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RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 13 October 2026

Subject — Page

ASSENT TO BILLS **3041**
Tabled paper: Letter, dated 21 September 2026, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 21 September 2026. 3041
SPEAKER'S RULING **3041**
Question on Notice **3041**
PRIVILEGE **3042**
Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House **3042**
Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the member for Bulimba. 3042
Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House **3043**
Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Leader of the Opposition and member for Murrumba. 3043
SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS **3044**
Parliament House, Artwork **3044**
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Queensland Branch, AGM **3044**
Absence of Member **3044**
Visitors to Public Gallery **3044**
PETITIONS **3044**
TABLED PAPERS **3046**
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS **3056**
Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements **3056**
Get Ready Queensland Week; Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements **3057**
Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements **3057**
Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements **3058**
Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements; Child Safety System **3058**
Olympic and Paralympic Games, Infrastructure **3059**

PT WEIR
SPEAKER

NJ LAURIE
CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENT

AL TAGUADA
ACTING CHIEF REPORTER

Police Resources **3060**
Youth Justice, Early Intervention **3061**
Small and Family Business, Secure Communities Partnership Program **3061**
Hook, Ms C; Olympic and Paralympic Games **3062**
SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS **3063**
Distinguished Visitors **3063**
Visitors to Public Gallery **3063**
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE **3063**
Child Safety System **3063**
Child Safety System **3064**
Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance **3064**
Child Safety System **3065**
Olympic and Paralympic Games, Infrastructure **3066**
Child Safety System **3067**
Housing Supply **3068**
Child Safety System **3068**
Justice System **3069**
Child Safety System **3069**
Victims of Crime **3070**
Electoral Laws, Optional Preferential Voting **3071**
Health Services **3071**
Child Safety System **3072**
Tabled paper: Media article, dated 8 October 2026, titled 'The crumbling empire of a builder gone broke turned child safety millionaire' 3072
Regional Queensland, Road Infrastructure **3073**
Child Safety System **3074**
Fuel Security **3074**
MOTION **3075**
Business Program **3075**
Tabled paper: Article from the Cairns Post, dated 13 October 2026, titled 'ALP bid to beef up kids' overseer' 3076
Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to. 3077
Resolved in the affirmative. 3077
MOTION **3078**
Suspension of Standing Orders **3078**
APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (SUPPLEMENTARY 2025-2026) BILL **3078**
Message from Acting Governor **3078**
Tabled paper: Message, dated 13 October 2026, from the Acting Governor recommending the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2025—2026) Bill 2026. 3078
Introduction **3078**
Tabled paper: Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2025—2026) Bill 2026. 3078
Tabled paper: Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2025—2026) Bill 2026, explanatory notes 3078
Tabled paper: Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2025—2026) Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights. 3078
First Reading **3079**
Referral to Governance, Energy and Finance Committee **3079**
APPROPRIATION (SUPPLEMENTARY 2025-2026) BILL **3079**
Message from Acting Governor **3079**
Tabled paper: Message, dated 13 October 2026, from the Acting Governor recommending the Appropriation (Supplementary 2025—2026) Bill 2026. 3079
Introduction **3079**
Tabled paper: Appropriation (Supplementary 2025—2026) Bill 2026. 3079
Tabled paper: Appropriation (Supplementary 2025—2026) Bill 2026, explanatory notes 3079
Tabled paper: Appropriation (Supplementary 2025—2026) Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights 3079
First Reading **3080**
Referral to Governance, Energy and Finance Committee **3080**
HOME OWNERSHIP AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL **3080**
Second Reading **3080**
PRIVILEGE **3085**
Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House **3085**
HOME OWNERSHIP AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL **3085**
Second Reading **3085**
MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST **3093**
Child Safety System **3093**
Labor Party, Performance **3095**
Child Safety System **3096**
Leader of the Opposition **3097**
Tabled paper: Article from *ABC News online*, dated 24 May 2024, titled 'Queensland Premier Steven Miles labels Shadow Health Minister Ros Bates 'one of the nastiest people' in parliament' 3097
Tabled paper: Article from *News.com.au*, dated 18 November 2012, titled 'Queensland Arts Minister Ros Bates in hospital again after hurting her back in a fall at home' 3097

Tabled paper: Extract from document, undated, titled 'Violence in the Queensland CFMEU Report'....3098
Tabled paper: Article from *ABC News online*, dated 13 October 2022, titled 'Queensland's Agriculture Minister Mark Furner apologises after 'dopey, stupid woman' comment in parliament'....3098
Child Safety System....3098
Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 4 October 2026, titled 'Vulnerable kids in cost-cutting shock'....3099
Leader of the Opposition; Labor Party, Data Reporting....3099
Child Safety System....3100
Resources Industries....3101
Child Safety System....3102
Leader of the Opposition....3103
Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 30 October 2025, titled ''Proud' Miles digs in on coal charges'....3104
Democracy....3104
HOME OWNERSHIP AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL....3105
Second Reading....3105
Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 13 October 2026, titled 'Housing target has foundations rocked'....3107
Consideration in Detail....3141
Tabled paper: Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes to Hon. David Janetzki's amendments....3141
Tabled paper: Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. David Janetzki's amendments....3141
Amendments agreed to....3141
Clauses 1 to 28 and schedule 1, as amended, agreed to....3143
Third Reading....3143
Long Title....3143
Amendment agreed to....3143
QUEENSLAND PROTECTION COMMISSION BILL....3144
Second Reading....3144
Tabled paper: Queensland Protection Commission Bill 2026, amendments to be moved by Ms Corrine McMillan MP....3150
Tabled paper: Queensland Protection Commission Bill 2026, explanatory notes to Ms Corrine McMillan MP's amendments....3150
Tabled paper: Queensland Protection Commission Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Ms Corrine McMillan MP's amendments....3150
ADJOURNMENT....3159
Child Safety System....3159
Warrego Electorate....3160
Transport Infrastructure....3160
Hervey Bay Electorate....3161
Electricity Prices....3162
Barron River Electorate, Events....3163
Health System....3163
Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements....3164
Resources Industries....3164
Mareeba, Youth Crime....3165
ATTENDANCE....3166

TUESDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2026

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

Mr Speaker (Hon. Pat Weir, Condamine) read prayers and took the chair.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I acknowledge the Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people of this state and their elders past, present and emerging. I also acknowledge the former members of this parliament who have participated in and nourished the democratic institutions of this state. Finally, I acknowledge the people of this state, whether they have been born here or have chosen to make this state their home and whom we represent to make laws and conduct other business for the peace, welfare and good government of this state.

ASSENT TO BILLS

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

The Honourable P. Weir MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

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

Date of assent: 21 September 2026

A bill for an Act to amend the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 for particular purposes

A bill for an Act to amend the Child Safe Organisations Act 2024, the Public Guardian Act 2014 and the Youth Justice Act 1992 for particular purposes

A bill for an Act to amend the Photo Identification Card Act 2008, the Photo Identification Card Regulation 2019, the Rail Safety National Law (Queensland) Act 2017, the State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014, the Traffic Regulation 1962, the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994, the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Driver Licensing) Regulation 2021, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Road Rules) Regulation 2009, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2021, the Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes

A bill for an Act to amend the Criminal Code, the District Court of Queensland Act 1967, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995, the Youth Justice Act 1992 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes

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

Yours sincerely

Governor

21 September 2026

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 21 September 2026, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 21 September 2026 [2008].

SPEAKER'S RULING

Question on Notice

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to inform the House of a ruling I made since last sitting week regarding a question on notice. On 26 August 2026, the member for Lytton asked question on notice No. 917 of 2026 to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. The Attorney-General subsequently requested that I review this question, including whether it was compliant with standing orders based on its length.

Following review, I ruled that all parts of the question related to the same issue and were sufficiently connected to be a single question but that the question should be more concise to comply with standing orders. The member for Lytton subsequently submitted a revised version of the question which was compliant and published on 25 September 2026 in place of the original question. The Attorney-General has until 26 October 2026 to answer the revised question.

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 13 July 2026 the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services wrote to me alleging that the member for Bulimba misled the House on 26 June 2026. The minister alleged that the member made deliberately misleading comments in relation to youth justice initiatives.

There were four distinct statements that were alleged to be misleading. The first three could be considered within the realm of typical political debate on youth justice policy. I did not consider them further. However, the fourth statement related to ministerial protection for service providers of the Regional Reset program. The member advised that she later put these claims to the minister during estimates, and they were disputed.

I note that on 17 September 2026 the member made an apology and clarifying statement in the House, and this is recorded at page 2921 of the *Record of Proceedings*. Accordingly, I consider the member for Bulimba has made an adequate apology and I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the member for Bulimba [2009].

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

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

On 13 July 2026, the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services wrote to me alleging that the member for Bulimba misled the House on 26 June 2026.

The matter relates to a statement by the member for Bulimba during second reading debate on the Revenue (Cost of Living Relief Locked-in Law) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.

Specifically, the member said:

"Do honourable members want to know what was promised since the election and detailed in the 2025-26 budget papers that still have not happened? **(Statement 1)** *Let me read the list. There was Proven Initiatives with $65 million allocated but no projects announced; and two youth justice schools—$40 million. The Logan one is not yet up and running and the Cairns one has only just been announced and is not yet approved. There were four crime prevention schools, $50 million; Men of Business Gold Coast only opened this term, Ipswich—it is actually located in Toowoomba, or maybe not—has only just been announced and Rockhampton and Townsville are still to be announced. Let's not even go there about the botched procurement process for all these schools, geared so the minister can hand-pick who she wants.* **(Statement 2)** *There was Circuit Breaker Sentencing, $80 million, but the legislation was only introduced yesterday and so there are no providers yet; Regional Reset, $50 million—six providers appointed, four operating, one defunded* **(Statement 3)** *and another dysfunctional but with direct ministerial protection."* **(Statement 4)**

The Minister argued that there were four falsehoods in the member's statement:

1. Describing several youth justice initiatives as 'still had not happened'. The Minister advised that the initiatives were being implemented through staged procurement, establishment, accreditation and commencement process and that delivery was progressing over time.

2. The allegation that the procurement processes were 'geared so the minister can hand-pick who she wants'. The Minister alleges the member failed to provide particulars of any misconduct or process that allows the Minister to hand-pick providers.

3. The member stating that the Regional Reset had only four providers operating. At the time the statement was made, the Minister submits there were more than four providers operating.

4. The member stating that a provider was 'dysfunctional but with ministerial protection'. The Minister submits the member did not provide particulars of alleged dysfunction or ministerial protection.

The Minister provided government media releases and answers to Questions on Notice relating to the youth justice portfolio to support her allegations.

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

The member submitted that her first statement—describing several youth justice initiatives as 'still had not happened'—was in the realm of what other Speaker's have labelled 'political puffery'. She advised the current government were elected on the policy platform of 'to fix the youth crime crisis and she was arguing that they were yet to see any tangible results. With respect to the second statement, the member provided a media article to support criticism of the procurement process and argued that in the system of responsible government, the Minister is responsible for decisions of their department. With respect to the third statement, the member advised her response was based on the Minister's answer to Question on Notice 177 of 2026 and it was her understanding that there are currently only four providers operating in the Regional Reset program.

With respect to the fourth statement, the member stated that she put the allegation that had been raised with her by anonymous stakeholders that certain providers were being protected by the Premier and the Minister, to the Minister at the recent Estimates Hearings. The Minister refuted those claims unequivocally and therefore the member submitted the matter was dealt with.

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

I consider the first three statements within the realm of typical political debate on youth justice policy. I did not consider them further.

However, the member has practically conceded that her fourth statement was false. She put those allegations to the Minister at Estimates, and the Minister refuted them.

I note that on 17 September 2026, the member made an apology and clarifying statement in the House and this is recorded at page 2921 of the Record of Proceedings.

Accordingly, I consider the member for Bulimba has made an adequate apology and I **will not** be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 3 July 2026 the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition deliberately misled the House on 25 June 2026. The statements made by the Leader of the Opposition related to the government cutting publicly funded IVF services for women with cancer. The minister advised that publicly funded IVF services for women with cancer have not previously been provided and, therefore, they could not have been cut.

I note that on 17 September 2026 the Leader of the Opposition made an apology and clarifying statement to the House, and this is recorded at page 2921 of the *Record of Proceedings*. Accordingly, I consider the Leader of the Opposition has made an adequate apology. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Leader of the Opposition and member for Murrumba [2010].

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

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

On 3 July 2026, the Minister for Health and Ambulance wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition deliberately misled the House on 25 June 2026.

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

Specifically, the Leader of the Opposition said:

'In a cruel blow, the LNP has also cut IVF care for women with cancer. Women who are going through one of the toughest times of their life—

Women who are going through one of the toughest times of their life only to have a politician pull the plug on their hope of one day being a mother.'

The Minister submitted that these statements were deliberately misleading because there was no publicly funded IVF in Queensland. Therefore, a service cannot be cut that does not exist. The Minister acknowledged that the former government had proposed the idea, but the service had not been implemented or formalised and was not in place. The Minister also submitted that the Leader of the Opposition made the statement in a formal and pre-prepared manner and that he continued despite the Minister interjecting and claiming he was misleading the House—being evidence that the Leader of the Opposition knew what he was saying was incorrect, but continued with an intention to mislead.

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

The Leader of the Opposition submitted that providing publicly funded IVF services to women with complex health needs including cancer was a policy of the former government contained in the Women and Girls' Health Strategy published in March 2024 and was set to commence in July 2025.

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

I considered the material put forward by the Minister and the Leader of the Opposition and do not believe that not progressing a former government's policy, can accurately be described as a 'cut'.

However, I note that on 17 September 2026, the Leader of the Opposition made an apology and clarifying statement to the House and this is recorded at page 2921 of the Record of Proceedings.

Accordingly, I consider the Leader of the Opposition has made an adequate apology.

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

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Parliament House, Artwork

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, this sitting week we are showcasing two more works from the Regional Council Artwork Collection, originally assembled in 1979 to mark the completion of the Parliamentary Annexe. The first work, *Post Office Kuridala*, is by John W Turnbull. Born in 1923, Turnbull served as a fighter pilot during the Second World War. After the war, he trained as a draftsman and later earned a Diploma in Commercial Art. He began painting fine art in 1965, working first with oils and watercolours before moving into acrylics and fine airbrush techniques later in his career. This artwork was donated by the Cloncurry Shire Council.

The second work is '*Culburnie' Barcaldine* by artist Lyn Fraser. Fraser was born in Rockhampton in 1935 and developed her artistic skills through school and correspondence courses. She became known for her regional oil paintings and Australian landscapes, with her work commissioned and exhibited in towns across Queensland. This artwork was donated by the then Ilfracombe shire council.

People can explore these works and learn more about the Regional Council Artwork Collection through parliament's online heritage collection. Next sitting week we will feature another two artworks as we continue to showcase the regional Queensland communities represented in the chamber.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Queensland Branch, AGM

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I remind members that the annual general meeting of the Queensland branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association will be held in the Legislative Assembly chamber today at 1.05 pm.

Absence of Member

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have received advice from the member for Nudgee that she will be absent from the House from 13 October to 18 October 2026, inclusive of those dates. The member's notification complies with standing order 263A.

Visitors to Public Gallery

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from: Currumbin Valley State School in the electorate of Currumbin; Mount Warren Park State School in the electorate of Macalister; and Victoria Point State High School in the electorate of Redlands.

PETITIONS

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

Play On! Program, Dance

Ms Pugh, from 7,626 petitioners, requesting the House to remove unnecessary barriers and create a fair pathway for all legitimate Queensland dance schools to participate in the Play On! Program [1985].

Highland Way, Extension

Mr Boothman, from 322 petitioners, requesting the House to call on the City of Gold Coast to allocate the necessary support to complete the extension of Highland Way, and that the Department of Transport and Main Roads deliver any required works on Tamborine Oxenford Road to safely accommodate the connection of Highland Way [1986].

Motorcycles, Recreational Registration

Ms Boyd, from 3,487 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce a Recreational Registration for Motorcycles in Queensland [1987].

Blue Card System

Mr Katter, from 442 petitioners, requesting the House to require the Minister to publish the full annual taxpayer cost of the Blue Card system and to publicly provide the evidence that proves the system works [1988].

Public Transport, Dogs

Mr Berkman, from 715 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures for more dog-friendly options on Brisbane public transport [1989].

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

Village Yard Christian School, Ministerial Infrastructure Designation

965 petitioners, requesting the House to call on the Queensland Government to refuse the proposed Ministerial Infrastructure Designation for Village Yard Christian School at 120 Mudgeeraba Road, Mudgeeraba [1990].

School Buses, Seatbelts

797 petitioners, requesting the House to amend transport legislation to require seatbelts on dedicated school buses operating on unsealed roads or roads exceeding 60 km/h [1991].

Gympie Regional Council

456 petitioners, requesting the House to call on the Minister for Local Government to examine the circumstances in which inaccurate public statements by Gympie Regional Council have been made and the Council's failure to publicly correct the record [1992].

Fast-Food Outlets, Litter

878 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce laws ensuring that fast food outlets become responsible for the litter generated and identifiable by their store branding for a distance of at least 250 metres from their stores [1993].

Palm Meadows Drive, Bus Service

152 petitioners, requesting the House to do all within its power to introduce a bus service specifically catering to Palm Meadows Drive and linking directly to the Merrimac train station, as well as Pacific Fair shopping centre in the east [1994].

Hervey Bay-Maryborough, Energy Providers

390 petitioners, requesting the House to do all within its power to bring competition to the electricity market in Hervey Bay and Maryborough which would allow residents to choose the best provider and plan for their circumstances [1995].

Cairns, Polair Guidelines

265 petitioners, requesting the House to direct the Minister for Police to conduct an immediate operational review into POLAIR flight guidelines and noise impacts in residential Cairns [1996].

Home Warranty Insurance Scheme

936 petitioners, requesting the House to conduct a public inquiry and remove the Home Warranty Insurance Scheme from the Queensland Building and Construction Commission, establishing it under an independent entity to address conflicts of interest [1997].

E-Mobility

328 petitioners, requesting the House to re-examine the e-mobility device legislation [1998].

RSPCA, Animal Cruelty

977 petitioners, requesting the House to provide the RSPCA with sufficient powers to act effectively on community complaints or intervene early in cases of suspected cruelty [1999].

Residential Properties, Dogs

483 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce minimum standards for keeping dogs in apartments, units and small residential properties [2000].

Residential Properties, Levy

474 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce a new annual levy on all Queensland residential properties not registered as the owner's principal place of residence, with 100% of the revenue used to fund council rate exemptions for Queensland residents living in their own home [2001].

Tenancy Law, Notice to Leave

761 petitioners, requesting the House to amend Queensland's residential tenancy law so that, where a lessor has issued a Notice to Leave for the end of a fixed term, the tenant may end the tenancy during the final 90 days of the fixed term, or during the Notice to Leave period, by giving 14 days written notice without penalty [2002].

Moggill Ferry

613 petitioners, requesting the House to replace the outdated and unreliable Moggill ferry with a bridge [2003].

Referendum, Termination of Pregnancy

596 petitioners, requesting the House to put forward a referendum or official postal survey to determine the majority view of all Queensland voters on the termination of pregnancy legislation [2004].

Referendum, Government Planning and Accountability

310 petitioners, requesting the House to put forward a referendum for the people of Queensland to consider a range of measures to enhance long term government planning and democratic accountability [2005].

Wynnum Centre Suburban Renewal Plan

240 petitioners, requesting the House to refuse the proposed Wynnum Centre Suburban Renewal Plan in its current form [2006].

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS (SO 31)

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

18 September 2026—

1671 Screen Queensland—Directors' report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2026

1672 Crime and Corruption Commission: 2025-26 Annual Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee on authorities for assumed identities relating to criminal activity pursuant to section 314 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000

1673 Crime and Corruption Commission: 2025-26 Annual Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee on aspects of surveillance device warrants pursuant to section 358 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000

1674 Crime and Corruption Commission: 2025-26 Annual Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee: Controlled Operations Committee-Report on activities from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 pursuant to section 138(2) of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001

1675 Crime and Corruption Commission: 2025-26 Annual Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee on authorities for assumed identities for corruption offences pursuant to section 146ZQ of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001

1676 Rail Safety National Law (South Australia) Act 2012: Rail Safety National Law National Regulations (Fees) Amendment Regulations 2026

1677 Rail Safety National Law (South Australia) Act 2012: Rail Safety National Law National Regulations (Fees) Amendment Regulations 2026, explanatory notes

1678 Governance, Energy and Finance Committee: Report No. 30, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 22 April 2026 and 23 June 2026

23 September 2026—

1679 President of the Industrial Court of Queensland (in respect of the Industrial Court of Queensland, Queensland Industrial Relations Commission and the Queensland Industrial Registry)—Annual Report 2025-2026

1680 Office of the Independent Assessor—Annual Report 2025-2026

1681 Sunwater—Annual Report 2025-26

1682 Sunwater—Statement of Corporate Intent 2025-26

1683 Urban Utilities—Annual Report 2025-26

1684 Gladstone Area Water Board—Annual Report 2025-26

1685 Unitywater—Annual Report 2025-26

24 September 2026—

1686 Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee: Report No. 12, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 11 February 2026 and 23 June 2026

1687 Response from the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers (Hon. Leahy), to an E-Petition (4549-26), sponsored by the member for Pine Rivers, Ms Boyd, from 12,174 petitioners, requesting the House to do all within its power to ensure support to local government for the provision of the management of homelessness in public spaces, provision of waste management infrastructure and access to public toilets, sanitation, and water facilities

1688 Response from the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers (Hon. Leahy), to an E-Petition (4484-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 2,221 petitioners, requesting the House to appoint an administrator to oversee and investigate the operations, management and governance of Tablelands Regional Council

1689 Response from the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers (Hon. Leahy), to an E-Petition (4610-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 823 petitioners, requesting the House to do all in its power to work with local governments to reform Queensland's dog barking complaint system

1690 Response from the Minister for Primary Industries (Hon. Perrett), to an E-Petition (4523-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,985 petitioners, requesting the House to do all within its power to urge the Queensland Minister for Agriculture to request that FSANZ urgently reconsider and approve Moringa oleifera as a novel food, allowing its importation, retail sale and local cultivation

1691 Response from the Minister for Primary Industries (Hon. Perrett), to an E-Petition (4475-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 9,322 petitioners, requesting the House to remove DPI approval for animal cruelty prosecutions and let the RSPCA get on with their job; and introduce mandatory minimum sentence, which includes imprisonment, for all animal cruelty

1692 Response from the Minister for Primary Industries (Hon. Perrett), to an E-Petition (4412-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 765 petitioners, requesting the House to review and relax the bag and size limits/restrictions and implement active bull shark population control measures based on community safety and environmental balance

1693 Response from the Minister for Primary Industries (Hon. Perrett), to an E-Petition (4372-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,294 petitioners, requesting the House to allow for the possession and consumption of wild-caught tilapia by recreational fishers and establish guidelines for humane on-site dispatch

1694 State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 34, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 13 May 2026 and 2 June 2026

1695 State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 35, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 3 June 2026 and 23 June 2026

1696 State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 36, 58th Parliament—Oversight of the Queensland Building and Construction Commission

1697 Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity (Hon. Frecklington), to an E-Petition (4395-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 2,518 petitioners, requesting the House to conduct a new referendum on daylight saving in Queensland, or trial a dual-time zone arrangement where daylight saving applies only to South East Queensland

1698 Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity (Hon. Frecklington), to an E-Petition (4397-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 4,738 petitioners, requesting the House to consider the introduction or strengthening of legislation to prohibit the intentional desecration of the Australian National Flag

1699 Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity (Hon. Frecklington), to an E-Petition (4423-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 713 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce State law reforms which inhibit the establishment of cult groups and prevent such organisations from coercing others to practise their ideologies and abusive belief system

1700 Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity (Hon. Frecklington), to an E-Petition (4502-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 976 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate maximum time frames to within one year for trials of alleged paedophiles to begin

1701 Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity (Hon. Frecklington), to an E-Petition (4551-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,860 petitioners, requesting the House to call on the Attorney-General to review the charges and sentence handed to James Warren Williams for systematically setting up hidden cameras in Redland City Council female toilet blocks

1702 Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers—Annual Report 2025-2026

1703 Mount Isa Water Board—Annual Report 2025-2026

1704 Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity (Hon. Frecklington), to an E-Petition (4572-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 646 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce and pass legislation restoring optional preferential voting for Queensland Legislative Assembly elections in accordance with 2024 election commitments

1705 Response from the Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business (Hon. Minnikin), to an E-Petition (4477-26), sponsored by the member for Bundaberg, Mr Smith, from 188 petitioners, requesting the House to address the shortage of government employed driving examiners and licence test booking availabilities for the Bundaberg and Childers areas

1706 Seqwater—Annual Report 2025-26

1707 Seqwater—Operational Plan 2025-26

1708 Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority—Annual Report 2025-2026

1709 Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Authority—Annual Report 2025-26

1710 Contract Cleaning Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Authority—Annual Report 2025-26

1711 Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Authority—Annual Report 2025-26

1712 WorkCover Queensland—Annual Report 2025-2026

1713 Response from the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development (Hon. Last), to an E-Petition (4632-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 177 petitioners, requesting the House to review the performance of the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council as Trustee for the Northern Peninsula Area Deeds of Grant in Trust communities

1714 Response from the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Hon. Mander), to an E-Petition (4627-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,298 petitioners, requesting the House to do all in its power to support the preservation of cable wakeboarding on the Gold Coast by working with the Gold Coast Wakeboard Club to preserve the existing facility or identify a suitable site and potential support for the relocation of the Gold Coast Wake Park

