles, the maximum penalties for interfering dangerously with driving offences are the same as the maximum penalties for the dangerous driving offences. However, the circumstances that aggravate the dangerous interference offence are much narrower than the dangerous driving offence.

The new framework introduced by the bill also creates similar offences in relation to the other types of vehicles—that is, non-motor vehicles. There are two new offences relating to dangerously operating a non-motor vehicle and two new offences relating to interfering dangerously with operating a non-motor vehicle. Dangerous drivers are putting lives at risk, and these changes will ensure this reckless and selfish behaviour draws serious repercussions. By prioritising victims and increasing penalties the bill strikes the right balance—holding offenders to account and helping prevent future dangerous driving tragedies.

We cannot bring Dawlon and Kathleen back, but we can honour and recognise them by changing the laws to protect innocent people who are going about their daily lives. Where offenders have been repeat, hardcore offenders it is not okay. That is exactly why the Crisafulli government will always stand up for the rights of victims over the rights of offenders.

Ms BUSH (Cooper—ALP) (4.56 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the cognate debate on the bills. As the deputy chair of the committee that oversaw these bills, I thank our committee members, the state development committee members, and all of the submitters who gave their time and expertise to both of these inquiries. I am going to start my contribution with the transport bill and, in the time I have, the drug-driving provisions. I want to look at what that means for Queenslanders who have been lawfully prescribed medicinal cannabis who will be included as part of these bills.

Of course every member here would put road safety at the centre of this debate. No-one here would suggest that people should be driving while impaired, whether that impairment is caused by alcohol, an illicit substance or even prescribed medicine. We do need to ask whether the laws are measuring impairment, and therefore risk, or whether in some cases they are in fact criminalising the presence of a substance without establishing that the person was impaired.

This bill strengthens Queensland's drug-driving framework through new combined drink- and drug-driving offences and changes to testing and penalties, but it does not resolve the longstanding problem for medicinal cannabis patients. Queensland's current approach to THC remains presence based. It does not detect impairment. In fact, there is no test that will detect impairment; it only detects presence. This issue was raised repeatedly throughout the committee hearings and it is reflected in our statement of reservation.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Marr): There is too much chatter, thank you, members.

Ms BUSH: It is a real issue for Queenslanders. I do not think I really appreciated the breadth and depth of this problem until I started to engage in this committee. Given that Queensland has the highest prescription rates of medicinal cannabis nationwide, and that is growing, it is something that this government is going to have to grapple with.

It has been legally available in Australia for a decade and its use has increased substantially. The research is continuing to develop and our laws also have to be capable of developing. During the public briefing I asked the department for an update on the government's response to Queensland's independent drug-driving review. The department said that this bill is their response to that review. I find that quite disappointing because the evidence before us suggests that a lot more work is needed, so I hope this is not the end of the line for this issue.

The Alcohol and Drug Foundation told the committee that Queensland has one of the largest medicinal cannabis patient populations in Australia and that the current framework does not distinguish between someone who is impaired and someone who has detectible THC as a consequence of lawful and therapeutic use. Their position was not that medicinal cannabis should be exempt from road safety laws; it was that our laws should be 'fair, proportionate and sufficiently scientifically informed'. The evidence to the committee pointed to research showing 'little or no measurable impairment' in some prescribed patients, even when THC remains detectable. Our current approach was designed when cannabis was treated solely as an illicit substance. Clearly, those circumstances have changed but our drug-driving legislation has not kept pace.

Earlier this week I hosted a forum on medicinal cannabis and driving. I want to thank the people who came to that and trusted our team with their stories. We heard from a lot of veterans. They are one of the biggest cohorts affected by medicinal cannabis and driving and that intersection of the legislation. We heard from endometriosis patients who had spent years trying to get a diagnosis and treatment.

We heard about their exhaustion living with chronic pain and complex conditions. They are often prescribed things like opioids, which are actually impairing in themselves but are not tested as part of a roadside detection. People are shifting to medicinal cannabis because it is less impairing, yet they cannot drive with that substance in their system. Their stories are really important because they are the human face of the legislation we are discussing here.

For rural and regional Queenslanders, the consequences are particularly severe. For someone in the regions, losing their licence can mean losing the ability to work, attend medical appointments or live independently. The consequences of what we are debating are quite significant. Again, this is where the inconsistency becomes really difficult to defend. Opioids can impair driving, benzos can impair driving, and many prescribed medicines can affect alertness, reaction time and judgement. We do not generally criminalise people for taking prescribed medications that are detected in their body, yet THC can expose a patient to the criminal law simply based on presence, not impairment.

I am not suggesting there is a simple legislative fix to this, but a difficult policy problem is an argument for more research and engagement, not for ending the conversation. I would really encourage members in this House who may not be across this area, as I was not, to reach out to your veteran communities and have a chat to them. If you can gain their trust, a lot of them will disclose to you their usage and their prescriptions. There is still a lot of stigma for people—there should not be—around being prescribed medicinal cannabis. It is a really worthwhile conversation to have because this problem is not going to go away.

The second bill before us deals with what happens when dangerous driving causes devastating harm. The Criminal Code (Dangerous Driving) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill reforms dangerous-driving offences and increases penalties, including where death or GBH occurs. We support consequences for dangerous actions. When somebody makes a decision to drive dangerously and a person is harmed or killed, the law absolutely should reflect the seriousness of that behaviour.

The committee heard from people about the impacts of that behaviour, and I want to particularly acknowledge Jasmin and Raymond Bermudo, who spoke of their son Kyle. Kyle was 21 years old and a nursing student when he was struck and killed by a vehicle involved in an illegal street race when he was walking home in March 2024. His parents told the committee about their grief but also what followed through the justice system. One driver was imprisoned, but charges against the second participant relating to Kyle's death were discontinued for various reasons, including that the judge found that the person had eased off the accelerator.

Jasmin and Raymond told us a lot of stories around how that affected them. They invited parliament to consider a specific offence for illegal street racing causing GBH or death so the law can properly consider the responsibility of all participants in those street races, particularly when catastrophic harm like this is caused. The committee listened to that and made a recommendation. It was heartening to hear the Attorney-General talk about that recommendation today being in-principle accepted by the government. I want to thank the Bermudo family for pursuing that reform.

There is another issue I want to mention before my time is up. The Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group gave evidence to us about a gap in specialist support for families who lose someone through criminal dangerous driving where the offence is not prosecuted as murder or manslaughter but as a dangerous driving causing death charge. The Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group is not funded to pick those families up at the moment, yet those families spend years navigating the justice system, their own grief, investigations, court proceedings, coronial processes, financial assistance and eventually parole processes.

The Queensland homicide group estimated about 30 families a year fall into that gap and they should not have to navigate that system alone. I think there is a crucial service delivery gap here that the government needs to resolve. In fact, the government's own member for Capalaba has spoken about this gap in service delivery. I am very disappointed that the committee did not make a recommendation on this. There is clearly a service delivery gap there at the moment for people who lose someone through dangerous driving causing death. There is very limited support for them so it would be good to see the government lean into that and provide some funding and assistance or some kind of navigation pathway for those people.

I want to thank everyone who participated in both inquiries: the committee secretariat, departmental officials, advocates, researchers, legal organisations and all of the people with lived experience. I particularly thank those people with lived experience because it takes a lot to come before a committee and open up and talk candidly about issues which are difficult to talk about. I want to thank them for doing that and I thank my fellow members on both sides for listening so earnestly. Good law

depends on parliaments being willing to listen to the evidence, to the experts and to the people who live with the consequences of the laws that we make. There is more work to do on both of these issues and I do hope we can continue that work in that spirit.

Mr McDONALD (Lockyer—LNP) (5.05 pm): It is a privilege to rise and speak on these two cognate bills as chair of the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee. At the outset, I pay tribute to my fellow committee members for the work they have done on this and the collegiate way we approached these two bills. We heard some tragic stories from families, particularly Stephen Dennis and Jasmin and Raymond Bermudo, who spoke to us about their personal experiences. They showed great courage by coming forward and sharing their tragic stories when they had lost their loved ones. We listened intently.

Members in the House know my background, and it was a privilege for me to be able to work on these bills. As a former officer in charge of police at Laidley, and more importantly as a forensic crash investigator, I dealt with the transport operations act and the Criminal Code, particularly 328A and dangerous operation of a motor vehicle. I take great pride and personal satisfaction in having worked on this because one of the reasons I left the police was to help restore laws in Queensland that gave police the powers and the resources they need to make Queensland safe.

Whilst this is a long way from Adult Crime, Adult Time and the other things we are working on and have worked on to make Queensland safer, this is also a key part of rationalising some of the penalties and changes to the transport bill and the dangerous operation of a vehicle section in the Criminal Code with a view to keeping people safe on the road. There are three aspects to keeping people safe on the road. There is the enforcement aspect and ensuring police have the powers, which this is a large part of; there is the education component; and there is the engineering component. As the Minister for Transport and Main Roads said, the Crisafulli government is spending a record $55.9 billion on investment in Queensland's road network, including $9 billion on the Bruce Highway. We have seen some more recent investment in the Warrego Highway which I appreciate. Whilst this bill is not all about the investment in those things, you cannot do one without the other. There has to be enforcement and education as well as the engineering solutions. I will continue to fight to see those improvements occur right across Queensland.

One of the most satisfying things for me in this bill was the streamlining of the roadside drug-testing process. Since 2007 there has been drug testing in Queensland and that requires three tests. There is an initial roadside test and then there is a second test, a saliva test. Both of those are non-evidentiary tests. Because of the improvements in technology in recent years, that first and second test have shown that there can be 100 per cent reliance on that first test. There is no change from the first test to the second test. I really appreciate the minister working on that and seeing the department streamline that because that could save between 10 and 20 minutes per individual test on the roadside. That is a game changer for police doing their job. If that is multiplied by the number of tests across the state, we can see that is a huge efficiency. More importantly, that means police are able to do more tests and catch more people who are doing the wrong thing. We want to reward drivers doing the right thing and ensure the road toll is as low as possible.

I was a bit disappointed that the shadow minister came in here and talked about the road toll for this year. What he failed to do was talk about Labor's record over the last 10 years when it went from 222 to over 300 during that period.

Mr Bailey: The lowest on record. Be fair.

Mr McDONALD: It was an increase over 10 years.

Mr Bailey: You're a police officer. You would know.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Marr): Member for Miller, your interjections are not being taken.

Mr Bailey: Be fair.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Miller.

Mr McDONALD: It increased from 222 to 310 over 10 years and then it has gone down over the last two years. I do not think it is very kind for people to come in here on such a serious and important bill and talk about a specific year. I welcome those changes, particularly around streamlining the road-testing process.

Again I want to pay tribute to the witnesses who shared their stories. I have been able to meet with a number of people who have been concerned about the issue of medicinal cannabis. This is from the medical perspective—from doctors as well as from patients—about seeing what we can do. I listened intently to them and I said I would take that on board. I have sought advice, the best advice we could get. The best advice is that there is no test for the impairment of people who are affected by drugs. Work is continuing in that space but there is no test for the impairment of drugs. I have met with many people who have benefited from using medicinal cannabis and I really think if that is what helps them, they should continue to pursue that. However, they have to be responsible when they get behind the wheel of a car. Until they can actually test that impairment level from those drugs, unfortunately, through the lens of road safety, you cannot say it is okay if you do not know. You cannot just guess and say, 'She'll be right, mate.'

There is a reason we believe now in .05, .03, .08 and .15; we know very well what that means and the testing is robust. Technology is improving and there will be testing in place within our lifetime that will show what the impairment caused by those drugs may mean for different people. Until that time, through the lens of road safety there is just no choice to make but to say, 'No, you can't do it.' I really appreciate the advice that people have given to me and I thank them for that. I can assure them that we have listened and we will continue to work in that space to ensure we get the best outcomes for all concerned.

Whilst I am on the subject of road safety, I do have to say that bringing the offences of drug driving and drink driving together is sensible. Also, the changes that have been made under the transport legislation regarding fines and some of the changes that have streamlined those processes are going to make it easier for those officers on the road, whether they be police or Queensland Transport officers, to take the actions they need.

In terms of the background for dangerous operation of a vehicle, it was 1943 when section 328A was brought into the Criminal Code in its current form. I am very pleased to see the complete review of the offence provisions in this legislation. I was very concerned. As some members in this place may know, back in 2023 the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill included some work that I had been part of with regard to protecting the rights of an unborn child. This was in relation to a 38-week unborn child, Sophie Milosevic, who was taken from her parents in a terrible crash. I wanted to ensure, as did Sarah and Peter, her parents, that these changes to this piece of legislation are not going to impact those changes. I can assure Sarah and Peter that these changes are not going to impact what is Sophie's Law under the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill that was passed on 13 September 2023. I was very pleased when the department and the Attorney-General's office came back and assured us that the changes made within this piece of legislation will not affect that—or the Evidence Act or the Penalties and Sentences Act—so that those children can be named and those offenders can be punished.

I will finish where I started and say thank you to all of those witnesses and submitters to the bill. Thank you to my colleagues on the committee and the secretariat for the great work that we did on this in quite a bipartisan approach. Thank you very much to the Crisafulli government for continuing to listen to the committee process and to the voices of road safety to deliver for Queensland and ensure we make improvements not just in the resources, the infrastructure and the roads but also in the laws that have needed to change.

Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (5.15 pm): Road safety is something I have taken very seriously all of my life, not just as a minister or an MP. In fact, I can pinpoint the date: 5 April 1988 when my cousin, a very promising RAAF officer, died on the roads near Inglewood. I have often been pretty tough on road safety and unashamedly so. I welcome the fact that the Crisafulli government has finally got around to some road safety legislation after two years in power—better late than never. Labor will support both bills. We support stronger consequences for dangerous driving and sensible measures that improve road safety.

Let us start with the poor record because, let's face it, the number of lives lost on Queensland roads under the Crisafulli government has been escalating and it has been shocking. In 2019 under Labor, and during my fifth year as the main roads minister, we saw 220 people lose their life on Queensland roads—the lowest annual road toll since records began in 1952. I refer to the comments by the member for Lockyer. That was a significant achievement on the back of a lot of reform. It did not happen by accident. Under Labor's 2015-21 Road Safety Strategy there were more than 130 initiatives that we delivered, including $1.2 billion through the Targeted Road Safety Program for intersection upgrades, safer roadside barriers, shoulder widening and other treatments. We introduced world-leading mobile phone and seatbelt cameras. We strengthened drink-driving measures. We

established the innovative Co-Lab ad campaigns for young people—designing campaigns targeted at young people in the digital world, something that has not been continued by this government—and we invested heavily in enforcement, education and safety on our roads.

Last year under the Crisafulli government we saw 307 Queenslanders lose their life on our roads—the worst road toll in 16 years and 87 more deaths than the lowest year under the previous Labor government. Sadly, the majority of deaths, let's be clear, will be in regional Queensland and it is getting worse based on current trends. I will give the chamber an idea. Victoria has about 1.4 million more people than Queensland and yet last year under the Crisafulli government Queensland had 307 road deaths. Victoria had fewer road deaths than our state at 291.

Mr Hunt: You spent a decade not fixing the Bruce Highway.

Mr Kempton: What a low act.

Mr Hunt: A decade doing nothing.

Mr BAILEY: This year to the end of August Queensland has already had 214 deaths on Queensland roads. I find it surprising to hear people interjecting on such a serious matter. Queensland has already had 214 deaths this year; Victoria has had 162. That is a gap between our state and Victoria of 52 deaths to the end of August this year, so we should be very concerned.

More than 60 per cent of fatal crashes in Queensland, sadly, occur in regional areas. Those communities are overwhelmingly represented in this chamber by LNP members—although we have some fantastic regional members, and I note the member for Bundaberg right behind me. One would think making noise about road safety is something that would be a priority for them. Instead, we have a government whose response is two more bills focusing on increasing penalties after the dangerous conduct has already occurred. We have seen this predictable routine with crime. The government said that its legislation was the answer and then it came back to the House again and again with more amendments and more laws, having another go at it without solving the problem. Now we are seeing that same failed approach with road safety, sadly.

Labor will support these provisions because they are better than nothing, but nobody should pretend that they represent an adequate response to 307 Queenslanders who died on our roads last year and the toll escalating again this year. However, is it any wonder when we look at the current transport and main roads minister himself? The minister uploaded not one but two videos on his own social media showing himself speeding—not just reckless driving but an extraordinary social media strategy by yet another minister not in control of their own office. In one video he accelerated to 53 kilometres an hour in a 40 zone. In the other he was shown travelling above the 100-kilometre-an-hour speed limit. Who was sitting beside him?

Mr LISTER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118, relevance. I ask that you rule, please, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Marr): Member for Miller, can I ask you to bring it back to the bill, please.

Mr BAILEY: Certainly, Madam Deputy Speaker. This bill is about road safety, and who was travelling with the minister? It was the Attorney-General, the co-sponsor of this cognate debate—the state's first law officer. They are not exactly the dynamic duo of road safety. The minister responsible for Queensland's road rules was behind the wheel and not setting the right example for Queenslanders. We have to be very clear as members of parliament to set—

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

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order, member for Southern Downs?

Mr LISTER: The same point of order applies. I would suggest that this is entirely irrelevant to the bills before us.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice. Member for Miller, this is about road safety, but I think you are moving a bit away from the bill, so if you can bring it back to the bill. Thank you.

Mr BAILEY: Certainly; thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. On a point of order: I understand that these matters were canvassed in committee. You might not be aware of that, but I have just been informed by the deputy chair, so just for context.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Miller, please do not question my ability to understand what is on the table. Thank you.

Mr BAILEY: Sure. With respect, Madam Deputy Speaker, I am not questioning—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: With respect, I ask you to—

Mr BAILEY:—that at all, but I will take your guidance—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Miller—

Mr BAILEY:—and I will move on.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Miller, if you question my authority again—

Mr Power interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:—I will warn you. Thank you. You can proceed. Member for Logan, I do not need your assistance either, thank you. Have a bit of respect for the Speaker, no matter who is in the chair. You may continue, member for Miller.

Mr BAILEY: Thank you for your guidance, Madam Deputy Speaker. Once again we saw late and last-minute amendments from this government behaving like the Newman and Bjelke-Petersen governments—and, I might add, the Attorney-General stated that these were technical amendments. They are not technical amendments whatsoever. Her downplaying of her amendments at the last minute, bypassing the committee, is another Newman and Bjelke-Petersen style trashing of democracy and the parliamentary committee system once again in this House. This government has an absolute disregard for openness and transparency. We see it yet again on what should be a relatively uncontroversial bill. It has become a habit, not a strategy.