1715 Response from the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services (Hon. Gerber), to an E-Petition (4547-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 853 petitioners, requesting the House to request the Premier separate Victim Support from Youth Justice and Corrective Services portfolios under separate ministers, put in place clear expected outcomes and timeframes for each portfolio and hold ministers to account, and establish a public register of judicial sentences made under the Adult Crime, Adult Time offences to improve transparency

1716 Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. Nicholls), to an E-Petition (4571-26), sponsored by the member for Greenslopes, Mr Kelly, from 1,343 petitioners, requesting the House to ban the operation of 24/7 delivery services for nitrous oxide products, and limit the sale of nitrous oxide to registered commercial operators licensed buyers for a legitimate purpose

1717 Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an E-Petition (4375-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 111 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade Gilston Road and Carrick Way, Wondunna

1718 Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an E-Petition (4389-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 287 petitioners, requesting the House to order a review of the safety for bus drivers and bus passengers in Ipswich on services operated by Bus Queensland and Transit Systems, and a review of their Translink contracts and public transport operator accreditations

1719 Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an E-Petition (4391-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 967 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate a total ban on vehicle modified exhaust systems

1720 Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an E-Petition (4406-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,303 petitioners, requesting the House to widen the Springfield to Ripley section of the Centenary Highway

1721 Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an E-Petition (4407-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,176 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate that any person driving or riding any kind of vehicle on Queensland roads must have a valid driver licence

1722 Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an E-Petition (4482-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 160 petitioners, requesting the House to repair or replace the Springton Creek Bridge

1723 Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an E-Petition (4486-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,462 petitioners, requesting the House to change speed limits on all highways in Queensland from 100 to 110 km/h and 110 to 120 km/h

1724 Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an E-Petition (4518-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 407 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures to improve road safety and access to Glenwood State School

1725 Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an E-Petition (4519-26), sponsored by the member for Cairns, Mr Healy, from 2,055 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures to address the delays in repair works to the Kuranda Range Road

1726 Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an E-Petition (4522-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 336 petitioners, requesting the House to do all in its power to direct the Department of Transport and Main Roads to undertake an urgent and comprehensive engineering assessment of a section of the Beaudesert-Nerang Road and prioritise permanent remediation works

1727 Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an E-Petition (4525-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 8,215 petitioners, requesting the House to declare Quaid Road a road of significant importance granting permanent public access

1728 Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an E-Petition (4526-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 204 petitioners, requesting the House to consider for the safety of all residents and visitors that a pedestrian crossing be installed at Arcadia, Alma Bay on Magnetic Island, and the speed limit be reduced to 20 km per hour

1729 Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an E-Petition (4552-26), sponsored by the member for Mansfield, Ms McMillan, from 308 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise investigation for noise attenuation treatments, and a clear timeline for this work, on Mount Gravatt-Capalaba Road in Mackenzie, and explain current and future funding details for this attenuation treatment

1730 Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an E-Petition (4556-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,896 petitioners, requesting the House to conduct reviews of wildlife strike hotspots across Hervey Bay and the Fraser Coast, and explore options to reduce wildlife strikes in these areas

1731 Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an E-Petition (4582-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 111 petitioners, requesting the House to do all in its power to upgrade Bridge and Greenwattle Streets, Wilsonton to reduce congestion and improve road safety

1732 Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an E-Petition (4598-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 344 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the relevant road rules for personal mobility devices to target illegal devices, not compliant commuters

1733 Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. Nicholls), to an E-Petition (4481-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,248 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate a ban on abortion and to establish robust support for women in unplanned pregnancies

1734 Response from the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services (Hon. Gerber), to an E-Petition (4465-26), sponsored by the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, from 580 petitioners, requesting the House to implement a requirement for ASIC to create a claim fund to allow for compensation to victims of what can be named "Bankruptee Fraud"

1735 Response from the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services (Hon. Gerber), to an E-Petition (4550-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 2,388 petitioners, requesting the House to make guardians criminally liable for the offenses of their minor children when it can be proven that the parents failed to exercise reasonable supervision and control, effectively aligning Queensland's youth justice framework with accountability models similar to California law

25 September 2026—

1736 Response from the Minister for Primary Industries (Hon. Perrett), to an E-Petition (4386-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 3,960 petitioners, requesting the House to do all in its power to cause the disclosure of and keep an updated public list of animal abuse offenders for Queensland

1737 Response from the Minister for Primary Industries (Hon. Perrett), to an E-Petition (4659-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 580 petitioners, requesting the House to commission an independent parliamentary inquiry to establish a standalone Industrial Hemp Act

1738 Response from the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers (Hon. Leahy), to an E-Petition (4602-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 717 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that the Minister for Local Government carries out remedial action under Section 120 of the Local Government Act 2009, and if this is unsuccessful then under Section 122 of the same act

1739 Port of Townsville Limited—Annual Report 2025-26

1740 Port of Townsville Limited—Statement of Corporate Intent 2025-2026

1741 North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation—Annual Report 2025-26

1742 North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation—Statement of Corporate Intent 2025-26

1743 Ports North—Annual Report 2025-2026

1744 Far North Queensland Ports Corporation Limited (Trading as Ports North)—Statement of Corporate Intent 2025-26

1745 Gladstone Ports Corporation—Annual Report 2025-26

1746 Gladstone Ports Corporation—Statement of Corporate Intent 2025-26

1747 Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity (Hon. Frecklington), to an E-Petition (4540-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 618 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce legislation to ban the use of third-party online bidding and offer escalation platforms in residential real estate

1748 Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity (Hon. Frecklington), to an E-Petition (4578-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 356 petitioners, requesting the House to include a definition for the Acts amended by the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026 regarding antisemitism

1749 Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity (Hon. Frecklington), to an E-Petition (4629-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 458 petitioners, requesting the House to adjust the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Act 2026 so that it complies with Federal Law and doesn't restrict freedom of political expression in any way

1750 Department of Housing and Public Works—Annual Report 2025-2026

1751 Board of Architects of Queensland—Annual Report 2025-2026

1752 Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland—Annual Report 2025-2026

1753 Residential Tenancies Authority—Annual Report 2025-2026

1754 Queensland Building and Construction Commission—Annual Report 2025-2026

1755 Controlled Operations Committee—Annual Report 2025-2026

1756 Board of the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission—Chair Annual Report 2024-25
1757 Queensland Police Service—Dangerous Attachment Devices 2025-26
1758 Department of Customer Services, Open Data and Small and Family Business—Annual Report 2025-2026
1759 Mental Health Court—Annual Report 2025-2026
1760 Mental Health Review Tribunal—Annual Report 2025-2026
1761 Office of the Chief Psychiatrist—Annual Report 2025-2026
1762 Bundaberg Health Services Foundation—Annual Report 2025-2026
1763 Children's Hospital Foundation Queensland—Annual Report 2025-2026
1764 Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2025-2026
1765 Gold Coast Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2025-2026
1766 PA Research Foundation—Annual Report 2025-2026
1767 Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2025-2026
1768 The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2025-2026
1769 Townsville Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2025-2026
1770 Toowoomba Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2025-2026
1771 West Moreton Health Foundation—Annual Report 2025-2026
1772 Mackay Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2025-26
1773 Townsville Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2025-26
1774 West Moreton Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2025-26
1775 North West Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2025-26
1776 South West Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2025-26
1777 Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2025-26
1778 Central West Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2025-26
1779 Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2025-26
1780 Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2025-26
1781 Metro North Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2025-26
1782 Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2025-26
1783 Metro South Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2025-26
1784 Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2025-26
1785 Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2025-26
1786 Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2025-26
1787 Queensland Training Ombudsman—Annual Report 2025-26
1788 TAFE Queensland—Annual Report 2025-26
1789 Queensland Small Business Commissioner—Annual Report 2025-26
1790 Queensland Fire Department—Annual Report 2025-2026
1791 Department of Transport and Main Roads—Annual Report 2025-2026
1792 Economic Development Queensland—Annual Report 2025-2026
1793 Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning—Annual Report 2025-2026
1794 Night-Life Economy Commissioner—Annual Report 2025-2026
1795 Queensland Police Service: Surveillance Device Warrants—Annual Report 2025-2026
1796 Motor Accident Insurance Commission—Annual Report 2025-26
1797 National Injury Insurance Agency Queensland—Annual Report 2025-26
1798 Queensland Competition Authority—Annual Report 2025-26
1799 Queensland Hydro Pty Ltd—Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2026
1800 Queensland Treasury—Annual Report 2025-26
1801 Queensland Treasury Corporation—Annual Report 2025-26
1802 Queensland Productivity Commission—Annual Report 2025-2026
1803 Energy & Water Ombudsman Queensland—Annual Report 2025-26
1804 Cleanco Queensland—Annual Report 2025-26
1805 Cleanco Queensland—Statement of Corporate Intent 2025-2026
1806 CS Energy—Annual Report 2025-26
1807 CS Energy—Statement of Corporate Intent 2025-26

1808 Energy Queensland—Annual Report 2025-26

1809 Energy Queensland—Statement of Corporate Intent 2025-26

1810 Ergon Energy Queensland—Annual Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2026

1811 Powerlink Queensland—Annual Report and Financial Statements 2025-26

1812 Powerlink Queensland—Statement of Corporate Intent 2025-26

1813 Stanwell—Annual Report 2025-26

1814 Stanwell—Statement of Corporate Intent 2025-26

1815 Queensland Investment Corporation—Annual Report 2025-2026

1816 Queensland Investment Corporation—Statement of Corporate Intent 2025-26

1817 Queensland Investment Corporation Limited—Consolidated annual financial statements and directors' report for the year ended 30 June 2026

1818 Queensland Investment Corporation—Sustainability Report 2025-2026

1819 Queensland Investment Corporation Private Capital Pty Ltd—Annual financial statements and directors' report for the year ended 30 June 2026

1820 Queensland Investment Corporation Properties Pty Ltd—Annual financial statements and directors' report for the year ended 30 June 2026

1821 National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) Act 2014: National Energy Retail Amendment (Establishing a regulatory framework for retail customer initiated gas abolishment) Rule 2026, No. 1

1822 National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) Act 2014: National Energy Retail Amendment (Improving life support processes) Rule 2026, No. 2

1823 National Electricity (South Australia) Act 1996: National Electricity (South Australia) (Civil Penalties) Amendment Regulations 2026, No. 37

1824 National Energy Retail Law (South Australia) Act 2011: National Energy Retail (Civil Penalties) Amendment Regulations 2026, No. 38

1825 Queensland Rail—Annual and Financial Report 2025-2026

1826 Queensland Rail Limited—Financial report for the year ended 30 June 2026

1827 Gold Coast Waterways Authority—Annual Report 2025-2026

1828 Cross River Rail Delivery Authority—Annual Report 2025-2026

1829 Queensland Veterans' Council—Annual Report 2025-26

1830 Public Sector Commission—Annual Report 2025-26

1831 Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel—Annual Report 2025-2026

1832 Department of the Premier and Cabinet—Annual Report 2025-2026

1833 Office of the Governor—Annual Report 2025-2026

1834 South Bank Corporation—Annual Report 2025-2026

1835 Trade and Investment Queensland—Annual Report 2025-26

1836 Department of Trade, Employment and Training—Annual Report 2025-2026

1837 Community Enterprise Queensland—Annual Report 2025-2026

1838 Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism—Annual Report 2025-2026

1839 Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation (Hon. Powell) pursuant to Section 56A of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Queensland Heritage Regulation 2015

1840 Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation (Hon. Powell) pursuant to Section 56A of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Major Events (Motor Racing Events) Regulation 2015

1841 Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation (Hon. Powell) pursuant to Section 56A of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Environmental Offsets Regulation 2014

1842 Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management—Annual Report 2025-2026

1843 Office of the Cross-Border Commissioner—Annual Report 2025-2026

1844 Queensland Police Service—Annual Report 2025-2026

1845 Legal Practitioners Admissions Board—Annual Report 2025-2026

1846 Queensland Public Trustee—Annual Report 2025-2026

1847 Queensland Law Society—Annual Report 2025-26

1848 Legal Aid Queensland—Annual Report 2025-26

1849 Crime and Corruption Commission—Annual Report 2025-26

1850 Tourism and Events Queensland—Annual Report 2025-2026

1851 Newstead House Board of Trustees—Annual Report 2025-2026

1852 Queensland Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner—Annual Report 2025-26

1853 Queensland Reconstruction Authority—Annual Report 2025-2026

1854 Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety—Annual Report 2025-2026

1855 Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council—Annual Report 2025-26

1856 Electoral Commission Queensland—Annual Report 2025-2026

1857 Department of Natural Resource and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development—Annual Report 2025-26

1858 Resources Safety & Health Queensland—Annual Report 2025-2026

1859 Surveyors Board Queensland—Annual Report 2025-2026

1860 Valuers Registration Board of Queensland—Annual Report 2025-2026

1861 Coexistence Queensland—Annual Report 2025-2026

1862 Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority—Annual Report 2025-2026

1863 Racing Queensland—Annual Report 2025-26

1864 Stadiums Queensland—Annual Report 2025-2026

1865 Brisbane Organising Committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games—Annual Report 2025-2026

1866 Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games—Annual Report 2025-2026

1867 Queensland Academy of Sport—Annual Report 2025-26

1868 Safe Food Production Queensland—Annual Report 2025-26

1869 Queensland Food Farmers' Commissioner—Annual Report 2025-26

1870 Department of Primary Industries—Annual Report 2025-2026

1871 Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board—Annual Report 2025-2026

1872 Queensland Racing Integrity Commission—Annual Report 2025-2026

1873 Queensland Racing Appeals Panel—Annual Performance Report 2025-26

1874 Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. Nicholls), to an E-Petition (4521-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 565 petitioners, requesting the House to launch an independent investigation and audit with the final report made public, into the human rights and treatment of eating disorder patients in Queensland facilities

1875 Response from the Acting Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. Last), to an E-Petition (4527-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 7,437 petitioners, requesting the House to do all in its power to make Voluntary Assisted Dying available to people afflicted by incurable debilitating diseases

1876 Response from the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation (Hon. Powell), to an E-Petition (4651-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 147 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce measures to reduce environmental harm from improper cat litter disposal and work with manufacturers to improve environmental safety of cat litter products

1877 Response from the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation (Hon. Powell), to an E-Petition (4652-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 259 petitioners, requesting the House to identify who is responsible for regulating wood and coal burning fires in towns and cities throughout Queensland

1878 Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an E-Petition (4497-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 391 petitioners, requesting the House to replace Stop Signs with Give Way Signs in Queensland

1879 Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an E-Petition (4561-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 6,026 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995 (QLD) to replace the presence-based offence for THC with an impairment-based standard aligning with Tasmania and Victoria, and consider a statutory medical defence for drivers using prescribed THC as directed, where there is no evidence of functional impairment

1880 Queensland Family and Child Commission—Annual Report 2025-2026

1881 Professional Standards Councils—Annual Report 2025-2026

1882 Professional Standards Councils—Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2026

1883 Sunshine Coast Health Foundation (Wishlist)—Annual Report 2025-2026

1884 Queensland Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board—Annual Report 2025-2026

1885 Office of the Health Ombudsman—Annual Report 2025-2026

1886 Queensland Pharmacy Business Ownership Council—Annual Report 2025-2026

1887 Department of Justice—Annual Report 2025-2026

1888 Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2025-2026

1889 QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute—Annual Report 2025-2026

1890 Queensland Mental Health Commission—Annual Report 2025-26

1891 Health and Wellbeing Queensland—Annual Report 2025-2026

1892 Mackay Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2025-2026

1893 Queensland Human Rights Commission—Annual Report 2025-26

1894 Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation—Annual Report 2025-2026

1895 Public Trustee Act 1978: Public Trustee (Fees and Charges Notice) (No. 2) 2026

1896 Public Trustee Act 1978: Public Trustee (Fees and Charges Notice) (No. 2) 2026, explanatory notes

1897 Public Trustee Act 1978: Public Trustee (Fees and Charges Notice) (No. 2) 2026, human rights certificate

1898 Queensland Corrective Services—Annual Report 2025-2026

28 September 2026—

1899 Department of Health—Annual Report 2025-2026

1900 Response from the Minister for Primary Industries (Hon. Perrett), to an E-Petition (4664-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 433 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the replacement biosecurity and feed framework is fit for purpose for novel livestock feed additives and ingredients, and ensure Queensland Government policies and programs preserve genuine farmer choice

1901 Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority—Annual Report 2025-2026

1902 Queensland Performing Arts Centre—Annual Report 2025-2026

1903 Queensland Art Gallery Board of Trustees—Annual Report 2025-26

1904 Library Board of Queensland—Annual Report 2025-26

1905 Board of the Queensland Museum—Annual Report 2025-26

1906 Non-State Schools Accreditation Board—Annual Report 2025-2026

1907 Health, Environment and Innovation Committee: Report No. 29, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 2 June 2026 and 23 June 2026

1908 Department of Education—Annual Report 2025-2026

1909 Annual Report of Air Warrant and Alternate Travel Expenditure by Members of the Legislative Assembly—1 July 2025-30 June 2026

1910 Annual Report of General Travel Allocation Expenditure by Members of the Legislative Assembly—1 July 2025-30 June 2026

1911 Annual Report of Electorate and Communication Allowance Expenditure by Members of the Legislative Assembly—1 July 2025-30 June 2026

1912 Office of the Information Commissioner—Annual Report 2025-26

1913 Queensland Integrity Commissioner—Annual Report 2025-26

1914 Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an E-Petition (4608-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 336 petitioners, requesting the House to improve public transport connectivity for western Moreton Bay, in consultation with the City of Moreton Bay and local communities

29 September 2026—

1915 Queensland Parliamentary Service—Annual Report 2025-26

1916 Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support—Annual Report 2025-2026

1917 Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Primary Industries (Hon. Perrett) pursuant to Section 56A of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Brands Regulation 2012 and the Food Production (Safety) Regulation 2014

1918 Response from the Minister for Police and Emergency Services (Hon. Purdie), to an E-Petition (4532-26), sponsored by the member for Southport, Mr Molhoek, from 1,344 petitioners, requesting the House to declare Southport CBD as a Designated Business and Community Precinct in accordance with the third tranche of the Adult Time, Adult Crime bill so public safety can be restored to the area

1919 Response from the Minister for Police and Emergency Services (Hon. Purdie), to an E-Petition (4648-26), sponsored by the member for Traeger, Mr Katter, from 2,613 petitioners, requesting the House to consider a reward for credible information leading to the location and recovery of Jack McLennan through existing Queensland Police Service reward frameworks and processes, and to review the missing persons rewards process

1920 Response from the Minister for Police and Emergency Services (Hon. Purdie), to an E-Petition (4428-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 5,527 petitioners, requesting the House to re-classify firearm suppressors as Category A or make a new Category that allows genuine use for PPE

1921 Response from the Minister for Police and Emergency Services (Hon. Purdie), to an E-Petition (4480-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,059 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures to reduce vehicle theft in Cairns and Townsville

30 September 2026—

1922 Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games—Annual Report 2025-2026: Erratum

1923 Queensland Integrity Commissioner—Annual Report 2025-26: Erratum

1924 Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 43, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 13 May 2026 and 19 June 2026

1925 Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee: Report No. 113, 58th Parliament—Review of the Crime and Corruption Commission's activities, government response

1926 Primary Industries and Resources Committee: Report No. 22, 58th Parliament—Oversight of the Queensland Food Farmers' Commissioner, government response

1 October 2026—

1927 Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism (Hon. Simpson) pursuant to Section 56A of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Family Responsibilities Commission Regulation 2014

2 October 2026—

1928 Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support—Annual Report 2025-2026: Erratum

6 October 2026—

1929 Child Safety Commission of Inquiry Report—From Pressure to Purpose: Reforming Child Protection in Queensland: Erratum

1930 Overseas Travel Report: Report on official visit to the United States of America by the Premier and Minister for Veterans, Hon. David Crisafulli, 31 August—6 September 2026

7 October 2026—

1931 Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Police and Emergency Services (Hon. Purdie) pursuant to Section 56A of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Australian Crime Commission (Queensland) Regulation 2016, the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Regulation 2015, the Disaster Management Regulation 2014, the Police Service Administration Regulation 2016, the Summary Offences Regulation 2016 and the Weapons Regulation 2016

8 October 2026—

1932 Queensland Ombudsman—Inspector of Detention Services: Wacol Youth Remand Centre inspection report, October 2026

1933 Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Bleijie), to an E-Petition (4575-26), sponsored by the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, from 880 petitioners, requesting the House to do all in its power to oppose the proposed development in Willow Vale along Rosemount Drive and ensure full consideration is given to its impacts on residents, local infrastructure, and the character of the community

1934 Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Bleijie), to an E-Petition (4562-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 939 petitioners, requesting the House to do all in its power to allow owners of acreage properties to add structures to their property that can accommodate the homeless, and to remove red tape barriers for approvals of these structures

9 October 2026—

1935 Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg) pursuant to Section 56A of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Transport Infrastructure (Waterways Management) Regulation 2012

1936 Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg) pursuant to Section 56A of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Accreditation and Other Provisions) Regulation 2015

1937 Education, Arts and Communities Committee: Report No. 21, 58th Parliament—Queensland Protection Commission Bill 2026

1938 Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development (Hon. Last) pursuant to Section 56A of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Aboriginal Land Regulation 2011, the Torres Strait Islander Land Regulation 2011 and the Rural and Regional Adjustment Regulation 2011

1939 Overseas Travel Report: Report on Trade Mission to Latin America by the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training, Hon. Ros Bates, 29 August—11 September 2026

12 October 2026—

1940 Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers (Hon. Leahy) pursuant to Section 56A of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992 regarding the Local Government Regulation 2012 and the City of Brisbane Regulation 2012

1941 Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers (Hon. Leahy) pursuant to Section 56A of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992 regarding the Building Fire Safety Regulation 2008 and the Fire Services Regulation 2011

1942 Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity (Hon. Frecklington) pursuant to Section 56A of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities (Justice, Land and Other Matters) Regulation 2008, the Agents Financial Administration Regulation 2014, the Associations Incorporation Regulation 1999, the Body Corporate and Community Management Regulation 2008, the Body Corporate and Community Management (Specified Two-lot Schemes Module) Regulation 2011, the Building Units and Group Titles Regulation 2008, the Casino Control Regulation 1999, the Charitable and Non-Profit Gaming Regulation 1999, the Collections Regulation 2008, the Coroners Regulation 2015, the Crime and Corruption Regulation 2015, the Criminal Code (Animal Valuers) Regulation 2014, the Debt Collectors (Field Agents and

Collection Agents) Regulation 2014, the Fair Trading (Code of Practice-Fitness Industry) Regulation 2003, the Fair Trading (Safety Standards) Regulation 2011, the Funeral Benefit Business Regulation 2010, the Gaming Machine Regulation 2002, the Interactive Gambling (Player Protection) Regulation 1998, the Justices Regulation 2014, the Keno Regulation 2007, the Liquor Regulation 2002, the Lotteries Regulation 2007, the Motor Dealers and Chattel Auctioneers Regulation 2014, the Partnership Regulation 2015, the Property Occupations Regulation 2014, the Public Guardian Regulation 2014, the Second-hand Dealers and Pawnbrokers Regulation 2004, the Security Providers (Crowd Controller Code of Practice) Regulation 2008, the Security Providers Regulation 2008, the Security Providers (Security Firm Code of Practice) Regulation 2008, the Security Providers (Security Officer-Licensed Premises-Code of Practice) Regulation 2008, the Tattoo Industry Regulation 2013, the Tourism Services (Code of Conduct for Inbound Tour Operators) Regulation 2003, the Tourism Services Regulation 2003, the Trust Accounts Regulation 1999, the Wagering Regulation 1999 and the Wine Industry Regulation 2009

1943 Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership (Hon. Janetzki) pursuant to Section 56A of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Electricity Regulation 2006, the Gas Supply Regulation 2007 and the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Health Legislation Amendment Act (No. 3) 2025:

1944 Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 136

1945 Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 136, explanatory notes

Private Health Facilities Act 1999:

1946 Private Health Facilities Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 137

1947 Private Health Facilities Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 137, explanatory notes

1948 Private Health Facilities Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 137, human rights certificate

Recording of Evidence Act 1962:

1949 Recording of Evidence Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 138

1950 Recording of Evidence Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 138, explanatory notes

1951 Recording of Evidence Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 138, human rights certificate

Economic Development Act 2012:

1952 Economic Development (Land Activation Program (Tranche 2) Provisional PDA) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 139

1953 Economic Development (Land Activation Program (Tranche 2) Provisional PDA) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 139, explanatory notes

1954 Economic Development (Land Activation Program (Tranche 2) Provisional PDA) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 139, human rights certificate

Economic Development Act 2012:

1955 Economic Development (Variation of Ripley Valley UDA) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 140

1956 Economic Development (Variation of Ripley Valley UDA) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 140, explanatory notes

1957 Economic Development (Variation of Ripley Valley UDA) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 140, human rights certificate

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

1958 Rural and Regional Adjustment (Regional Drought Resilience Planning Scheme—Phase 2) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 141

1959 Rural and Regional Adjustment (Regional Drought Resilience Planning Scheme—Phase 2) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 141, explanatory notes

1960 Rural and Regional Adjustment (Regional Drought Resilience Planning Scheme—Phase 2) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 141, human rights certificate

Liquor Act 1992:

1961 Liquor (Identified Organisations) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 142

1962 Liquor (Identified Organisations) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 142, explanatory notes

1963 Liquor (Identified Organisations) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 142, human rights certificate

Fisheries Act 1994:

1964 Fisheries Legislation (Barramundi and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 143

1965 Fisheries Legislation (Barramundi and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 143, explanatory notes

1966 Fisheries Legislation (Barramundi and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 143, human rights certificate

Legal Profession Act 2007:

1967 Legal Profession (Australian Solicitors Conduct Rules) Notice 2026, No. 144

1968 Legal Profession (Australian Solicitors Conduct Rules) Notice 2026, No. 144, explanatory notes

1969 Legal Profession (Australian Solicitors Conduct Rules) Notice 2026, No. 144, human rights certificate

Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994:

1970 Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 145

1971 Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 145, explanatory notes

1972 Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 145, human rights certificate

Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991:

1973 Queensland Building and Construction Commission (Plumbing and Drainage Occupational Licensees) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 146

1974 Queensland Building and Construction Commission (Plumbing and Drainage Occupational Licensees) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 146, explanatory notes

1975 Queensland Building and Construction Commission (Plumbing and Drainage Occupational Licensees) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 146, human rights certificate

Education (General Provisions) Amendment Act 2025:

1976 Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 147

1977 Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 147, explanatory notes

1978 Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 147, human rights certificate

Education (General Provisions) Amendment Act 2025:

1979 Education (General Provisions) Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2026, No. 148

1980 Education (General Provisions) Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2026, No. 148, explanatory notes

1981 Education (General Provisions) Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2026, No. 148, human rights certificate

Education (General Provisions) Act 2006:

1982 Education (General Provisions) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 149

1983 Education (General Provisions) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 149, explanatory notes

1984 Education (General Provisions) Amendment Regulation 2026, No. 149, human rights certificate

MINISTERIAL PAPER

The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

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

2007 Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Bleijie) pursuant to Section 56A of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Regional Planning Interests Regulation 2014

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements



Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.42 am): Queenslanders understand disasters. We understand the anxiety of watching fire race towards your door, the destruction left by a cyclone and the long task of cleaning up when floodwaters recede. Recovery takes time and the costs are significant. That is why reliable disaster funding is essential and is why our government fought so strongly against the federal government's proposed changes to reduce disaster funding payments that go to local government. The proposed move to a 50-50 funding split would have risked recovery. It would have risked it in the country's most disaster-prone state. It would have made some councils unviable and it would have jacked up rates for others—and many of those councils are already carrying the burden of repeated disasters—so we went into bat for Queenslanders.

Queenslanders should not face uncertainty about recovery funding at the very moment they are confronting the loss of their homes, livelihoods and community infrastructure. For a small community, restoring a damaged road can mean reconnecting families. It can mean reopening access to businesses or schools and allowing producers to get their goods to market. Recovery should also strengthen communities for the future. When we rebuild infrastructure, we want to reduce the damage caused by the next disaster.

I am pleased that late last week the federal government announced it will not be proceeding with proposed changes to Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. I would like to thank the Prime Minister for listening to our concerns. It is a commonsense decision that averts disaster for the most disaster-prone state. Our government will always stand up for those communities and secure the support they need. We await the details to ensure there are no changes to the formula that Queenslanders have relied on for years and years, and that is an important part of this.

I also want to thank those agencies involved in fighting fires in what has been an incredibly busy start to the year. Since the blazes began only a couple of months ago, there have been nearly 2,500 individual fires and over 9,700 fire trucks that have responded. Think of the thousands of Queenslanders who have given up their time to help during this period. They have saved sheds, they have saved homes and they have saved lives. In recent weeks, I have had the chance to say thank you in person to some of them. I want to thank the members for Theodore and Maryborough for helping facilitate some of those visits. I hope to meet more of them as they continue their critical work in the coming months. They are, indeed, great Queenslanders.

Get Ready Queensland Week; Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

Hon. A LEAHY (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (9.45 am): Last week the Crisafulli government launched Get Ready Queensland Week at the State Disaster Coordination Centre at Kedron. Queensland is Australia's most disaster-prone state, which is why we have been urging Queenslanders to get prepared as the severe weather season approaches and the bushfire risk remains elevated. There are three steps to get ready: know your risks, make a plan and pack a kit. If Queenslanders need more information, there are Get Ready information and resources available at getready.qld.gov.au. Get Ready is now a nation-leading initiative of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, and I want to thank the team for their work.

Speaking of resilience, let me turn to the latest developments in respect of disaster recovery funding. Last week I sent an open letter to the federal government, calling on them to dump their disaster recovery funding cuts. This letter was signed by every mayor in Queensland and other stakeholders. Last Friday the federal government heeded the concerns that we had outlined. They confirmed that the existing DRFA cost-sharing arrangements, including the Commonwealth contributions of up to 75 per cent, would remain in place. They also confirmed that counter-disaster operations expenditure eligibility will remain. I join the Premier in thanking the federal government for listening to Queenslanders' concerns and the concerns of our councils.

There is still little detail regarding some other aspects of the proposal. We still need to see the detail on betterment, because betterment projects help protect communities into the future. They make infrastructure more resilient to future disasters and they ensure Queensland builds back better for Queenslanders. An analysis by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority shows that only 22 of the 722 betterment projects since 2013 would have been fully funded under the changes proposed by the federal government, so we are not there yet. Clarity is still needed on the betterment arrangements. I can confirm that I wrote to the federal government yesterday outlining this, because disaster reforms need to strengthen resilience, not weaken what works. We will continue to work with the Commonwealth to secure that support for Queensland communities that need to recover and rebuild, because we are the most disaster-prone state.

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (9.47 am): Like all states, Queensland faces significant fiscal challenges brought on by the latest budget and continued cost shifting out of Canberra. Queensland is paying for Jim Chalmers's budget decisions that have shaken both households and business confidence. There is the hit to the state's stamp duty revenue, estimated last month to be at least $1 billion. Then there is the ongoing deprivation of our state's fair share when it comes to the GST distribution. This amounts to flawed methodology, methodological absurdities, a drag on productivity and a handbrake on economic development—and, so far, a refusal from Jim Chalmers to even entertain the interim findings of the Productivity Commission which confirm the perverse outcomes. Then there are Canberra's varied attempts to shift its costs and responsibilities onto the states.

Queensland Treasury has mapped the scope and magnitude of this cost shifting over the next five years: up to $10.1 billion in NDIS cost shifting; $2.1 billion on national roads being funded at a 50-50 split instead of the previously struck 80-20 model that reflects their national importance; $5.8 billion for the Australians stranded in Queensland's public hospitals while waiting for federally sourced aged-care places; and half a billion dollars gone with the private health rebate cut for older Australians. That is more than $18½ billion. These were not decisions of the Queensland government and we have had no say in them. Even the Commonwealth's share of housing and homelessness services has fallen from 43 per cent to 19 per cent in the last 12 years.

Thankfully, the federal government appears to have heeded our warnings and the warnings of the state's mayors and communities and announced it intends to walk away from its plan to rewrite existing disaster recovery arrangements which could have cost Queenslanders another $3.5 billion. It is imperative, though, that the federal government swiftly clarifies the details of the future disaster recovery arrangements to ensure these arrangements are maintained in full and to restore confidence in our communities.

The federal government have proven time and again that they will walk back their commitments—look at Jim Chalmers's broken-promises budget and Chris Bowen's intransigence when it comes to energy issues. It seems that pragmatism is only shown when the Prime Minister gets involved. We will be watching these arrangements carefully. After a decade of fiscal vandalism by those opposite, Queensland can ill afford Jim Chalmers's budget decisions, to cover Canberra's responsibilities or to continue to operate under a broken GST system. All up, it is a threat to the very stability of the Federation.

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

Hon. DR LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (9.50 am): The Crisafulli government has delivered an important victory for rural and regional Queenslanders, forcing the Albanese Labor government to back down on its proposed changes to disaster recovery funding. Make no mistake: had these changes gone ahead it would have been rural and regional Queenslanders who paid the price.

Queensland is the most disaster-prone state in Australia. From devastating bushfires and tropical cyclones to torrential rain events leading to catastrophic flooding and severe storms, our communities know all too well the destructive power of Mother Nature, and nowhere is that reality felt more acutely than in regional and rural Queensland. These are communities where a washed-out road isolates not only an entire town but also an entire region, where a damaged bridge can prevent food and fuel supplies from being delivered for weeks, where flooding can cut families off from schools, health care and essential supplies, where producers are left with stranded livestock and no livelihood for months at a time, and where rebuilding after a natural disaster is not optional but essential, yet the Albanese Labor government thought it was acceptable to slash its share of disaster recovery funding and shift more of the financial burden to Queenslanders.

Their proposal would have replaced existing arrangements, which allow the Commonwealth to contribute up to 75 per cent of eligible recovery costs, with a 50-50 funding split. That would have left Queensland taxpayers and already stretched councils facing an even greater financial burden. Who would have suffered? It would have been Queenslanders—us, the people who live in our state. Let's consider what these changes would have meant for communities across Queensland. In Burketown, Mayor Ernie Camp knows the challenges of rebuilding critical infrastructure in one of the most remote and flood-prone areas of our state. In Gympie, Mayor Glen Hartwig has seen his community endure 10 declared disaster events in four years. In Goondiwindi, Mayor Lawrence Springborg understands how critical disaster funding is to protecting communities from flooding. These are real communities represented by mayors who understand what happens when roads are washed away, bridges are destroyed and families are isolated.

The Crisafulli government's advocacy, alongside the united voices of councils and communities, has delivered results: the Albanese Labor government has backed down, the proposed funding split has been abandoned and a sensible decision has been made. We took the fight directly to Canberra. That is what happens when a state government is prepared to stand up for Queenslanders. The Crisafulli government understands that strong regions mean a strong Queensland. Federal Labor tried to shift the burden, but the Crisafulli government stood its ground and Queenslanders have retained their fair share.

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements; Child Safety System

Hon. AJ CAMM (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (9.53 am): It is good to be back in the Queensland parliament. I have stood alongside Queenslanders as well as led my community's recovery under former disaster arrangements, in particular after Cyclone Debbie.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms CAMM: I am not going to take the interjections of those opposite because the message we have for Queenslanders is an important one. I know that many mayors, including my own from the Whitsundays and Mackay, as well as many members of the House—and I call out the members who represent Ingham and Western Queensland—have dealt with back-to-back disasters. An important part of the recovery is ensuring there are funding arrangements in place for long-term recovery.

Queenslanders deserve better than the federal Albanese government, which was going to short-change our state. They deserve a government that will provide the recovery services they need, and I thank all levels of government, particularly local government, which have advocated in this space. The proposed changes to the disaster funding arrangements would have put immense financial pressure on councils, not-for-profits and local communities. They would have had a real, tangible impact on those who rely upon long-term psychosocial recovery and on those who, as the minister said, rely upon betterment and ensuring we have resilience built into our recovery in our communities. As a government, we are united in holding the Albanese government to account, and we will call out their cost shifting.

This morning I stood with the Attorney-General and the commissioner from the QFCC to update Queenslanders on the new quarterly child safety data, and now I wish to update the parliament. For the first time in 10 years of children in residential care, residential care has stabilised.

For the first time in 10 years, there are 2,804 children in residential care as opposed to 2,819 in the March quarter. Under those opposite, it would have been above 3,000 today. While this is a small decrease, it means that the Crisafulli government's reforms of the broken child safety system that we inherited from those opposite are working and we are starting to see the benefits. There are more children in kinship and foster care. The number of new carers has doubled in the past two years—up by 722 under this government, which is nearly double that of the last four years of the former Labor government.

The Crisafulli government is focused more than ever on moving more children away from residential care providers and into family-based care and loving homes. The second ever census was conducted one year after the first one, and we held the first one because we care where children are in the community. It found that 833 vulnerable children had left their placement and 12 children were considered missing at the time of the census. All of these children have been safely accounted for by the department.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Infrastructure

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.57 am): The world is looking to Queensland. There is growing international interest in the progress our state is making under the Crisafulli government, with investors and businesses knowing that Queensland is open for business, with opportunities to invest, establish operations, create jobs and be part of our future growth.

During my recent visit to the United Kingdom, I attended and presented at the Australian British Infrastructure Catalyst, hosted by the Australian British Chamber of Commerce, and engaged with senior policymakers and industry leaders on major infrastructure delivery, the defence industry and preparations for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. This conference was held in Liverpool, and there is a vicious and salacious rumour going around that people thought I attended the Labour Party UK conference. I can assure honourable colleagues that I had nothing to do with the Liverpool Labour Party conference. I was at the Australian British Infrastructure Catalyst conference, but I did observe that the Labour MPs who were going to the conference were entering through the front door.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: There were lots of them, Premier, entering through the front door, but I did not get an invitation. I was proud to promote the progress of our 2032 Delivery Plan and showcase the growing momentum that is building in Queensland as a destination state for investment and jobs. Unlike the former Labor government, which repeatedly chopped and changed its plans for the games and failed to deliver the certainty and direction Queenslanders deserve, we are focused on giving industry the confidence to invest, the stability to invest and the opportunity to help build our state's future.

During the visit I toured the Everton stadium in Liverpool and the Laing O'Rourke Centre of Excellence for Modern Construction, where they built the entire stadium offsite to improve the efficiency and delivery of major infrastructure. I travelled across regional England, and one visit I particularly want to draw to the attention of the House was the Sandwell Aquatics Centre. The centre was the only brand new competition venue built specifically for the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games. What makes

this facility so significant is that its value extends well beyond the games themselves. It was designed to transition from an international competition venue into a lasting community asset, providing local residents, schools and sporting clubs with access to an Olympic-size swimming pool, diving facilities, a community pool, gyms and other recreational amenities. Its legacy began well before the opening ceremony, creating local employment, apprenticeships, training opportunities and contracts for local businesses. Its sporting legacy continues beyond the games. When I visited there were hundreds of schoolkids there using this facility. It is precisely why we must look beyond the immediate requirements of hosting the games and consider the infrastructure we want Queenslanders to benefit from for decades to come. When Labor asks—I am just waiting for him to move from the camera, Mr Speaker. Thank you.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I remind members to be conscious of the cameras.

Mr BLEIJIE: I am very conscious of the cameras, Mr Speaker.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for McConnel, you are sailing very close to the wind.

Mr BLEIJIE: Interestingly, I say to the honourable Opposition Whip that it is not me who is trying to hide or that they should be hiding from the camera: it is opposition members. Government members are not in hiding. We are happy to have the camera on us.

Mr SPEAKER: Come back to your ministerial statement, please.

Mr BLEIJIE: This government is not going to repeat the mistakes of the former Labor government. Our focus is on this infrastructure. We met with defence industry stakeholders to explore opportunities for more investment in Queensland. I was also pleased—this will excite the opposition, honourable colleagues—to provide Buckingham Palace with an update on Queensland's preparation for the 2032 games and the progress being made across the state under the new Crisafulli government. I gifted to the staff of His Majesty The King a bottle of locally produced gin from Beachtree Distilling Co., an Indigenous owned and operated company in the Kawana electorate. I am sure His Majesty is enjoying the gin with Her Majesty.

While I was in the United Kingdom, progress continued here at home on delivering the infrastructure Queensland needs for 2032. There is plenty for *Feeding the Chooks* and the *George Street Beat* in this week's contribution. While I was in the United Kingdom, Queensland continues to progress the 2032 games. The joint venture of BESIX, Watpac and John Holland has progressed to the next stage of the selection process to determine the contract for the Brisbane Stadium, another important milestone for the games. This is the legacy we want to deliver. After so many years of uncertainty under Labor, Queenslanders deserve a government that gets on with the job, and that is exactly what we are doing. We are focused on delivering the infrastructure and 2032 games that Queenslanders voted for—a fresh start!

Police Resources

Hon. DG PURDIE (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (10.03 am): The Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland with more police, stronger laws and fewer victims. We are rebuilding the front line after a decade of decline under Labor—a time when morale hit all-time lows, police left in droves and the thin blue line had never been thinner because Labor does not back our police. I am pleased to update the House that the Crisafulli government is turning that around. In less than two years the Crisafulli government has now delivered more police than the Miles-Palaszczuk government did in a decade. Let me take you through those numbers, Mr Speaker.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr PURDIE: They hate having more police. In Labor's last four-year term police numbers increased by just 76 officers. During their entire decade of decline they increased the headcount by just 795; that is, 795 extra police in three whole terms of government. Today I can announce that in less than two years the Crisafulli government has increased the net headcount of police by 868. There are now 868 more police on the front line than there were at the election in October 2024.

Let me be clear: the Crisafulli government has grown police numbers more in two years of government than Labor did in a decade, and we are not taking our foot off the pedal. Our new graduates are being deployed to all four corners of the state, including regional communities which bore the brunt of Labor's crime crisis. There are now more police than ever before in places like Cairns, Townsville

and Rockhampton. We have even doubled the number of cops in Kilcoy because on this side of the House we believe that safety should not be dependent on where you live. The Crisafulli government is delivering the fresh start that Queenslanders voted for with stronger laws and better resources to restore safety where you live and ensure there are fewer victims of crime.

Youth Justice, Early Intervention

Hon. LJ GERBER (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.05 am): I am pleased to update the House on the Crisafulli government's latest investment in early intervention to stop crime before it starts. Last week I was in Cairns with the Premier, the member for Barron River and the member for Mulgrave where we announced the opening of round 3 of our early intervention Kickstarter grants. This is all about delivering more early intervention programs across the state. We have already delivered 63 new Kickstarter programs right across Queensland so we can change the trajectory of those young lives early on before they become entrenched in a life of crime. This funding means that we can deliver even more programs across the state.

Through round 3 of Kickstarter community organisations can apply for a grant of up to $300,000 to deliver new, locally-led programs for at-risk young people aged eight to 17 who are showing early signs of criminal behaviour or antisocial behaviour. These programs are about engaging young people with education, training and employment, developing practical life skills, strengthening family and community connections, and giving young people the support they need to make better choices. Importantly, they are locally led and regionally focused because local communities understand the challenges facing their young people better than anyone. Round 3 means more local organisations will have the opportunity to bring forward new ideas and reach more at-risk young people before offending becomes an established pattern. We are talking about new, innovative programs that address the underlying risk factors we know lead to youth offending. Programs could target substance abuse issues, domestic and family violence, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and education. If we can help young people affected by these issues early on, we will prevent the next generation from becoming entrenched in a life of crime.

It is a very different approach to what Queensland saw under the previous Labor government. They failed to invest in effective early intervention and they failed to invest in rehabilitation, and as a result victim numbers skyrocketed 193 per cent. The Crisafulli government is pulling every lever possible to reduce crime in this state with stronger laws, more police, early intervention and rehabilitation. Everything we do is about putting the rights of the victims ahead of the rights of offenders and ensuring fewer Queenslanders become victims of crime in this state, and, Mr Speaker, we have lots more to come.

Small and Family Business, Secure Communities Partnership Program

Hon. SJ MINNIKIN (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (10.08 am): Two years ago the LNP announced our landmark policy—Secure Communities Partnership Program—for Queensland small and family businesses to boost the safety of their staff and customers. After a decade of Labor failure on crime and Labor's youth crime crisis, many small and family businesses, their staff and customers had had enough.

While the Leader of the Opposition has been courting faceless union bosses, we have been listening to small and family businesses throughout the state. While the Leader of the Opposition has been watching over his shoulder, we have been delivering a program that watches over small and family business. While the Leader of the Opposition has been working on who is going to deliver him a vote in caucus, we have been working on delivering safety for Queensland—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I refer to your rulings and instructions to members about the content of ministerial statements. I would suggest that some of the commentary from the minister strays outside of that, and I ask you to direct him accordingly.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you are conscious of my ruling on that.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, I am giving the ruling.

Mr MINNIKIN: Take a small business motor mechanic not far from here. He had been broken into several times and read about our Secure Communities Partnership Program in a local industry newsletter. I will quote a line from him: 'I jumped online that night and realised these guidelines were describing my business.'

Recently the member for Pumicestone, Ariana Doolan MP, and I met with a frozen berry business in Caboolture. The owner told us that staff were worried and felt unsafe after multiple break-ins. Through the Crisafulli government, he and his wife found the support they needed to provide additional security for their business. Now they are getting on with business, employing Queenslanders and delivering wonderful Queensland grown frozen berries to the world.

The program has delivered security upgrades for businesses: from whale watchers in Redcliffe to local traders along Ross River Road in Aitkenvale, cafes and bars in Yeppoon, printers in Cairns and pasta shops in Home Hill—just to name a few I have visited recently. Whether it is through direct support or through local chambers and local government, we have been delivering vital safety and security infrastructure for small and family businesses such as lighting, CCTV, bollards, lockable fencing and perimeter fencing. Future rounds of the Secure Communities Partnership Program will open in the coming weeks—and, Queensland tradies, we hear you in particular.

While we are delivering for Queensland's small and family businesses, compare and contrast that to the federal Treasurer's broken promises, uncertainty for small businesses on trust and capital gains tax, payday super, out-of-control spending causing four interest rate rises this year alone, and higher costs through credit card surcharges—just to mention a few. Where is the Queensland Leader of the Opposition, Steven Miles MP? After two years, is he on the phone to Jim Chalmers telling him to stop attacking Queensland small and family businesses? No. He is on the phone all right, but he is on the phone to his colleagues still trying to secure and shore up his own job.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order is consistent with my previous one. You have ruled on the content of ministerial statements. There is no room for political commentary.

Mr SPEAKER: Members are aware.

Hook, Ms C; Olympic and Paralympic Games

Hon. TL MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (10.12 am): I rise today to acknowledge the contribution of Cindy Hook, who has today announced she will step down as the chief executive officer of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Organising Committee at the conclusion of her four-year contract.

As the inaugural CEO, Cindy Hook accepted one of the most significant leadership roles in Australian sport and major events. She took on the challenge at a time when Brisbane 2032 was little more than a start-up and has overseen its transition into a mature organisation preparing to deliver one of the most important events in our nation's history. Over the past four years, Cindy has guided the organising committee through its crucial establishment phase and delivered a number of significant milestones including the games vision and the Brisbane 2032 emblems, which have been met with strong community support and enthusiasm. Cindy has played an important role in the foundation-building phase, and now Brisbane 2032 is moving into a period increasingly focused on procurement, operations, project delivery and event readiness.

Our government's focus is squarely on delivering the games Queenslanders deserve. Through the 2032 Delivery Plan we have given Queenslanders certainty about the venues and legacy infrastructure these games will leave behind. When we came to office, Queenslanders had been left with years of uncertainty about how these changes would be delivered. We fixed that. We are determined to deliver a games for all of Queensland—from the south-east corner to our regional cities and towns. From Browne Park to the Toowoomba showgrounds, our regions will share in the investment, the events and the legacy. The organising committee is a critical partner in that mission, and the foundations Cindy has laid mean that it is well placed for the work ahead. On behalf of the Crisafulli government, I thank Cindy Hook for her dedication, professionalism and service. On a personal note, I wish Cindy every success in her future endeavours and thank her for the remarkable contribution she has made to Queensland, to Australia and to the Olympic and Paralympic movement.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Distinguished Visitors

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to acknowledge in the gallery this morning a delegation from the Parliament of Samoa, led by the Hon. Auapaau, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. I also acknowledge the Hon. Leatigaga; the Hon. Leilua; the Hon. Loau; Ms Lene-Samoa, who is the Acting High Commissioner for Samoa in Australia; Mr Dawkins, the Deputy High Commissioner at the Australian High Commission in Samoa; and accompanying parliamentary officials. I apologise if my pronunciation was not quite on the mark.

I had the pleasure of hosting the delegation for lunch yesterday in the Strangers' Dining Room, joined by the member for Sandgate and the Leader of the House. The delegation from the Parliament of Samoa is visiting the Queensland parliament for a series of briefings and meetings yesterday and today and will observe question time from the gallery this morning.

Visitors to Public Gallery

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, we are visited in the gallery this morning by members of the Sandgate Youth Advisory Council.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 11.15 am.

Child Safety System

Mr MILES (10.15 am): My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. More than 80 per cent of all assessments of children at risk of harm were not assessed within the timeframe. Can the minister guarantee that no child was harmed or died as a result of delays by her department?

Ms CAMM: I thank the member for the question. Today I stood with the Attorney-General for what was a very important announcement—that this parliament will debate the Queensland Protection Commission Bill. I think this is a landmark day for Queensland and for the protection of Queensland children. What is so important about that legislation and about how the child safety system—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That was a clear offence against the rule of anticipation. The minister is anticipating debate on the bill. She was just about to say, 'This bill is important because—'

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I will hear the point of order. Your point of order is anticipation?

Mr de BRENNI: That is right.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order is that the minister has barely referenced the bill. She has not gone into any discussion with respect to the content of the bill. She is merely referencing the existence of the bill and what is going to happen this week.

Mr SPEAKER: That is a fair point. Minister, be conscious of the bill. You can reference the bill but you cannot reference any content of that bill.

Ms CAMM: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will finish what I was going to say. What I was going to explain to the House is how important child safety data is, how important government data is, how important transparency of data is, how that data plays such a key role in protecting children and how important information-sharing provisions are.

When we are notified that a child is at risk of harm—just like a triple-0 call, just like a call to the police, just like an ambulance fronting up to a hospital—we triage those calls. We give the highest priority to those who are at the highest risk. That is critically important. It is important because on this side of the House our government has made it very clear that we will put the safety of Queensland children first. While those opposite, particularly the Leader of the Opposition—

Mr Mander: Who is that?

Ms CAMM: I take that interjection because I think there are some questions being asked about who it could be in the future.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister, get back to the question.

Ms CAMM: This is a serious issue. Just like I have—

Ms Enoch interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I just called the House to order. Member for Algester, you immediately interjected. You are warned. There was somebody else over there I could not pinpoint, but be careful.