I turn firstly to the Criminal Code (Dangerous Driving) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill introduced by the Attorney-General. It creates four categories of dangerous operation and interference offences, strengthens aggravating circumstances and increases maximum penalties, including mandatory imprisonment for certain repeat offenders. Labor supports serious consequences for serious dangerous driving, including speeding, I might add, but there are legitimate concerns with how the Attorney-General has drafted this bill. The Queensland Law Society warned about the additional factual and legal issues juries will now have to determine. ATSILS raised concerns with the breadth of the new non-motor vehicle offence and with proposed section 334P, which allows a charge to allege somebody was under the influence of alcohol or a drug without specifying which. Surely if the state is prosecuting somebody for a criminal offence, that person should know precisely what they are accused of. For all the chest beating from the Crisafulli government about its big dangerous driving crackdown, the department itself told the committee—

The fundamental operation of the current offence and the new offence framework are very similar ...

The member for Cooper asked whether the fundamental operation changes. The department's answer was—

The fundamental operation does not change; that is right.

There it is from its own department, so not exactly earth shattering. The government is also expanding mandatory imprisonment without substantive modelling being provided to the committee on how many additional prisoners this will mean, how much extra capacity will be required or what the cost will be. Keeping track of the cost of things is clearly not a fashionable thing or a priority for this government, based on the credit rating downgrade last week. Standard & Poor's downgraded Queensland for the first time since 2009.

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

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice on that. Member for Miller, on the advice of the clerk at the table, you were being relevant to the bill. I ask you to continue.

Mr BAILEY: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. The RACQ made another important point. The stronger penalties deter dangerous driving only where people believe there is a reasonable prospect of getting caught, so perhaps the transport and main roads minister is hoping that people will take his lead in devising a particularly efficient enforcement system when it comes to road safety of filming yourself when you commit an offence, uploading it to social media and waiting for the Queensland police to find it and then paying the fine. That technique is usually the preserve of basic young criminals burning their own tyre rubber, not usually a cabinet minister. Unfortunately for police, most dangerous drivers are not dopey enough to publish the evidence of their speeding or their offences incriminating themselves on social media.

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

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Marr): Your point of order, member for Southern Downs?

Mr LISTER: It remains the same as before. I put it to you that the member for Miller is persistently failing to adhere to your direction regarding relevance. He is going back to exactly the same material and I would ask you to rule on that, please.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will just take some advice on that. Member for Miller, you are straying very close to being irrelevant on this bill. I make you aware and ask you to bring it back. Thank you.

Mr BAILEY: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. The Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group has also raised a practical issue that deserves attention. Families can wait years for CTP claims while facing counselling costs, funeral expenses, travel and the burden of lengthy court proceedings. Its proposal for interim Victim Assist Queensland assistance, recoverable once the CTP claim is finalised, deserves serious consideration. Labor will support the dangerous-driving provisions, but the Attorney-General should fix the drafting problems and explain the prison capacity and cost consequences of her legislation.

We also need to see a bit more of a reasoned approach to contemporary policy. Labor commissioned the Queensland drug-driving review in 2023. The government received the findings, sat on them for a long time and resisted calls to release them. Then on 26 June it finally released the review, on exactly the same day the minister introduced this bill. The consultation consisted of only two weeks of submissions and one two-hour public meeting. That was it. This is going back to the Newman and Bjelke-Petersen era once again.

Medicinal cannabis is another substantial unresolved problem. Queenslanders can lawfully use medicinal cannabis prescribed by their doctor, be unimpaired when driving and still return a positive roadside test because THC remains detectable many days later. I simply say that all kinds of people need that as a medical issue and we need to work with other jurisdictions around what is possible and what is fair, because when it is detectable days later where there is no impairment there is still an unresolved issue, and I say that to the minister respectfully. The government needs to work with other jurisdictions on that.

(Time expired)

Mr JAMES (Mulgrave—LNP) (5.28 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Criminal Code (Dangerous Driving) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 and the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, which are being debated cognately today. These two bills work together to deliver a comprehensive package of road safety reforms designed to better protect Queenslanders, deter dangerous behaviour and ensure our laws reflect modern community expectations.

These bills recognise a simple reality: dangerous driving kills and injures Queenslanders every year. Road safety is not an abstract policy issue. In Far North Queensland we know all too well that behind every serious crash is a family whose life may be changed forever. Every Queenslander expects that those who use our roads will do so responsibly, and they expect parliament to ensure there are meaningful consequences when that responsibility is ignored. That is precisely what these bills seek to achieve.

The Criminal Code bill delivers the most significant reforms of dangerous driving offences in many years. It replaces the existing framework with a modern structure that clearly distinguishes between dangerous driving involving motor vehicles and the dangerous operation of other vehicles. The new framework establishes separate offences for dangerously driving a motor vehicle; dangerously interfering with the driving of a motor vehicle; dangerously operating a non-motor vehicle; and dangerously interfering with the driving of a non-motor vehicle. Importantly, the bill does not create loopholes or weaken existing offences, like Labor did when they failed to address growing crime and watered down laws with their soft-on-crime approach during their decade of decline. In the last five years of the previous Labor government from 2019 to 2024, the road toll increased from 222 to 301—an increase of 35 per cent. This bill ensures all conduct currently captured by dangerous operation offences remains unlawful, while providing greater clarity and consistency for courts, prosecutors and the community.

The reforms strengthen penalties where aggravating circumstances exist. Offenders who are significantly intoxicated, affected by drugs, excessively speeding, participating in unlawful racing, driving while disqualified, fleeing the scene of a crash or evading the police will face substantially higher penalties. Those who choose to boast about their dangerous conduct on social media will also face aggravated penalties. These are sensible measures that recognise particularly reckless conduct deserves stronger consequences. Perhaps more importantly, where dangerous driving causes death

or grievous bodily harm, the legislation significantly increases the available penalties, including maximum penalties of up to 25 years imprisonment in aggravated circumstances. These changes send a clear message that dangerous behaviour behind the wheel is not a mistake to be shrugged off. It is conduct that can devastate families and communities, and the law must reflect that reality.

The bill also introduces stronger driver's licence disqualification periods and establishes circumstances in which imprisonment must be imposed for serious repeat offenders. Queenslanders rightly expect that individuals who repeatedly demonstrate a disregard for the safety of others face appropriate consequences and are kept off our roads for longer periods.

The accompanying Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill complements these reforms by addressing a broader range of road safety and transport issues. At its heart, this bill is about prevention. While the Criminal Code amendments deal with the consequences of dangerous conduct, the transport bill seeks to reduce the likelihood of that conduct occurring in the first place. One of the most important reforms creates new combined drink- and drug-driving offences. Evidence demonstrates that combined alcohol and drugs significantly increases crash risk, yet Queensland's current legal framework does not provide a dedicated offence for drivers who commit both forms of offending simultaneously. These amendments address that gap and ensure penalties appropriately recognise the increased danger posed by combined impairment.

The bill streamlines roadside drug-testing processes. Advances in testing technology now allow Queensland to remove redundant procedures while retaining evidentiary integrity. This will reduce costs and free up resources, allowing more roadside testing to occur and strengthening deterrence against drug driving. Importantly, the legislation introduces a mandatory drug-driving education program. We know that enforcement alone is not always enough. Education and behavioural change are critical components of reducing reoffending. Recurring drug-driving offenders are to complete an education program before regaining their licence. This offers an opportunity to address underlying behaviours and improve long-term road safety outcomes.

The bill also increases penalties for presence based drug-driving offences and introduces minimum court imposed fines for drink- and drug-driving offences. These measures help ensure penalties better align with the risks that impaired drivers pose to other road users and reinforce the seriousness of these offences.

Another significant reform is the introduction of immediate licence suspensions for drivers detected at the roadside travelling more than 40 kilometres per hour above the speed limit. Speed remains one of the leading contributors to fatal crashes. Currently, significant delays can occur between the offence and the commencement of a suspension. Bringing that suspension forward improves deterrence and removes high-risk drivers from the road more quickly.

I welcome the provisions relating to seatbelt enforcement. The bill allows drivers to nominate an offending passenger for camera detected passenger seatbelt offences and removes demerit points for passenger related seatbelt infringements when the driver is not the most culpable person. This creates a fairer, more proportionate system that continues to encourage seatbelt compliance.

Beyond road safety, the bill includes practical reforms to protect Queenslanders' privacy by preventing private car park operators from accessing vehicle information for debt recovery purposes. These measures respond directly to community concerns and provide strong safeguards around personal information, while preserving legitimate access arrangements for all other lawful purposes.

The legislation also contains a range of sensible administrative improvements, including support for local governments managing trailer parking, improvements to Queensland Digital Identity arrangements, fee waivers for the replacement of photo identification cards in certain circumstances, streamlined rail safety testing approvals and stronger powers to deal with unlawful grounded watercraft. Together, these measures improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Queensland's transport regulatory framework.

Madam Deputy Speaker, what unites both these bills is a commitment to safer communities. They recognise that road safety is not achieved through a single reform. It requires strong laws, meaningful penalties, effective enforcement, modern technology, education and a willingness to respond to changing behaviours and risks. These bills demonstrate that approach by strengthening accountability for dangerous drivers and improving deterrence against speeding, drink driving and drug driving. They provide greater clarity within the law. They support enforcement agencies and the courts. Most importantly, they support the shared objective of reducing the number of Queenslanders killed or seriously injured on our roads. For those reasons, I commend both bills to the House.

Ms BOURNE (Ipswich West—ALP) (5.37 pm): I rise to contribute to the cognate debate on the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 and Criminal Code (Dangerous Driving) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. As a member of the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee, I had the opportunity to examine both bills and to consider the evidence presented throughout the inquiry. Together, these bills propose significant changes relating to drug driving, dangerous driving, speeding, sentencing and other transport matters. There should be no argument in this House about the importance of road safety or the need to hold dangerous drivers accountable. In 2025, 69 lives were lost in crashes involving drug driving, while speeding contributed to more than a quarter of lives lost on Queensland roads.

Behind every statistic is a Queenslander who did not make it home and a family whose life has changed forever. Labor supports measures that genuinely make our roads safer and remove dangerous drivers from them; however, the committee process raised serious questions about whether aspects of these bills are fair, evidence based and workable in practice. One key concern was the evidence the government is relying on to justify these changes. The government resisted calls to release the 2023 drug-driving review, only to quietly publish it on 26 June. When Queenslanders finally saw it, perhaps it became clear why the government had been so reluctant. The review concluded that no legislative changes should be made. This government cannot have it both ways. It cannot point to a review when it suits its argument and then ignore the same review when its findings become inconvenient.

The cannabis and driving consultation report reinforced these concerns, with 95.86 per cent of respondents supporting changes to better accommodate medicinal cannabis users. We also heard concerns about mandatory minimum court imposed fines. Legal Aid Queensland warned these changes would remove the ability of a magistrate to hand down a lower fine in cases of either exceptional circumstances of the offence or extreme hardship. The Queensland Law Society similarly warned that two people may commit nominally the same category of offence while being in materially different circumstances. That is exactly the point. Magistrates hear the evidence, consider the circumstances and determine an appropriate penalty. We should be cautious about taking that discretion away.

There is also a broader question about whether tougher penalties alone will change behaviour. The RACQ told the committee that the proposed reforms would only be effective if drivers perceived a higher risk of being caught. The Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group similarly noted that legislative reform alone will not reduce road trauma. The evidence deserves serious consideration. Safer roads require enforcement, education, safer infrastructure and appropriate penalties working together. Queenslanders ultimately want fewer crashes, fewer injuries and fewer families receiving the worst news imaginable.

One of the biggest concerns raised with me was what these changes could mean for Queenslanders legally prescribed medicinal cannabis. Let me be clear: no-one is arguing that someone who is impaired should be allowed to drive. The issue is whether presence necessarily means impairment. The Alcohol and Drug Foundation told the committee THC can remain detectable in saliva for several days after use, long after potential impairment has subsided. Someone could take medicinal cannabis exactly as prescribed, no longer be impaired and still return a positive test, facing penalties, including the loss of their licence, after the impairing effects have passed. Access to a licence is essential for many Queenslanders, particularly in outer suburban and regional communities where public transport can be limited. Patient advocate Debbie Ranson described medicinal cannabis patients as being forced into an impossible position: either take their legally prescribed medicine and risk losing their licence or forgo treatment to preserve their mobility and independence. No-one should have to choose between managing their pain and keeping their independence.

Then there are the changes to roadside drug testing. The Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill removes the second roadside saliva test before a sample is sent for confirmatory laboratory testing. That matters because research referenced by the MAIC/UniSC Road Safety Research Collaboration found that the two roadside testing devices did not consistently meet the recommended benchmark of greater than 80 per cent sensitivity and accuracy. Laboratory confirmation remains, but that does not explain why the government is removing an additional check while increasing penalties when concerns exist about the reliability of roadside devices. The government must also be transparent about the practical impacts. The committee's examination of the Criminal Code bill raised questions about the effect higher penalties and new sentencing provisions could have on the courts, watch houses and correctional facilities. Queenslanders deserve confidence that these reforms have been properly assessed and resourced.

The Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill also changes the way the Wave stage 3 can be delivered, giving the government greater flexibility over passenger transport arrangements, including by removing some existing protections around bus service contracts. Labor supports better public transport on the Sunshine Coast, but speed should not come at the expense of transparency or proper consultation. The Queensland Bus Industry Council warned that efficiency should not come at the expense of transparency, fair procurement, existing operator rights, proper industry consultation or the integrity of Queensland's passenger transport contracting framework, yet QBIC confirmed that neither it nor other relevant industry associations were consulted before these amendments were introduced. If the changes are necessary to deliver the Wave, the government should make the case transparently and consult the industry affected.

We all want safer roads, dangerous drivers held accountable and better public transport, but stronger laws must also be fair, evidence based and workable in practice. The government has heard considerable evidence through the committee process. It should carefully consider those concerns to ensure these reforms deliver the road safety outcomes Queenslanders expect. Finally, I thank everyone who made a submission or appeared before the committee as well as my fellow committee members and the secretariat for all their hard work throughout this inquiry.

Mr KEMPTON (Cook—LNP) (5.45 pm): As a member of the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee, I wish to make a contribution to this debate. We live in a comparably safe country where people enjoy a long life expectancy. The good people of this state do not go about their daily business with any expectation or anticipation of imminent death as might be the case in so many countries around the world. We have no urban war zones where daily life is extremely dangerous and fragile; nor do we as a rule suffer natural disasters resulting in widespread loss of life and the location and behaviours of most of our dangerous animals is generally well known. Sudden and unexpected fatalities are the stuff of news broadcasts and only happen to other people, never us. There are those among us, however, who are those 'other people', such as first responders, witnesses, victims, medical professionals and, not the least, families. Closer to home we are all aware of the tragic loss suffered by our colleague the member for Capalaba and his family. As the member is only too aware, there are a growing number of ordinary people going about their daily lives who, within seconds, lose their lives in senseless motor vehicle accidents.

Notwithstanding the advances in technology, road safety, improved infrastructure, driver training and safety campaigns, the road toll on Queensland's roads has a worrying upward trend. The annual road toll sat around 539 deaths in 1988, reflecting higher per capita fatality rates before major safety campaigns and random breath testing took deeper effect. Deaths gradually trended downward over decades despite rapid population and vehicle registration growth. By 2019, Queensland reached an all-time modern low of 219 fatalities. Following the 2019 low, the state experienced an escalation in road trauma, climbing to 302 in 2024 and 307 in 2025—the highest annual totals in years. Fatalities continue to track above previous comparative periods, with 314 deaths recorded so far this year. Some—not all, but too many—of these deaths arise from the dangerous and unlawful use of motor vehicles.

The Crisafulli government cannot sit by whilst dangerous drivers place other road users and Queenslanders in peril. Victims of dangerous driving causing serious injury and death have for too long suffered in silence and for too long have felt let down by the system. The committee heard testimony from families devastated by the loss of loved ones at the hands of unlawful and dangerous drivers. They spoke of the devastation and trauma of learning of the death of a loved one, the overwhelming grief and disbelief that followed, the helplessness in not knowing how the justice system works and a sense of having failed their loved one when the offender received an inappropriate sentence.

The victims gave compelling evidence about how defence counsel presented the facts and evidence in a way designed to reduce both the severity of the charge and the consequences. In one instance, it was proffered that an offender under the influence of a prohibited substance who ran down and killed a mother was somehow less criminally responsible because potentially that drug may have enhanced the offender's cognitive ability. In another instance, two youths were racing in a built-up area when an innocent bystander, a young man with his life ahead of him, was struck and killed by one of the cars. The defence argued the driver of the other vehicle, the co-offender, was not liable because the race had ended. The bill reflects the Crisafulli government's commitment to a justice system that works, that is fair and efficient, that holds offenders accountable and that makes Queensland safer.

These reforms are both necessary and overdue. The current section 328A of the Criminal Code has its origins in 1943, when the offence was confined to recklessly or dangerously driving a motor vehicle on a road. Over more than 80 years, that provision has been amended 15 times. In 1997 it was

expanded to apply to the dangerous operation of any vehicle in any place and a separate offence was created for dangerous operation causing death or grievous bodily harm. However, successive amendments have left us with provisions that can be unclear and inconsistent. The bill separates offending involving motor vehicles, such as cars and trucks, from offending involving non-motor vehicles, including bicycles and boats. It establishes four clear categories of offending: dangerously driving a motor vehicle, dangerously interfering with the driving of a motor vehicle, dangerously operating a non-motor vehicle and dangerously interfering with the operation of a non-motor vehicle.

Importantly, these reforms are not simply about reorganising words in the Criminal Code; they have real consequences. For dangerous driving involving a motor vehicle that causes death or grievous bodily harm, the maximum penalty for an aggravated offence will increase to 25 years imprisonment. For conduct that does not result in death or grievous bodily harm, the maximum penalty will be five years imprisonment for a non-aggravated offence and seven years where the offence is aggravated. The bill also increases driver's licence disqualification periods, ranging from six months to five years depending upon the offence and whether the offender has a history of relevant offending.

The bill also addresses one of the anomalies I referred to earlier. Under the present law, it is an offence to drive with a prescribed drug such as cannabis, MDMA, cocaine or methylamphetamine present in one's system, but that circumstance is not presently an aggravating factor for dangerous driving. This has meant that drug drivers who kill or seriously injure another person may not be liable to the higher penalty associated with aggravated dangerous driving. That changes under this bill. The presence of a relevant drug will be recognised as a circumstance of aggravation as will excessive speeding, participation in an unlawful race or speed trial, driving while disqualified or suspended, particular previous convictions, leaving the scene after a person has been killed or injured and committing an evasion offence.