Ms CAMM: This is important. It is not an issue that should be politicised. This is about the safety of children. It is why I was briefed on the child safety data at the earliest opportunity yesterday. As the House and all Queenslanders know, I have been on six weeks medical leave, so I was briefed at the earliest opportunity and I want to thank my ministerial colleagues who acted in the role. We have published that data this morning, and those opposite may not like some of that data. If they ask a question today about the number of children in residential care, we will understand if they are playing politics with the transparency of this data. We inherited a broken child safety system and we are not wasting a minute in fixing the broken child safety system.

Child Safety System

Mr MILES: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. There were 91 children who were known to the child safety system who died last year, an increase of 60 per cent. Can the minister advise how many of the 91 children who died were waiting for an assessment by her department?

Ms CAMM: Firstly, can I say that the loss of a child's life at any age—whether they are known to the child safety department or just a Queensland child, Australian child or any child—is a tragedy. We must remember the family and the community they were a part of and pay respect for their loss.

I stood with the Attorney-General and the child and family commissioner, Luke Twyford, this morning. As part of the commission's annual report, Mr Twyford tabled some interim data around child deaths in Queensland for the benefit of everyone in the House. The numbers are gut-wrenching, and I do not think any member in this House on any side would read those numbers and be okay with them. The commissioner also talked about the different deaths and the circumstances which occurred and the growth we have seen in diseases and morbid conditions. In some of those cases which I was briefed on, we had children with very complex needs who had been relinquished by their families into the state's care.

Ms Pease interjected.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Lytton, you will cease your interjections. Attorney-General, there will be no quarrelling.

Ms CAMM: These numbers are children. It is not a number; these are children.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Logan is warned. Actually, you can leave the chamber for a period of one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Logan withdrew from the chamber at 10.23 am.

Ms CAMM: As per the process, and it is the correct process, the Child Death Review Board are in the midst of performing their important role of analysing each and every child death in Queensland—children who were known to the department and those who may not have been known to the department. They will analyse those cases and bring forward a report that will be delivered to the Attorney-General. As a matter of course, and as is appropriate, the government will consider that report and we will take very seriously its recommendations to look for early interventions and prevention—just like we took very seriously all of the recommendations of the commission of inquiry. We have a focus on family-based care and moving children from residential care because of the findings of the commission of inquiry. We think children are best placed in a loving family for care and prevention.

(Time expired)

Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance

Mr BOOTHMAN: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering for Queensland, and is the Premier aware of any alternative approaches that have failed to deliver for Queensland?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the honourable member for the question. I mentioned before the opportunity I had to speak to some of the members of the Rural Fire Service, and I want to acknowledge that this member during disasters gets on a chainsaw alongside those members. The respect that his community has for him for doing the things he said he would do before an election and afterwards and for living those values has to be acknowledged.

The member asks what we are doing, and I say to the honourable member that we are focused on the issues that drove us before the 2024 election: youth crime, health, housing and cost of living. They remain the North Star that we continue to work towards. We have a long way to go but there has been progress and we are going to continue to drive that change. We are building the infrastructure that a growing state needs. We are opening up opportunities and continuing the momentum that is happening. We are making sure Queenslanders can have a future, can have a roof over their head and can feel safer where they live. We are making sure when they pick up the phone an ambulance can come or they can get the surgery they need. These are the kinds of things that Queenslanders need.

I had a great opportunity on the weekend to go to a number of events, including the Sri Lanka Day event, where I was joined by the member for Mount Ommaney as well as the local councillor, Sarah Hutton. At that event, a woman came up to me and said, 'I didn't vote for you at the election but I do want to acknowledge you are doing what you said you were going to do.' I think overwhelmingly in the modern political world people do respect that. They might not always agree with everything you stand for, but if you say you are going to do something then you should follow through and do it.

That is why I use today as an opportunity to pick up what the member said and contrast my election campaign and style with that of the Leader of the Opposition. It does not often happen that a Premier gets to debate the person who was in that role before the election, but I do get that opportunity. The reason I relish that is I can go back and go through the scare campaigns. Do you remember what they said about health workers? The minister has added over 10,000 extra workers to the front line. Do you remember what they said about 50-cent fares? They are now permanent. Do you remember what they said about TAFE? They are being built and there are more workers in them. Do you remember what they said about the Public Service? I remember it.

I also remember what happened after the election. I remember about a toll on the Story Bridge. I remember about drinking in public when we are clamping down on antisocial behaviour. I remember the upgrades to Prince Charles Hospital. We have a Leader of the Opposition who has had to apologise four times and a team who has apologised 22 times. We have a Leader of the Opposition who has been found in contempt. Overwhelmingly, they say he is desperate, he is not serious and he has a lack of judgement. That poor judgement was on display when a member was on medical leave for six weeks and the Leader of the Opposition decided to attack that member. That shows you why they are moving on the honourable member.

(Time expired)

Child Safety System

Ms McMILLAN: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. Over 90 per cent of priority assessments were not commenced within 72 hours, an increase of almost 15 per cent since April 2025. Will the minister acknowledge that the LNP's child safety crisis is getting worse?

Ms CAMM: I thank the member for the question. I want to acknowledge, firstly, the frontline child safety workers we have in this state and the work they do—

A government member interjected.

Ms CAMM: Thank you; I will take that interjection from the minister. They continue day in, day out to do what I think is one of the toughest jobs in Queensland—I really do—due to the enormous demand and pressure on the system. We want people notifying if there are children at risk of harm. We are educating those in our community about the importance of protecting children, and that is so very critical. If that drives more numbers and more phone calls, then we will resource that, and that is what we have been doing.

When I came into this portfolio, those opposite—not that member but maybe the one sitting in front of her who was previously minister—had chosen not to fund 91 positions of frontline staff into the forwards and we had to save 91 jobs before Christmas. They were frontline staff. I stood in the child safety service centre in Mount Isa, where those staff cried because they did not have contracts or jobs or the funding available for those positions. That is what our Treasurer and our government did.

What have we done since then? Because we knew that for those opposite child safety was never a priority—it was the hot potato that they threw around, with five ministers—we took that to an election and, as the Premier has just said, we are doing what we said we would. We are on the path to increase the front line with a 20 per cent uplift.

Ms McMillan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mansfield, you are warned.

Ms CAMM: We have added 137 frontline staff on top of saving 91 jobs. That is 137 extra frontline staff to meet demand. Why is there demand? The commission of inquiry uncovered it: there was no investment in early intervention or prevention. There is a housing crisis that this government inherited that put vulnerable families at risk and that the Minister for Housing is fixing. There is a cost-of-living crisis that we inherited from those opposite.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Ms CAMM: I will take that interjection; there is a youth crime crisis. We are repairing slowly and we are steadily seeing the benefits and the gains as we calmly reform this system because these are children; they are our most vulnerable children. Those opposite may not like the numbers, but we are starting to see—

(Time expired)

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Infrastructure

Mrs YOUNG: 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 leading the nation in the delivery of generational infrastructure ahead of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and is he aware of any alternative games?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the member for the question. It is a great question. The member is a big supporter of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, particularly infrastructure and legacy with the whitewater centre in the wonderful area of Redlands. We are getting on with the games. People voted for that fresh start because they saw the chaos in the Labor Party about the games when they were in government; they could not get anything right. Everything they touched turned to custard, including the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The member also asked me about other games. There are lots of games being played in this space. We are getting on with the job of planning the games. I do not know what the Labor Party opposition's games plan is for 2032. One minute they support a stadium and the next they do not. Then they do not want the NAC and then they want the NAC. They support rowing in Rockhampton and then they do not. I really do not know what those games are about. However, I do know there are lots of games being played in the opposition.

In my 18 years in parliament I have never seen such intense leaks against an opposition leader. It is not only the backbench leaking against the Leader of the Opposition but also his own shadow cabinet. Here is one of them. This article states—

"A lot of us are having discussions about this," another frontbench MP says.

"It's reaching the point where we are asking 'do we want to go into 2027 and 2028 like this?'."

That was a frontbench member who was quoted in the paper. Another one states—

Speaking of Labor's—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Deputy Premier is the only one with the call.

Mr BLEIJIE: It states—

Speaking of Labor's prospects at the 2028 election, another senior party figure said: "They absolutely cannot win with him (Miles) as leader, he is a dead man walking."

Here is one for the opposition—

The problem is there is no standout replacement and I am not sure where the next leader comes from.

Here is another one—

A senior Left faction source said: "I don't think Steven has enough oomph in him to motivate other people.

"He is not up to the job ..."

The question is: who on the front bench are the leaks coming from? Who is it? Could it be the member for Waterford, who said on a Gold Coast social media video recently, 'I've got to remember numbers'? I think the numbers she was referring to are quite different to what she said in the video. Then on the ABC on Sunday the opposition leader, Steven Miles, said, 'We are facing a retirement cliff.' I do not think it is retirement the Labor Party backbench are looking for; I think it is a forced Labor redundancy of the opposition leader. He talks of retirement and the backbench talk of redundancy. Then he said on leader speculation two weeks ago, 'This morning I have spoken to many of my colleagues and I have their support.' Clearly he does not have the support of the ones leaking against him.

The Leader of the Opposition's position is untenable. His front bench—he should look to the left and look to the right—they are leaking against him. They are saying he is not up to the job and we agree with them. Case in point—

(Time expired)

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: We will have silence in the House before we go to the question.

Child Safety System

Mr DICK: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. In July the minister said—

Allowing one vulnerable child to self-place in Queensland is unacceptable to me, let alone 780 young people.

Can the minister confirm this number has now risen to 833 under her watch?

Ms CAMM: I thank the member for the question. The number from last year that I stood up and quoted was the number that was true and factual. It was the first time ever that a government has conducted a child census into missing children.

Mrs Gerber: They didn't know.

Ms CAMM: Under five former ministers, we did not know where they were.

Mrs Gerber: They were missing children.

Ms CAMM: They were missing children—I will take that interjection—for a decade. The census that we conducted did outline—and I gave that update to the media today—that 833 children were considered to be not in their approved placement. There is a lot of detail around that. Part of the reason it is so critical that our government chose to conduct a census when those opposite failed to is that I understood how many children were also subject to youth justice orders—the growing number from a youth crime crisis created by those opposite. There were 160 children and 67 were on bail. Particularly with our tough laws and our tough stance, we do want to know where children are.

What really concerned me and the reason we do this census is that, while we have approved placements—and I am trying to explain the system that clearly those opposite and five former ministers still have not been able to work out—

Mrs Frecklington: They didn't even ask a question.

Ms CAMM: They did not ask a question; they did not do anything. We have been open and transparent with Queenslanders. Even when it is hard, we will be open and transparent with Queenslanders because this is about Queensland children. Those opposite can fob it off because it does not play into the political narrative that they want to spin, but why did those opposite for 10 years not conduct a census into why children were missing and where they were? What were they doing?

The reason we conducted this is to know where children are but also to know if they have returned to their families, because many do, even when it is not safe to.

Mr Chiesa interjected.

Mr Whiting interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The members for Hinchinbrook and Bancroft will stop quarrelling.

Ms CAMM: We do that because we are committed to reforming the child safety system. While the former treasurer might not have wanted to fund the system—there was evidence in the commission of inquiry that he did not—he was happy to create a billion dollar residential care system. He did that, but he did not want to fund the fundamentals like early intervention to keep families together. That is the approach that our government is taking.

Housing Supply

Mr LISTER: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the Deputy Premier advise the House how the Crisafulli LNP government is unlocking more housing across the state to take pressure off Queenslanders, and is he aware of any other Queenslanders under pressure?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the honourable member for the question and for his advocacy in his electorate for housing. Under the Residential Activation Fund we are unlocking land right across the state, particularly in regional Queensland, where over 50 per cent of the Residential Activation Fund has to be spent. We understand that there are lots of pressures on lots of Queenslanders trying to get a roof over their head. With all of the policies we have—unlocking land, the Land Activation Program—and everything the Minister for Home Ownership and the Minister for Housing are doing, those pressures are being relieved. We are pulling every lever possible as the state government.

The member also asked about other pressures and people feeling the pressure. If you were the opposition leader, I would certainly say you are under pressure, and he is certainly feeling the pressure. You cannot have a situation where an opposition leader's frontbench—his shadow cabinet—is actively at public war with him while retaining the position. The position of the opposition leader is untenable. There is no cabinet solidarity, and there is an old song they sing about solidarity in the union movement. There ain't any solidarity in the Labor Party caucus. Do members know that song—'*Solidarity Forever*'? It doesn't exist in the Labor Party caucus because they are at war with each other.

Yesterday the comrades opposite had their caucus meeting and on the news last night we only saw two or three members walking through the front door, because they did not get the memo from the whip not to go through the front door. They were all waiting out the back of the Speaker's Dining Room to go through the back door, but a couple found the front door. Given the opportunity, the member for Toohey was asked, 'Do you support the opposition leader, Steven Miles?' Do members know what he did? He scratched his head! I have two observations: one, it looked like he did not even know who the opposition leader, Steven Miles, was; and, two, I do not even think he knew where the door was!

The second person in the Labor Party caucus given the opportunity to give a spirited defence of the opposition leader, Steven Miles, was none other than the Manager of Opposition Business. Mr de Brenni walked past the cameras and was asked, 'Do you support Steven Miles as opposition leader?' He said, 'It's a matter for caucus and we don't discuss caucus matters.' He could have said, 'Yes, I back the Leader of the Opposition,' but the Manager of Opposition Business could not even utter the word 'yes'. The member for Murrumba does a lot of social media. He does a lot of bench pressing. I would give this advice to the Leader of the Opposition: the only bench he should be concerned about is his backbench, because they are coming for him and he does not deserve to be in the Leader of the Opposition role. Time's up, buddy!

Child Safety System

Ms GRACE: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. The ABC reported that the family of a child who died by overdose in a residential care home was moved multiple times against advice. The minister's charter letter requires her to protect our state's most vulnerable children. Has the minister failed to deliver on her charter letter?

Ms CAMM: As I have previously stated, any loss of a child, by any means, is a tragedy and my condolences are with the family, friends and carers of that child, but I will not speak in any detail with regard to that particular matter. However, what I will speak more broadly about are the failures, and today I stood up to deliver the good news that we have stabilised the residential care system. More importantly, the commission of inquiry outlined a number of failures by the former Labor government. Its report states—

> Family-based care must remain the foundation of the out-of-home care system and is to be preferred over non-family based care ...

It also went on to state—

> Where the care system has no lawful therapeutic response for the highest-risk cohort, youth detention becomes the de facto containment mechanism.

This is referring to children—that is the record of the Labor government—and that 'Queensland needs secure care'. These are not my words but those of the commission of inquiry, and not just this commission of inquiry.

Mr Healy interjected.

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

Ms CAMM: I know those opposite do not want to hear it, but the Carmody inquiry also outlined the need for secure care—something that was never ever delivered by the former Labor government in 10 years. Those opposite want to speak about one case today, but there were hundreds of cases under their watch, as evidenced by the commission of inquiry that outlined the need for secure care and the need for therapeutic residential care—something that does not exist in Queensland because those opposite were so devoid of policy ideas and the revolving hot potato that child safety was under their watch. However, all of a sudden now that those opposite are in opposition they care about child safety!

It is unbelievable to me that they are asking the same questions, and I am more than happy to stand up every parliamentary sitting and elevate the profile of the important reform work that our government is doing in fixing the child safety system. I am more than happy to do it because those opposite want to cherrypick an individual case—they want to cherrypick individual data—but they do not want to speak about their record or, in fact, any policy ideas, which they are devoid of, just like the leader is devoid of leadership. We are committed to therapeutic interventions in non-family-based care. We will also deliver and legislate secure care, which those opposite failed to do.

(Time expired)

Justice System

Mr JAMES: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering faster access to justice, and is the Attorney-General aware of any instances where the judgement is imminent?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I thank the member for Mulgrave and will get to his question in relation to imminent judgement, but I wish to take the first available opportunity to inform the House that in the last 20 minutes or so the Magistrates Court of Queensland has determined to extradite Ashley Paul Griffith to New South Wales to face, I understand, around 180 charges relating to children in New South Wales—something that I have been working on as Attorney with the New South Wales Attorney-General, Michael Daley, for several months. The reason I was so determined to support that application was victims deserve their time in court, and that is what they will now get in New South Wales for that person. That is one judgement about which I wanted to update the House, because it is the Crisafulli government that is doing everything we said we were going to do—making Queensland safer.

What we have had to do over the last two years after the failed former Labor government is just, quite frankly, monumental, and we have a Leader of the Opposition who is just in denial. I think back to two years ago when watching the election coverage. In fact, the member for Everton and I were on a panel watching it and the now Leader of the Opposition got up and refused—absolutely refused—to concede. He did not congratulate the incoming Premier and he refused to concede. He refused to concede defeat but then, as one faction has noted—and I note that this has been reported by one or the 10 leaks—a left faction source said, and I quote a Labor Party person—

He was in denial and, to be honest, I still don't think he is over it.

That is very obvious. Not only is he still not over it; he is demanding that all of his little shadow cabinet colleagues and all of the backbenchers avoid the media. He had failed to tell them, 'Hang on a minute, stop talking to the media,' because they were all talking to the media, but now they are all going in the back way. It is absolutely unbelievable. The member for Mulgrave asked me if there is a judgement imminent. I think it is pretty obvious that there is a judgement imminent, and it is on the Leader of the Opposition. Christmas is coming!

Child Safety System

Ms SCANLON: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. A QFCC report released on the Friday before the NRL grand final revealed that the number of children who had committed suicide in the past year had increased from five to 13. The minister's charter letter requires her to 'protect our State's most vulnerable children'. Has the minister failed?

Ms CAMM: I thank the member for the question. Those who have been touched by suicide know just how horrific and horrendous it is for a family. It is even more horrendous that children at an increasingly young age are taking their lives by suicide. The Family and Child Commissioner spoke of that this morning at the press conference we held. Sadly, in a modern Queensland and a modern Australia, numbers have grown to a level that is unacceptable to society. We must do everything we

can. That is why we are making record investments, through the health minister, in mental health initiatives. It is why it is so critical that we deliver the secure-care facility and reforms to residential care focused on intensive therapeutic support.

The system we inherited from those opposite did not deliver any specialised intervention or intensive therapeutic supports for children in residential care. Nor did it deliver the secure care for children with complex mental health needs that was recommended by the Carmody inquiry and recommended again by the From Pressure to Purpose commission of inquiry.

It is not one person's responsibility to speak out about mental health or child suicide. In fact, I commend our media outlets for speaking out about the pressures of social media. A number of families have come forward because their young men and women are attempting to take their lives due to the impact of social media. Our state and society have changed. What was evident in the commission of inquiry is that for 10 years those opposite paid no attention.

An opposition member: Oh, please!

Ms CAMM: I will take the interjection, 'Oh, please!' from the member opposite.

Mrs Frecklington: How many former child safety ministers are asking the questions?

Ms CAMM: I will take that interjection as well. It is about having the hard conversations. It is about standing up for the hard issues. It is about making the hard decisions around reform. We took to Queenslanders a comprehensive reform agenda, and then we had to call a commission of inquiry because the system was far more broken—

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Lytton is warned.

Ms CAMM:—than we could ever have imagined. We will continue to evolve and reform the system so that it is fit to protect children in Queensland from emerging issues. We will share the information to ensure we do everything we can to protect children.

Victims of Crime

Mr HUTTON: My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. How is the Crisafulli LNP government supporting victims of crime across Queensland, and is the minister aware of any Queenslanders who are not being supported?

Mrs GERBER: I thank the member for Keppel for the question. He is a fierce supporter of victims of crime in his community after seeing a decade of the previous Labor government create many victims of crime in his community. He witnessed firsthand the youth crime crisis. As a former teacher, he knows the impact that early intervention and rehabilitation can have to keep kids engaged in school so that we see fewer victims of crime. That is why we on this side of the House are committed to strengthening our laws and delivering more early intervention and rehabilitation. Every change we make is about fewer victims of crime after a decade of the previous Labor government failing victims of crime. There is no greater example of that failure than the Leader of the Opposition. He sat on his hands and watched victim numbers increase 193 per cent. He sat around the cabinet table as premier and deputy premier. He weakened our laws and removed consequences for actions, and now he is watching an uprising in his own caucus.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mrs GERBER: I take the interjection. It is a result of weak leadership. Queenslanders know it. They had enough of the member for Murrumba's leadership in 2024 and now his own Labor colleagues have had enough. The member for Murrumba says he is not going anywhere. That is exactly the problem! He went nowhere on youth crime. He went nowhere when it came to the housing crisis. He went nowhere when it came to fixing ambulance ramping. Now his own party thinks he is going nowhere, too. They want him gone by Christmas, and you can understand why.

For a decade, when Queenslanders were calling for stronger laws, when they were calling for more police and when they were calling for greater support for victims of crime, where was the Leader of the Opposition? He was nowhere. His own members are now leaking against him to get him to go. They are hoping he will read the tea-leaves. He does not have to read the tea-leaves; he just has to read the paper. They want him gone by Christmas.

We have seen his failure in leadership and his weakness, particularly when it comes to the member for Cairns. The member for Cairns still sits on the front bench after making jokes about sexual violence, after making disgusting jokes and antisemitic posts, yet the member for Murrumba failed to do anything about it. He is weak on crime. He is a weak leader. His own backbench know it. They want him gone by Christmas

Mr Bleijie: And his front bench.

Mrs GERBER: And his front bench. Who is the leaker? I hear the member for McConnel interjecting. Member for McConnel, was it you? Did you go in the back door? He has failed as Leader of the Opposition. He has failed to deliver for Queenslanders and his time is up.

Electoral Laws, Optional Preferential Voting

Ms BOLTON: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. Regarding previous declarations of support for optional preferential voting, can the Premier advise whether the government intends to introduce amendments to the Electoral Act 1992 to reinstate optional preferential voting before the next state election in 2028?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the honourable member for the question and for the opportunities I have had to speak with her on many issues. The answer is yes. As you can understand, our priority is dealing with the crises we inherited from those opposite. The legislation reflects that. We continue to focus on youth crime, health, housing and the cost of living. This week, we are introducing some very important and necessary legislation. You would have to acknowledge the work we have done around protecting children after what we saw. I reflect on the comments from Bruce and Denise Morcombe—two absolute heroes—who have repeatedly asked for the things this government is delivering. They got nothing—they got silence from those opposite—but we are delivering on that. That remains our focus.

I say to the honourable member: it would have been in our interest to have already done this, and I will explain why on two fronts. Regarding the Hinchinbrook by-election, which was a very close contest, I think most keen observers would note that it would have well and truly favoured us. Even though the eight per cent primary vote for the opposition was only a small amount, it was still flowing in the other direction. In Stafford, there would have been a very different story. The primary vote on this side was far higher than Labor's, and the only reason the member for Stafford sits here is preferences from the Greens and the socialists. Let us be very clear—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Premier is being directly relevant to the question asked.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I think it is very safe to say that under that voting system the member for Stafford would not be here and the Leader of the Opposition would not be there. In fact, the Leader of the Opposition would be back there, which some would suggest is the most fit and proper place for him.

Because we have new members in this place, I want to provide some history about how we came to this voting system. On 21 April 2016—in just 18 minutes—those opposite changed the voting system without a scrap of consultation. The person who stood in this very seat claimed that she had every right to do it, and they all backed her—without any consultation. We will not do that. We will always treat people with respect and always make sure there is fit and proper analysis of voting systems. That is the way to do it.

Right now in Queensland there is real momentum. You can feel it. There are people who are struggling and there are challenges to overcome, but there is momentum and things are heading in the right direction. Queenslanders voted for a fresh start. That is what they are getting. The legislative agenda of this government reflects those priorities. We are going to deliver the things that we said we were going to. We are going to make sure we continue to focus on the things Queenslanders voted for. We are going to deliver the fresh start they want.

Health Services

Ms MARR: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering health services when Queenslanders need them, and is the minister aware of any approaches that have flatlined?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for Thuringowa for her question. She has been a tireless advocate for the people of North Queensland, along with her colleagues up in that part of the world. Just last month she opened the Crisafulli government's new Kirwan Health Campus—a $56 million

investment in more beds, more spaces, more services being delivered to the people of Townsville. This is an example of another project under Labor that experienced cost delays and cost blowouts and had to be rescued by the Crisafulli government so that we could deliver those services.

While I have the opportunity—the member for Thuringowa also knows this—we are dealing with 'stranded Australians'. The Treasurer mentioned it in his commentary today. On Thursday last week I received a letter from the Australian College of Emergency Medicine in closing their embargoed report in relation to the delivery of the *State of emergency: Australia's ageing population*. In their letter to me ACEM note, 'We acknowledge the leadership and sustained attention you have shown on the acute and growing impact of aged-care related bed block on EDs.' I thank them for that. It is not just me but also the advocacy of my colleagues in other states of different political persuasions who are holding the federal Labor government to account for delivering on their priority.

There is one person who has not been doing that. There is one person who has not shown the same leadership on this critical issue, and that is the member for Murrumba. The line between him and his mates in Canberra is a dead line, not a flatline. Let me say to the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Youth Justice that it is not just MPs who are leaking against the member for Murrumba. It is not just his front bench who are leaking against the member for Murrumba. It is his union mates as well—his mentors—who say he is no longer up to the job. 'Union secretaries have been "pulling out their hair"'—I do not think Gary Bullock has much hair to pull out, but nonetheless he will be pulling it out—'and feel the state opposition is failing to advance their agenda, one union boss said.' 'Steven has flatlined, there is no energy about him.' That is what his own mates are saying about him. It is not anyone else. He is flatlining.

The Crisafulli government is picking up the pieces from the failed and flatlining leadership of the member for Murrumba. There was the Townsville Hospital expansion that blew out by more than two years and $500 million and it was only deliverable by reducing the clinical services by 30 per cent. We are getting the AEDs out for the member for Murrumba. We are installing them in places where they would not have been. He is flatlining in leadership. We do not want to see him actually flatlining.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, when the clock goes to zero, time has expired.

Child Safety System

Mr RYAN: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. The *Courier-Mail* has reported several cases of children in residential care being moved due to costs and subsequently threatening or committing self-harm. Can the minister advise if she is continuing to move at-risk kids to save money despite reported concerns?

Ms CAMM: I would assume that the member who asked the question has not read the report of the commission of inquiry into child safety, *From pressure to purpose,* and would also not have read all of the findings in relation to residential care, including the increase in sexual abuse that occurred under the former Labor government of children and girls in residential care. The growing cost is a real thing but that is not what drives us. What drives us is the fact that these are children. As evidenced by the commission of inquiry and as evidenced by the work that we have underway, our true focus is on delivering more family-based care. Those opposite may not like it. They may not like that the number of new carers has doubled in two years—up by 722. It is nearly double their last four-year tenure. On this side of the House we value foster and kinship carers. We do not value those who profit from vulnerable children. I certainly do not respect those opposite who allowed those people to profit from vulnerable children.

While the good member speaks of a *Courier-Mail* article, I table for the benefit of the House a report by the *Brisbane Times* titled 'The crumbling empire of a builder gone broke turned child safety millionaire'. We have unashamedly carefully, calmly and methodically worked with child safety officers, with providers and with children to transition children into family-based care placements or into placements with residential care providers who are not profiting in the millions of dollars buying crypto.

Tabled paper: Media article, dated 8 October 2026, titled 'The crumbling empire of a builder gone broke turned child safety millionaire' [2011].

Mrs Gerber: Gold bullion.

Ms CAMM: I take that interjection. All of the investment that those individuals are not returning to a system like our not-for-profit partners, like those that are actually mission led and those that are aligned with the values of raising children. Those opposite allowed a billion-dollar industry to be created.

We will continue to transition those children to providers that we will enter into contracts with. We will do that calmly and methodically. We will do that in the best interests of children. A word of warning to those opposite: be very mindful and do your due diligence before you write to me or you stand up with people in the media. Some of those members opposite did not pay attention to those who they contracted with and the way in which they conduct themselves in the child safety system.

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Bundaberg is warned.

Regional Queensland, Road Infrastructure

Mr BAROUNIS: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering critical road upgrades across regional Queensland, and is the minister aware of any approaches that are reaching the end of the road?

Mr MICKELBERG: How good is it to have a member for Maryborough advocating and delivering for the Fraser Coast! How good is it having John Barounis, a LNP member for Maryborough, delivering for the people of Maryborough! I am asked about investments in regional Queensland. Just last week I had the privilege of joining the Premier and the member for Maryborough at the Walker Street intersection, a dangerous intersection where three people tragically lost their lives in a crash in the last term of government. Before the last election, after the now member for Maryborough had listened to the concerns of his community, the Premier and John Barounis stood at that site and committed to upgrade the Walker Street intersection. I am very pleased to inform the House that last week work started on upgrading the Walker Street intersection: a promise made; a promise delivered.

We are getting on with the job of doing what we said we would do. We are very pleased to have informed the community we are delivering a dual-lane four-leg roundabout. It is all about addressing the safety concerns at Walker Street but also, importantly, improving movements in and around Maryborough on that particularly dangerous stretch of highway. Main construction will start in 2027, but we are very pleased to have early works on site and work underway right now.

I am asked about approaches that are reaching the end of the road. I contrast our approach of doing what we said we would do, getting on with the job and delivering better road infrastructure on the Bruce Highway with that of the former premier and now Leader of the Opposition—a man who conceded to the federal government that he would accept 50-50 funding for the Bruce Highway. We did not. We said we would fight for 80-20 funding. We said we would fight for Queensland to get its fair share, unlike Labor under the now Leader of the Opposition. That talks to judgement and it talks to a commitment to deliver for Queenslanders.

We know that there are murmurings from those opposite. We know that Labor are 'sleepwalking to defeat'.

Mr O'Connor: It is a bit more than murmurings.

Mr MICKELBERG: I take the interjection from the member for Bonney: it is more than murmurings. One article states—

> Senior Queensland Labor figures have privately resolved to tell Steven Miles he must step down as leader by Christmas amid a growing belief the opposition is 'sleepwalking to defeat' at the next state election.

One Labor frontbencher is quoted as saying—

> I have got no idea what our argument to be re-elected is.

And further—

> We are just bouncing around and sleepwalking towards a defeat in 2028.

That begs the question: who is leaking? There is a long list of suspects. Could it be the member for Waterford? We know she cannot count, but is she leaking against the now Leader of the Opposition? Could it be the upcoming aspirant, the member for Gaven? We know her ambitions. Is it one of the other jaded frontbenchers such as the member for Miller? We know he was punted when the now opposition leader came to the leadership.

Mrs Frecklington: It's not the member for Toohey. He was scratching his head.

Mr MICKELBERG: We know it is not the member for Toohey; I take the interjection. We know it is one of the frontbenchers. The end of the road is fast coming up for the Leader of the Opposition. It is time for him to read the signs because his colleagues read them long ago.

(Time expired)

Child Safety System

Ms ASIF: My question is to the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Can the minister confirm that there are 30 per cent more children in residential care, 60 per cent more children known to Child Safety are dying, almost seven per cent more children are self-placing and 80 per cent of at-risk children are waiting longer under the Crisafulli LNP government?

Ms CAMM: I thank the member for the question. For the benefit of the member and those in the House, I can confirm that there are 2,804 children in residential care compared to 2,819 in the March quarter. For the first time in 10 years, there are fewer—for the first time. There are fewer when there is greater demand on the system. I can confirm that we have 6,648 children in kinship care, which is a 2.4 per cent increase since last quarter's data. I can confirm that we have doubled the number of family-based carers in Queensland in the past two years. That is more than their record. I can confirm that we are working diligently to implement the commission of inquiry recommendations and I can confirm that there is a whole lot more to come.

It would be lovely if the opposition would confirm—because it is a role of an opposition to do this—and the Leader of the Opposition would put forward their policy ideas about what they would do to fix the broken child safety system that they created. Wouldn't it be great to hear, at their press conferences, their policy ideas about how they would fix the broken child safety system? What reforms would they continue with under the commission of inquiry recommendations? Do they agree with all of those reforms and how we are transitioning children into family-based care? I would love to hear what the Leader of the Opposition thinks about those things.

Fuel Security

Mr HEAD: My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering a vision to drill, refine and store more of our own fuel in Queensland, and is the minister aware of any approaches that saw our fuel security sold out during a decade of decline?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have two minutes to respond.

Mr LAST: I thank the member for the question. I start by saying drill, baby, drill because that is what we do in Queensland and that is what we on this side of the House are about. We are ahead of the game. In May last year, we released acreage for gas and petroleum exploration in the state. The results have been outstanding and those results have continued. Since May, we have awarded 13 new tenders for petroleum and gas exploration across the Taroom Trough and the Cooper-Eromanga Basin, and the good news continues to flow.

Yesterday, Omega released the results from their latest well, which has proven to be the best yet. That augers well for us going forward. All the way along we have said that we want to control our own destiny when it comes to fuel security in this state and that is exactly what we are doing. Of course, just last month we awarded four new petroleum and gas tenders in the Taroom Trough: Denison Gas and OGT Energy; Shell QGC; Omega, Tri-Star Stonecroft and Beach Energy; and a consortium of XST Taroom, Cooper Energy, Imperial Oil and Gas and Eastern States Energy. The interest continues. We are now seeing worldwide interest in our resources here in Queensland. We are going to continue to open up acreage in this state because we are serious about having the ability to control our own destiny when it comes to fuel security. We will continue to drill, to refine and to store fuel here in Queensland. It is a good news story. It is jobs, jobs, jobs.

Mrs Frecklington: What is their plan?

Mr LAST: I am not taking that interjection from the Attorney-General! There is a plan from the LNP government going forward to develop this industry. We are going to continue drilling because we are on top of it.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

MOTION

Business Program

Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (11.16 am), by leave, without notice: In accordance with sessional order 3A, I move—

1. That the following business will be considered this sitting week within the times as specified:
   (a) the Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill:
      (i) minister to be called on in reply by 6.10 pm on Tuesday, 13 October 2026;
      (ii) all stages to be completed by 6.30 pm on Tuesday, 13 October 2026.
   (b) the Queensland Protection Commission Bill:
      (i) minister to be called on in reply by 12.30 pm on Thursday, 15 October 2026;
      (ii) all stages to be completed by 1 pm on Thursday, 15 October 2026.
   (c) the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill:
      (i) minister to be called on in reply by 8.30 pm on Thursday, 15 October 2026;
      (ii) all stages to be completed by 9 pm on Thursday, 15 October 2026.
   (d) the revocation and dedication of protected areas, standing in the name of the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation, to be moved Thursday, 15 October 2026 with a maximum of 30 minutes to complete.
2. If all stages of the bills have not been completed by the specified times, Mr Speaker:
   (a) shall call on a minister to table any explanatory notes, any statement of compatibility or any override declaration to their circulated amendments; and
   (b) shall put all remaining questions necessary to either pass that stage or pass the bill or motion including clauses and schedules en bloc and any amendments to be moved by the minister in charge of the bill without further amendment or debate.

This business program motion provides a clear and orderly framework for the consideration of government business during the sitting week. It identifies the legislation to be considered, establishes when it is to be completed and gives all members certainty about the program ahead. As we know, that certainty assists members to prepare their contributions and supports the effective management of the House.

There is plenty of important business to progress this week. The program provides for the consideration and intended passage of the Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, the Queensland Protection Commission Bill and the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Without pre-empting the substantive debate on any of those bills, each deals with important matters of public policy and warrants proper consideration by the House. The time allocated has been proportioned to provide members with meaningful opportunities to make considered contributions, examine the proposed reforms and address matters identified through the parliamentary committee process. This motion balances those opportunities with the responsibility of the government to progress its legislative agenda and ensure the House ultimately reaches decisions on the business before it.

A structured program does not diminish debate. It provides an orderly framework within which debate can occur and legislation can be determined. Importantly, the motion also facilitates the moving and debate of the revocation and dedication of protected areas standing in the name of the Minister for Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation. That motion is scheduled to be moved on Thursday. This allows it to remain on the *Notice Paper* and ensures it is not debated before Wednesday, as per the statutory notice period required. This business program motion therefore gives members clear notice of when the matter will be considered. A maximum of 30 minutes has been allocated for its completion. That is consistent with the time that has historically been provided for such motions and provides an appropriate opportunity for the House to consider and determine the matter.

The government business identified in this motion is, of course, only part of the work of the House this week. There will be many other opportunities, as we know, in relation to question time, matters of public interest, private members' statements, committee report debates, adjournment debates and other proceedings within the House which are provided for under the standing and sessional orders. The motion also contains the provisions that apply if the consideration of a bill has not concluded by the specified time.

The effective management of the Westminster legislature requires business to be structured and capable of being completed. Of course, business program motions are neither novel nor unusual. They were used under the former Labor government. They provide transparency about the government's intention and certainty for members, parliamentary staff, stakeholders and Queenslanders following the work of this House. It is a sensible and balanced program.

We know that we only have a few short weeks left after this week in relation to parliamentary sittings. This program motion allows for three bills to be considered, facilitates the protected areas motion in accordance with the legislative provisions and preserves the broader opportunities available to members throughout the sitting week. I look forward to business of the House for the week ahead. I commend the motion to the House.

Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (11.21 am): I rise to address the business program motion and at the outset indicate that there is no possible world in which members of this House should support this motion moved by the Leader of the House. I will explain why.

The Leader of the House spoke about legislation that is timetabled in his motion that proposes to set out those timeframes and he spoke about a revocation that is set down on the *Notice Paper* to be not debated sooner than Thursday. The revocation debate is something that happens regularly in this place. They are usually noncontroversial. I understand in this case this revocation debate will be supported, I am sure, by all members of the House. It is set down in this motion for 30 minutes—30 minutes to consider that non-controversial revocation motion.

What is also set down for 30 minutes for the Parliament of Queensland is consideration in detail of three pieces of legislation that every single Queenslander has an interest in—30 minutes for revocation of small parcels of land for the convenience of landowners and the convenience and efficiency of staff of the parks department and only 30 minutes to consider three pieces of legislation. There is legislation that goes to home ownership. Just 10 minutes has been made available for consideration in detail by the Queensland parliament of legislation that assists Queenslanders, or should assist Queenslanders, to own their own home. Just 10 minutes is proposed by this motion for the Queensland parliament to consider the provisions of the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill—the government's big story for this week; all over the press this morning, all over the radio—talking about cracking down on offenders with respect to copper theft.

Today, we heard about the shocking and tragic circumstances of children under the LNP's failed child safety system. This parliament and every single member of this House, before they cast their vote on this motion brought to this place by the Leader of the House, should have regard to serious matters of public affairs. With this motion, we know that we will be allowed just 10 minutes for consideration in detail of the Queensland Protection Commission Bill—just 10 minutes to consider how this government is dealing with the data that we saw today. These are important matters of public affairs.

I will not go into the detail of the bill—I am prevented from doing that—but this House has heard that, under this LNP government, the number of children in residential care has risen by 34 per cent. That is an important matter for which consideration in detail and debate in this House should be allowed. We heard that, under the LNP, the number of children under five in residential care has risen 58 per cent. We heard the number of reports of children harmed has increased in the 12 months to June 2026 and we heard that over 90 per cent of priorities and assessments were not commenced within urgent timeframes. That is a shocking indictment on this LNP government and their failure of Queensland children, yet they come into this House and want members of this parliament, representing those constituents, representing those families, to give just 10 minutes consideration to what they are doing about the safety of those children. That is a shocking indictment on this government.

Every member in this House would have seen this morning an article titled 'ALP bid to beef up kids' overseer'. It says—

> The Labor opposition will move amendments in parliament to strengthen the independence of the new child protection watchdog claiming it could be gagged by the LNP.

I table the article.

Tabled paper: Article from the Cairns Post, dated 13 October 2026, titled 'ALP bid to beef up kids' overseer' [2012].

They do not want to debate those amendments. We have seen them time and again abuse the standing and sessional orders to ensure amendments cannot be considered in this House. We do not strengthen legislation by shutting down consideration of alternative ideas, but that is what this mob does every single time, and that is why they are failing every single Queenslander assisting Queensland children.



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (11.26 am): I rise to also oppose this business program motion. Here we go again. I heard the member for Everton yell out, interjecting while the last speaker was speaking, and say, 'You reap what you sow.' What is this? Is this retaliation for when they were in opposition? Every time there were motions moved to guillotine debates in this House, they got up time and again and voted against them.

Mr Mander interjected.

Ms GRACE: Let me say one thing, member for Everton: it was nowhere near the times that we are in this sitting now. In every single sitting week of this parliament a business program motion is moved which guillotines debate—every single sitting week. There is not one week this parliament has sat when we have not debated a guillotine motion.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr Boothman interjected.

Ms GRACE: Those opposite can interject all they want because they do not like hearing the truth. That is the issue with those opposite: they cannot handle the truth. Every time! Do not take my word for it. Read the *Hansard* in relation to the debates we have. Every time we sit there is guillotining.

What is even more sinister is the lack of time that is given under this business program motion for consideration in detail. We can get up and give our speeches and debate the legislation, but consideration in detail is a fundamental part of the Westminster system. It is about being able to move amendments, debate those amendments, look at the legislation in detail and clarify questions. It is an extremely important part of moving legislation. What happens during a 10-minute session is we are curtailed in addressing any of the questions that we seek clarification on, on behalf of our constituency, on behalf of those in our state seats and on behalf of the people who have raised those issues with us. We now constantly have changes to the business program motion which limits that very important consideration in detail.

As we just heard, there are certain sections of the bills before the House which we have flagged we want to strengthen with some amendments, but we will not be able to debate those amendments with only 10 minutes allowed. It shows the government is running scared. They do not want any debate on anything that they have not put forward. That is what this parliament is missing at the moment.

I say to the new members of the government that this is not the way business was conducted in previous years, where the business program motion guillotined debate every time we sat. It did not happen every single time. If they do not believe me, they can read *Hansard*. This practice is now becoming an abuse of the system of this parliament. This practice is abusing the very important consideration in detail stage. We have the Leader of the House—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Under the provisions of sessional orders, the time for debate on this motion has expired.

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

AYES, 52:

LNP, 52—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Chiesa, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Hatcher, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

NOES, 34:

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

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Resolved in the affirmative.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing Orders

Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (11.35 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That standing orders 87 and 150 be suspended to allow:

1. the Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026; and

2. the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026;

and any amendments circulated by the minister to be moved and considered.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (SUPPLEMENTARY 2025-2026) BILL

Message from Acting Governor

Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (11.35 am): I present a message from the Acting Governor.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): The message from the Acting Governor recommends the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2025-2026) Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (SUPPLEMENTARY 2025-2026) BILL 2026

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

I, HELEN PATRICIA BOWSKILL, Acting Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—

A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay an amount from the consolidated fund for the Legislative Assembly and parliamentary service for the financial year starting 1 July 2025

ACTING GOVERNOR

Date: 13 October 2026

Tabled paper: Message, dated 13 October 2026, from the Acting Governor recommending the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2025—2026) Bill 2026 [2013].

Introduction

Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (11.36 am): I present a bill for an act authorising the Treasurer to pay an amount from the Consolidated Fund for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service for the financial year starting 1 July 2025. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2025—2026) Bill 2026 [2014].

Tabled paper: Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2025—2026) Bill 2026, explanatory notes [2015].

Tabled paper: Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2025—2026) Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights [2016].

I introduce the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2025-2026) Bill 2026. The process requiring finalisation of the departmental appropriations at the end of each financial year is provided for in the Financial Accountability Act 2009. A separate bill is necessary for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service. This bill seeks approval for supplementary appropriation of $1.53 million for the unforeseen expenditure incurred in 2025-26. The unforeseen expenditure was primarily due to additional funding for collective bargaining and Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal outcomes. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (11.37 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 Governance, Energy and Finance Committee

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

APPROPRIATION (SUPPLEMENTARY 2025-2026) BILL

Message from Acting Governor



Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (11.38 am): I present a message from the Acting Governor.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): The message from the Acting Governor recommends the Appropriation (Supplementary 2025-2026) Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

APPROPRIATION (SUPPLEMENTARY 2025-2026) BILL 2026

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

I, HELEN PATRICIA BOWSKILL, Acting Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—

A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for particular departments for the financial year starting 1 July 2025

ACTING GOVERNOR

Date: 13 October 2026

Tabled paper: Message, dated 13 October 2026, from the Acting Governor recommending the Appropriation (Supplementary 2025—2026) Bill 2026 [2017].

Introduction



Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (11.38 am): I present a bill for an act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the Consolidated Fund for particular departments for the financial year starting 1 July 2025. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Appropriation (Supplementary 2025—2026) Bill 2026 [2018].

Tabled paper: Appropriation (Supplementary 2025—2026) Bill 2026, explanatory notes [2019].

Tabled paper: Appropriation (Supplementary 2025—2026) Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights [2020].

I introduce the Appropriation (Supplementary 2025-2026) Bill 2026. This is an annual process under the Financial Accountability Act 2009 to finalise additional departmental appropriations at the end of each financial year. Unforeseen expenditure and the need for supplementary appropriation is a standard process of government. Departments may require further appropriation to manage emerging issues, to respond to natural disasters or to manage changes in timing of project delivery. There are also some technical changes that may necessitate supplementary appropriation, including changes in depreciation. Parliamentary approval for the unforeseen expenditure is now being sought. The bill seeks approval for $1.891 billion in unforeseen expenditure incurred in 2025-26 by 11 departments. The aggregate unforeseen expenditure for 2025-26—including the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service—totals $1.892 billion. This was disclosed in the Consolidated Fund Financial Report 2025-26, which was tabled on 11 September 2026.

The supplementary appropriation requested of $1.89 billion represents 1.79 per cent of the original appropriation for the financial year. This is significantly down from the $5.7 billion in unforeseen expenditure in 2024-25, which represented 6.3 per cent of the original appropriation. That expenditure was not originally provided for in the former treasurer's appropriation bills in his last budget, described as a 'clown show'. That $5.7 billion figure is itself significantly down from a figure of $9 billion, or 11.6 per cent of the original appropriation for the year prior. That was a figure so vast the member for Woodridge had to break it up into three supplementary bills. Labor lecturing anyone about unforeseen expenditure is breathtaking hypocrisy. To be clear, in Labor's last full financial year they racked up more than $9 billion in unforeseen expenditure—almost five times this year's figure.

After a decade of Labor budget blowouts, cost overruns and funding black holes, the Crisafulli government is restoring discipline to Queensland's finances while properly funding the frontline services Queenslanders rely on. The main contributor to this year's unforeseen expenditure was the Department of Transport and Main Roads, with approximately $900 million. That reflected additional funding for the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority. Let's not forget the history of the Cross River Rail project. What was once touted as a $5.4 billion project became a symbol of Labor's fiscal vandalism, with costs ballooning under the CFMEU—quadrupling to almost $20 billion. While the Crisafulli government is cleaning up the mess and getting on with delivering this project, the legacy of Labor's failures lives on.

I also note that the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers' amount of $432 million was attributable to additional Commonwealth funding for financial assistance grants to local governments. The Department of Housing and Public Works' unforeseen expenditure of $260 million was primarily attributable to the delivery of 53,500 social and community homes by 2044, the Social Housing Energy Performance Initiative and the Queensland Building and Construction Commission's operations.

This is the lowest amount sought for supplementary appropriations in more than five years, highlighting the Crisafulli government's budget improvements and restoration of respect for Queenslanders' money—just as we said we would. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (11.43 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 Governance, Energy and Finance Committee

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

HOME OWNERSHIP AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 23 April (see p. 1173).

Second Reading



Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (11.44 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 makes important amendments to Queensland's revenue and grants legislation to support the Crisafulli government's commitment to increase home ownership, provide certainty for taxpayers and protect state revenue.

While many of these amendments are technical, they support a much broader objective—making home ownership more achievable for Queenslanders. We are the party of home ownership and make no apologies for wanting to help more Queenslanders experience the security, stability and opportunity

that comes with owning their own home. For too many young Queenslanders the great Australian dream of home ownership has become increasingly out of reach. Our government is focused on making that dream achievable again.

As I said in my speech to this parliament when I abolished stamp duty for first home buyers, the traditional pathway to home ownership was broken under the previous Labor government. We saw that in the home ownership numbers across our country from the ABS data set of 2021, which had Queensland at the bottom of the home ownership ladder with a 63½ per cent rate of home ownership, while the national top figure was 71 per cent. Queensland was at the bottom of the ladder.

However, under the Crisafulli government we are seeing green shoots. Independent analysis confirms home ownership in Queensland is moving in the right direction, and we saw that just months ago with the release of the independent KPMG's report. While home ownership rates have declined nationally, Queensland has recorded an improvement. It is encouraging, but there is more work to do.

Our ambition is simple: more Queenslanders holding the keys to a home all of their own. Despite having a decade to address the housing crisis, the former Labor government did nothing. In stark contrast, the Crisafulli government wasted no time. Within our first 10 sitting days we introduced legislation to abolish stamp duty for first home buyers purchasing a new home. We abolished stamp duty for eligible first home buyers purchasing or building a new home, extended the $30,000 first home owner grant and introduced Queensland's Boost to Buy scheme in our first year. By June this year more than 3,500 Queenslanders had benefited from our stamp duty reforms, saving more than $66 million. That is practical cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders seeking to enter the property market.

This government recognises that home ownership requires far more than just reducing up-front costs. Addressing housing supply is a key part of getting more Queenslanders into their own homes sooner. Under those opposite, housing supply had failed to keep pace with our growing population, while rising property prices and up-front purchasing costs continued to push home ownership further out of reach.

We know that you cannot build new homes without the infrastructure to support them. The Crisafulli government is tackling that challenge head on through our $2 billion Residential Activation Fund. The RAF is turning housing potential into housing opportunity, unlocking capacity for more than 166,000 new homes in Queensland. The 2026-27 budget doubled the second round of the fund to $1 billion, accelerating investment in critical housing infrastructure.

At least half of the fund is directed outside South-East Queensland, recognising the infrastructure challenges facing regional communities. For too long essential infrastructure had been a handbrake on housing supply. The Crisafulli government is investing in the roads, water and sewerage infrastructure needed to get more homes built. This is practical housing policy, not just another announcement. We are investing in the infrastructure that makes new residential development possible. The RAF is one of the largest targeted investments in unlocking residential land in Queensland, addressing the infrastructure bottlenecks that prevent new housing supply.

On the Gold Coast, $146 million is supporting infrastructure to unlock more than 18,900 homes across areas including Coomera, Pimpama, Robina and Worongary. In Toowoomba, nearly $150 million towards water and sewerage infrastructure on the southern side—

Mr McDonald: Hear, hear!

Mr JANETZKI:—and some in the Lockyer Valley, too. I take the interjection from the member for Lockyer.

Mr Watts: Plenty in my electorate.

Mr JANETZKI: And plenty in the electorate of Toowoomba North, too, in Highfields—$150 million all up across the greater Darling Downs region, including the Lockyer Valley, towards new water infrastructure and new trunk infrastructure in that area to support tens of thousands of homes, which were long overdue after a lack of investment from those opposite.