The bill also deals with another disturbing feature of modern dangerous driving. When an offender publishes material on social media to advertise their dangerous driving offence that too will constitute a circumstance of aggravation.

This bill also recognises the danger presented by repeat offenders. Where an offender convicted of a dangerous driving offence has the relevant history of serious driving offences, the court will be required to impose a term of imprisonment. That sends a very clear message. A person who repeatedly engages in dangerous conduct behind the wheel cannot expect the justice system to simply continue giving them another opportunity while the community bears the risk.

Thankfully, most Queenslanders will never experience what the families who appeared before our committee have experienced. They will get into their vehicle tomorrow morning, drive to work, take their children to school, travel to the shops or visit family and return safely home. I recognise the sensitive manner in which the chair, committee members and secretariat handled the difficult evidence taken during the hearing. I commend the bill to the House.

Hon. GJ BUTCHER (Gladstone—ALP) (5.53 pm): Every Queenslander deserves to feel safe and be safe. In this House, it is our responsibility to ensure the laws we pass are fit for purpose and actually ensure Queenslanders are protected, whether that is in their homes, at work or on the roads. We will not stand in the way of these reforms because we recognise the importance of road safety. Let me be clear: there is no place for dangerous driving on Queensland roads and there should be real consequences for those who choose to put the lives of others at risk. Every death on a Queensland road is one too many.

However, supporting the objective of safer roads does not mean that we should ignore legitimate concerns about how legislation will operate in practice. It is vital that we highlight the concerns raised by stakeholders throughout the consultation process. Stakeholders have raised genuine questions about the implementation, the effectiveness and the consequences of this bill. Pointing out those concerns is not contradictory to supporting safer roads. It is actually our responsibility.

Instead of the existing framework, the bill establishes four categories of offending: dangerously driving a motor vehicle, dangerously interfering with the driving of a motor vehicle, dangerously operating a non-motor vehicle and dangerously interfering with the operation of a non-motor vehicle. It also strengthens the circumstances of aggravation applying to these offences. These include circumstances where an offender is under the influence of alcohol or drugs, is over the high-alcohol limit, has a relevant drug present, is excessively speeding or racing, is disqualified or suspended from driving, is unlicensed, has been convicted of certain offences within the previous five years, leaves the scene after a person has been killed or injured, or evades police.

The bill also imposes mandatory minimum imprisonment in certain circumstances where a person has a previous conviction for a prescribed offence and is subsequently convicted of the new dangerous driving offence. It increases maximum penalties for motor vehicle offending, including where dangerous driving causes death or grievous bodily harm. These are significant changes. When this parliament makes significant changes to the Criminal Code, particularly changes that increase maximum penalties and impose mandatory imprisonment, we have an obligation to ensure they are clear, workable and supported by evidence.

The Queensland Law Society raised concerns about precisely those facts. Its submission warned that the bill may increase the factual and legal issues that may need to be determined by a jury. This could result in longer trials and jury deliberations, and increase the potential for appeals where judicial directions on the new elements are challenged. That should matter to this House. A law is not necessarily more effective simply because it is more complicated. Victims deserve justice without unnecessary delay, defendants are entitled to their fair processes and our courts need legislation that can be practically applied.

There are also legitimate questions about the breadth of new offences relating to non-motor vehicles. The new offence applies at any place, not simply on a road or a footpath. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service similarly warned that the drafting could potentially extend to conduct such as a child playing with a skateboard in their front yard. The maximum penalty for a relevant non-aggravated offence is 200 penalty units or three years imprisonment. I do not believe Queenslanders think that this legislation is intended to target a child riding a skateboard in their own yard. If that is not the government's intention then the legislation should be drafted clearly enough to ensure it is not an unintended consequence of these laws.

Concerns were also raised about provisions that allow an allegation to state that a person was under the influence of alcohol or a drug without necessarily identifying which. These are legitimate legal concerns that have been raised. They should not simply be dismissed because it is convenient to do so.

There is also a much broader question this government needs to answer: will increasing penalties alone actually make our roads safer? The RACQ made an important point in its submission: the effectiveness of these amendments depends on drivers perceiving that there is a greater risk of being caught. That gets to the heart of deterrence. You can increase penalties as much as you like, but a penalty cannot deter someone who does not believe they are going to get caught. That requires enforcement, police on our roads and officers with the resources and capacity to detect dangerous driving, speeding, racing and other dangerous behaviours before tragedy occurs.

Tougher laws without the resources to enforce them are not a comprehensive road safety strategy. That same question of resourcing extends across the justice system. Watch houses, as we all know here, are under pressure. Correctional facilities are also under pressure, yet during the committee process, when questions were asked about the impact of these reforms, the department was unable to provide substantive modelling on what these changes could mean for watch houses and for correctional capacity. That should be a pretty serious concern for this House.

If the government is introducing mandatory imprisonment and increasing penalties, surely it should understand the potential impact on the other end of the system. How many additional people could be held in custody? As I have spoken about before in this House, there are movements of prisoners from watch house to watch house, particularly in regional Queensland. What impact will that have on those watch houses and on those correctional facilities? What additional resources will be needed in those facilities? These are not arguments against holding dangerous drivers to account. They are basic questions about whether the government has prepared the justice system to implement its own legislation.

Interestingly, while the government is selling these reforms as a major crackdown, the department's own evidence to the parliamentary committee was that the fundamental operation of the offence framework does not materially change, so we have a government talking up major reform while its own department acknowledges substantial continuity in how the offences operate.

The department was also questioned about the evidence supporting these particular changes, including crash data and repeat offending. It could not point to a single dataset demonstrating that these specific reforms were required, and no substantive modelling was provided on the potential impact on prison numbers. That does not mean reform should never occur. It means government should be able to explain the evidence behind the reforms that they bring into this House and demonstrate that the systems responsible for implementing those reforms are actually prepared.

There is another group that cannot be forgotten in this debate: victims and their families. The Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group supports stronger sentencing in principle, but its submission also makes an important point: legislative reform alone will not reduce road trauma. Its recommended approach recognises that education, enforcement, early intervention and sentencing need to work together. That is what a comprehensive road safety strategy should look like.

They also raised the very practical issue about support for families bereaved by dangerous driving. Currently, families can be directed towards a compulsory third-party insurance system rather than Victim Assist Queensland, and those CTP claims can take years to resolve. The group's recommendation is practical: allow Victim Assist Queensland to provide interim assistance for things such as counselling, travel, court related costs and funeral expenses while families wait for CTP claims to be resolved, with reimbursement occurring once the claim is finalised. No grieving family should be left waiting years before they can access the counselling and practical assistance they need, particularly when they need it right away. If we are serious about victims then supporting these families must be part of our response.

Labor will not stand in the way of this bill because road safety actually matters and dangerous drivers should face real consequences, but we are not going to pretend the concerns raised by these bodies do not exist simply because acknowledging those concerns might be inconvenient for those opposite. Queenslanders deserves more than just announcements. They deserve laws that work, police with the resources to enforce them and courts and correctional facilities with the capacity to administer them. When tragedy does occur, victims and their families deserve proper support. Tougher laws without resourcing, without police on the road, without a justice system that can cope and without proper support for the families left behind are not a comprehensive plan. Safer roads should be a priority for every lawmaker in this state, and every death on a Queensland road is one too many. Yes, we support holding dangerous drivers to account, but we will also hold this government to account on whether these reforms actually work.

Mr G KELLY (Mirani—LNP) (6.03 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 and the Criminal Code (Dangerous Driving) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. While these bills deal with different areas of our road laws, they share an important goal: making Queensland roads safer and helping Queenslanders get home safely.

For the people I represent in Mirani, roads are one of the issues raised with me most often. Our roads get our kids to school, our workers to their jobs, our cattle to market, our cane to the mill and our freight to the port. They carry school buses, ambulances, police, tourists, farmers, miners and families simply trying to get home, and across rural and regional Queensland there often is not another road you can take.

When we talk about dangerous driving, it is easy to talk about offences, penalties and years of imprisonment, but behind these laws are real people. There are families across Queensland, including in communities I represent, whose lives have been changed forever because somebody made a dangerous decision behind the wheel. For those families, a fatal crash is not something that ends when the road reopens. There is an empty chair at the dinner table; there are birthdays, Christmases and family milestones where somebody is missing; and there are families who then have to sit through a court process and hear a sentence handed down for the loss of someone they love. We cannot undo those losses, but we can make sure our laws recognise just how serious dangerous driving is.

This is why the Criminal Code (Dangerous Driving) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill matters. Under these reforms, dangerous driving can attract up to five years imprisonment, increasing to seven years where aggravating circumstances apply. Where dangerous driving causes death or grievous bodily harm, the maximum penalty increases to 16 years, or 25 years where aggravating circumstances apply. Those circumstances include alcohol or drugs, excessive speeding, unlawful racing, driving while disqualified or suspended, repeat offending, leaving the scene after somebody has been killed or injured, or evading police. These are serious offences with potentially devastating consequences. Our laws need to reflect that.

The Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill tackles road safety from another direction—by targeting dangerous behaviour on our roads and strengthening enforcement. Importantly, it creates specific combined drink- and drug-driving offences. Currently, Queensland does not have a specific offence for someone caught driving with both an illegal alcohol concentration and a relevant drug present. This bill closes that gap. It also increases the maximum penalty for driving with a relevant drug present and requires drug-driving offenders to complete an education program before they can regain their Queensland driver's licence.

When it comes to extreme speeding, the message is equally clear: the bill enables police to immediately suspend the licence of a driver caught driving more than 40 kilometres an hour over the speed limit at the roadside. If someone chooses to travel at those sorts of speeds, they are putting every other person using that road at risk. These measures are about intervening in dangerous behaviour before another family has to experience the consequences.

These laws matter everywhere, but driving in regional Queensland brings its own risks. Our roads can be narrow, shoulders can be limited and heavy vehicles, farm machinery, school buses and family cars can all be sharing the same stretch of road. Add flooding, wildlife, poor visibility and long distances between emergency services and, when something goes wrong, the consequences can be deadly. That is why stronger laws must go hand in hand with safer roads.

The Crisafulli government is backing road safety with major investment in our road network, including the $9 billion Bruce Highway safety package. For Mirani, the Bruce Highway is not simply a national highway; it is the road to work, school and hospital and one of the most important freight routes supporting our region. I continue to advocate for safety improvements around Sarina, Bakers Creek and other sections of the highway through my electorate. Road widening, better line marking, stronger pavements and safer intersections may not always grab headlines but they can save lives.

Hay Point Road is another road I continue to fight for. It is an important road for local communities and a key connection to Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal and Hay Point Coal Terminal. It carries local families and workers alongside traffic servicing one of Queensland's most important export precincts. Only last week we saw another crash on Hay Point Road. It was another reminder of why I continue to push for safety improvements along this corridor. Improving Hay Point Road is not simply about moving traffic more efficiently. It is about making sure the people who travel that road to work, school or home to their families can do so as safely as possible.

Marlborough-Sarina Road is another important regional corridor. It carries cattle, machinery, fuel, workers and families through major grazing country and supports two major feedlots along the corridor. Around 50,000 head of cattle are transferred through there every year. This is not simply a back road; it is an economic corridor, and I will continue to advocate for better passing opportunities and safer bridges.

The same applies to May Downs Road, which is part of Central Queensland's beef roads network. Then there is Mackay-Eungella Road, which connects Mackay with Walkerston, Marian, Mirani and communities through the Pioneer Valley to Eungella. Following the damage caused by ex-Tropical Cyclone Koji, I have strongly supported a build-back-better approach. Where practical, we should not simply replace vulnerable infrastructure with what was there before; we should build it stronger and safer for the future.

All of these roads tell a bigger story. A cattle truck on May Downs Road is supporting Queensland's beef industry. A haul-out vehicle in the Pioneer Valley is supporting our sugar industry. A worker travelling along Hay Point Road may be heading to one of the largest coal export precincts in the world. Behind the wheel of every one of those vehicles is a person—someone's husband or wife, someone's mum or dad, someone's son or daughter. Somebody is waiting for them to come home at the end of their shift. That is what road safety ultimately comes down to.

These bills approach that challenge from different directions. One strengthens the law when dangerous driving occurs and recognises the devastating consequences it can cause and the other targets dangerous behaviour, including drink driving, drug driving and extreme speeding, and strengthens the tools available to intervene. Alongside those laws, we must continue investing in safer roads. We all deserve to make it home safely, and that is what these bills are ultimately about. I commend the bills to the House.

Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (6.11 pm): I rise to give my contribution to this cognate debate of the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and Criminal Code (Dangerous Driving) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. We have obviously come a very long way from the days when drink driving was almost normal and accepted in our communities. There seems to be furious agreement that no-one should be driving while impaired or under the influence of any substances. I absolutely agree with that as a fundamental premise.

Road fatalities are absolutely devastating, as injuries from road crashes can also be. I was only 19 years old when I had a microsleep on the Warrego Highway and wrote my car off. I probably should not have been able to walk away from that crash. I was certainly very lucky to, with so few injuries. This

week, in two separate incidents, one of my family members and a close friend of mine were in serious crashes. Again, they could very easily have been fatalities or had much more serious injuries than they did. This is a very serious subject, and I do not want anyone to suggest that I am not taking it seriously.

It is absolutely critical that governments act on evidence-based policy to reduce crashes, injuries and fatalities on our roads. These laws, for the most part, do not do that. I am going to focus on, frankly, the hypocritical and lazy stigmatisation of lawful users of medicinal cannabis.

These bills entrench outdated offences for driving with the mere presence of THC in the bloodstream. In particular, the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill increases the maximum penalty for the offence of driving while a relevant drug is present in a person's blood or saliva and increases the minimum disqualification period from one to two months. The Criminal Code (Dangerous Driving) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill introduces circumstances of aggravation for dangerous-driving offences where the presence of a relevant drug is detected. If that circumstance of aggravation applies, then the person is also exposed to higher penalties in the future or is subjected to longer periods of disqualification.

The critical point here—and plenty of others have made the point—is that we have to accept as a fundamental fact that the presence of THC does not equal impairment. In fact, THC can remain detectible in a person's saliva for hours or even days after the effects have worn off and the person is no longer experiencing any impairment or shift in their perception at all. The fact that it is easier to measure the presence of THC in someone's system than it is to measure impairment should not be guiding policymaking and legislation in this place. Clearly, it is this government's policy to do what is easy in a circumstance like this, not what is right, regardless of the very real consequences and impacts that it will have on people's lives.

The existing, and now strengthened, laws have very real consequences for people. As THC remains in saliva and blood for so long after use, medicinal cannabis users have very limited choices: they can risk being criminalised for using their legally prescribed medicine in accordance with the instructions of their healthcare provider; they can avoid driving altogether, making it harder to find and retain work, care for their families or engage with their communities; or they can avoid using the medically recommended treatment.

Let's not forget: this is very real medicine. This very parliament was at the front line of legislating to make medicinal cannabis available to patients for all sorts of conditions such as: nausea and vomiting brought on by chemotherapy; symptoms experienced throughout palliative care; chronic pain like neuropathic nerve pain, arthritis and lower back pain; and sleep and anxiety disorders. These are very real conditions that people are being medicated for.

Again, let's not forget about the people who live in regional communities. They are especially disadvantaged by these laws and the criminalisation of these medicines. I will quote Debbie Ranson, as other have. She is a registered nurse who provided insightful submissions to the committee. She said—

> Throughout my clinical practice I have witnessed the unintended consequences of the current legislation. Some patients decline clinically appropriate treatment because they fear losing their driver's licence. Others reduce or delay treatment despite ongoing pain, poor sleep or debilitating anxiety. Some remain on higher-risk medicines, including opioids and benzodiazepines, because those medicines are managed under an impairment model rather than a zero-tolerance presence model.

When Debbie Ranson talks about those alternative medications and describes them as higher risk, that is real. They are not risky medicines in terms of the possible impacts on people; they are risky because they are highly addictive medications. Instead of people being able to use non-addictive cannabis medications, they are being pushed towards very addictive opioid or benzodiazepine medications.

This is where we see the wild hypocrisy. You cannot miss it. The government says that impairment cannot be measured, but there are other medications with the capacity to cause impairment that are already dealt with under an impairment-based defence. The minister certainly knows that roadside testing does not test for the presence of opioids, benzos, antipsychotics or sedating antidepressants. They are medications that can cause impairment. A person will not be tested for their presence, but they can be charged with dangerous driving if they are impaired. It is already done. It already happens.

Tasmania have an entirely workable medical defence for lawfully prescribed patients without any demonstrated increase in road trauma. They are doing it. It is already happening for medicinal cannabis patients in Tasmania. This is precisely the defence that I introduced by way of amendments in 2022, but it was voted down by both of the major parties when the ALP was in government.

I have been listening to the contributions from opposition members and I might have missed something here. I did not realise there had been such a significant shift in Labor Party policy that they are now in support of defences or allowing for medicinal cannabis users to drive even if it is present in their system. I know that plenty of Queenslanders and medicinal cannabis patients would love to hear an explicit statement of policy position that Labor is going to take to the next election, because it was only a short four years ago that the opposition voted against the most straightforward and tried and tested defence in this context.

The bill does plenty of other things, too. It introduces minimum court imposed fines for drink- or drug-driving offences where a court imposes a fine without any other penalty. This removes judicial discretion and it imposes potentially very significant hardship on people who are experiencing poverty.

The bills broaden the application of mandatory minimum prison sentences—once again, removing judicial discretion. There is plenty in these bills that is just plain bad law, in my view. It should not be legislated. I absolutely oppose those provisions, but again we are seeing two massive omnibus bills going through. It is not all bad, but we are not going to have any consideration in detail time to deal with specific clauses, so I will have to settle for my 10 minutes.

The government's position on medicinal cannabis and driving is pathetic. It is hypocritical, it is lazy and it is not the way good governments should be legislating. We know what works, but increasing penalties does not increase deterrence. Increased detection and enforcement perhaps may go some way there. I do support the idea of mandatory education programs as a requirement for regaining a licence after disqualification, but I would have to echo the point that ATSILS made in their submission—that fees should be reasonable and a waiver should be available.

I will make a couple of brief comments about the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. It exempts the Wave stage 3 from usual procurement and service delivery processes. We need to reflect on the then opposition leader in the lead-up to the election being absolutely crystal clear that heavy rail would make it all the way to Maroochydore by 2032—no ifs, no buts, no shortcuts. It is another example of the Premier talking out of both sides of his face. Let's wait for 'Airtrain mark 2'.

(Time expired)

Mr HUTTON (Keppel—LNP) (6.21 pm): Every Queenslander should be able to leave home in the morning with a reasonable expectation that they will come home safely that night. Whether they are driving to work, dropping children at school, riding a motorcycle, cycling, walking beside a road or travelling home after a long shift, they should not have their life placed at risk simply because someone else chooses to treat our roads and our community with contempt. That is the principle at the heart of the Criminal Code (Dangerous Driving) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026.