In Townsville, more than $59 million is supporting infrastructure to unlock approximately 4,900 homes, including major water and sewerage upgrades in the Upper Ross growth corridor. In Kingaroy, more than $62 million is being invested to support future housing growth. In Warwick, $17 million is supporting water and wastewater infrastructure projects with the capacity to unlock 2,000 new homes. That is going on right across the state because that is what a government focused on delivery looks like—not just in the south-east corner but delivering new lots to build more homes sooner across the length and breadth of Queensland.

After a decade of Labor failing to deliver the housing supply Queensland needed, construction figures are finally showing encouraging signs. In the year to June 2026, dwelling completions increased by 14.4 per cent and dwelling approvals were 26 per cent higher than a year earlier. The value of residential construction work in the pipeline reached $26.8 billion in the June quarter, while the number of dwellings under construction reached more than 50,000. These figures demonstrate the scale of activity underway across Queensland's residential construction sector. There is more work to do, but they are encouraging indicators as we work to address the housing challenges we inherited from the former government.

The bill before the House builds on our home ownership agenda by ensuring Queensland's revenue legislation supports the policies that are being delivered. The bill amends the Duties Act 2001, the First Home Owner Grant and Other Home Owner Grants Act 2000 and the Land Tax Act 2010 to clarify the application of revenue and grants legislation for participants of the Queensland Boost to Buy and Commonwealth Help to Buy shared equity programs from 15 December 2025 and 5 December 2025 respectively.

Under the normal operation of revenue and grants legislation, participation in a shared equity program could affect a participant's treatment for transfer duty, grants and land tax purposes. The bill will ensure participants can access transfer duty home concessions, the first home owner grant and land tax home exemptions for homes purchased under a Boost to Buy or Help to Buy arrangement, subject to meeting the relevant eligibility requirements in the same way as other homebuyers. The bill will also ensure participants are not liable for transfer duty where their interest in the property increases; for example, because of a buyback under a Boost to Buy or Help to Buy arrangement.

These amendments will take effect from the dates that Boost to Buy and Help to Buy opened for applications to ensure consistent treatment of all participants in these programs for revenue and grant purposes. The measure is currently being administered under an administrative arrangement published by the Commissioner of State Revenue, pending progression of the amendments in this bill.

Through the Boost to Buy scheme the Crisafulli government has doubled its commitment to $330 million, supporting up to 2,000 first home buyers, with half of the places reserved for regional Queensland. The scheme is designed to help Queenslanders who have the capacity to service a mortgage but have been unable to overcome the increasingly difficult deposit hurdle. This helps fill the deposit gap, and these amendments ensure the tax system does not inadvertently undermine the assistance that is being provided.

This is also an opportunity to reflect on Labor's handling of the Commonwealth Help to Buy scheme. Let's not forget how they rushed legislation through the parliament before the Commonwealth had finalised the scheme, simply as a political stunt ahead of the 2024 election. The Crisafulli government has taken a more considered approach, ensuring the Commonwealth scheme can operate alongside our own Boost to Buy program with appropriate legislative protections. Our focus is on delivering workable policies that help Queenslanders into homes rather than using home ownership as a political weapon.

The bill makes practical amendments to the first home vacant land concession and the definition of a new home. The bill amends the Duties Act 2001 to expand the concept of vacant land for the purposes of the transfer duty first home vacant land concession to include land with certain existing structures on it. Currently, land that has an existing structure on it when it is acquired will not be considered vacant land so will not be eligible for the vacant land concession. The bill will amend the concept of vacant land to include land that has certain existing structures on it, such as a garden shed. This will allow eligible first home buyers of such land to access the vacant land concession subject to meeting the existing eligibility requirements. The amendment will apply to eligible transactions entered into on and after the date of assent of the bill.

Anti-avoidance provisions will be included to prevent taxpayers from gaining the benefit of the change by deferring transactions to a date after the amendments take effect. These changes ensure eligible first home buyers are not unfairly denied concessions because of certain existing structures on vacant land or technical arrangements between developers and builders. At a time when Queenslanders need more homes built, it is important that our revenue laws do not create unnecessary obstacles for Queenslanders seeking to build or purchase their first home.

There are also consequential amendments to transfer duty exemption for particular vestings of dutiable property contained in the bill. Under the Duties Act, a transfer duty exemption is provided for dutiable transactions that arise under part 5 of the Property Law Act 1974, which provided for the power of the court to appoint a trustee to sell or divide co-owned land. The Property Law Act 1974 was repealed and replaced by the Property Law Act 2023, which commenced on 1 August 2025.

The bill will make consequential amendments to the duty exemption to replace the reference to the old Property Law Act with a reference to the new Property Law Act and update terminology. This will ensure the exemption is current and continues to operate effectively. The bill also restores the intended operation of the first home owner grant residence requirements, ensuring discretion is retained while protecting the integrity of taxpayer-funded assistance.

This bill corrects a minor drafting error in the reassessment provision of the additional foreign acquirer duty concession for eligible build-to-rent developments. Section 245N provides for reassessment of an additional foreign acquirer duty concession in certain circumstances where the relevant eligibility requirements have not been satisfied.

A minor drafting error has been identified in the reassessment provision whereby 'financial year' is used instead of 'acquisition year'. This could create potential uncertainty about how the section applies and affect its operation. The bill will make a minor technical amendment to the reassessment provision to replace the incorrect references to 'financial year' with 'acquisition year' to ensure the provision operates as intended. It is important that the concession can be reassessed where the relevant eligibility requirements have not been satisfied, to protect the integrity of the concession framework and public revenue.

The bill also updates the concepts of 'primary producer' and 'special vehicle' to reflect commencement of the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2021. The vehicle registration duty primary producer exemption and concessional vehicle registration duty rate for special vehicles refer to or rely on concepts in the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2010. The 2010 regulation was replaced by the 2021 regulation from 1 September 2021.

The relevant concepts for the duty exemption and concessional rate are substantially the same in the 2021 regulation, with some minor changes to the terminology from the 2010 regulation. The bill will make consequential amendments to the Duties Act to replace references to the 2010 regulation with the 2021 regulation and update terminology and cross-references as necessary to ensure the duty exemption and concessional rate operate as intended following commencement of the 2021 regulation.

We are extending the availability of the vehicle registration duty exemption for particular service persons to eligible current Defence Force members. Currently, the Duties Act provides an exemption from vehicle registration duty on an application to register or transfer registration of a vehicle to an ex-service person who is entitled to concessional registration fees under the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995. The 'ex-' qualifier has been taken to mean the duty exemption does not apply to a person who is a Defence Force member at the time of application.

The bill will expand the scope of the duty exemption to be available for current Defence Force members who satisfy the relevant eligibility requirements in addition to former Defence Force members who are already eligible. This will restore the alignment between the scope of the duty exemption and the scope of concessional registration fees for prescribed service persons under transport legislation which are currently available for both eligible and current and former Defence Force members. The bill will also clarify that a Defence Force member must be entitled to concessional registration fees under the prescribed service person category to be eligible for the duty exemption, in line with current business practice for the duty exemption.

The bill will extend the definition of 'new home' to include homes that have previously been sold under certain builders' terms arrangements, from 1 December 2020 and 1 May 2025 respectively. Under these arrangements, a builder contracts to buy land from a developer but is permitted to build a home on the land before settling on the land. As the home forms part of the land at the time the land is transferred from the developer to the builder, this constitutes a sale of the home. The bill will enable homes that have previously been sold under certain builders' terms arrangements to be 'new homes' under the First Home Owner Grant and Other Home Owner Grants Act. This will ensure eligible first home buyers of such homes can access the first home owner grant. The changes will apply to eligible transactions entered into on or after 1 December 2020.

The bill will also make a similar amendment to the definition of 'new home' in the Duties Act to enable eligible first home buyers of homes that have previously been sold under certain builders' terms arrangements to access the transfer duty first home (new home) relief. The changes will apply to eligible transactions entered into on or after 1 May 2025 to align with commencement of the transfer duty first home (new home) relief from that date.

We are also restoring the intended policy and practice of 'good reasons' for administration of the first home owner grant. To be eligible for the first home owner grant, amongst other things, an applicant must reside in the home as their principal place of residence for a continuous period of at least six months, commencing within one year after completion of the eligible transaction. The Commissioner of State Revenue has discretions to vary these periods or exempt an applicant from the residence requirements where there are good reasons to do so. Because the residence requirements help prevent abuse of the first home owner grant program, the discretions were only intended to be exercised in limited circumstances where there was good reason outside the applicant's control preventing compliance with the residence requirements—such as ill health of the applicant or destruction of the home.

However, in 2024 the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal held that 'good reasons' does not require circumstances outside the control of the applicant. This broadened the interpretation of 'good reasons', thereby expanding the scope of the discretions beyond their intended operation and the existing practice at the time. The bill will clarify that 'good reasons' for the discretions for the residence requirements means circumstances which are outside the control of the applicant that prevent compliance with the requirements.

The bill also amends the Payroll Tax Act 1971 to confirm that the Commissioner of State Revenue may exclude a set of persons from a payroll tax group. Under the Payroll Tax Act, businesses that are related or connected are treated as a group for payroll tax purposes. The commissioner has discretion to exclude a person from a group if satisfied that the business carried on by the person is independent of and not connected with the business carried on by any other member. The bill will confirm that the commissioner may make an exclusion order to exclude a set of persons from a group. That is, more than one person could be excluded from a group, effectively forming a new group. The Payroll Tax Act will be amended from 31 October 2018 to align with when the administrative arrangement took effect.

To ensure the tax assessment dispute provisions operate as originally intended, the bill also amends the Taxation Administration Act 2001. Currently, the Taxation Administration Act provides that, if a taxpayer is dissatisfied with the Commissioner of State Revenue's decision on an objection, the taxpayer may appeal to the Supreme Court or apply to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal for a review of the decision. The bill will clarify that if following objection a taxpayer is seeking an appeal or review of any related tax matter for the primary tax then the appeal or review of those related tax matters is to proceed to the Supreme Court or QCAT but not both. Importantly, this is a clarification amendment and does not remove a taxpayer's right to appeal or seek review. The changes will ensure the review and appeals framework for disputing tax assessments operates as originally intended.

Recognising changes and amendments that have taken place over the years, this bill amends the Taxation Administration Act 2001 and the Taxation Administration Regulation 2022 to remove obsolete references to collection and exchange boxes. Currently, the Taxation Administration Act and the Taxation Administration Regulation contemplate the use of a collection box kept at the Commissioner of State Revenue's office or an exchange box at a document exchange for the physical exchange of documents. These methods of giving documents are no longer used by the commissioner so the references to them in law are obsolete. The bill will remove references to collection and exchange boxes to ensure the currency of the legislation. Importantly, the amendments will not affect other existing ways that the commissioner may give documents under the Taxation Administration Act, including by email, using an approved information system or the existing ways provided by the Acts Interpretation Act 1954, such as by post.

The final amendment applies to the Taxation Administration Act 2001, the Duties Act 2001, the Land Tax Act 2010 and the Payroll Tax Act 1971 and corrects certain outdated cross-references. As a result of historic amendments made to the Taxation Administration Act, certain provisions of that act were renumbered. While most existing cross-references in the Taxation Administration Act and other revenue laws were updated to reflect the renumbered provisions at the time, some cross-references were not. The bill will amend these acts to update the impacted cross-references to reflect the correct provisions of the Taxation Administration Act to ensure these provisions operate as intended.

I will also be moving amendments during consideration in detail to introduce improvements to Queensland's competitive neutrality regime. The Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997 will be amended to broaden the scope of the competitive neutrality framework and to bring subsidiaries of government owned corporations under the regime. This will ensure Queensland's competitive neutrality regime remains fit-for-purpose and aligned with our national competition policy commitments.

I would like to acknowledge the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee's consideration of the bill and welcome its recommendation that the bill be passed. I also acknowledge the support of the Australian Property Developers Association, the one stakeholder to submit to the committee process, particularly for their comments relating to the amendments removing unintended barriers for first home buyers. The committee recognised the benefits of the amendments for taxpayers and their contribution to supporting home ownership. I thank the committee members and secretariat for their hard work.

The contrast between this government and those opposite is clear. The former government had 10 years to address declining home ownership and growing pressures on housing supply. Instead, they left Queensland at the bottom of the national home ownership ladder. The Crisafulli government is determined to turn that around. The commitment that we took to the election in 2024 was to take Queensland from the bottom of the national home ownership ladder to the top, because that matters. We have a generation of young Queenslanders who are giving up on the dream of home ownership. We are determined to do something about that and we have started delivering.

We have acted to reduce up-front costs, we have expanded assistance for first home buyers and we are focused on getting more homes built and more supply. We know there is more to do, but we are taking these practical steps to restore the opportunity of home ownership for more Queenslanders. Home ownership is about so much more than four walls and a roof; it is about security, stability and the pride of having somewhere to call your own.

Owning a home is one of the most powerful expressions of the Australian dream: the belief that hard work, sacrifice and aspiration can build a better future. For generations Queenslanders have worked hard, saved carefully and made sacrifices in the hope of one day holding the keys to a home all of their own. The dream of home ownership should not become a distant memory for the next generation of Queenslanders.

Labor left a generation of Queenslanders wondering whether they would ever own a home. The Crisafulli government is working to give them that opportunity. This bill is another important step in delivering on that commitment. We want our children to grow up believing that if they work hard, save and make the sacrifices, they, too, can have a place to call their own. Home ownership gives them more than just an asset; it gives them a stake in their community and a foundation on which to build their future. We want the next generation to believe, just as generations before them did, that one day they, too, can hold the keys to a home all of their own. I commend the bill to the House.

Interruption.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (12.10 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. During the debate earlier today on the business program motion I criticised the motion because it may operate to provide 10 minutes for consideration in detail of the Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and, therefore, limited scrutiny of the minister. A further review of that motion, once I was afforded time to fully consider it, reveals that in fact the business program motion creates provisions that no time may be available for consideration in detail whatsoever should the minister utilise all of the time for reply allowed under sessional order 12. I, therefore, apologise unreservedly if my remarks have inadvertently misled the House.

HOME OWNERSHIP AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed.

Hon. MAJ SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (12.11 pm): Labor will be supporting this bill because we will never stand in the way of shared equity. The concept of a shared equity scheme is not new. Federal Labor's Help to Buy scheme got there first and it was our then Labor government that passed laws to let it operate here. I heard the contribution from the Treasurer about how we apparently rushed the process. I would love him to say that to young Queenslanders who desperately want to have the opportunity of home ownership and desperately want affordable housing. Those opposite think we rushed things. With respect, I make no apology for the work we did in government in acting quickly to ensure Queenslanders got access to the federal government scheme.

The Treasurer stands up and calls this Boost to Buy scheme nation-leading and gently I would remind him that it is not nation-leading if there is a federal government that has already done this and actually has more places that they are providing. Where was the then opposition when their colleagues in the federal parliament were opposing that very scheme?

Mr O'Connor: Oh, God!

Ms SCANLON: I hear the groans from the housing minister. 'Oh, God!' he says.

Mr O'Connor: Still attacking the 'dudded' opposition. Seriously?

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the housing minister because the minister did absolutely nothing when his colleagues blocked the shared equity scheme in the federal parliament from progressing. Now he takes over the housing portfolio and wants us all to forget about what they did.

Mr de Brenni: Suddenly it's his idea.

Ms SCANLON: Suddenly it is his idea; I take that interjection. There is one person sitting in this parliament who has never been a fan of shared equity and that is the member for Oodgeroo, who is now an assistant minister in the Crisafulli government. This is what she said at the time about shared equity. This was when she was a part of the federal opposition, who do not like shared equity—but apparently now the state LNP do like it all of a sudden. She said—

What we know, from hundreds of years of observing the way that different governments work, is that governments don't deal very well in parts of the community that are better managed by the market—

because that has worked really well so far, hasn't it! She went on to say—

They're better able to adapt to local circumstances, they're better able to meet the needs of the wide range of different things that people in our community are looking for.

The idea that people might be beholden to a government for their most core type of financial security—that is their own home—is a little bit dangerous.

Making sure the government has the strings on everybody's personal investment is, I think, really quite worrisome.

Those are her words about a shared equity scheme: dangerous, worrisome, strings on everyone's home. That is the assistant minister in the Crisafulli government who now comes in here and says, 'Oh, no, we actually love shared equity now that it is just a different colour.' Help us!

It is not just her. There were so many federal LNP MPs who said that this was going to destroy the economy and now they come in here, as I said, with significantly fewer places and all of a sudden they have changed their mind.

Mr O'Connor: Run for Fadden, then.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the member for Bonney. I did and I was not working for Stuart Robert. I actually stood up to that man because people in this state should stand up to people like Stuart Robert for the awful things they did to vulnerable people in this state and country as a result of things like robodebt. The minister wanted to work for him, so I am happy to talk about my record any day of the week in standing up to bad LNP federal MPs.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): The House will come to order, thank you. We have had enough levity. I think it is time we got back to the substance of the bill, member for Gaven.

Ms SCANLON: Let's talk about what this scheme actually does. Up to 2,000 Queenslanders over three years—I am not sure how many young people those opposite actually talked to. I talk to them every day in my community—in Nerang, in Pacific Pines and in suburbs on the Gold Coast. There are nurses, apprentices and hospitality workers doing everything right, saving every dollar they can while the whole of their income is consumed by paying rent. At the last census there were 618,000 households renting in Queensland. That is a third of every home in this state and yet the government's big solution to home ownership is providing 2,000 places. There are 618,000 renting households but 2,000 places. That is roughly one place for every 300 households. That is not a housing policy; that is a raffle. The government says it wants Queensland to have the highest home ownership rate in the country within a decade with a raffle of just 2,000 spots.

As I said, we will support the bill, but let's not pretend this is a housing plan. What is the LNP's housing plan? I do not actually think they know because they do not seem to have one. They have had two years in government, two budgets and still nothing really adds up to much of a plan.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! That was getting out of hand, thank you. The member for Gaven has the call.

Ms SCANLON: They have no housing plan. We have a Minister for Home Ownership in name only because—

Mr O'Connor: It's on the website.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the member. It is on the website, apparently. We have had some interesting responses from the member for Bonney, but I will touch on that another time. At two estimates now we have asked the Minister for Home Ownership a range of questions, like questions about the Pathways Shared Equity scheme for social housing tenancy, and he said, 'Oh, no, that's not my responsibility.' We asked him about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander home ownership opportunities and again he said, 'Oh, no, that's not my job.'

Mr Janetzki: Two years ago. You would have thought a former housing minister would know that sits with the housing minister.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the Treasurer. We asked him this year about rental bonds and again he said, 'I can't answer that either, actually.' We have a home ownership minister in name only, which is kind of like the housing minister, who we know does not really get to call any of the shots; it is the Deputy Premier who seems to make all of the housing policy in this state.

Then we come to some of the annual reports that were dumped out on the AFL grand final weekend. There is some really concerning data in there that I think Queenslanders should be aware of. The annual report of the Residential Tenancies Authority shows that median rent jumped $50 a week. It is now $650 a week; that is up 8.3 per cent. Tenant complaints are up. Reports about housing standards are up. Notices of noncompliance tripled to 1,003, yet fewer than one in three offences ended in an actual fine.

There are a whole lot of renters out there who are understandably pretty angry that we have a government whose whole solution is to provide 2,000 places. Meanwhile, thousands of them are lodging complaints and so many people are seeing rent increases and yet there is no meaningful response to those very legitimate issues, and the RTA is now holding $1.461 billion of renters' bond money—up almost 10 per cent in a year. That is the money earned in interest that renters do not see a cent of. Labor has announced that we would give the interest earned on rental bonds back to renters. It is their money. It should be working for them, for their next move, for their savings and maybe even a deposit on their first home. One would think the Minister for Home Ownership would be all over that given it would help people save for a deposit, but, no, he could not answer basic questions at estimates. Instead, we have to wait for annual reports to get information from the Residential Tenancies Authority. Then there is the housing department's report.

Mr O'Connor: But you never asked those questions.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the Minister for Housing. We did ask the questions and he did not answer them. Given that the housing minister is so enlivened—which is interesting because he is not so enlivened about his own portfolio, but anyway—his housing report is no better, so I would not be piping up. Some 31.7 months: that is how long Queenslanders in the highest need are now waiting for a social home. The target was 12 months. Those opposite have nearly tripled it to almost three years for the people in the most urgent need in this state. That is the record of the member for Bonney. Despite the fact that they are punting people off the register, the wait is still getting longer.

Mr O'Connor: Oh, rubbish!

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection; it is not rubbish. There are people who are being removed from the register. It could not be any clearer, and your own responses have said that. In the same year, the department ran more than 50,000 rent reviews. It flagged 1,629 households as possibly ineligible, it evicted 122 households and it handed out 911 breach notices. The report does not say where those evicted families went, so they are struggling to find an affordable rental like everyone else. As we have said, obviously there are legitimate reasons people are issued with breach notices, but it does not take away from the fact that those people are then in the market with everyone else fighting over affordable housing that is simply not there and there is no hope in sight, particularly when those opposite axe affordable homes from the pipeline, and that is the point: whether you are renting, saving for a deposit or waiting three years for a social home, it all comes back to one thing—there are not enough homes in this state that working people can afford. One would think that a government in the middle of a housing crisis would be building every home it could. The Treasurer just said that I rushed to do things.

Mr O'Connor: Well, it certainly wasn't building!

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the member for Bonney—the man who campaigned against affordable housing on a disused golf course in his own electorate. He complained that I was acting too quickly. I will always stand up against NIMBYs to deliver affordable housing. Those opposite will just stand up for their developer mates because they can now accept their money. Those opposite have axed nearly 10,000 homes from the pipeline. As I said, there was Arundel, where 130 affordable homes could have been built on a disused golf course; Birtinya, 90 affordable homes gone; Tewantin, 40 affordable homes; Redland Bay, 73 affordable homes; and on public land in Brisbane in the middle of a housing crisis in some of the best located areas we now have affordable housing requirements completely abolished. In the middle of a housing crisis, who does that? It is insane.

Our public developer now does not even have social and affordable housing KPIs, so let us be clear: when we were in government, we changed the law to ensure Economic Development Queensland, our public developer, had a requirement to ensure it focused on building social and affordable homes—building homes, not just profits—and now our public developer has no KPIs to deliver affordable housing—none, zero. Let that sink in: a public developer developing, in some instances, on public land but certainly at the head of approving in areas where obviously there is a public interest—that is why it was established to begin with—and not one target to deliver social and affordable housing.

Mr Nicholls: No, it's not. I was there and you weren't. It wasn't set up for that. You're wrong.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the minister, who is saying now that it was not set up for that.

Mr Nicholls: Yes, it wasn't set up for that.

Ms SCANLON: I know he has been in parliament for a very long time, particularly under the Newman government—

Mr Nicholls: We set up EDQ.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the minister. I do acknowledge that the LNP established EDQ. Before that, there was a separate statutory body but we made changes—

Mr Nicholls: What was it called? Do you remember the name? Do you even know what the name of it was?

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection. I have not been in parliament for a million years like the health minister—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms SCANLON:—and we certainly did not appoint our mates—I take the interjection—to run Economic Development Queensland, but when we had the power we said that EDQ should be run to deliver public benefit like social and affordable housing, not—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Gaven!

Ms SCANLON:—just—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Gaven, please resume your seat. Member for Gaven, you are not least to blame in the way the House is behaving because you have been accepting interjections and responding to interjections which have enlivened further interjections. I suggest that you focus on the bill before us and remain relevant to the long title of the bill and I warn those to my right that the interjections are getting out of hand and I will start warning people.

Ms SCANLON: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. We did not parachute in an LNP councillor and former MP to the top job that is supposed to deliver—or used to deliver—social and affordable housing, so Queenslanders are going to get less public benefit, developers get more private profit and the people who need affordable housing get nothing. We have seen this movie before. As the health minister has shared with us all, it was in fact the Newman government that gutted the powers of the then public developer's predecessor. The government is doing that all over again, so same old LNP, just a different logo but basically the same result.

Let me bring it home. We will support this bill, but 2,000 places in three years is not a housing strategy, 31 months on a waiting list is not a plan and a public developer with no affordable housing targets is not on the side of the public. Queenslanders were promised a fresh start. What they got was a raffle, a longer wait and an awful lot of spin. My parents grew up in social housing. Their parents had

the benefit of purchasing their social home, so I am a big believer in shared equity programs. They genuinely do change people's lives. That is why we introduced a bill to enable the federal government scheme. That is why we will not oppose this bill. We are always willing to work constructively with the government on measures that will genuinely help people, but let's not fool anyone that this alone is going to solve the housing crisis, because, as I said, 2,000 places is so insignificant compared to the scale of the problem. Young Queenslanders are not asking for much—a fair go, a place of their own, a government with an actual plan to get them there—and right now all they have been handed is a raffle ticket. As I said, Labor will support this bill and will continue to hold the government to account until there are homes Queenslanders can genuinely afford.

Mr CRANDON (Coomera—LNP) (12.28 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, which was reviewed by the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee. At the outset, I thank all members of the committee and our secretariat for doing a wonderful job in pulling our report together. The principles and the objectives of the bill are to clarify how revenue and grant concessions apply to participants in the Queensland Boost to Buy and Commonwealth Help to Buy shared equity programs; expand eligibility for the first home vacant land concession; correct technical and drafting anomalies across revenue legislation; give legislative effect to certain longstanding administrative arrangements; and restore the intended legal interpretation of key terms affecting first home buyer grants. There are several acts that are amended: the Duties Act 2001; the First Home Owner Grant and Other Home Owner Grants Act 2000; the Land Tax Act 2010; the Payroll Tax Act 1971; and the Taxation Administration Act 2001. The committee made one recommendation, and that was that the bill be passed.

At the outset, let me say: the Crisafulli government understands that you cannot solve a housing shortage simply by helping people buy homes. You must also build homes, and our strategies are working. After a decade of decline under Labor, we are seeing green shoots. The number of dwelling completions in Queensland rose 6.5 per cent in the June quarter. The total number of dwelling approvals in August 2026 was 18.2 per cent higher than a year ago. The nominal value of residential work in the pipeline in Queensland reached a record $26.8 billion in the June 2026 quarter, up $1.5 billion from the March 2026 quarter. This is a strong quarter-on-quarter increase, with expectations that this growth will continue. Queensland is building more homes, with the number of dwellings currently under construction reaching a record of more than 50,000 across the state. We will continue to work towards lifting home ownership rates after a decade of Queenslanders losing hope of achieving the great Australian dream.

One boost to buying new homes is to abolish stamp duty. Since the Crisafulli government abolished stamp duty for eligible first home buyers on new homes, more than 3½ thousand Queenslanders had benefited by June, saving more than $66 million. That is $66 million that stayed in Queenslanders' pockets. Importantly, unlike many jurisdictions that have focused almost exclusively on demand-side assistance, Queensland is tackling both sides of the housing equation—helping more Queenslanders buy their first home while investing billions to increase housing supply. As an example, more than $140 million was provided to the City of Gold Coast to upgrade pump stations around the Gold Coast—one of these is in Pimpama—assisting the capacity constraints that were there so we can do other developments such as the Norwell Valley project, which is being worked on by quite a large group of farmers with the support of a developer organisation. This is a 30-year plan being developed for the canelands.

I am sorry to say that the cane industry is coming to an end on the northern Gold Coast. Indeed, the Rocky Point Sugar Mill has announced that it will stop crushing cane at the end of 2027. In less than two years, we will no longer see sugar cane being crushed at Rocky Point. The industry is currently working with the government and other mills—such as Condong in northern New South Wales—to extend the life of the canelands while this development process occurs. However, that will have to come to an end as well. I imagine that within the next 10 years we will see the end of sugarcane manufacture on the northern Gold Coast. On the positive side, this shift will make way for new housing, a new town centre and various commercial and industrial developments, including new shops. All of this is because of the Crisafulli government's determination to provide a million homes by 2044. There are smaller developments on the northern Gold Coast already moving through the system. I have made clear my support for particular developments such as the one down at Jacobs Well, which is also supported by the City of Gold Coast.

Queensland's Boost to Buy scheme has been met with significant demand, demonstrating just how many Queenslanders are ready and willing to own a home if we can help them overcome the deposit hurdle. The government doubled Boost to Buy to $330 million, with support for up to 2,000 first

home buyers. Importantly, half of those places have been reserved for regional Queensland. Boost to Buy is about helping people who can service a mortgage but have been locked out because saving a deposit has become increasingly difficult. From a personal perspective, I see that in my own family living on the northern Gold Coast. I have grandchildren who are struggling to save deposits. It is difficult. I hear from their friends and many in the community that it is very difficult for them. Some of those people may find it necessary to move away from the northern Gold Coast. This is a natural thing that occurs—families do not necessarily always stay in the one place. Although, of course, I would love to have mine all stay on the northern Gold Coast, they might have to spread out and perhaps go to regional or Western Queensland in order to buy a home.

I commend all that the government is doing in relation to seeing additional homes built. It is absolutely essential that we keep on moving and simplify things for people who want to go down that road. The bill is ultimately about a simple principle: Queenslanders who work hard and aspire to own a home deserve a government that is on their side. For 10 years, home ownership went backwards under Labor. This government is determined to turn that around. We are cutting the up-front cost of buying first homes. We are helping Queenslanders to bridge the deposit gap. We are supporting the construction of new homes. Through this bill, we are making sure Queensland laws support those objectives. We believe in the Queenslander saving for a deposit. We believe in the couple trying to buy their first home. We believe in the family wanting the security of a place of their own. Labor left Queensland at the bottom of the home ownership ladder. Our ambition is to take Queensland to the top of that ladder. This bill is another practical step towards that goal. I commend the bill to the House.

Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (12.37 pm): For Queenslanders, owning a home is a dream that feels increasingly out of reach. This is not because they are not working hard or saving hard; it is because house prices and the cost of living have made that first step onto the property ladder incredibly difficult. In a housing crisis, governments should be doing everything they can to help make this dream a reality. They should be making this easier for Queenslanders, not harder. While the LNP government is not doing anywhere near enough to address this housing crisis, Labor will not stand in the way of this bill, because it supports both the Albanese government's Help to Buy scheme and the Queensland government's Boost to Buy scheme. The scale of those two schemes tells the story. The Albanese government is allocating 2,000 Help to Buy places to Queensland every year. The Crisafulli government's Boost to Buy scheme offers 2,000 places in total over three years. I will say that again: Labor's Commonwealth scheme will provide 2,000 opportunities each year; the LNP will provide that same number across three years.

While Help to Buy can contribute up to 30 per cent of the purchase price of an existing home, or 40 per cent for a new one, Boost to Buy contributes up to 25 per cent and 30 per cent respectively. I have heard the words 'nation leading' being thrown around, but, as the member for Gaven quite rightly points out, the numbers speak for themselves. This is not nation leading; in fact, what is nation leading is the work of the Albanese Labor government.

We cannot talk about helping Queenslanders into housing without talking about the homes that this government has decided should never be built and available for Queenslanders. At Merrimac and Robina on the Gold Coast, the LNP has scrapped 550 affordable homes. These were homes intended to support frontline and essential workers—the people who keep our communities running. In fact, the Deputy Premier himself wrote to the developers to request the removal of affordable housing from these applications. That is an incredible abuse of power. It is Queenslanders who are missing out and literally paying the price—a higher price. At Lutwyche another 36 affordable homes have been scrapped. That means that 586 affordable homes have been taken off the table.

We know that a shared equity scheme is one part of the solution. If the government is cutting the supply of affordable housing at the same time then there is no hope of putting a dent in this housing crisis. We have seen the Deputy Premier strip the requirement that at least 15 per cent of homes in state facilitated developments be affordable. What does this Deputy Premier have against affordable homes? Why is he intervening and writing to developers to withdraw affordable homes from these developments? Why is he scrapping the requirement for there to be affordable homes in state facilitated developments? The government should be increasing requirements for affordable housing, not walking away from them.

Government members interjected.

Ms FENTIMAN: I challenge any of those LNP MPs over there interjecting to ask their community whether, if private developers want to have affordable homes as part of their development, it is the government's job to take those away from people. Perhaps that is what they should be talking to their

constituents about. Q Shelter warned that the Deputy Premier's actions in removing affordability requirements risked pushing more market rate homes beyond the reach of lower income households. The next time a family comes into the electorate office of a member opposite and says they are really struggling, home ownership seems out of reach, I hope they explain to them that their Deputy Premier has made it even harder for them. I hope they take the time to explain that because that is exactly what Q Shelter has said.

You cannot claim to be tackling housing affordability on the one hand while cancelling affordable homes on the other. You cannot expect Queenslanders to celebrate a modest program like this one we are debating when the broader decisions of this government are making affordable housing harder and harder to achieve. Less affordable housing means it is our school cleaners, our teacher aides, our nurses, our wardies and our aged-care workers who miss out. Those people who take care of us and those aged-care workers who look after our parents and our grandparents are the ones who miss out when affordable housing is scrapped from these developments. They have to live further and further away from where they work, adding to congestion in the outer suburbs as well.

There is irony in those opposite coming in here today grandstanding about caring about housing and home ownership when today on the second page of the *Courier-Mail* the LNP Minister for Housing is dodging questions about their social and community homes target. The Minister for Housing is crab walking away from his commitment to build over 50,000 affordable and social homes. This is the legacy of those opposite. They want to come in here and debate a bill about home ownership when they are scrapping affordable homes and will not even say they are still committed to their own target for social and affordable homes. Labor supports practical measures that help people buy a home. We will support this bill, but Queenslanders deserve a lot more. They deserve a government that backs home ownership and backs the construction of affordable homes because the real measure of a housing policy is not what the minister calls it; it is whether more Queenslanders can actually find a place to call home.

Mr BAROUNIS (Maryborough—LNP) (12.43 pm): I rise today in strong support of the Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. The main objective of the Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill is to make necessary amendments to improve the coverage, transparency and effectiveness of Queensland's competitive neutrality regime and support the Crisafulli LNP government's productivity agenda. Competitive neutrality is the principle that government agencies carrying on significant business activities should compete on a level playing field with private competitors. Competitive neutrality ensures markets are not distorted by government agencies providing goods and services under conditions that would not be achievable for private competitors. An effective competitive neutrality regime drives productivity and economic growth by avoiding market distortions caused by ineffective competition and supports innovation and investment by giving businesses confidence that they can operate in fair and competitive markets.

This bill is another important step in the Crisafulli government's plan to open the door to home ownership for more Queenslanders. The Crisafulli government has a clear objective: we want Queenslanders to own their own homes, build financial security and have a stake in their community. Home ownership is about more than bricks and mortar. It is about security, independence and opportunity. We believe that if Queenslanders work hard, save and want to buy a home of their own, government should be removing barriers—not putting more in their way.

This is why we have appointed Queensland's first Minister for Home Ownership, abolished stamp duty for eligible first home buyers purchasing or building a new home, extended the $30,000 first home owner grant and introduced the nation-leading Boost to Buy scheme. Queensland allows eligible buyers to combine Boost to Buy with other state assistance, including transfer duty concessions and the first home owner grant, making it one of the most comprehensive first home buyer packages in our country. Unlike many jurisdictions that have focused almost exclusively on demand-side assistance, Queensland is tackling both sides of the housing equation: helping more Queenslanders buy their first home while investing billions to increase housing supply.

We have good news. The number of housing completions in Queensland to June 2026 rose 14.4 per cent over the previous year. The total number of housing approvals to June 2026 was 26 per cent higher than a year ago. The nominal value of residential work in the pipeline in Queensland reached a record high of $26.8 billion in the June quarter 2026, up $1.5 billion from the March quarter 2026. Queensland is building more homes, with dwellings currently under construction recently reaching a record of more than 50,000 homes across the state—50,100, to be precise. Since the Crisafulli government abolished stamp duty for eligible first home buyers on new homes, more than 3,500 Queenslanders had benefited by June, saving more than $66 million. That is more than $66 million that has stayed in the pockets of first home buyers.

Queensland's Boost to Buy scheme was met with significant demand, demonstrating just how many Queenslanders are ready and willing to own a home if we can help them overcome the deposit hurdle. The government doubled Boost to Buy to $330 million, with support for up to 2,000 first home buyers, and reserved half of the places for regional Queensland. This is particularly important because the dream of home ownership should not depend on whether someone lives in Brisbane, Bundaberg, Cairns, Toowoomba, Townsville or anywhere in between. Boost to Buy is about helping people who can service a mortgage but have been locked out because saving a deposit has become increasingly difficult. This allows eligible Queenslanders to purchase with as little as a two per cent deposit, with the government contributing up to 30 per cent towards a new home or 25 per cent towards an existing home. That is practical assistance, targeted directly at the barrier preventing many working Queenslanders from buying.

For a decade, Labor watched Queensland slide to the bottom of the national home ownership ladder. They left a generation of Queenslanders wondering whether owning their own home would ever be possible. Labor had a decade to address Queensland's declining rate of home ownership. Instead, Queensland ended their time in office at the bottom of the national home ownership ladder. The former Labor government waited until its 10th budget before delivering meaningful transfer duty relief for first home buyers.

Within its first 10 days, the Crisafulli government abolished stamp duty for eligible first home buyers purchasing or building a new home. That contrast says everything about the priorities of the two sides of this House. The Maryborough electorate is very grateful for the assistance of the Queensland government through the Residential Activation Fund. Maryborough is a prosperous manufacturing town with plenty of job availability; however, housing was lacking and workers were not able to move to Maryborough as they did not have a place for their families to call home. This has changed and houses are being built as I speak. As a community, we are welcoming new residents at record speed, thanks to the Queensland government and the Residential Activation Fund. Local developers want to thank our government for providing funding so that all Queenslanders and our new local residents have the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful region of Maryborough and the Fraser Coast.

We are delivering for Queensland and we are doing what we said we would do. I have no hesitation in supporting and recommending the Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 to the House.

Mr WHITING (Bancroft—ALP) (12.50 pm): I rise to talk about the Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. There are a couple of things that I want to say in response to some of the speeches of members so far. The previous speaker talked about the competitive neutrality amendments that have just been dropped. I would love more time to examine these potentially very important amendments that have been dropped on us today. I understand that it may be part of the federal sphere, but I want to see what the implications will be for government business units in energy. How will they be affected by these amendments? We know that the LNP always like to undermine the public ownership of our energy units. They have never liked the public ownership of our assets and they will do everything to undermine that. I am particularly concerned about Yurika, for example, which is 100 per cent owned by Energy Queensland. They deal with sustainable energy—wind, solar, EV charging. It is exactly the kind of business unit that I think would be undermined by the LNP potentially using these amendments. I would love to have more time to examine these amendments, but I do not know if we will be able to do that because of the guillotine that we will face later on.

Members opposite have talked about increasing home ownership and enabling people to build more of a deposit. I echo what the member for Gaven has said: deposits can be built if home owners can access interest from bonds. That is a Labor policy, and we heard the member talking about it before. The state government holds $1.6 billion in bonds and there has been a 10 per cent increase, I think, in a year. However, not one cent of that interest goes to the people who own those bonds—not one cent. We believe Queenslanders can be helped to get a deposit for a home if they can access that interest, which is theirs on the bonds that they own.

Members have also talked about increasing the number of housing builds. Once again, I echo what the member for Gaven has said: not enough houses are being built for ordinary working Queenslanders. It is really hard to change that if you remove affordable and social housing KPIs from the remit of the public developer. It is really important that we make sure that, for all of those developments, we mandate the building of social and affordable homes. That is the only way that many ordinary working Queensland families will be able to access home ownership.

As we have heard, Labor will support the bill, but it provides a drop in the ocean compared with the LNP's cuts to affordable housing. I will briefly go through some parts of the bill that we need to know about. The Commonwealth's Help to Buy scheme allocates 2,000 places to Queensland each and every year. That is a very important point. The Queensland Boost to Buy scheme will deliver 2,000 places in total over three years. That is a very important distinction. The Commonwealth scheme contributes up to 30 per cent of the purchase price for an existing home or 40 per cent for a new home. The Queensland scheme contributes up to 25 per cent or 30 per cent.

There are many initiatives to help Queenslanders into home ownership. I commend the federal government for some of the things they have achieved that help Queenslanders to get into their own homes. Specifically, I point to the five per cent deposit scheme, which has been a game changer. In the federal electorate of Longman, 3,578 locals have bought their first home through Labor's five per cent deposit scheme. In the electorate of Petrie, which is also in my area, 1,303 residents have bought their first home courtesy of the five per cent deposit scheme. It is just one of Labor's initiatives that is helping people into their own homes. Meanwhile, the LNP's affordability crisis in Queensland is getting worse and there is little in the bill to address that. The bill contains some things, but so much more could have been done to help build home ownership in Queensland.

As I talked about earlier this year, in Brisbane an entry-level home is now more expensive than one in Sydney. Under the LNP, Brisbane entry-level house prices have gone up by 20.6 per cent in just 12 months. It takes almost five years to save a 20 per cent deposit for an entry-level unit and over six years to save the deposit for an entry-level home. Once again, accessing the interest on bonds would really help to build a deposit.

This is what the LNP's housing affordability crisis looks like. As I have said, they have made it worse by axing the delivery of social and affordable homes, which were mandated. Those cuts have been made in the middle of an affordability crisis, at the direction of the Deputy Premier. As we have heard before, they have axed the pipeline of thousands of affordable homes on the Gold Coast, on the Sunshine Coast and in Brisbane. Nothing in this bill addresses the axing of that pipeline. We have heard that the LNP scrapped 550 affordable homes at Merrimac and Robina on the Gold Coast. Those homes were designed to support frontline and essential workers in the area.

We have also heard that the development of public land—that is, land that we all own—no longer has mandated social and affordable housing requirements. That is a great tragedy. We have heard a bit about the Northshore Hamilton PDA. Labor planned for 14,000 dwellings over 20 years and five per cent were to be social and affordable homes. Those requirements have been overturned by the LNP. At Woolloongabba, the Lord Mayor of Brisbane called for a 30 per cent target of social and affordable homes to be built, but that was rejected as well. Nothing in the bill addresses those important aspects of home ownership.

If you are homeless, it is really difficult to take advantage of the Boost to Buy or Help to Buy initiatives. People experiencing homelessness have seen their home ownership dreams slip away under the LNP. We know that the number of families experiencing homelessness has doubled in the past year. At estimates, we all heard about the astounding removal of $42 million in funding from homelessness services by the LNP. We have the details of the effect of the brutal removal of funds from services such as Encircle in my area. They lost $485,000 in funding which they used to help some of the most vulnerable people in Queensland.

Queensland is in a housing affordability crisis under the LNP. Instead of making homes more affordable, they will not even let developers build social or affordable homes. While we welcome this bill, many aspects of home ownership are being ignored by the LNP.

Debate, on motion of Mr Chiesa, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12.59 pm to 2.00 pm.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Child Safety System

Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Well, if you ever needed more proof that this Crisafulli LNP government is more interested in spin than in substance, it has been on full display today—more interested in spin than the vulnerable children that the child safety system should be trying to protect. The child safety minister this morning tried to spin the latest child

safety data to say that it had stabilised. 'Stabilised' was the spin. There she was, patting herself on the back. She actually said she was excited. It was like she was channelling Angus Taylor, commenting on one of her own posts, 'Well done, Amanda. Well done.' But it was not well done.

The data released today is damning of this government's performance on child safety, damning of this child safety minister, damning of her decisions and her time in this job. She actually boasted that there were 15 fewer children in residential care. Let us put that in context: that is a 0.5 per cent reduction, after she has overseen an increase of 34 per cent. She was boasting that she had managed to reduce it by 0.5 per cent after increasing it by 34 per cent to record highs. Worse still, the number of under-fives in residential care is up 58 per cent under this minister. She will not explain that of those 15 no longer in residential care how many had died, how many had aged out, how many had self-placed, how many had left care to instead be cared for by an older brother or sister, how many are missing and how many have given up on the system after the minister's direction that they should be moved from home to home to find a cheaper option. She has been accused by service providers of treating children like a number on a balance sheet, failing to comply with her legal obligations to protect children.

We learn today that most of the children reported to Child Safety continue to be at risk of harm, of sexual assault or of domestic violence for more than three days. Ninety per cent are waiting longer than three days. Just 10 per cent are seen within the 72-hour timeframe. You can only imagine what is happening to those kids while they wait for the system that is supposed to protect them. We asked today how many children had been harmed while waiting for that Child Safety response and the minister would not answer. All we got was more spin. In fact, in relation to every single reasonable question this minister was asked about her portfolio and the data today, all we got was spin, not a single answer, even on the question of children self-placing.

This minister once felt so passionate about this that just one child self-placing was unacceptable to her. At the time she said, 'Let alone 780.' Today we learn that under this minister's watch, that number is 820—40 more than when she made that statement of concern—but all we got today was blame and spin, the concern she had when she made that statement seemingly gone.

All of this is damning of this minister and this LNP government's handling of the portfolio, and the minister said she was excited—excited about data that was two weeks overdue, excited about data that exposes her failures. When she was asked about it today, it was like she had picked up the folder from her acting minister, the member for Warrego. Remember that bumbling performance where she said everything was important? 'That's important. That's important.' Well, the child safety minister said it was important today. We agree it is important, too important to be left to a minister out of her depth, so far out of her depth that she actually made the member for Mudgeeraba look good. It takes a certain kind of skill to make the member for Mudgeeraba look like a breath of fresh air, but that is what we have heard from within the Child Safety department about the member for Mudgeeraba's acting stint—that she worked harder than the minister, that she visited more child safety officers and visited more children in residential care than the actual minister ever did. Instead, though, we and these vulnerable children are left with this incompetent child safety minister, a child safety minister who has overseen a 60 per cent increase in the number of children known to Child Safety who have died.

Again, this government's response, rather than concern for those children, has been, 'How do we spin this?' What they chose to do was quietly release it in an annual report on the eve of the Lions' grand final. How cynical do you have to be to do a Friday data dump on a grand final weekend with 91 lives lost? How cruel to those 91 young people! How cynical! How disrespectful to them and their loved ones! They are more than a number and should be treated as more than a number in just another Crisafulli government Friday data dump. The fact is you cannot spin 91 deaths. The facts will shine through that spin.

It is a fact that this minister rolled out the failed Unify IT system. It is a fact that this minister directed children to be moved from home to home and resulted in them sleeping on air mattresses from Kmart on the floor of Child Safety offices. Some children were moved two, three or four times before they could find a home cheap enough for this minister's direction. No wonder more of them are choosing to self-place, lost to the system that should be protecting them.

All of that is before we get to this minister's failings to prevent domestic, family and sexual violence. This month is Sexual Violence Awareness Month, but we would not know it from anything those opposite have said or done. Service providers are reporting a massive surge in strangulation cases in our state—we know that is the clearest indicator that a woman is at risk of being murdered—and it was the police minister's turn to try to spin that. He came out and said that domestic violence was down, despite service providers reporting that they have never been busier.

Mr PURDIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is being misleading. I would like him to validate those comments.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Ninderry, that is not a point of order. If you wish to write to the Speaker about a potential misleading of the House, you know the process for doing that.

Mr MILES: The police minister pointed to the very data he has been accused of manipulating to try to prove his point that DV is going down when service providers are telling us—

Mr PURDIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is still being misleading, and I will be writing to you about it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. Did I hear that you will be writing to Mr Speaker about this matter?

Mr PURDIE: I will, Mr Deputy Speaker. I take offence at being misrepresented by the member opposite, and I ask that he withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, would you withdraw, please?

Mr MILES: I withdraw. Queenslanders deserve better than this spin. They deserve a premier who does what he said he would do. He said that he would keep children safe. He said that he would hold his ministers to account. He is not doing either of those things. There are more children dying, more children in residential care and more children waiting three days or more for the system to protect them.

(Time expired)

Labor Party, Performance

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.11 pm): I will tell the honourable opposition leader what Queenslanders want and deserve: an opposition that holds government accountable. He does not have to take my word for it; he can read in the media what his own shadow cabinet members are saying about him—that he is not up to the job and that he has not landed a blow. Members will be surprised at this—I am about to make a big admission in parliament: I was sitting here today looking across at the opposition leader and, for a flicker of a moment, for a passing moment, I felt sorry for him.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order, members.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members to my left!

Mr Miles interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Leader of the Opposition, you have had your go. I have called for order twice.

Mr BLEIJIE: When I looked at the opposition leader again, I remembered that only a week ago he was talking about cruelness and being cruel. I remembered him attacking our female minister who was on—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Here we go—the member for McConnel is groaning. The minister was on medical leave for six weeks after a serious surgery she had to have. They went out and attacked her while she was on medical leave. The Labor Party—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Did the shadow minister for women say to the opposition leader, 'Mate, don't go there because plenty of Labor ministers have been on medical leave and the opposition at the time never attacked someone on medical leave'? To question someone shows the poor judgement of the opposition leader. That is why his members—his shadow cabinet—are campaigning against him in the media. The member for Pine Rivers is shaking her head. I ask the shadow minister, the member for Pine Rivers: is this her? I am going to quote a Labor frontbencher—one of these people.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Maybe the ones who are interjecting the loudest know that I am about to quote them and they do not want to hear what they said to the *Australian* or to the *Courier-Mail*. The article states—

"I have got no idea what our argument to be re-elected is," one Labor frontbencher says. "We are just bouncing around and sleepwalking toward defeat in 2028."

It is one of the 18 who are around him here right now. One of his shadow ministers has said that about his leadership. Another frontbencher MP has said—

"A lot of us are having discussions about this," ... "It's reaching the point where we are asking 'do we want to go into 2027 and 2028 like this?'"

The shadow cabinet are in full revolt against the opposition leader, and it is no secret why. We have seen the opposition leader run deliberate and misleading campaigns—scare campaigns—in the last two years. He is not up to the job. We heard him referring to Queensland just as riots broke out and people were being killed in Nepal and Indonesia. That is how dangerous this man is. That is how dangerous this opposition leader is.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: They laugh about the people who died in Nepal and Indonesia during riots against the government. He called for an uprising against the Queensland government by the citizens of Queensland and compared it to Indonesia and Nepal. It is no secret that he is not up to the job. His own colleagues are leaking against him, and it is just a matter of time. I would say to the member for Pine Rivers, 'Keep him there. I'm not worried about him. I'm praying that you keep him there.' I am praying that they will keep him there, but they will not. Member for Pine Rivers, please keep him there, because the longer he is there the longer the LNP will be in government in this great state.

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The members for Logan, Cairns and Pine Rivers are warned under the standing orders.

Child Safety System

Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.16 pm): I rise on a very important matter of public interest today. In fact, it is a matter of public interest that can be summarised in one number. It is a number that summarises everything that has happened today and everything that will happen this week, and it is a number that says everything about this LNP government and this LNP Premier. That number is 91—91 children. There are 91 children who have died—that is, 91 children known to the LNP's child safety department who have died in the care of the LNP. That is a 60 per cent increase in just one year. Every one of those children was precious and deserving of protection and support by the state.