Road safety is a shared responsibility. Most Queenslanders understand that. Every single day, millions of journeys are made by people who obey the speed limit, do not drink or take drugs before driving and understand that decisions they make behind the wheel can affect everyone around them. There remains, though, a group of people who make very different choices. They excessively speed. They race. They drive while affected by alcohol or drugs. They drive when they have been disqualified from doing so. They flee from police. Some do it repeatedly. Increasingly, some even film and publish their dangerous behaviour online as though risking the lives of others on our roads—risking the lives of Queenslanders—is somehow something to celebrate. It is not.

A motor vehicle used irresponsibly can become an extraordinarily dangerous thing. When someone makes a deliberate decision to engage in dangerous and unlawful behaviour behind the wheel, there must be consequences. That is why the Crisafulli government is strengthening Queensland's dangerous-driving laws. This bill modernises an offence framework which has developed over more than 80 years and ensures our laws better reflect the Queensland of today. It creates a clearer framework separating offences involving motor vehicles from those involving non-motor vehicles and provides distinct offences for dangerous driving and dangerous interference.

What matters most to Queenslanders is what those changes mean in practice. They mean tougher consequences for dangerous driving. For aggravated dangerous driving causing death or grievous bodily harm, the maximum penalty unit will increase to 25 years imprisonment. The bill strengthens driver's licence disqualification periods, with longer periods applying for more serious offences and repeat offending. It also expands the circumstances in which imprisonment must be imposed on repeat dangerous-driving offenders.

If someone comes before a court once for serious dangerous driving, that should be a moment of reckoning, a moment when Queenslanders say, 'Hey, that's not good enough.' It should be an opportunity for that person to understand the gravity of what they have done, of the risk they have posed to Queenslanders, and change their behaviour. When someone repeatedly demonstrates that they are willing to put other people's lives at risk, the community is entitled to expect that their parliament and the laws will respond. There must be a point where protecting innocent Queenslanders takes precedence over giving a repeat offender yet another chance. That principle is consistent with the broader work of the Crisafulli government. It is about restoring consequences. It is about providing accountability. It is about putting the rights of victims ahead of offenders.

This bill recognises drug driving as a circumstance of aggravation. Under the existing framework, it is an offence to drive while certain prescribed drugs are present in a person's system, yet that circumstance has not itself been recognised as an aggravating circumstance for dangerous driving. That anomaly must end. There is no safe way to take drugs and drive. If someone has drugs in the circumstances prescribed by the legislation and then dangerously drives a vehicle, the law should recognise the seriousness of that person's conduct.

This bill also recognises that excessive speeding and participating in unlawful racing or speed trials are aggravating circumstances. It recognises driving while disqualified or suspended. It recognises relevant previous offending. It recognises leaving the scene when a person has been killed or injured. It recognises evading police. These are not minor technical matters. Each represents a behaviour that increases the risk to our communities.

There is a further aggravating circumstance which speaks directly to the world in which we live now: social media. If an offender publishes material on a social media platform or online network to advertise their dangerous driving, that behaviour can aggravate the offence. That is an important message that we are sending to Queenslanders. Our roads are not a backdrop for illegal social media content. Dangerous driving is not entertainment. Excessive speeding is not something to boast about. Racing through our suburban streets is not something that should be live streamed. The number of likes, views or shares attached to a video will mean absolutely nothing to a family whose loved one does not come home.

In Central Queensland we understand roads. We understand the vast distances of our state. For many of the communities I represent, driving is not optional. People have to drive to work. They have to drive their kids to school. They drive between Rocky, Yeppoon and Emu Park. They travel along the Capricorn Coast to The Caves or Cawarral. Our tradies are some of the first on the road in the early hours of the morning. Our shiftworkers are travelling all hours of the day and night. Our families are travelling huge distances for kids' sport, for access to education, for extended health care and sometimes just for those everyday life necessities. That makes road safety intensely practical for my community. We need good roads. We need safe infrastructure. We need education. We also need enforcement. Each and every day 'Team CQ' calls on our ministers to ensure we are providing that.

We also need laws that deal appropriately with those who knowingly engage in dangerous behaviour. Ultimately, every driver makes a choice: to speed or not to speed; to race or not to race; to take drugs and then drive or hand over the keys; to stop when police direct them to stop or attempt to flee; to recognise that sharing a road means that we are accepting responsibility not just for ourselves but for every other person we are sharing that road with. Most Queenslanders make the right choice every single day. This legislation is directed at those who do not.

During consideration of these reforms, victims and families have also reminded us of something that parliament should never lose sight of. I do wish to thank the members of the committee for their service and the secretariat for their support. I commend the bill to the House.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (7.30 pm): I rise to speak to the Criminal Code (Dangerous Driving) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. Today marks three years since 12-year-old Dawlon Smith-Saunders died from injuries sustained when he was struck by a dangerous driver. That fact gives tonight's debate particular weight. A little while ago I met with his sister Letitia. She came to see me when the release of the man responsible for her brother's death was approaching. She spoke with courage, she spoke with dignity and she spoke with determination. Letitia said—

On Sunday, 3 September 2023, our lives changed forever. My brother Dawlon Smith-Saunders was innocently crossing the road when a reckless driver ran a red light, speeding at 80 kilometres per hour in a 60 zone. He was under the influence of alcohol, held only a provisional licence and had been hooning all day—caught on video. The driver failed to stop, leaving Dawlon with devastating injuries. Two weeks later my brother passed away.

Dawlon was a young Queensland boy with his whole life ahead of him. His family did not just lose him that day; they lost every birthday, every milestone and every future memory they should have been able to share with him. No sentence can return Dawlon to his family, no law passed in this House can undo their terrible loss, but the law can recognise the seriousness of the conduct that took that young life. It can provide consequences that better reflect the harm caused and it can help prevent other families from experiencing the same unbearable grief.

Letitia made something very clear to me. Her advocacy is not vengeance; it is justice, it is prevention and it is protecting other Queenslanders. I wanted to help Letitia because she made clear her concerns that existing sentencing may not consistently reflect the seriousness of these offences. There must also be sufficient clarity about the appropriate sentencing range and aggravating and mitigating factors that should be taken into account, and the law should ensure proper recognition of this devastating and irreversible harm caused by dangerous drivers.

Letitia has reflected on Hannah's Law and Jack's Law, reforms brought into this House by Labor and shaped by the courage of families who turned profound personal tragedy into action to help and protect others. Letitia made an appeal to all of us as lawmakers to recognise that dangerous driving is not a minor lapse of judgement. Getting behind the wheel while impaired, speeding recklessly, ignoring a red light and leaving a person injured on the side of the road are all choices. Those choices can take a life in seconds; their consequents last for generations.

This bill reflects the views of Queenslanders, who are entitled to expect that our laws properly reflect the devastating consequences of dangerous driving. Letitia also reminded me that every road death creates a circle of loss. It leaves children without parents, parents without children, brothers and sisters without the person with whom they expected to share the rest of their lives. Entire communities carry that incredible grief.

The scale of road trauma across Queensland is enormous. An RACQ analysis found that fatal and serious crashes imposed an estimated social cost of $35.7 billion over five years. That includes emergency responses, medical treatment, rehabilitation, damage, lost productivity and pressure on our justice system, but the important thing is that no economic calculation can measure the empty chair at the family table. It cannot measure the birthdays Letitia's brother never reached. It cannot measure what it costs a sister to stand up publicly again and again to relive the worst moments of her life in the hope of protecting somebody else.

I acknowledge Letitia's courage and we acknowledge her advocacy. We acknowledge her family, and we acknowledge Dawlon and everybody who loved him. I also acknowledge, as I am sure every member of this House does, every single Queensland family whose lives have been changed forever by dangerous driving. This bill cannot bring those loved ones home, but we can demonstrate that we are listening to those families, that we can make our roads and our streets safer, that we can ensure the law reflects the seriousness of taking a life through dangerous and reckless conduct. We can honour the memories of all of them by doing everything reasonably within our power to prevent another family from suffering the same loss.

Hon. MAJ SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (7.36 pm): What a shambles this process has been. We have had last-minute amendments circulated that effectively impose minimum mandatory penalty units with no scrutiny by the committee at all. The Attorney-General came in here and foreshadowed amendments in consideration in detail which she described as technical. I would not describe the amendments that have been circulated as technical. They are substantial. She needs to clarify if there are further amendments coming, and if so are we going to see them, or are the amendments she circulated the ones she was referring to in her speech? This is an absolute abuse of the parliamentary process which this morning the government was adamant we needed to uphold. Let me remind those bastions of democracy what they said about the parliamentary process this morning when we sought leave to move a motion to give victims in this state a better justice system—which stemmed, let's remember, from a process that Labor initiated—that those opposite voted against.

Mr MICKELBERG: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The member is deliberately debating a motion which was sought to be put earlier, not the substance of either of the cognate bills.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): That is not a point of order on relevance. I will get some advice—

Mr MICKELBERG: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Is that your ruling?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I just said I would get some advice. I will remind all members not to start talking about the other motion. Member, if you can come back to the long title of the bill.

Ms SCANLON: Certainly. I am simply drawing a comparison around the processes of amendments to the Criminal Code. One was examined by the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council and went through a lengthy process. This process did not. We have just had last-minute amendments rushed through this parliament by the Attorney-General to insert mandatory minimum penalty units. Meanwhile, there is a bill that we have said we agree with—that we were willing to class as urgent to get passed in this parliament—that those opposite said no to.

Mr MICKELBERG: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The member is specifically speaking to another bill and another proposal, not this bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I listened to the member and I think she made it very clear how it was relevant. I find it relevant and I ask the member to continue.

Ms SCANLON: Thank you. I am not surprised that those opposite do not want me to talk about their record this morning because I would be ashamed, too. It is not the first time they have opposed us supporting in a bipartisan way measures that would actually support victims.

Mr MICKELBERG: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The member is specifically talking to the process this morning and is not remotely relevant to the long title of either of the bills.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. You have ruled and given guidance to the member opposite on two occasions now.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Currumbin, points of order will be heard in silence. I will hear the points of order, not you.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I submit to you that both of those points of order, particularly after your ruling, are bordering on frivolous and are straying into the territory of disorderly conduct. They are deliberately seeking to impinge on the member's right to be heard and disrupt her from making a contribution.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bonney, your help is not needed. Member for Gaven, I find you to be relevant and you have the call. Carry on.

Ms SCANLON: Those opposite do not care about being calm and methodical. If they did, they would have put these proposed laws before the committee but they did not. They either botched it or were deliberately trying to ram through last-minute changes once again. No stakeholders have seen these changes, in what was already a truncated committee process where they joined two bills together.

Mr Mellish: One hearing.

Ms SCANLON: There was one hearing; I take the interjection from the shadow transport minister. None of these amendments actually go to the substance of what the submitters asked for, either. We had submitters like the Homicide Victims' Support Group that actually called for things, but the government has not responded to that.

Mr McDonald interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Lockyer, your interjections are not being taken.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Currumbin, neither are yours. The member for Gaven has the call.

Ms SCANLON: I want to be really clear. Every Queenslander deserves to feel safe and be safe, and that includes on our roads. Every death on a Queensland road is one too many.

Mr Vorster interjected.

Mr Chiesa interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. The level of interjections is getting a bit out of control. Member for Burleigh and member for Hinchinbrook, I will not warn you yet but I will start warning if you make future interjections. Your interjections are not being taken.

Ms SCANLON: It is our responsibility as legislators to not come in here with just vibes and slogans; we actually have to make sure laws are fit for purpose and will protect people in their homes and on our roads. Asking legitimate questions about law reform does not mean that we do not support laws; it just means that we want to make sure they are actually going to work.

We had an incredibly short consultation process which did not consider these last-minute amendments. Stakeholders at that point, before these amendments were even circulated, raised real concerns about whether this would be effective. They pointed out concerns about the government's commitment to road safety. The department told this committee—

The fundamental operation of the current offence and the new offence framework are very similar ...

The member for Cooper asked—

Nothing materially changes apart from the circumstances of aggravation and some clarification around discrepancies?

The department answered—

The fundamental operation does not change; that is right.

Basically, the department said, 'Actually, these laws do not really do much at all to change things,' which is I suspect why they have now rammed in these last-minute changes. I suspect that is the case. If that is the reason, they should have been up-front about it. They should have actually put the amendments to the committee in the first place. When asked whether crash data or repeat offender statistics justify these changes, the department said there had been no single dataset showing that these specific changes were required. In the same two-hour session of this committee, witnesses were heard twice across those bills, as has been mentioned by other members. It was such a truncated process.

One of the real issues with this bill is that a group caught up in the bill—medicinal cannabis patients—ought to have been given time to consider and respond appropriately. Queenslanders who use cannabis lawfully on their doctor's advice to manage chronic pain or illness are still at risk of losing their licence over the mere presence of a substance in their system days after it was taken. They were not given the appropriate consideration during this process. As has been mentioned, the community consultation led by the University of the Sunshine Coast found that most respondents want the law changed to support these patients, not to punish them further. QNADA put it plainly when they said—

Efforts should go toward understanding impairment, not penalising presence.

Other states are grappling with this across the country—New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania—so we call on this government to look at what processes those jurisdictions offer medicinal cannabis patients who return a positive roadside test and whether Queensland should be doing the same. That is a legitimate thing for the opposition to ask of the government, and they should take it on board.

Ultimately, we can write whatever legislation we want but if there are no police to enforce it, no courts to cope with it and no support for the families it is meant to serve then it just sits on a page. The pressure on our watch houses and correctional facilities is real, yet once again the government could not provide any substantive modelling on the impacts of this legislation.

Then there is enforcement. The RACQ is on the record outlining that these measures are all well and good but if there is no enforcement then it does not deliver the outcome intended. As others have mentioned, the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group back tougher sentences in principle, but they were up-front that penalties alone are not a deterrent. The people who support families after the worst day of their lives told this parliament that 'legislative reform alone will not reduce road trauma'. They asked for education, enforcement, engineering, early intervention and sentencing, but the government has not done those things. Right now, if you lose someone to a dangerous driver you are sent to a compulsory-third-party insurance system, not Victim Assist Queensland, and CTP claims can take years for counselling, travel, court costs and funeral expenses. The Homicide Victims' Support Group said it plainly—

No family should be required to wait years for the outcome of a CTP claim before being able to access counselling, support services or assistance to participate in criminal justice processes.

They have put forward a practical fix and the government has not done that. We ask the government to respond to what that organisation asked for. As I have mentioned, I will not get the opportunity to talk through some of the concerns of other stakeholders. Notably, the Queensland Law Society warned—

The Bill substantially increases the factual and legal issues that may require jury determination.

That in effect will mean longer trials, longer jury deliberations and 'a heightened risk of appeals founded on misdirection'. This means more pressure on our courts and still no plan for how to deal with it. They also flagged that the new non-motor-vehicle offence applies at any place, not just roads and footpaths. It could technically capture a kid riding a skateboard or bike dangerously in their own backyard. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service said the same. As drafted, it captures a child playing with their skateboard in their front yard. The maximum penalty for this child has been outlined, and there are now minimum penalty units proposed by the government.

As I said earlier in my contribution, of course we agree that dangerous drivers should be held to account, but when the government continue to rush through legislation they make a mockery of this place. They owe Queenslanders and the stakeholders who contribute to these processes the respect of actually putting forward a bill that they anticipate will become law.

Miss DOOLAN (Pumicestone—LNP) (7.49 pm): I rise to speak in support of the cognate debate on the Criminal Code (Dangerous Driving) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 and the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. These bills represent a significant step forward in improving road safety, strengthening accountability for dangerous drivers and ensuring our laws reflect community expectations. At their core, these bills are about protecting lives. Every Queenslander deserves to travel to work, school, sport or home without fear that another person's reckless choice will forever change their life, yet too often we have seen the devastating consequences of dangerous driving; too often we have seen families lose loved ones because someone chose to get behind the wheel while impaired, while speeding or while treating our roads like a racetrack.

For many Queenslanders, road safety is not an abstract policy discussion; it is deeply personal. In May 2021, 18-year-old Harrison Payne from Burpengary tragically lost his life in a four-wheel drive beach-driving accident at Woorim on Bribie Island. Harrison was a passenger in that vehicle. In the aftermath of that tragedy, Harrison's parents, Kent and Kylie Payne, founded a powerful legacy, the Harrison Payne Initiative, a not-for-profit organisation to promote road and off-road safety, empowering passengers to speak up. The organisation also provides financial and mental health support for other families affected by road trauma. The Harrison Payne Initiative has also been incredibly active in advocating for tougher legal penalties and awareness of reckless driving behaviour. Last month, Jodi Doe, a Pumicestone resident and a friend of mine, lost her life after being hit by a Holden Rodeo while parked on the side of the D'Aguilar Highway at Wamuran.

Families such as those of Harrison Payne and Jodi Doe know all too well the heartbreak caused by dangerous drivers. Their losses remind us that behind every road fatality statistic is a son, a daughter, a parent, a friend or a loved one whose life was cut tragically short. Their families have shown remarkable courage in advocating for stronger laws and greater accountability. They have asked parliament to ensure dangerous driving is treated with the seriousness it deserves, and these reforms answer that call.

One of the most important aspects of the dangerous driving bill is that it modernises a legislative framework that has become fragmented and outdated over time. The current dangerous driving provisions contained in section 328A of the Criminal Code have been amended repeatedly since their introduction more than 80 years ago. The result is an offence structure that has become increasingly complex, unclear and inconsistent. This bill replaces that framework with a contemporary and comprehensive set of offences that clearly distinguishes between dangerous driving, dangerous interference and offences involving motor and non-motor vehicles. Importantly, the bill also strengthens penalties for the most serious offending. The maximum penalty for dangerously driving a motor vehicle causing death or grievous bodily harm will increase from 20 years imprisonment to 25 years imprisonment where aggravating circumstances apply. The bill also increases licence disqualification periods and introduces stronger consequences for repeat offenders. These changes are not made lightly. They reflect the reality that a vehicle can become a deadly weapon when placed in the hands of someone acting recklessly or irresponsibly.

The bill also closes gaps that have frustrated victims' families and road safety advocates for many years. One glaring omission in the current framework is that a driver who kills or seriously injures someone while having an illicit drug present in their system is not automatically subject to an aggravated dangerous driving offence. This bill fixes that by specifically recognising drug driving as a circumstance of aggravation, ensuring offenders face appropriately tougher consequences.

The bill further recognises the heightened risks associated with excessive speeding, unlawful racing, driving while suspended or disqualified, evading police and repeat offending. Queenslanders rightly expect that those who engage in these behaviours will be held accountable. The transport bill

complements these reforms by targeting the dangerous behaviours that contribute to serious crashes and fatalities. Research shows that the risk of a fatal crash is dramatically increased when alcohol and drugs are combined. To address this, the bill introduces new combined drink- and drug-driving offences with tougher penalties and longer periods of disqualification. It also strengthens requirements for offender education and expands the use of alcohol ignition interlock programs.

The bill also introduces a drug driver education program aimed at reducing reoffending and helping people separate drug use from driving. This is an important recognition that while enforcement remains essential, prevention and behaviour change must also play a role in improving road safety outcomes. The transport bill further increases penalties for presence-based drug-driving offences. These changes are warranted when we consider that drug-driving fatalities in Queensland increased significantly between 2019 and 2025 and that drug drivers were involved in nearly a quarter of road deaths in 2025.

Another key reform is the introduction of immediate licence suspensions for high-speed offences detected by roadside police. Speed remains one of the leading contributors to road trauma. It is simply unacceptable that offenders can currently continue driving for weeks or months before a suspension takes effect. These reforms allow police to immediately remove high-risk drivers from the road, reducing the likelihood of further offending and making Queensland roads safer for everyone.

These bills are supported by broader investments in road safety infrastructure and policing. Legislation alone cannot eliminate road trauma. That is why these reforms sit alongside significant investment in Queensland's road network, including the record investment in roads and the Bruce Highway Safety Package. Strong laws and safer roads must go hand in hand if we are serious about reducing fatalities and serious injuries. Ultimately, these bills send a clear message: if you choose to drink and drive, if you choose to drug drive, if you choose to speed excessively, race on public roads, evade police or engage in other dangerous behaviour that puts other people's life at risk, there will be serious consequences.

More importantly, these bills send a message to victims and their families that Queensland is listening. For families like those of Harrison Payne and Jodi Doe, no legislative reform can undo the pain they have endured. However, we have a responsibility to learn from these tragedies and do everything possible to prevent other families suffering the same loss. These reforms deliver stronger penalties, greater accountability, improved deterrence and a clearer legal framework. They reflect community expectations and place road safety at the centre of our justice system. I commend both bills to the House.

Ms ASIF (Sandgate—ALP) (7.55 pm): I rise to speak on the cognate debate of the Criminal Code (Dangerous Driving) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 and the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. Most of us leave home in the morning and do not give a second thought about whether we will be coming back or not. We make plans, we often text our loved ones and we tell them we will see them later tonight. Often you think about all of the things you need to get done that day. I know when I leave home for work a text I often get from my husband is, 'What do you want for dinner?'

Tragically, last year 305 people in Queensland did not make it back home, so we should always be focused on ensuring we are making our roads safer so every single person who leaves home makes it back to their family and loved ones. Every hardworking Queenslander who leaves to go to work, to look after our elderly or to work in our hospitals or on our roads—in any industry across the country—deserves to get to work and back home safely.

Labor will always back laws that make our roads safer, which is why we introduced laws when we were in government to make roads safer, and we will continue to do that. Road safety is something that I would like to see in my community, too, especially action around combatting dangerous driving and hooning. That is because dangerous driving puts people at risk—innocent people who deserve to drive on our roads and do the right thing but who are impacted by those who are doing the wrong thing.

Hooning has been an issue in my community for a few months now. I have been contacted by locals who have constant issues around particular parts of our community. It is something that locals have been dealing with and often I am contacted by young parents who have a newborn in their house. They are trying to put them to sleep and often have a lot of issues because people on the roads are doing the wrong thing. Many locals who live around the Deagon Deviation and Hornibrook Highway—parts of Brighton and Shorncliffe—have consistently raised these concerns and it is something that I have raised with our local police and continue to work with them on. The police are aware and they are trying to combat that in any way they can. Of course, we need more resources so they are able to deal with these pressing issues, because they also want to see a safer community.

George, who lives in Brighton, contacted me and told me the hooning can start as early as 6 pm and run into the early hours. He hears revving engines and screeching tyres. Renae, who has recently come back to live in Deagon, said that hooning is far worse than she remembers. She cannot enjoy her outdoor space and she sleeps with the windows shut at night, which means it can get quite warm. Parents in Brighton have also told me that the noise is waking up their newborn babies. Anyone who has spent an hour getting a newborn to sleep knows exactly how that would feel. Alison from Brighton has also asked for permanent speed cameras to combat some of this hooning and speeding that is happening in our community. This is something that I continue to raise with our local police and will continue to do so. We do need to see action on dangerous driving.

These residents have not done anything wrong. They continue to do the right thing. After buying their home they want to make it a safe space for everyone, but they lay awake at night and cannot sleep. The government came into office and promised safer roads and safer communities, and that includes ensuring that people are safe in their homes and able to fall asleep without people driving dangerously on our roads.

This bill also contains amendments that have not been the subject of consultation, and I do not refer to the amendments that are before the House. However, I want to put on the record that when making significant change to legislation it needs to go through a thorough consultation process to ensure that Queenslanders and stakeholders have an opportunity to assess what the changes are going to be and the impact they will have on our communities. The transport bill—

Mr Vorster: Like when you changed the whole nature of our democracy in 18 minutes?

A government member interjected.

Ms ASIF: I am not taking anyone's interjections. You are welcome to contribute when it is your time.

Mr Vorster interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Order! Member for Burleigh.

Ms ASIF: Thank you. Road safety also means giving people a real choice about how they move around—that is, whether they choose to drive, to catch a bus or, if they so choose, to catch a train. They should be able to use public transport if they do not wish to drive. That is all about road safety. It is about getting people from their homes to where they need to be safely. Unfortunately, under this government that choice is getting harder and harder. People are not being left with a choice because they cannot catch the train that they need to in order to get to work. They are having to either Uber or drive and pay for parking because this government cannot seem to fix the problem with our trains. It is incredibly important for the government to continue to work with our transport system. Those opposite need to talk to people in our community who are being impacted by the government's changes and the fact that it does not want to run our train services as regularly as they should be run.

Another part of the legislation that I want to talk about is the Wave stage 3. This is the part that I think the government does not really want anyone to know about, because there are significant changes in this part. It sits between provisions, but the changes that are coming into effect are quite significant. They make changes on how contracts are allowed for the project. The chief executive is going to be able to invite offers in any way they see fit—so any way the government sees fit—without any mid-term reviews of how that contract is being managed and no legislative requirement for those buses to be manufactured in Queensland.

Why has the government not put in place a legislative requirement for those buses to be built in Queensland to ensure that the people in those jobs are contributing to this project? Where are those buses going to be built? From where I sit and how I see it, the government is going to outsource that to somewhere else—potentially across the world—and we will not be seeing that revenue and not be seeing those contracts being filled in Queensland. Therefore, those buses will not be built locally by hardworking locals. What then happens to the people who drive those buses? If a company cannot have any certainty on how long that contract is going to be, what certainty can it give its workers? What certainty are those bus drivers going to have? Are they going to have a contract? Are they going to have a job the next day when they rock up? What contract conditions are going to be put in place? Are those workers going to have the ability to negotiate how much pay they get?

None of that is included in this legislation and there is such little detail that it gives the government so much opportunity to do what it wants, and we know what the LNP does when it has an opportunity: it cuts, sacks and sells—something I assume we are going to be seeing more of now. With the credit rating downgrade that this government has received, it is going to be cutting, sacking and selling any

chance it gets looking for revenue—looking to make a quick buck—to bring its debt down. We know about the debt. Some $216 billion of debt is what is projected by this government. It is going to look to make that money somehow, and we know where it is going to get it. It will be by cutting—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Burleigh, what is your point of order?

Mr VORSTER: It is on relevance, as the member's contribution is straying well and truly outside the long title of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: So is your point of order on relevance?

Mr VORSTER: Yes.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. No, I find the member to be relevant. Carry on.

Ms ASIF: Thank you for your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker. What we need to see from this government is a plan—a plan to make our communities safer so that the mums and dads in my community who cannot sleep have the support they need. We need the government to have a plan to invest in our communities rather than make big promises and deliver very little. We need the government to invest in jobs and invest in manufacturing so that Queenslanders have an opportunity to work and live in this great state and can tell their kids about the prosperity of Queensland and the fact that they should be able to get to work safely. That is something that is not currently happening in Shorncliffe because, day in and day out, there are parents and city workers who come to me and talk about the fact that they have to wait at 7 pm at Northgate train station in order to get the next rail bus to take them home. There is certainly no safety in that.

I implore the minister to continue to work with our community. Again, he is more than welcome to come to Sandgate. I will take him on the train and we can come back into the city together and he can see just how difficult it is for people in my community who are catching the train. Every Queenslander deserves to be safe on our roads. They deserve to get home safely. They deserve to get back to their families safely. Anything that is going to make our roads safer is something that I would support.

Hon. AJ STOKER (Oodgeroo—LNP) (8.05 pm): Tonight I rise to speak on a bill that covers a wide range of matters—some of them quite significant in the criminal law sense while others of them are administrative in their effect. There are four main reasons the bill has my support and I think it is a really important thing that this chamber gets behind. The first of those reasons is that I am really pleased to say it represents the minister directly listening to a constituent of mine who approached me at a mobile office in Ormiston about a year ago. She came to me really quite bruised by the experience she had had before the legal system after a loved one of hers was lost in a motor vehicle accident. It occurred in circumstances where the driver of the other vehicle was a person who had had many past experiences of having engaged in drug driving and who was nothing less than high as a kite at the time she was at the wheel and ended the life of my constituent's loved one.

In the course of the legal process, my constituent was nothing less than horrified to find that, because of the quirks of the way section 328A of the Criminal Code had evolved, there was no circumstance of aggravation that applied to deal with the fact that this person was a serial offender and there was no circumstance of aggravation that applied to reflect the fact that the woman who was driving was doing so while knowingly having consumed large quantities of illegal drugs and that those drugs she had consumed meant she was driving well and truly outside the remit of the law.

Mr Field: Tell me about it!

Mrs STOKER: That is quite right; I take that interjection. Nobody knows this better than the member for Capalaba, my neighbour and friend who has experienced very personally what happens on our roads. My constituent was horrified to find that not only was there no circumstance of aggravation that applied but, perhaps even worse, defence counsel argued that, because the driver was such a heavy drug user, her penchant for the consumption of methamphetamine and MDMA was so high that she had a tolerance sufficient that it could not and should not be taken as having impaired her capacity to drive. It meant that, at the time of sentencing, the fact that she was high as a kite became almost irrelevant to the penalty that was applied.

That is not a circumstance we should accept in Queensland. There is no safe way to take drugs, there is no safe way to do drugs of that nature, and there is certainly no safe way to drive when you have consumed an awful lot of them. Families who experience the rough end of the stick in situations like this deserve to know that the law is going to be on their side when they go through the ordeal of

the justice process. In her name, and in the name of her family member who I know she misses every day, this is a law that should be amended. It should be changed, and it should reflect the gravity of the experience of the victims and families who have to deal with the consequences in the field of those who consume drugs, behave in irresponsible ways and do it with impunity.

The second reason to support this bill is that it not only provides that drug consumption will be a circumstance of aggravation for the criminal offence of dangerous driving occasioning death but also recognises repeat offenders of this kind. It should be a more serious offence if one comes before the court facing charges of dangerous driving that causes serious injury or death after having done so previously. Such individuals have had the opportunity to learn a lesson, seek treatment, get help and do better, and they have chosen not to. If they continue to leave a trail of victims and destruction, the law should reflect that this is an unacceptable outcome.

The third reason I support this bill is that it directly affects the daily life of people in my electorate. It is particularly important for the residents of Cleveland and Raby Bay, who regularly approach me about extreme hooning. Specifically, they are plagued by drivers who speed along Shore Street East and use Sommersea Drive and Little Shore Street as a parallel racetrack. These constituents need to know that the law we are prepared to implement to deal with hooning in all the ways that it arises will improve their amenity every day. Their suburban streets should be safe to cross and quiet enough to enjoy at night. Residents should not have to worry that drivers using their streets as a drag strip will come crashing through their front yards and into their living rooms and there are insufficient consequences for their actions. This bill establishes a circumstance of aggravation for dangerous driving causing death or serious injury when the offender was engaged in racing type behaviours. This is exactly the kind of hooning on our streets that puts ordinary people going about their daily lives at an unacceptable level of risk.

Finally, the fourth reason that I think we in this chamber should support this bill is that it deals with those who wish to use social media to promote, advertise or brag about what is dangerous behaviour with the potential to cause significant injury. If you are going to engage in hooning and racing in our suburban streets and post it online and pretend that is a good thing, then you deserve to face aggravated offences, and that is precisely what this bill does. While the bill covers a lot of other important and worthwhile territory, those four reasons will make the most difference to the people in the Cleveland district.

Victims of these crimes often have to deal with the most horrible circumstances, and they deserve the recognition that comes from knowing these circumstances will be considered aggravating. They deserve the higher penalties that should come from behaviour that is particularly egregious, and they deserve to know that when a case comes before a judge, being drug addled will not be treated as a mitigating circumstance, as happened in the experience of my constituent. Victims deserve to know that higher penalties will apply for those who not only disregard the traffic laws but also disregard our drug laws.

For those reasons, I commend the bill to the House. I thank the minister for listening to the horrendous experience of my constituent. I am looking forward to seeing her and being able to say that this is a government that listened and made a difference in the name of the woman she loved.

Mr McCALLUM (Bundamba—ALP) (8.13 pm): I begin my contribution to this cognate debate by acknowledging all victims of dangerous driving. Whether it be through speeding, alcohol or illegal drug driving, there are far too many victims from this kind of behaviour on our roads. Labor supports effective reforms that are designed to improve road safety and reduce risks on our roads. We will be supporting this reform, but it is incumbent upon us to address and identify gaps in these laws and to encourage the government to take action to address these gaps. I place on record my concern and the concern of stakeholders with regard to the lack of consultation on these laws, particularly around the two-week submission period and single two-hour public hearing for the transport bill.

Given the limited amount of time that I have before the guillotine motion takes effect, I will get right to a couple of the key issues I want to address, the first being medicinal cannabis. Plenty of speakers have raised this issue. The reality is that Queensland has the highest rates of medicinal cannabis use in the nation. I find it curious that, if the government's reforms to the Queensland Drug Driving Review are these laws, that review concluded that no legislative changes were required for medicinal cannabis. Most of the stakeholders argued that, whilst road safety should be prioritised, drug-driving reform should concentrate on impairment, rather than the presence of a substance when it comes to medicinal cannabis.

I echo the contribution of the member for Cooper who outlined how many of our veterans are legal medicinal cannabis users. I want to place on the record some of the correspondence that I received from Bundamba constituents. The constituents who reached out to me about this bill only reached out about the provisions relating to medicinal cannabis and how this bill treats medicinal cannabis users. This is an excerpt from Mark's correspondence—

> I am currently a medical cannabis patient with a legal prescription. Cannabis works really well for my circumstance, as I am without high levels of continuous pain and no longer suffer pharmaceutical brain fog, a common occurrence, before medicinal cannabis.
>
> Every day I have to make a choice between taking my medications (and getting relief) or driving. I live in constant fear of losing my licence and being heavily, punitively fined.

And from Matthew—

> Unlike alcohol and other prescription medications roadside mobile testing units test purely for the presence of THC, not impairment. Because THC is fat soluble, inactive traces can linger in a person's saliva and body for days after consumption-long after any psychoactive or impairing effects have worn off. As a result Queenslanders who follow the advice of their registered medical practitioners, obtain legally prescribed medication and strictly wait until they are complete unimpaired before driving are still losing their licences, receiving heavy fines and facing criminal records.

Queenslanders like Mark and Matthew should not be unfairly penalised for legally using medicinal cannabis as prescribed by their doctor, nor should they be forced to choose between managing their health or losing their driver's licence. I implore the government to investigate the processes made available to medicinal cannabis patients who return positive roadside tests in other jurisdictions like New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.

I now turn to the provisions of the transport bill that deal with the Wave stage 3. This is very interesting because these provisions certainly bear no relevance whatsoever to the actual content of the bill that they are attached to—there is no link whatsoever. We do not support the removal of longstanding safeguards that are designed to protect the bus industry, which is what these exemptions will do. These proposed exceptions diminish established procurement and contract frameworks and disadvantage small and family businesses.

Frankly, the minister has failed to explain why the removal of existing protections and oversight mechanisms is necessary to deliver the Wave stage 3. I understand that the Queensland Bus Industry Council rejects the government's contention that the Wave stage 3 is sufficiently different from existing bus services as a way to justify the removal of these statutory processes and protections. Ultimately, let us be honest, stage 3 of the Wave is a bus—a very expensive bus that will cost between $3.6 billion and $5 billion of taxpayers money. When we talk about the downgrade that Queensland has received to its credit rating and one looks at S&P's document, under 'Rationale' it specifically mentions a historically large infrastructure program on major transport projects. They are talking about the Wave stage 3. This is the kind of project that has led to our credit downgrade.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Marr): The time for debate has now expired. Under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House, I call the minister to reply to the second reading debate.

Hon. BA MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (8.20 pm), in reply: I want to firstly thank members who have contributed to the debate on the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 and the Criminal Code (Dangerous Driving) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. I think it is important to recognise those members in this House and those in our community who have been touched by road trauma. Whether individuals were personally involved in a crash or it was a family member, a friend or a member of their community, all of those lives lost and the trauma associated is a tragedy. I think it was the member for Mirani who spoke about the empty chair at the dinner table. That, unfortunately, and tragically is something that too many Queensland families face. I would also like to acknowledge the first responders—the front line of the ambos, the firies and our police—who are also heavily impacted by what they experience. I know that there are several former first responders in this House, and I thank them for their service alongside those serving our community on the road right now. I thank all members who shared their experiences and Letitia Smith-Saunders, who was here to witness this debate, and the Dennis family for their advocacy for these changes.

I find all of these personal and powerful stories hard to reconcile with the positions outlined by those opposite. As usual, those opposite live in a fairyland as if nothing existed prior to October 2024. They argue for weakening drug-driving laws for users of medicinal cannabis, yet in their 10 years of government they did not change the law. To be clear, this legislation does not change that law. The requirement right now is for zero presence of THC, and that will be the case after this legislation passes. A cynic may suggest that those opposite know the dangers of allowing people to drive with THC present but they are seeking the green vote—and I am not just talking about the member for Maiwar. We even

had the member for Cooper hosting forums advocating for changes to current THC levels, despite admitting, to her credit, there is no roadside test available to test impairment. It begs the question how they propose to implement the change when there is no test, which they acknowledge, yet in this House they state they will support the legislation which does not propose any relaxations.

The danger in Labor's mixed position is that it risks creating the impression that driving after THC use is safe or that lawful medicinal cannabis use necessarily equates to fitness to drive. I have heard them invoke the example of veterans, as if that gives that particular driver some higher level of credibility. The reality is that the impairment that comes from driving under the influence of cannabis is a material risk that makes it more dangerous and results in Queenslanders losing their lives on our roads. Currently, there is no scientifically reliable THC threshold that can distinguish between impaired and unimpaired drivers, despite what might be being advanced in other jurisdictions in this country. There is no roadside test that can accurately measure impairment. That is a fact. Those opposite acknowledge that fact. It would be reckless of our government to rush ahead when there is no evidence to support any alternative but zero tolerance.

Further, we know that there are significant concerns about medicinal cannabis prescribing and oversight. Medicinal cannabis products are not approved by the TGA and have not undergone the same assessment for safety, quality and effectiveness as approved medicines, some of which were cited by those opposite as examples to compare with respect to medicinal cannabis. Given these limitations and recognising the increasing number of fatal and serious injury crashes caused by drug drivers, noting that THC is the leading drug found, this bill puts Queenslanders' safety on our roads as its highest priority. Where do Labor stand on drug driving? Their contradictions are confusing. You know you are in trouble when even the member for Maiwar points out your hypocrisy.

Another area where Labor are ignoring their own history is when it comes to enforcement. They say that more enforcement is needed. Do members know what we need for enforcement? Police! What was the record of those opposite when it comes to police numbers? I can tell members that it was not good. Officers were leaving in droves because they did not have a government that supported them. They had a government that was on the side of perpetrators, not victims—certainly not on the side of the community and certainly not on the side of the police, who were left to deal with ineffective legislation. That includes legislation to deal with e-mobility devices. Remember how police under Labor's laws were unable to RBT the users of e-scooters? They promised they would fix that loophole.

Mrs Gerber: They didn't!

Mr MICKELBERG: They never fixed it. I take the interjection from the member for Currumbin, the youth justice minister. They said they would. They never did. So often we hear that refrain. We fixed those laws. Since we made those changes in this House a couple of months ago, police have reported 61 drink-riding offences—61 people taken off our streets who were otherwise a risk to those on our footpaths and streets.

As I said in my second reading speech, we are supporting police and there are now 800 more of them out on our streets—more police to undertake RDTs and RBTs and more police removing high-range speeding motorists off our streets. Sadly, the decline in the amount of road policing under those opposite means we now have a generation of young drivers who have not experienced enforcement and have developed some dangerous behaviours.

Mrs Gerber: Never had an RBT!

Mr MICKELBERG: I take the interjection from the member for Currumbin; they have never had an RBT. The LNP is turning that around. We are giving the police the laws they need to deliver consequences for action.

We are also making it easier for the police to do their job. That is why we are removing a redundant second roadside drug test. Roadside drug-testing technology has improved, and that is why we are removing the second roadside test. These technological improvements also mean that the presence of THC via a saliva test is not detectable days after use. If THC is detected then it is a road safety risk. The member for Ipswich West stated that roadside drug testing is only 80 per cent effective. I am not sure where she got that number from. I am advised that the devices we use are tested through European accredited laboratories and it was found that the initial saliva test was 100 per cent accurate. I do note that in everyday use the device remains highly accurate, although some environmental factors may occasionally affect results. Regardless, I take this opportunity to reiterate that there are no changes to laboratory testing for positive roadside detections. This laboratory test is the one that determines guilt to an evidentiary standard.

Education was raised by a number of members. The bill also requires drug-driving offenders to complete an education program before they can be relicensed. I thank those members who have spoken in support of that measure. It is expected that the education program will consist of a phone counselling session with a drug information service provider tailored to the individual's specific needs. If necessary, participants may also be referred for additional support services. Queensland already requires drink-driving offenders to undertake education programs, and it is appropriate that drug-driving offenders also undertake education to better understand the risks and the consequences of drug driving. This program is intended to encourage lasting behaviour change by helping offenders separate their drug use from driving and reduce the risk of reoffending.

I note that some, such as the member for Maiwar, have argued in this place against the increased penalties for driving offences. He says it is not right. What is not right is getting a knock on your door from a police officer to tell you that a family member has died in a car crash. I make no apology for being part of a government that believes in consequences for action. When you drink-drive or drug-drive, you do not just risk your own life; you are risking the lives of all road users and you should pay the consequences. Minimum fines will support greater consistency in sentencing and strengthen deterrence while forming part of a broader package to reduce reoffending and prevent road trauma. The bill preserves judicial discretion in prescribed circumstances, ensuring courts can impose penalties that are appropriate to the case before them.

I turn now to the changes relating to the procurement process for the Wave stage 3. The member for Aspley attempted some sort of cosplay support for small bus operators.

Mr MELLISH: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the minister's comments and ask him to withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Marr): Minister, the member has taken personal offence. Will you withdraw?

Mr MICKELBERG: I withdraw. Let me be very clear about what these amendments do and what they do not do. They do not award a contract. They do not shut out small Queensland bus operators. In fact, it is the existing laws that shut out small bus operators from bidding for the Wave stage 3, in favour, I might add, of the existing big multinational bus companies that currently hold contracts in this geographic area on the Sunshine Coast. These amendments allow my department to procure the Wave stage 3 in a way that reflects the nature and urgency of the project. It is an integrated approach involving fleet, depot and operations for the 2032 Olympics and Paralympics.

The Wave will also provide a positive legacy for my community on the Sunshine Coast—a community that had been ignored by those opposite for far too long. We are righting that as we invest in projects like the Wave to deliver the legacy that the Sunshine Coast deserves, after we were ignored during Labor's decade of decline. That includes the member for Miller who was minister for transport and main roads for almost a decade. What did he do in relation to heavy rail on the Sunshine Coast? Nothing! Thankfully he did not do anything because it would have ended up like Cross River Rail. He was too busy hanging out with his CFMEU mates, thinking of ways to rip off Queensland taxpayers. While I am at it, I want to really thank the member for Miller for his contribution. However, no-one should hold their breath waiting for me or anyone on this side to take advice from the failed transport and main roads minister who oversaw an increase in the road toll from 222 in 2019 to 273 in 2023. That is an increase of almost 20 per cent under the member for Miller.

I can assure the House that probity, transparency, accountability and value for money will remain central to Wave stage 3 procurement. We will not be imposing the CFMEU tax that Queenslanders paid under those opposite. The amendments strike the right balance. They remove legislative barriers that could delay or prevent the delivery of these critical services. They provide appropriate flexibility for innovation without compromising accountability. They will result in greater value for money for Queenslanders and they will reduce the interface risks between delivery of the depot, the fleet and the operator.

Despite what those opposite said, targeted consultation on these amendments was undertaken with all operators who participated in the market sounding, which was publicly advertised and open to all Queensland, national and international industry participants. Respondents to that consultation largely supported the proposed amendments.

I will take a moment to touch on the amendments relating to licence suspensions for high-speed offences. Speeding has been raised as a concern by a number of members. There should be no confusion about the purpose of this reform. A person travelling more than 40 kilometres per hour over

the speed limit is putting other road users at serious risk. The current arrangements mean that, in some cases, a driver can continue driving for up to three months after being detected before their suspension actually takes effect. In my view, that is not good enough.

Mr Dillon: Too long.

Mr MICKELBERG: I take the interjection from the member for Gregory. This bill allows police to remove the highest risk drivers from the road sooner when they are detected by roadside police. The framework is firm but it is also practical. Police will have discretion to delay the commencement of the suspension for up to 48 hours where an immediate suspension could create an unsafe situation—for example, where a driver and passengers could be left on the side of the road late at night, in a rural area, with no reasonable alternative transport options.

The bill also establishes a severe hardship permit framework for eligible high-speed offenders. This recognises that a licence suspension can have serious economic consequences. However, access to this permit is not automatic. The person must satisfy the decision-maker that the statutory criteria are met, including that refusal would cause severe hardship. This is a balanced approach. It protects the community from dangerous driving while preserving a controlled and limited pathway for genuine hardship cases.

There was also discussion about the passenger seatbelt amendments. Our government makes no apology for strong penalties when people do not wear seatbelts. Seatbelts save lives. However, the law also needs to target the right person. At present, a driver can receive an infringement notice and demerit points for a camera detected offence where a passenger is not wearing a seatbelt. Many Queenslanders have justifiably raised concerns about the fairness of that outcome.

This bill responds to those concerns by allowing a driver to nominate a passenger who is 16 years or older and is responsible for the offence. Drivers will remain responsible for ensuring children are properly restrained at all times. If the nomination is valid, the driver's infringement notice will be withdrawn and the passenger will receive the penalty. The fine remains strong because the road safety risk remains serious. What changes is that responsibility is directed to the person who failed to wear the seatbelt. The bill also removes demerit points for passenger related seatbelt offences. That aligns the penalty with the principle that demerit points should attach to the conduct the driver is directly responsible for. This reform is sensible, fair and consistent with community expectations.

I turn now to the Criminal Code bill. Despite what those opposite believe, these amendments will ensure all types of drink and drug driving are considered for the purposes of aggravating the offences and imposing imprisonment for repeat offences, including the new combined drink- and drug-driving offences introduced by the transport bill. They also ensure amendments made by the transport bill are not removed as a result of the sequencing of the commencement of the bills. The amendments do not insert last-minute mandatory minimum fines, as those opposite are trying to state. Rather, they ensure the mandatory minimum fines introduced by the transport bill are not removed by the later commencement of the provisions of the dangerous driving bill. These are technical amendments to preserve the changes introduced by the transport bill.

In response to the concerns raised about the definition of the offences to 'any place' and the potential for unintended consequences, I can advise that those opposite, including the shadow attorney-general who clearly has a fundamental misunderstanding of the current legislation, that those offences of dangerously operating a vehicle have applied to 'any place' for more than 25 years. The risk of unintended consequences would be introduced by changing where the offences apply, not by preserving an element of the offences that has worked for more than a quarter of a century.

Today, this House has an opportunity to make a genuine difference to the lives of families across Queensland. Heartbreakingly, these changes are necessary because other families have endured the most devastating loss imaginable; loss that no family should ever have to experience; loss that leaves a permanent void in the hearts of loved ones and changes lives forever. For those families, this is not simply about a legislative debate in a parliament. It is not an abstract discussion about legislation. It is deeply personal. It is the pain of waiting for a loved one who never comes home. It is an empty chair at the dinner table. It is a birthday celebrated without a son or daughter. It is a future forever altered by one tragic moment.

Behind every one of these statistics is a person and a family left to carry a burden that words can never fully describe. Their grief does not end when the headlines fade or when the court proceedings conclude. It remains with them every single day. Today, we have a responsibility to honour those

families through action. We have an obligation to do everything within our power to make our communities safer and to ensure accountability for conduct that causes such devastating harm. If these reforms can help prevent even one family from experiencing that unimaginable loss then they are reforms worth supporting.

These reforms are thanks to the advocacy of strong families who have endured unbelievable loss. They are advocates such as Letitia Smith-Saunders whose young brother was tragically killed simply crossing the road, hit by a drunk driver who had an extensive driving history. They are advocates such as Dr Dennis and his family. His wife was tragically killed by a reckless driver who was driving under the influence of drugs. That accident also left his son with permanent disabilities. It is thanks to their advocacy that the Crisafulli government is implementing these new laws. We listen to the stories of victims and their families.

In conclusion, these bills are focused on making our roads safer and addressing the road toll that we saw grow by 35 per cent in the last five years of the previous Labor government. I again thank the committee, its secretariat, submitters and departmental officers for their work. Their scrutiny has assisted the parliament's consideration of the bills and reinforced the importance of legislation that is clear, proportionate and enforceable. I thank those members who have told their personal stories about road trauma. I commend the bills to the House.

Question put—That the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Question put—That the Criminal Code (Dangerous Driving) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill

Clauses 1 to 44, as read, agreed to.

Clause 45—

Mr MELLISH (8.41 pm): Queensland Labor cannot support the TO(PT)A amendments for the Wave stage 3, amendments that would strip protections from Queensland's bus industry. Safeguards designed to support the rights of bus operators and ensure fair competition will now be eroded in a rush to get their bus dressed as a train built, all because the Department of Transport and Main Roads has described the Wave stage 3 as a new and different service offering. Over on this side of the House, we know a bus when we see one. That is what the Wave is—a bus. It is so outrageous that the LNP refused to engage with the Queensland Bus Industry Council, the voice of Queensland's bus and coach operators. So much for a government that promised it would listen to the experts! The LNP has ignored the concerns of the very industry it will hurt with this bill. If only the transport minister had listened to the issues raised by the bus industry instead of pushing through with their dogged pursuit of reducing red tape.

Looking at the way these amendments were tacked on to a road safety bill, I have to ask why they were developed. Is this a way for the LNP to wiggle out of the true cost of the Wave—to avoid revealing the true cost? We know it is $5 billion. The minister will not admit it. The funding black hole for the Wave stage 3 is clear. Were these amendments developed to hide the Wave's cost by spreading the cost out over a multitude of smaller stages and pushing it out to beyond 2032? Are these amendments just the latest kickback designed to help out their donor mates?

How will existing local Sunshine Coast operators be consulted about the introduction of a new bus service if the department has removed its obligations to do so? The minister said these amendments would allow the best national and international operators to bid for the Wave stage 3, not local Queensland operators.

QBIC reported their concerns that DTMR appeared to have undertaken a closed market sounding with a number of entities outside of Queensland. Could we see the stage 3 contract issued to international consortia over local operators? We know what happened the last time the LNP ordered

trains from overseas. Could we see our taxpayer dollars leaving the state for subpar rolling stock, subpar buses? We do not have the answers to these questions because the government has chosen to scrap oversight obligations.

Mr MICKELBERG: I rise in response to the contribution from the member for Aspley. What members should take from what they just heard is that Labor is not committed to delivering infrastructure for the Sunshine Coast. They do not want to see the Wave built. They do not want to see this generational infrastructure that would completely change the way the Sunshine Coast moves about. We know they are not committed because they had 10 years to build public transport infrastructure to the Sunshine Coast and they never did.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: I will take that interjection from the member for Chatsworth. He could not even build a level crossing removal in his own electorate, but he was trying to follow the performance of the member for Miller as his apprentice. Let's be very clear: the member for Aspley purports to fight for 'small Queensland bus operators' because they will be 'excluded from the Wave stage 3'. Let's be very clear: the operator he refers to, who is a capable operator and doing a great job, is a multinational company owned by entities outside of Australia. A multinational company is the entity he purports to fight for.

I make it very clear that what we want to see is the best operator to deliver this service. What we want to see is a solution that integrates both fleet, depot and operations and ensures the service is the most effective service for all Sunshine Coast residents. I am very proud to represent that part of the world, and I can tell the member for Aspley that my community is incredibly excited to see the investments we are delivering on the Sunshine Coast, whether it is the Wave stage 1, 2 or 3, whether it is the Mooloolah River Interchange—in fact, one of the first acts from the member for Aspley was to roll over when the federal government cut the funding to the Mooloolah River Interchange. It was in about the first week of him being the minister. For the short time that he was a minister, one of his first acts was to axe the Mooloolah River Interchange. So, the Sunshine Coast residents know that Labor does not care about the Sunshine Coast. They know this is all a facade.

I see the member for McConnel there gesticulating. We know she has had a big night. We know she does not support Olympics infrastructure. She tries to walk both sides of the fence—'I do, but I don't. I run with the hares and I run with the hounds.' The reality is Labor cannot stand for anything, and Queenslanders know it.

Ms GRACE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Marr): Minister, I will ask you to take your seat. Member for McConnel, you have a point of order?

Ms GRACE: We are talking about a clause here. My point of order is on relevance. I do not know how I am relevant to this.

Dr ROWAN: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order is that he was responding to an interjection from the member for McConnel.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members! Silence while I make the decision, thank you. Minister, I will ask you to come back to the clause.

Mr MICKELBERG: Clause 45 deals with the declaration of a service in relation to the Wave stage 3, and I am talking about our commitment to deliver that service. It is rock solid. We will build the Wave stage 3, something those opposite never even countenanced doing. Those opposite never even countenanced building the Wave stage 3. We are getting on with the job, and we are doing the calm and methodical work required to deliver it on time and on budget.

If only those opposite had taken a similar approach when it comes to other major infrastructure, projects like Cross River Rail or Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail. We saw the project cost of the Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail—a project, I might add, that runs through Labor heartland. You would think that of any project they would want to get built it would be Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail. I have to tell you, we do not hold too many seats down in that part of the world, but it is our government that has awarded that contract, and it is our government that is building the Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail in spite of their incompetence.

Mr de BRENNI: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Clause 45 is very specific, and the minister is in no way relevant to matters that pertain to clause 45.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your point of order is relevance?

Mr de BRENNI: Yes.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, I will ask you to bring it back to the clause.

Mr MICKELBERG: As I said, clause 45 deals with the introduction of the Wave stage 3 service and service contract areas or routes. It talks about the declaration of those routes, and I am making it very clear our rock-solid commitment to delivering the Wave stage 3.

I cannot stand here and not call out the disgraceful attempt by those opposite to try to muddy the waters and suggest that this is some sort of righteous crusade for them to fight for Queensland small businesses when nothing could be further from the truth. Let's be very clear: this clause deals with the Wave stage 3, and only the Wave stage 3. It strips out this particular service from the existing contracting framework which favours one entity—a capable entity, I might add, but a multinational entity; a very large entity—and what we are seeking to do is drive the best outcome for Queenslanders. We want to see Queensland businesses bidding for this. I want to see national and international businesses bidding for this, and I want to deliver the best outcome for the Sunshine Coast. What that looks like—

Mr O'Connor: 'Big Business Bart Multinational Mellish'.

Mr MICKELBERG: I take the interjection from the member for Bonney. This is 'Big Business Bart' and 'Multinational Mellish'.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr MICKELBERG: We know the overrun overlords are calling the shots.

A government member: Yes, he was up. He is down.

Mr MICKELBERG: Are you up? Are you down? What are you doing, mate? Come on.

Mr Mellish interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: I love scrutiny. I have been talking about it for 10 minutes. I am happy to answer your questions all night, if you want.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members! There will be no cross-chamber conversation. Minister!

Mr MICKELBERG: Mate, you haven't asked me a question since June, so if you want to—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Marr): There will be no cross-chamber conversations.

Mr MICKELBERG: The member for Aspley interjected and asked, 'What's the cost?' There is this thing called estimates hearings, mate. It is a process where you get to ask questions of the minister of the day.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Make your comments through the chair, Minister.

Mr MICKELBERG: Through you, Madam Deputy Speaker, you get to ask any of the ministers, I might add, but in his case he had plenty of chances to ask me questions.

Mr MELLISH: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister is in no way being relevant. He just wants to filibuster through to nine o'clock. I ask you to bring him back to the clause.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Aspley, I do believe the minister was responding to your interjection.

Mr MICKELBERG: The member for Aspley interjected and asked, 'How much will it cost?' I will tell him what my commitment is: this project will be delivered on time and on budget. We said that this project will be built by 2032, and it would never have been built by Labor. The Wave stage 3 is something they could not even countenance or think about. Heaven forbid, if the CFMEU tax was applied to this particular project under those opposite the cost would be triple. We know that the member for Aspley likes to meet with the CFMEU. He takes orders from them.

Mr de BRENNI: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There are important matters before the House tonight. There should be an opportunity to debate them. For those reasons, I submit to you that the minister should be relevant to this clause and that we should move on.

Dr ROWAN: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister is being relevant because he is responding to the interjections which have come from the opposite side of the chamber. He is responding to those and providing additional information in relation to clause 45.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The interjection does not mean you can continue on with that conversation, Minister. I will ask you to come back to the clause.

Mr MICKELBERG: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I will be very clear for those opposite, so I suggest that they sit there and not interject. We will deliver the Wave stage 3. We will deliver it on time and on budget. Their disgraceful scare campaign is nothing but a mistruth. I would use another word but I am not allowed to.

Let us be very clear: this deals with one particular service—something those opposite have never delivered anywhere in Queensland, I might add—and we will be driving the best outcome. Those opposite know it. They know that this does not carve out every single service and pave the way for riding roughshod over existing contractual provisions. Those opposite know that. The member for Aspley is not that incompetent to have not worked that out. I do not rate him highly, but I suspect that he knows that what he is saying is false. If those opposite are genuinely committed to the Sunshine Coast—and I do not think they are—they should get on board the Wave stage 3 as we deliver it.

Division: Question put—That clause 45, as read, stand part of the bill.

AYES, 48:

LNP, 48—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, 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, 29—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Farmer, Furner, Grace, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Richmond, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Pair: Camm, Enoch.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 45, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 46 to 65, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—

Mr MICKELBERG (8.58 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Mr MICKELBERG: I move amendment No. 1 circulated in my name—

1 After clause 65

Page 44, after line 14—

insert—

65A Amendment of s 124 (Facilitation of proof)

Section 124(3), 'section 123K'—

omit, *insert—*

section 123Q

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

Tabled paper: Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, amendments to be moved by Hon. Brent Mickelberg [1665].

Tabled paper: Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes to Hon. Brent Mickelberg's amendments [1666].

Tabled paper: Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights to Hon. Brent Mickelberg's amendments [1667].

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 66, as read, agreed to.

Clause 67—

Mr MICKELBERG (8.58 pm): I move amendment No. 2 circulated in my name—

2 Clause 67 (Insertion of new ch 7, pt 28)

Page 47, after line 8—

insert—

249A Existing approved testing entities

An entity that, immediately before the commencement, was approved under a regulation to conduct calibration testing of a photographic detection device is, on the commencement, taken to be approved, and to have always been approved, to conduct calibration testing of a speed measuring component for a photographic detection device for the purposes of this Act.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 67, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 68, as read, agreed to.

Clause 69—

Mr BERKMAN (8.59 pm): This is the first of the provisions that deals with the drug-driving offences that, as we have discussed in the second reading debate, do not deal with any questions of impairment around THC, which leaves medicinal cannabis patients in a real bind. This is lazy legislation. We use an impairment test for other medicines—

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Maiwar, I ask you to resume your seat. I need to put the question currently before the House which is in relation to clause 69.

Division: Question put—That clause 69, as read, stand part of the bill.

Resolved in the affirmative in accordance with standing order 106(10).

Clause 69, as read, agreed to.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Members, under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, I will now put all remaining questions necessary to complete consideration of the bill, including clauses en bloc and any amendments to be moved by the minister in charge of the bill, without further amendment or debate. The House will consider the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill first. I note that the minister's amendment No. 41 is outside the long title of the bill and therefore requires leave of the House. Is leave granted?

Leave granted.

Question put—That the minister's amendments Nos 3 to 41, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments, as circulated—

3 Clause 70 (Amendment of s 79 (Vehicle offences involving liquor or other drugs))

Page 50, line 1, '(c)'—

omit, *insert*—

(a)

4 Clause 70 (Amendment of s 79 (Vehicle offences involving liquor or other drugs))

Page 50, line 3, '(d)'—

omit, *insert*—

(b)

5 Clause 70 (Amendment of s 79 (Vehicle offences involving liquor or other drugs))

Page 56, line 14, '*omit*,'—

omit.

6 Clause 84 (Amendment of s 80 (Breath and saliva tests, and analysis and laboratory tests))

Page 66, line 21, ', (15F)(b) and (22)(b)'—

omit, *insert*—

and (15F)(b)

7 Clause 84 (Amendment of s 80 (Breath and saliva tests, and analysis and laboratory tests))

Page 73, line 5, ''breath,''—

omit, *insert*—

from 'breath,'

8 Clause 93 (Amendment of s 123P (Evidence about analysing instruments))

Page 81, after line 14—

insert—

(ab) an offence against the Criminal Code, section 334I or 334K; or

9 Clause 96 (Amendment of s 150 (Regulating driver management))

Page 82, line 30, after 'executive'—

insert—

or a court

10 Clause 96 (Amendment of s 150 (Regulating driver management))

Page 83, line 31, 'licences.'—

omit, *insert*—

licences; and

11 Clause 96 (Amendment of s 150 (Regulating driver management))

Page 83, after line 31—

insert—

(k) the power of, and procedure for, a court—

(i) to review, including by way of merits review, decisions of the chief executive in relation to applications for the grant of permits and restrictions applied to licences; and

(ii) to grant permits.

12 Clause 99 (Amendment of sch 4 (Dictionary))

Page 86, lines 26 to 31—

omit, *insert*—

section 334I, if the offence—

(i) is committed with a circumstance of aggravation stated in section 334I(4)(a)(i) of that Code while the offender is under the influence of a drug; or

(ii) is committed with a circumstance of aggravation stated in section 334I(4)(a)(iii) of that Code.

13 Clause 130 (Insertion of new ch 10A)

Page 105, line 22, 'section 328A'—

omit, *insert*—

section 334I

14 Clause 131 (Amendment of ch 14, hdg (Making applications, giving incapacity notices and reconsideration of decisions))

Page 119, line 5, 'appealing'—

omit, *insert*—

reviewing

15 Clause 133 (Amendment of s 388 (Reconsiderations of decisions))

Page 120, lines 15 to 17—

omit, *insert*—

(c) that the person has a right to apply to a court for a review of the decision under section 389C;

16 Clause 133 (Amendment of s 388 (Reconsiderations of decisions))

Page 120, line 19, 'appeal'—

omit, *insert*—

apply for a review of the decision

17 Clause 134 (Insertion of new ch 14, pt 3)

Page 121, line 1, 'Appealing'—

omit, *insert*—

Reviewing

18 Clause 134 (Insertion of new ch 14, pt 3)

Page 121, line 24, 'appeal'—

omit, *insert*—

review

19 Clause 134 (Insertion of new ch 14, pt 3)

Page 121, lines 25 and 26—

omit, *insert*—

(1) The person may apply to a relevant court for a review of the reconsidered decision.

20 Clause 134 (Insertion of new ch 14, pt 3)

Page 121, line 27, 'appeal'—

omit, *insert*—

review of the reconsidered decision

21 Clause 134 (Insertion of new ch 14, pt 3)

Page 121, line 28, 'a notice of appeal'—

omit, *insert*—

an application for review and any affidavit made under subsection (6)

22 Clause 134 (Insertion of new ch 14, pt 3)

Page 122, lines 1 to 9—

omit, *insert*—

(b) serving a copy of the application and any affidavit made under subsection (6) on the chief executive—

(i) if the day of the hearing is more than 14 days after the application is filed—at least 14 days before the day of the hearing; or

(ii) if the day of the hearing is 14 days or less after the application is filed—as soon as possible before the day of the hearing; and

23 Clause 134 (Insertion of new ch 14, pt 3)

Page 122, line 11, 'appeal'—

omit, *insert*—

review

24 Clause 134 (Insertion of new ch 14, pt 3)

Page 122, line 12, 'notice of appeal'—

omit, *insert*—

application for review

25 Clause 134 (Insertion of new ch 14, pt 3)

Page 122, line 16, 'notice of appeal'—

omit, *insert*—

application for review

26 Clause 134 (Insertion of new ch 14, pt 3)

Page 122, line 17, 'notice of appeal'—

omit, *insert*—

application for review

27 Clause 134 (Insertion of new ch 14, pt 3)

Page 122, line 18, 'of the appeal'—

omit, *insert*—

for the review

28 Clause 134 (Insertion of new ch 14, pt 3)

Page 122, after line 18—

insert—

(6) Without limiting section 389D(3), the applicant may file an affidavit with the court in support of the application outlining any changes in the applicant's circumstances, or in the circumstances affecting the applicant, since the applicant gave the chief executive a statutory declaration under section 328H(3) or (4) or 328O.

(7) The chief executive must, before the day of the hearing, file copies of the following documents—

(a) the applicant's application for a severe hardship permit;

(b) any statutory declaration given by the applicant to the chief executive under section 328H(3) or (4) or 328O and any other document given by the applicant to the chief executive in relation to the application;

(c) the applicant's traffic history, to the extent the traffic history is available to the chief executive;

(d) the information notice for a decision to grant or refuse to grant a severe hardship permit given to the applicant under section 328J(3);

(e) the applicant's application under section 387 for the reconsideration of the original decision mentioned in paragraph (d) and any documents given to the chief executive in relation to the application;

(f) the written notice for the reconsidered decision given to the applicant under section 388(1)(c);

(g) any other document the chief executive considered was relevant at the time of making the reconsidered decision.

29 Clause 134 (Insertion of new ch 14, pt 3)

Page 122, after line 18—

insert—

389CA Making of application for review does not stay suspension or reconsidered decision

The filing of an application for review under this part does not stay—

(a) the suspension of the applicant's open licence or provisional licence under the original decision; or

(b) the operation of the reconsidered decision.

30 Clause 134 (Insertion of new ch 14, pt 3)

Page 122, line 20, 'appeal'—

omit, *insert*—

review

31 Clause 134 (Insertion of new ch 14, pt 3)

Page 122, line 23, after 'evidence'—

insert—

, but may inform itself in any way it considers appropriate

32 Clause 134 (Insertion of new ch 14, pt 3)

Page 122, after line 24—

insert—

(1A) If the application relates only to restrictions stated in a severe hardship permit, the court is not required, unless it is necessary for deciding the application, to reconsider whether the severe hardship permit the subject of the application should have been granted.

33 Clause 134 (Insertion of new ch 14, pt 3)

Page 122, line 25, 'appeal is'—

omit, *insert*—

application for review is heard

34 Clause 134 (Insertion of new ch 14, pt 3)

Page 122, line 29, 'on the appeal'—

omit, *insert*—

in the hearing of the application for review

35 Clause 134 (Insertion of new ch 14, pt 3)

Page 122, lines 30 to 32—

omit, *insert*—

(4) If required by the court hearing the application for review, the applicant must attend as a witness to give evidence in relation to a matter relevant to the application.

(4A) Also, other persons may be called as witnesses to give evidence in relation to a matter relevant to the application.

(4B) The applicant or another witness may be cross-examined in relation to the evidence.

(4C) The chief executive is a party to the application for review.

(4D) The court may, if it considers it necessary, require the chief executive to—

(a) give further evidence by affidavit, orally or in another form; or

(b) make a further submission in relation to the application orally or in another form.

(4E) However, unless the court requires the chief executive to give evidence, or make a submission, orally under subsection (4D), the chief executive is not required to appear at the hearing of the application.

(4F) The court may, if appropriate, conduct all or a part of the hearing entirely on the basis of documents, without the parties, their representatives or witnesses appearing at the hearing.

36 Clause 134 (Insertion of new ch 14, pt 3)

Page 123, line 19, 'appeal'—

omit, *insert*—

application for review

37 Clause 134 (Insertion of new ch 14, pt 3)

Page 123, lines 21 and 22, from 'the substituted' to 'executive, and'—

omit.

38 Clause 134 (Insertion of new ch 14, pt 3)

Page 123, line 25, 'or appeal'—

omit.

39 Clause 134 (Insertion of new ch 14, pt 3)

Page 124, after line 1—

insert—

389G Costs

The parties to an application for review must pay their own costs of the proceeding.

389H Evidentiary provision

In a hearing of an application for review under this part, a copy of any material used by the chief executive to make a reconsidered decision that is produced on behalf of the chief executive is admissible in evidence as if it were the original material.

40 Clause 140 (Amendment of sch 9 (Dictionary))

Page 128, lines 8 and 9, from 'appeal' to 'against'—

omit, *insert*—

apply to a Magistrates Court for a review of

41 After clause 155

Page 136, after line 8—

insert—

155A Amendment of sch 1 (Dictionary)

Schedule 1, definition *take*, after 'signature'—

insert—

of a person

Question put—That clauses 70 to 156 and schedule 1, as amended, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 70 to 156 and schedule 1, as amended, agreed to.

Criminal Code (Dangerous Driving) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill

Mrs FRECKLINGTON (9.07 pm): I table the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights to my amendments.

Tabled paper: Criminal Code (Dangerous Driving) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, amendments to be moved by Hon. Deb Frecklington [1668].

Tabled paper: Criminal Code (Dangerous Driving) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes to Hon. Deb Frecklington's amendments [1669].

Tabled paper: Criminal Code (Dangerous Driving) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights to Hon. Deb Frecklington's amendments [1670].

Question put—That the Attorney-General's amendments Nos 1 to 7, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments, as circulated—

1 Clause 6 (Insertion of new pt 5, ch 29B)

Page 12, line 35, after '(2AA),'—

insert—

(2AB),

2 Clause 6 (Insertion of new pt 5, ch 29B)

Page 14, line 15, after '(2AA),'—

insert—

(2AB),

3 Clause 6 (Insertion of new pt 5, ch 29B)

Page 17, line 7, after '(2AA),'—

insert—

(2AB),

4 Clause 28 (Amendment of s 79 (Vehicle offences involving liquor or other drugs))

Page 35, lines 14 and 15, from 'liable' to 'imprisonment.'—

omit, *insert*—

liable—

(c) to a minimum penalty, for the purposes of section 78E, of 16 penalty units; and

(d) to a maximum penalty of—

(i) 72 penalty units; or

(ii) 18 months imprisonment.

5 Clause 28 (Amendment of s 79 (Vehicle offences involving liquor or other drugs))

Page 36, lines 26 to 28, from 'liable' to 'imprisonment.'—

omit, *insert*—

liable—

(d) to a minimum penalty, for the purposes of section 78E, of—

(i) for an offence against subsection (2AB)—15.5 penalty units; or

(ii) for another offence—15 penalty units; and

(e) to a maximum penalty of—

(i) for an offence against subsection (2AB)—47 penalty units; or

(ii) for another offence—42 penalty units; or

(iii) 1 year's imprisonment.

6 Clause 31 (Amendment of s 86 (Disqualification of drivers of motor vehicles for certain offences))

Page 40, lines 11 and 12, 'to 'section 328A,''—

omit.

7 Clause 31 (Amendment of s 86 (Disqualification of drivers of motor vehicles for certain offences))

Page 40, after line 23—

insert—

the person is disqualified by the conviction and without any specific order from holding or obtaining a Queensland driver licence—

(d) if the conviction is under section 79(2AB)—for a period of 10 months from the date of the conviction; or

(e) otherwise—for a period of 9 months from the date of the conviction.

Question put—That clauses 1 to 47 and schedule 1, as amended, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 47 and schedule 1, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading (Cognate Debate)

Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill

Question put—That the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Criminal Code (Dangerous Driving) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill

Question put—That the Criminal Code (Dangerous Driving) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title (Cognate Debate)

Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill

Question put—That the long title of the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Criminal Code (Dangerous Driving) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill

Question put—That the long title of the Criminal Code (Dangerous Driving) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.10 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Nguyen, Ms P

Mrs NIGHTINGALE (Inala—ALP) (9.10 pm): I rise today to acknowledge the life and service of Phuong Nguyen and the extraordinary contribution she made to the Vietnamese community, Inala and the labour movement. Phuong spent her life serving others. For many years she worked as a Vietnamese interpreter with the Mater, including at the Mater Inala antenatal outreach clinic. She supported Vietnamese mothers through their appointments, helped them communicate with doctors and midwives and even attended births when required, often volunteering countless hours. The trust and reassurance she provided for families navigating the health system in another country and language was transformational—so much so that in 2006 she was named a Woman of Peace for her work as an interpreter and liaison officer and her extensive volunteer work with community organisations.

Her community service continued through her roles as president of the Queensland chapter of the Vietnamese Women's Association and vice-president of the Vietnamese Community Association (Queensland) chapter. She was also an announcer and executive member of the Vietnamese programming group at Radio 4EB. She helped organise Tet celebrations and shared Vietnamese culture with the broader Brisbane community. From the early days, Phuong was a determined advocate for refugees of the Vietnam War and for South Vietnamese veterans and their families. She played an important role in achieving Freedom Place in Inala, ensuring the history and experiences of the Vietnamese community would be remembered.

Phuong brought that same commitment to Labor. She joined the party in 2005 and for more than two decades supported campaigns for Julie Atwood, Henry Palaszczuk, Bernie Ripoll, Annastacia Palaszczuk, Milton Dick, Jess Pugh, Charles Strunk and me. She translated, interpreted and built connections between Labor and the Vietnamese community. For Phuong, Labor values were lived values of fairness, inclusion, community and standing up for people who needed a voice. Her service was recognised with life membership of the Queensland Labor Party. It was a deep privilege of mine to present that life membership, along with Milton Dick, at her bedside.

Phuong had been given only days to live and many of us gathered there believing we were there to say our final goodbyes, but she had a fighting spirit and continued on for many weeks surrounded by loved ones. That determination defined Phuong. On behalf of the Inala community, particularly the many Vietnamese Queenslanders whose lives she touched, I extend my deepest condolences to Carolyn, Patrick and all of Phuong's family and friends. She gave her time, her skills and her voice to others. We are so very grateful. Vale, Phuong.

Christodoulou, Ms A

Hon. SJ MINNIKIN (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (9.13 pm): I rise this evening to pay tribute to an exceptionally dedicated member of the Chatsworth community. Angela Christodoulou has recently been nominated as a finalist for Westfield Local Heroes 2026 for her outstanding work and dedication to the preservation

of our local koala population. Westfield Local Heroes is a recognition, grants and partnerships program that shines the spotlight on individuals in Australia and New Zealand who make a positive impact to their local community or environment.

In April 2012, the 1999 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act listed koalas as being vulnerable to extinction due to numerous naturally and human induced threats towards the protection of their natural habitats. Due to this, the Queensland Koala Society is fiercely committed to preserving the koala population of South-East Queensland, with founder Angela having most notably contributed to the immense success of the organisation.

Not once has Angela backed down nor grown weary from her tireless efforts in rescuing many koalas and other wildlife over the years threatened by urban sprawl. Not once has she neglected the importance of community education and involvement in contributing to this important project. She achieved this through raising awareness and educating many community groups and schools in the Chatsworth electorate about koala safety. I commend her for this. She has also recruited many volunteers to assist in the effort. An essential part of community engagement is to invite people to come along whenever the society releases a rescued koala. Angela always makes sure people who call the society's rescue hotline can follow the koalas on their road to recovery, fostering a deeper connection between the community and local wildlife conservation.

Angela is, without question, a true local wildlife champion. Her dedication is evident in every aspect of her work—from driving across Brisbane and the Gold Coast to source the right leaf type for feeding to sitting overnight in a rocking chair to bottle-feed an orphaned joey every two hours around the clock. Her commitment has never been in doubt.

In recent years, the section of Old Cleveland Road crossing Bulimba Creek has become a hotspot for vehicular koala strikes. My election commitment to deliver $220,000 in funding for the installation of fauna exclusion fencing at this location is well underway. The project will deliver 620 metres of koala exclusion fencing to guide wildlife safely beneath the Bulimba Creek bridge, along with eight fauna escape hatches to allow animals that inadvertently enter the road corridor to exit safely. Angela's expertise and advice were invaluable throughout the planning process for this critical infrastructure.

This cause is deeply important to me and I could not be prouder of Angela and the Queensland Koala Society for their vital contribution to the protection of one of Australia's most iconic species. Angela is indeed a true local champion of the Chatsworth electorate, and I wish her all the best when it comes to the Westfield Local Heroes awards.

Gladstone Multicultural Festival

Hon. GJ BUTCHER (Gladstone—ALP) (9.16 pm): I rise tonight to recognise a great event on Gladstone's community calendar: the Gladstone Multicultural Festival. I had the pleasure of attending the festival recently and, once again, it was an absolutely fantastic day. Every year this event brings our community together to celebrate the many different cultures, traditions and backgrounds that make Gladstone the place we are so proud to call home. There was incredible food from around the world, colourful cultural displays, music, dancing and performances throughout the day. More importantly, there were people coming together. Families, friends and community members of all ages and backgrounds were there enjoying the day, learning about those different cultures and celebrating what makes each of them unique in our community.

We are incredibly lucky in Gladstone to have people from so many different parts of the world who have chosen to make our region their home. Each of these cultures brings something special to our local community, and diversity makes Gladstone a richer, stronger and more welcoming place. Events like the Gladstone Multicultural Festival give us an opportunity to celebrate that and, importantly, learn from each other.

Of course an event of this size does not just happen. I give a massive shout-out and thank you to the volunteers who gave up their time this year to help make the festival such a success. To every person who helped organise the event, set it up and packed it down, those who worked behind the scenes or volunteered throughout the day, I say a big thank you. Most importantly, I say a big thank you to the Multicultural Association president, Nicky. I know that she was very proud of the work that was done on the weekend. I also recognise the performers who shared their culture, music and traditions with us on the day. The performances are always one of the highlights of the festival and showcase the incredible talent and diversity we have in the Gladstone community. To all the

stallholders, thank you so much for sharing your food, culture, organisations and stories with the thousands of people who attended the festival. It takes an enormous amount of work and a lot of people to put together an event like this, and that effort certainly does not go unnoticed. The Gladstone Multicultural Festival has become a very important celebration of who we are as a community.

Gladstone is certainly a better place considering the many cultures that call our region home. I am incredibly proud to call Gladstone our home, with such a diverse and very welcoming community. I once again give a huge congratulations to everyone who was involved in another fantastic Multicultural Festival. I am certainly looking forward to next year's festival being even bigger and better than this year's.

Gympie Music Muster; Mary Valley Show

Hon. AJ PERRETT (Gympie—LNP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (9.18 pm): The last month has been a busy time in the Mary Valley. The highly successful Gympie Music Muster proved once again why it is a state and national drawcard. Almost 60,000 visitors were treated to another celebration of music, camping and community at the festival and pre-muster period, which featured 597 artists. Showcasing the international appeal of the iconic event were 25 international artists as well as 297 artists from interstate and 275 from Queensland, eight of whom were local performers. Performances included a mix of country, bluegrass, folk, rock and blues and roots music spread across the festival stages and camping areas.

While congratulations must go to muster chairman Ross Groundwater and CEO Greg Cavanagh, the muster would not happen without the support of its volunteers. Contributing to its success were 1,635 volunteers from 39 community groups who shared in more than $330,000. Six groups also raised additional funds through their stalls including the Gympie Rotary Club, which ran the muster kitchen; the QCWA Imbil branch, which ran the muster general store; Cooloola chaplaincy, which provided the ice; Brooweena State School, which provided firewood; Cooloola-Sunshine Coast Military Brotherhood, which provided donuts; and the Mary Valley chaplaincy, which ran the cloakroom. While final figures are yet to be confirmed, it is expected that more than $100,000 was raised for this year's charity partner Get Yourself Checked, which promotes men's health and the importance of early detection, particularly in relation to prostate cancer.

The muster has a reputation not just for showcasing the best of country music and regional culture. It is also renowned for attracting thousands of visitors to the Gympie region and contributing millions to the local economy, all while supporting grassroots charities and community groups. That is why the Crisafulli government has backed the event with funding commitments of $570,000 since we were elected. To keep the event going, we are extending our partnership with the muster for another three years. Across the three-year period it is expected to deliver 220,000 visitor nights and inject more than $51 million into Queensland's economy.

Two weeks ago the Mary Valley was again buzzing, this time with the 107th year of the Mary Valley Show. More than 4,000 spectators were entertained across the weekend, with proceeds shared amongst the show society and local community groups. Congratulations go to show president Marina Taylor, event manager Jo Robey and the show society, who hope to build on its success to deliver a strong and sustainable agricultural show celebrating the region and community. I was pleased the member for Nicklin, Marty Hunt, and his wife, Kelly, were able to join me and my wife, Michele, at the muster and at the Mary Valley Show.

Rugby League, Ipswich Jets

Ms BOURNE (Ipswich West—ALP) (9.21 pm): You cannot tell the story of rugby league in Queensland without talking about Ipswich. For generations, our region has produced some of the greatest names in the game, and that tradition continues every weekend across our local clubs and schools. We saw it again on Sunday at Harrisville, where the Norths Tigers claimed the 2026 Rugby League Ipswich A-grade Grand Final in a nailbiting 17-16 victory over Fassifern. Rugby league is part of who we are in Ipswich.

For decades, the Ipswich Jets have developed local talent, created pathways into the professional game and given generations of supporters a team they are proud to call their own. That is why Ipswich deserves to be taken seriously in the bid for the NRL's 20th licence. I have written to the NRL and I have also written to the Premier who, disappointingly, has not responded. Through a question on notice I asked whether the government had considered Ipswich for the NRL's 20th licence. Rather

than backing our region, the response was to sit on the fence. I do not believe that is good enough. Ipswich has earned the right to be the champions. We deserve a government willing to fight for Ipswich and our future.

I urge the government to back the proven talent and commitment we have here in Ipswich. We have the history, the pathways, the supporters and the population growth. What we need is the investment to match the ambition. The $40 million western grandstand redevelopment at North Ipswich Reserve is a welcome investment in our city, funded through contributions from the Australian government, the former Labor government and Ipswich City Council. It recognises Ipswich's enormous contribution to rugby league but, after generations of producing talent, growing the game and backing our clubs, our region deserves continued support that matches our ambition.

The western grandstand is an important step forward, but it cannot be the end of the conversation. If Ipswich is to secure its place in the future of rugby league, our region needs a government willing to keep backing that ambition. While we push for Ipswich's place at the highest level of the game, we also need to keep supporting the next generation coming through our local clubs. That is why I welcome the continuation of FairPlay vouchers, introduced by the former Labor government to help families with the cost of community sport. Ipswich has given a lot to this game and we have plenty more to give, so I want to see the Queensland government get behind our region, back the Jets and help make the case for Ipswich to be part of the NRL's future. Go the Jets!

Nanango Electorate, Residential Activation Fund

Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (9.24 pm): I am extremely proud to represent regional Queensland right here in this parliament and proud of everything the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering across the state, but particularly in regional Queensland. A few days ago I was thrilled to announce, alongside the Deputy Premier, a more than $70 million investment to deliver more homes in the South Burnett, Cherbourg and Somerset regions through the Residential Activation Fund, of course founded by the LNP. This investment recognises a simple truth: we cannot build new homes without the infrastructure to support them, and our communities desperately need more homes.

I hear regularly from families, business owners and community leaders. People want to move to beautiful regional Queensland, but they cannot find a home. That is why this RAF funding will deliver four critical infrastructure projects. They include $51.3 million at Kingaroy for water mains and pump stations. Another $11 million will fund upgrades to the town's sewer mains. This is a game-changing investment for Kingaroy from the Crisafulli government—funding that will go directly to our local council to build new council owned infrastructure. In Cherbourg, more than $4 million will deliver the Fisher Street project comprising new water mains and sewer main upgrades. Just outside Kilcoy at Woolmar, $3.62 million will support the Highwood Lane and D'Aguilar Highway trunk roadworks project, with new intersections and road upgrades that will not only unlock significant residential development but also drastically improve road safety on that really dangerous section of the D'Aguilar Highway.

Under the LNP, regional Queensland will no longer be left behind, and no-one is more excited than regional communities from all across Queensland because of the Residential Activation Fund. I give a shout-out to South Burnett Mayor Kathy Duff, who said—

> This is the biggest investment I have seen from a state government in my over 20 years' experience as a Councillor and now Mayor.

Our government is acutely aware of the weight of housing stress on Queenslanders. Under Labor, we saw regional housing supplies stagnate as demand soared. The Kingaroy North project has been waiting for decades for this vital infrastructure so that our families can buy land and build their dream home. Partnering with the local council, the Crisafulli government is helping make those dreams a reality.

Crisafulli LNP Government, Ministers

Ms McMILLAN (Mansfield—ALP) (9.27 pm): Queensland's child safety system is in crisis. Four Queensland women have died in two months. When Queensland needs strong, decisive and accountable leadership, the Crisafulli LNP government delivers part-time ministers. Child safety and domestic violence are not suitable to job share. Vulnerable women and children cannot wait for the ministerial roster to change for someone to take responsibility for their safety, and yesterday Queenslanders saw exactly what this lack of leadership looks like. Acting Minister Leahy was asked four questions during question time—four questions—that she could not answer. She could not provide

an update on the independent panel's work and she could not identify the four priority areas of the government's own domestic and family violence strategy. These are not obscure questions; these are basic questions about the government's own policies and responsibilities to Queenslanders. If the minister responsible cannot answer basic questions about the government's own strategy, what confidence can Queenslanders have that this government knows what it is doing?

While the ministers rotate, vulnerable Queenslanders are left to carry the consequences: 13,562 children in care, including 2,819 children living in residential care—that we know of. These are not big-budget line items; these are children who rely on this government to keep them safe—children who do not get to take six weeks leave from the system. I am hearing directly from young people who are contacting my office because they have nowhere else to turn, whom the minister said today she 'thinks' she has been briefed about—young people who feel abandoned by this government, young people who feel they have no voice. I am listening, and I will be their voice.

At the estimates hearings I asked the government a straightforward question: how many children will be harmed by the changes this government are making to the child safety system? They could not answer it, so I asked the Premier: if his government cannot tell Queenslanders how many children could be harmed by their reforms, who is identifying the risks, who is monitoring the consequences, who is listening to the sector and, most importantly, who is accountable?

This week we have seen the cost of maladministration with the death of a 17-year-old girl in residential care. This should be a wake-up call. Premier Crisafulli needs to understand that child safety is not a part-time responsibility, because every one of these children matters—not in three weeks and not in six weeks but right now. The Crisafulli LNP government promised Queenslanders strong leadership. Instead, what they are delivering is shared responsibility, unanswered questions and no-one clearly accountable. Queensland's most vulnerable children deserve better.

Cairns, 150th Anniversary

Mr JAMES (Mulgrave—LNP) (9.30 pm): Tonight I rise to acknowledge and celebrate a remarkable milestone: the 150th anniversary of the founding of Cairns, a city that has become the beating heart of Far North Queensland and one of Australia's great regional success stories. This anniversary gives us the opportunity not only to celebrate where we are today but also to reflect on the extraordinary journey that has brought us here.

Established in 1876 on what was then little more than mangrove lined swampland on Trinity Bay, Cairns was founded to service the booming mining fields of the north and west. The discovery of gold on the Palmer River and across the region transformed Far North Queensland, drawing thousands of prospectors, entrepreneurs and families seeking opportunity. Over the decades that followed, Cairns evolved from a frontier settlement into a regional powerhouse. The construction of the railway to the Atherton Tablelands opened up the hinterland, supported the mining, agriculture and timber industries and laid the foundations for the vibrant city we know today.

Earlier this week, Premier David Crisafulli informed this House of a major announcement involving Queensland's critical minerals sector. The agreement will see tungsten from the Mount Carbine mine supplied into strategic international supply chains, creating jobs in Far North Queensland and supporting major defence, manufacturing and technology industries. Importantly, the Premier also noted that the project will accelerate the recommercialisation of Wolfram Camp.

Many people may see this as a new chapter, but for those of us whose families have deep roots in the region it feels much more like coming full circle. My father was born in Wolfram Camp on the Atherton Tablelands behind Dimbulah, a small mining community whose very name reflects the mineral that sustained it: wolfram, better known today as tungsten. The communities that grew around those mines were forged through resilience, hard work and optimism. The story of Cairns is, therefore, not just the story of a city; it is the story of countless families who arrived here, often with little more than determination and hope.

My own family's journey to Australia began long before Cairns was formed. In 1855, members of the James family arrived in Australia aboard the sailing ship *British Empire* after a long voyage from England. Like so many migrants of that era, they came seeking a better future and ultimately became part of the great story of regional Australia. This is a remarkable legacy. As Cairns marks its 150th anniversary, we celebrate not only our history but also our future. Most importantly, we celebrate a community that continues to meet every challenge with the determination, resilience and optimism that has defined Cairns for the last 150 years.

Resources Industry

Mr KATTER (Traeger—KAP) (9.34 pm): This week I directed a question to the Premier about the problem that has arisen around the credit rating and how the resource industry could be used to address that, some of the problems that are holding it back and some of the opportunities that exist. I threw into the mix uranium because the US considers that a critical mineral. I still do not understand why Queensland will not accept the mining of that mineral. It is a $19 billion industry. It was a pretty disappointing response, parking to the side the cheap shot at the start. We keep hearing critical minerals invoked more and more. I should know about critical minerals because most of them are in my electorate. Yes, they are an opportunity and they are good, but it does start to feel like subterfuge because there are some big problems in the big performers in our resources industry right now—in the coal industry with the coal royalties and in the base metals industry which needs CopperString. Neither issue is being addressed.

It would make sense that you would create a narrative around something else being a wonderful opportunity. The Premier said it would be akin to the gold rush. That was a GDP increase over 10 years of 280 per cent. If we added that to the critical minerals today, over the next 10 years it would be required to produce $1.48 trillion, which seems a pretty unrealistic claim and speaks to the fact that maybe it is not everything it is said to be. I am not saying it is not a good thing to pursue or should not be considered, but do not take your eye off the big ones.

If you leave copper out of critical minerals, it is $550 million a year for silica and tungsten—0.06 per cent of the existing industries. If you are going to talk about copper, it is $2.4 billion; lead is the next lowest at $800 million; silver is $1.2 billion; zinc is $3.3 billion; bauxite is $3.4 billion; gold is $2.6 billion; and coal is $76 billion. Let us focus on those. They are the big performers for Queensland. Let us not take our eye off the ball. It seems to be a disease pervading modern politics: we use subterfuge and talk about speculative future opportunities without properly maintaining the industries that are performing and creating the wealth we rely on now. We need CopperString, we need to address the coal royalties and we need uranium mining. We can talk about critical minerals all we like on the side, but do not take the focus off the things that will make a difference to our economy and will help us out of the credit crunch. Do not create this subterfuge.

Pacific Pines Power AFL Club

Mr BOOTHMAN (Theodore—LNP) (9.37 pm): I rise tonight to talk about one of the wonderful AFL clubs in my electorate, Pacific Pines Power AFL Club, very proudly known as Pac Power. The club has a lot to celebrate in 2026. One of the most significant milestones, which the club has been fighting for for a long time, is funding for a new clubhouse facility. After years of advocacy, planning and persistence by the committee, funds have been locked in from the Crisafulli government. These funds recognise the enormous effort and diversity of this wonderful club. The club has seen a massive increase in female AFL player numbers, and they definitely need their own dedicated change rooms. With this money, along with money from the Gold Coast City council through Councillor Peter Young, we will build a fully kitted out $2 million facility at this club. This will make a huge difference for the players, the volunteers and the coaches and bring about better outcomes for all.

President Robby Comfort has been instrumental in ensuring this came to fruition. He has never wavered in his dedication to get this funding for the club. We should call him the $2 million man because he was the person who was determined to ensure that this club, the best AFL club on the Gold Coast, got the facilities they desperately need. To prove how great a club they are, the under-15 girls were the premiers this year. They have also been expanding their masters teams with their first masters men's team and are continuing their success with the Girls Footy Festival. With the contribution from the Crisafulli government, which will make a huge difference for this club, this club will have a fantastic year in 2027 when they welcome all these new facilities.

I would like to say thank you to my local rural fire brigades for all their efforts in recent times. I congratulate Max Pearce on being nominated and being successful in becoming the Rural Fire Service Queensland Volunteer of the Year and Keira Danziger for being awarded the State Young Volunteer of the Year.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Before I declare the House adjourned, I would like to say that it has been an honour to be your presiding officer for this week.

The House adjourned at 9.40 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, Kempton, King, Kirkland, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Linard, Lister, Mander, Marr, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, Nightingale, O'Connor, O'Shea, Pease, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richmond, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stoker, Vorster, Whiting, Young