The truth of the matter is that these children simply do not matter to this Premier and to the LNP. What have we heard from the LNP in response? This morning the Deputy Premier carried on as though the parliament was his own personal show, acting like the government does not have one single thing to fix. Ninety-one children failed, and not one LNP member has accepted responsibility for that number—or the failing department and the failed minister who caused all of it.

It is little wonder that the member for Mudgeeraba was a better minister for child safety than the current incumbent, even on an acting basis. Why? At least the member for Mudgeeraba did nothing when she was in charge for three weeks, which is more than you can say for the member for Whitsunday. What a litany of failures we have seen under this LNP child safety minister. Under this minister, the number of children in residential care has risen by 34 per cent. The number of children under five in residential care has risen by almost 60 per cent and more than 90 per cent of 72-hour assessments are now not completed in time. The minister said that one self-placed child was one too many, and that number has gone up by more than 50 under her watch—to 833. Bearing the burden of all of this is a child safety workforce that is distressed, exhausted, overworked and underfunded. The education minister says this is 'superb.'

While the government he runs fails 91 children, the rest of us have to put up with the flamboyant and eccentric behaviour of the member for Kawana. I say to the member for Kawana: you should play dress-ups as Elvis and get on the train to Parkes. While he is at it, he should do us all a favour and not come back! The LNP should let someone like the member for Gregory have a crack. The member for Gregory would not stay silent. The member for Gregory would do the right thing if he was in the cabinet. He would not be into all the backslapping and self-indulgent self-congratulations that the Premier and the Deputy Premier and all of the rest of them are into.

What about the Premier? In the budget debate in 2022, when 53 children known to Child Safety died the previous financial year, the Premier claimed then that the child safety system was broken. Under his government, after a $20 million commission of inquiry, that number has almost doubled. Premier, if it was broken then, it is shattered now. The Premier of course admitted to receiving and reading child safety data a week or two ago, but he refused to release that child safety data until he was forced to do so—today. Under the LNP it is always the same: one rule for them and another rule for everybody else.

The measure of a child safety system is whether a vulnerable child is kept safe, whether their voice is heard, whether their complaint is taken seriously and whether the adults entrusted with their care have the resources and support to do their job. It is one of the basic obligations of state government. It is an obligation against which this Crisafulli LNP government must be judged.

The statistics released by this failing LNP government and this failing LNP child safety minister are a damning indictment on all of them. The failure in Child Safety is emblematic of the Crisafulli LNP government as a whole, a focus on endless self-praise, endless blame-shifting and endless LNP blue advertising. But the gloss is gone. Queenslanders see that, and they see through this LNP Premier's spin. No-one in this government is taking responsibility. This government has failed to protect the most vulnerable children in this state. That rests on their shoulders.

(Time expired)

Leader of the Opposition

Hon. RM BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (2.22 pm): The member for Murrumba's treatment of women tells Queenslanders a lot about his leadership—and he has form. When a woman challenges him, he makes it personal. He says I am nasty. He referred to a conservative female candidate as a lunatic. He let his party machine and his unions viciously attack the now member for Pumicestone. The members sitting behind him and next to him need to decide whether they are going to keep excusing it. On 24 May 2024 he called me 'one of the nastiest people in the Queensland parliament'. I table that for the record.

Tabled paper: Article from *ABC News online*, dated 24 May 2024, titled 'Queensland Premier Steven Miles labels Shadow Health Minister Ros Bates 'one of the nastiest people' in parliament' [2021].

He also called me 'immature, mean, nasty and insulting' and demanded my leader 'pull her into line' after I and my office received death threats after a false video was put up by the then minister for women. Who on that side called it out? No-one.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Waterford!

Ms BATES: It was our women who called out the vile and untruthful allegations by the then minister for women. It was the member for Whitsundays who read to the media word for word the abuse the member for Murrumba allowed. Did the next leader of the Queensland Labor Party, the member for Gaven, say a word? Not a peep. Did anyone tell the member for Murrumba, 'This is not how you speak about a woman in this parliament'? If those opposite believe in respect for women, why won't they say it was wrong?

Ms Fentiman: What have you said about me a million and one times?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Waterford, you are warned under the standing orders. Your interjections were not being taken.

Ms BATES: The truth hurts, member for Waterford. I do not need the member for Murrumba to like me, but I do expect him to defend his record. Telling my leader to pull me into line does not explain Labor's failures.

This is not new. I have seen Labor make a woman's health political before. In 2012, while I was recovering from an infected shoulder which required extensive surgery and a drip in my heart for eight weeks, the then premier Annastacia Palaszczuk questioned my sick leave because I had been seen driving and shopping. She said, 'She can be here for one hour of question time and then she can rest in her ministerial suite.' Just think about that, Mr Deputy Speaker. A woman recovering from surgery was expected to justify her recovery because she could buy her groceries. Then I fell downstairs and broke my back. It just says something about the culture of the Labor Party. I table that article.

Tabled paper: Article from *News.com.au*, dated 18 November 2012, titled 'Queensland Arts Minister Ros Bates in hospital again after hurting her back in a fall at home' [2022].

When it comes to the member for Murrumba, the personal attacks keep coming. He thinks a medical emergency is a political opportunity. He treated a medical emergency as a political opportunity.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Waterford!

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Waterford, you can leave the chamber for one hour under the standing orders. I warned you about 1½ minutes ago. Please leave the chamber for one hour under the standing orders.

Whereupon the honourable member for Waterford withdrew from the chamber at 2.24 pm.

Ms BATES: In doing so—in treating a medical emergency as a political opportunity—he did not just attack Minister Camm. He attacked every Queensland woman who has faced a health crisis. What a coward.

When the former members for Redcliffe and Mundingburra took sick leave, we said nothing. On 11 October 2023, Labor's Kim Richards asked him a question about housing. Instead of talking about housing, he used his answer to describe a female candidate as an 'extreme right-wing, crazy, woman-hating lunatic'. Who over there is prepared to defend those words—anyone? Calling anyone a lunatic is not a debate; it is personal abuse. The member for Murrumba chose to say it during Women's Week 2024. What a let-down by Labor!

What about the treatment of the now member for Pumicestone by the Labor Party and their union mates during the 2024 election campaign—bullying, intimidation, misogyny. That is how the Leader of the Opposition operates. Apparently respect depends on which side of politics you are on. Where was the leadership? Where was the simple statement that a young woman seeking elected office deserves respect? He had the chance to set a standard and he chose not to.

Let's talk about the company that Labor keep. I table an excerpt from the Watson report into the Queensland CFMEU which documented allegations of abuse, sexual threats and intimidation against women.

Tabled paper: Extract from document, undated, titled 'Violence in the Queensland CFMEU Report' [2023].

Tabled paper: Article from *ABC News online*, dated 13 October 2022, titled 'Queensland's Agriculture Minister Mark Furner apologises after 'dopey, stupid woman' comment in parliament' [2024].

I hope the member for Ferny Grove is not saying anything because he is another one who called me a 'dopey, stupid woman' in parliament and had to come back and apologise. The excerpt describes a female public servant being locked in a room and abused. It describes a female union official being abused in front of her 13-year-old child. To quote John Webster in his 1612 play *The White Devil*, when you lie down with dogs, you get up with fleas. People are judged by the company they keep. Last year his shadow minister the member for Cairns was also embroiled in controversy. What did the opposition leader do then? He did not demote him. No. He stood by him and right next to him.

Leadership means being prepared to upset people on your own side. It means calling out bad behaviour. The member for Murrumba has had plenty of opportunities. Time and again he chose not to take them. His comments about women show Queenslanders exactly what standard he chose to set. He has insulted women in this parliament. He has belittled women. He has passed the buck when women were left out. He needs to go.

(Time expired)

Child Safety System

Ms McMILLAN (Mansfield—ALP) (2.27 pm): I rise to speak for the most vulnerable children in Queensland—the children in residential care—and for a child safety sector that this LNP government has forced into crisis in just two years. These children have survived abuse, neglect and trauma most of us cannot imagine. The state took them from danger and made them a promise: we will keep you safe.

All year, the Crisafulli government has been quietly shutting down individualised placement support arrangements and moving children into cheaper alternatives—children who had finally settled, children who had finally stopped running, children who with the increased stability found the strength to

attend school and engage in community sport and build friendships. They are being moved out of homes where they finally felt safe—sometimes with as little as 72 hours notice and with no thought for the lifelong harm or the trauma informed therapeutic care they need—so that this government can say it cut spending.

The frontline staff who hold these children through their darkest hours are burnt out, screaming into the void and being told to do more with less. We know this because at estimates the director-general told the committee a high priority this year is converting what she called 'high-cost, short-term, high-churn contracts' and that the department had already made 'significant inroads' in the 'reduction of cost'—not stability, safety but cost. The sector has been warning for months: if you keep ripping children out of stable homes to save money, children will be hurt.

The sector warned this government of the consequences, yet this government will not listen. A record 91 children known to Child Safety died last year. The minister will say that reform takes time, and she is right. That is exactly what the commission of inquiry told her. Licensing reform must be collaborative, staged, funded and sequenced and every transition managed carefully, because each one carries lifelong consequences for a child.

The inquiry found a provider who tried for years to become licensed and was told again and again that applications were on hold pending the inquiry, so if reform takes time why are these children being moved so fast? Instead of helping those providers across the line, this government is emptying their homes. The minister will name a provider—the worst one she can find. Let me save her the trouble. Any provider who harms a child should be shut down today and Labor supports this; however, do not hide a cost-cutting exercise behind a child protection headline.

The sector is no longer staying quiet. Just over a week ago a *Courier-Mail* article reported whistleblower allegations that the department is moving children, including children who have been sex trafficked and children at high risk of suicide, into cheaper residential care to cut costs. Whistleblowers allege the department is failing in its legal duty to put the best interests of these children first and a law firm is now acting on their behalf in pursuance of the minister.

One service provider has written to the Premier, accusing this government of treating vulnerable children as a balance sheet deficit to be trimmed. She warns that the sector has records to prove it. The article detailed what that looks like. A primary school age child was separated from their siblings despite warnings it would be traumatic for both. After a week that child ran away. A teenage girl at risk of suicide who had been improving in a stable home was told she must move because of the minister's direction, even after a state health service raised concerns. A youth worker described picking up a child from school only to find a child safety officer waiting to tell him he was moving that week.

I ask the Premier and the minister: will you sit down with these children and tell them to their faces that the cheapest option is all they are worth? These children have no lobbyist, no media unit and no vote. Today I want every member of this House, every employee of the department of child safety, every peak body and every Queenslander to hear their voices, to be their voices, to show compassion for these children. These children are not numbers, and we cannot and should not stand by while this government and this minister treat them like one.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 4 October 2026, titled 'Vulnerable kids in cost-cutting shock' [2025].

Leader of the Opposition; Labor Party, Data Reporting

Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (2.32 pm): We have seen it all today. We have seen the Leader of the Opposition furiously trying to shore up his leadership—a leadership that his own side, whether it is his front bench, his backbench or his union mates, say is a shambles. It lacks direction, it lacks policy, it lacks action, it lacks vigour and it lacks verve. In fact, it is totally lacking. I reflect on comments made by the Leader of the Opposition's colleagues. I wonder if the right faction insider is some operative of the member for Woodridge, who is now strategically leaking to the paper. We know that the heart of the member for Woodridge is not in the leadership of the member for Murrumba. We know that he desperately yearns to get out there. We know that he wants to do more black-and-white photos of himself staring pensively out the window of the office he no longer occupies or stepping out of the limousine he no longer gets driven around in as he seeks to fulfil his manifest destiny which the right can no longer deliver for him. This will be what the member for Waterford will be talking about.

The policy formation process will be asking everyone in the party and every union what their wish list is. It will end up being some Jeremy Corbyn-esque thing that is great for everyone in the party but will leave them with zero chance of winning any votes. That is what the right thinks of the member for

Murrumba. Theirs is a Jeremy Corbyn-esque type plan that will suit everyone in the party, all of the loveys, all of the comrades, all of the socialists, the rainbow alliance, the left wing, the even more left wing—but no votes. That is the member for Murrumba's strategy to win the election. No wonder he has been described as flatlining. No wonder his front bench is losing faith in him. No wonder, as they say, judgement day is coming for the member for Murrumba. We have heard talk about blame and spin and delay—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Minister for Health, would you pause, please. Pause the clock. Members on my left, there is too much noise emanating from your benches. The minister is not taking your interjections. You are not even making interjections; you are talking amongst yourselves and laughing in a disorderly manner.

Mr Field: How rude!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who said that? Member for Capalaba, you are warned under the standing orders. We will have order in the House.

Mr NICHOLLS: When it comes to blame and spin, I have had the good fortune to be in this place for a few years. I remember 2016 and I remember the death of Mason Jett Lee. I remember that being described as one of the worst failures in child protection history. I remember the seven inquiries into the loss of Mason Jett Lee. Not one single person took responsibility for that death. He was a child well known to child protection services. It goes to show the shallowness of the member for Woodridge—a mile wide and a centimetre deep—because no-one took responsibility. When it came to dodging responsibility, the member for Waterford, the then member for Inala, the member for Woodridge and the member for Murrumba all ran a mile. The member for Waterford then refused to reveal the figures and said, 'We're not going to reveal those figures until they have been washed.' She wanted to wash the figures because we would not understand them. That is the record of those opposite. They stand up here and make complaints about the system, but they presided over that system. They presided over a system that, in relation to Mason Jett Lee, the coroner said was a failure in nearly every possible way.

They refused to release damning internal reports into children's deaths. They cut off referrals to private domestic violence shelters, denying vulnerable women the support they needed. When they were unhappy with the numbers, they just stopped publishing them. The same thing happened with the health figures. Remember when the member for Waterford promised to reduce ramping to 28 per cent within 12 months? When she could not achieve that, she stopped publishing monthly figures. That is the record of those opposite. That is the promise of those opposite. What would it be like if she was ever to become treasurer? She is not going to publish figures. She will never report on them because they are not the numbers she likes.

Queenslanders passed their judgement on this Leader of the Opposition two years ago and he did not accept it. We remember his mean-spirited concession speech on the night of the election. He could not accept the judgement of the people of Queensland. His judgement is failing. No wonder he and his team are flatlining.

Child Safety System

Ms McMAHON (Macalister—ALP) (2.37 pm): It was said that if the government has the information it belongs to Queensland. That was what David Crisafulli said before the 2024 election. He gave a commitment to openness, transparency and accountability. That is what they said, but today we had data released about the child safety system under this government. Before I go to the data, let's look at how the Premier's commitment to openness, transparency and accountability has played out with this very telling data. This data has been available for weeks. The Premier has known about this data for weeks; he said so himself. What did he do with this data? He did nothing; he sat on it. Is this data, which has finally been released today, acceptable to the Premier? Was the Premier moved to do anything about the tragic issues raised by this data? No. Did the Premier consider these alarming data points worthy of any action over the last few weeks? No, he did not. He sat on the data. That is how the Premier views the plight of our most vulnerable children in Queensland.

When it comes to keeping Queensland children safe, the buck stops with him. He can talk about holding ministers to account and keeping them on the front bench to avoid shuffling and because of departmental concerns, but he has shown that he is quite accepting of this data because he sat on it for weeks and did nothing about it. He waited for the minister to come back—and it is great to see her back in the House—but obviously it was not worthy of doing anything over the last couple of weeks.

What is the point of having acting ministers if they are actually not going to do anything in the role? As the Premier of this state, he should take responsibility for the data that was released. Is the data that came out today acceptable to the Premier? It has only come out today for Queenslanders but he has known about it for weeks.

Data about child safety is a plaything for this government. If the government has the information it belongs to Queensland, but not under this LNP government. Today's data release—weeks after it was available—is not an exception; it is the norm now. It happened right before estimates as well, despite the government promising to release it weeks earlier. Child safety data is a plaything for this government. I guess we—and by 'we' I mean all of Queensland—should be lucky that we get data at all. The QFCC Principal Commissioner, Luke Twyford, should be heard on this matter. He said that he now has no idea about the child safety system operating in this state due to the lack of visible data and survey results. That is our child and family commissioner—

A government member interjected.

Ms McMAHON: Because he has no data. He described it as one of the least transparent systems he has encountered, and that is telling. That is what our Principal Commissioner—who is responsible for keeping the government accountable for child safety and welfare in this state—has said about this government's handling of data.

I have heard the speeches today and I have looked at the data, and it is appalling what our most vulnerable children in Queensland are dealing with. There has been a 60 per cent increase in the number of vulnerable children dying while under state care. The number is 91. That is the number that is acceptable to this Premier. When he heard the number 91, did he do anything about it? Did he even say anything about it? He said, 'No, I've seen the data.' He had nothing to add to it, nothing of note, no action to be taken—he just waited a couple more weeks for the relevant minister to get back. That is the urgency that the Premier has shown when dealing with those 91 children in state care, under his care, under his watch. We can talk about data from a year ago, from two years ago, from 10 years ago, but he needs to take responsibility for what is happening under his watch: 91 children in his care, in state care. That is him—he is the Premier of this state—and that is what has happened under his watch. He did not just come into government two weeks ago; he has been in almost two years and it is time he takes accountability for it.

Resources Industries

Hon. DR LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (2.42 pm): The Crisafulli government's support for Queensland's resources industry could never be questioned. Contrast that with the performance of those opposite, who left mining applications and mining lease renewals sitting on the minister's desk for 10 long years. That is how much they cared about the resources industry in this state.

We took office with a clear plan to streamline approvals, restore confidence and encourage more investment across Queensland's resources industry, and we have delivered. Within the first 100 days in office, we established the Resources Cabinet Committee with the mandate to deliver certainty to the companies investing in Queensland—because we know that investment follows regulatory certainty. This investment is positioning Queensland as the powerhouse of Australian energy and resources development. Companies want to operate and invest in Queensland, and that is reflected across our coal, our gas and our 51 critical minerals.

While those opposite have been living in a green-powered fantasy land and remain silent on our core traditional industries, the Crisafulli government has taken a commonsense approach to the future of Queensland's resources. This commonsense approach has delivered more acreage in the Taroom Trough and a growing pipeline of future supply to build resilience against supply chain shocks. We are delivering the certainty that industry has asked for through targeted and practical reform focused on restoring Queensland's fuel security and sovereignty. We are doing this in line with a plan to drill, refine and store fuel locally.

We continue to push ahead with Queensland's Fuel Security Plan. Just last month, we awarded four new tenders for petroleum and gas exploration in the Taroom Trough. Excitingly, Omega Oil and Gas, which have been drilling out in the Taroom Trough, have just delivered their best results to date for their latest Canyon well. Just yesterday, Omega reported to the ASX that their latest well results

indicate oil throughout the majority of the reservoir, evidencing a significant resource that could support 160 wells across the 400-square-kilometre block. We are inching closer to controlling our own destiny when it comes to fuel supply in this state.

We know that more exploration equals more supply. Despite what other ideologically driven governments may lead you to believe, more supply is the only solution. With the southern states refusing to develop their resources and remaining opposed to new coal and gas projects and the federal government proposing intervention that will choke the gas industry, we are just making it happen here in Queensland. It begs the question: what actions have those opposite taken to talk to their mates in Canberra about that gas reserve and the impact that is having on investor confidence in the Queensland gas industry?

Our message to investors is clear: we are open for business and we want you here in Queensland. Unfortunately, the opposition leader does not agree. In fact, I doubt he even knows where the Taroom Trough is—let alone gets out of Brisbane to pay them a visit. Let us contrast our united and practical approach to growing Queensland's resources industry with the opposition. Not only can they not agree or even articulate a resources policy position; they cannot agree on who their leader should be. They are a party divided.

On the one hand, they have MPs at anti-coal workshops, arm in arm with activists and the Greens. Then we have the odd few who make a token appearance at a resource event. It is little wonder they are flailing on their position: with the opposition leader in charge, they have no position. His lack of support for Queensland's resources industry is as obvious as the lack of support he has from inside his own caucus. Just as Queensland cannot succeed without its resources powerhouse, the opposition leader is toast without the support of his party and union mates. It was reported in the *Australian* just yesterday that the very union movement that dropped him in the role as opposition leader is growing increasingly 'restless and unhappy' with his leadership. That support continues to be pulled publicly as the opposition leader struggles to stay relevant with no clear policies. We saw a decade of inaction from the former Labor government and we continue to see inaction from the opposition leader. While we are focused on rebuilding regional and rural Queensland after the former Labor government deserted those outside the south-east corner and while we are restoring investor confidence to the resources sector, the opposition leader is floundering. He has lost control of his front bench and he has failed to unite his party.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Woodridge, you have had your fun.

Child Safety System

Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (2.48 pm): It is sobering data that we got today; there is no doubt about that. The statistics and data are serious, and it is something we should not be proud of in this state. After two years of the Crisafulli government, they get up nearly every sitting week and blame everyone else but themselves for issues that have happened. Every crisis is always somebody else's. They had all the answers and they were going to come in and fix it all, but two years later we are getting data that honestly and truly as Queenslanders we should be absolutely ashamed of. No matter how much spin we get from those opposite, that data is worse than it was two years ago—on every matrix and every single point. That data was released late today, I might add, and it is no wonder they were a bit hesitant to release that data because it is as bad as it looks.

The minister gets up and talks about failed child safety ministers on this side of the House. Let me say there is a big 'F' fail for the current minister in the Crisafulli government. When data is worse than when you came to office, when you have been around for two years and made it even worse than it was and then try to spin your way out of it, that is a big fail. That is a big fail for those victims whom they promised to put first.

When we look at what is happening in child safety, domestic violence prevention, support for sexual assault survivors, I—and I know a lot of us do—feel sick to my stomach about what we are reading every day in the paper. Rather than these most vulnerable Queensland women and children getting the support they need—people who are counting on this government—it is not protecting them. That is the only conclusion you can come to.

Last week revealed this government's failure to provide early evidence kits for sexual assault survivors. I thank the member for Traeger for pulling this into the spotlight. These kits should have been rolled out long ago. They were due to be rolled out in 2025, yet here we are in October 2026 and women

are still waiting. A newspaper article is published and suddenly the Premier is demanding that the government get cracking. He should have got cracking two years ago. I am sorry, but this government should be taking action because it actually cares about survivors of rape and sexual violence, not because the Premier has to protect his fragile ego.

What do we have from some of those leaders and ministers opposite? We had the Minister for Education interjecting earlier about the data that was presented. He yelled out 'superb'. That was the performance of the minister. If that is superb, I will eat my hat.

Mr LANGBROEK: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find that comment offensive and I ask that the member withdraw. It is untrue and offensive.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for McConnel, the member has found your comments offensive.

Ms GRACE: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for withdrawing.

Ms GRACE: There was the Deputy Premier, the second person in charge in this state, who was more interested in the cameras on him than in what was actually going on in this parliament. They are turning it into a circus. The whip accidentally walked in front of the camera—but 'hold everything', because his ego needed the camera on him.

Mr Crandon: Rubbish! There was nothing accidental about it. I was watching him. He was standing there intentionally.

Ms GRACE: You should all be embarrassed about that. You should all be embarrassed about it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair, please, member for McConnel.

Ms GRACE: Then there is the current Minister for Health lecturing us about what we did in government after he cut $200 million from the child safety department and sacked 225 permanent child safety staff from the department of child safety. Then he dares to come in here and lecture us about what we did when we were in government.

Mr Dick: Shame!

Ms GRACE: There is no shame from those opposite. These kits preserve the crucial evidence that we need for women who have been victims of sexual violence; they give survivors a chance at getting justice. What more does the minister need to know to roll these out as soon as possible? At least he is up-front when he fails Queensland women. It raises further serious questions: is the Premier getting regular updates on the recommendations of the DNA commission of inquiry, or is he simply not paying attention until the headlines start looking bad?

This financial year 91 children known to Child Safety have died—a 60 per cent increase, and what do we get? Spin! Ninety per cent of priority child safety assessments are not being done within the required time, and these children are reported to potentially be at risk of harm. This minister has failed on every single set of data that has come out, and all we see is those opposite taking no responsibility, blaming everyone else and having no accountability.

(Time expired)

Leader of the Opposition

Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.53 pm): Oppositions play a serious role in the democratic process—oppositions and opposition leaders, in fact. How can they be taken seriously when they have no policy? For them, opposition is more about TikTok trends and social media posts. As one Labor source has told the *Australian*, they are more interested in being social media influencers. It is about providing credible alternatives, but two years in those opposite have offered nothing; they have shown no seriousness and no inspiration for the task at hand. We have seen it because all of those opposite have been talking to journalists. However, it is not just those opposite; it is backbench MPs, union leaders, branch members, party strategists, former ministers and their advisers. They are saying, 'I have no idea what our argument to be re-elected is.' That is what one Labor frontbencher said—one of those opposite.

Mr Mickelberg: Which one?

Mr JANETZKI: Which one was it? I assume it was the member for Woodridge. I assume that, but it could well be the member for Gaven, the member for Waterford—who knows? As the *Australian* has pointed out, one of the key weaknesses of the opposition is that they have failed to detail their fiscal strategy or their energy policy, even at their Labor conference. I do not think the announcement of an incumbent MP in Gaven running again qualifies as a policy announcement.

I am calling today for the opposition leader to stand up, stop hiding and tell us what he is going to do with policy. Will they be bringing back the Energy and Jobs Plan? Under their Energy and Jobs Plan, Callide B and Stanwell were to be scaled down. The only alternative—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Members to my left, your interjections are not being taken.

Mr JANETZKI:—in the Energy and Jobs Plan that they offered up was Pioneer-Burdekin. Is that still their policy—yes or no? That was a five-gigawatt project that was going to offer energy in 2032. They should stand up and tell us. Maybe it was the less than one per cent chance of Borumba and the two-gigawatt project there that was going to offer up energy by 2030. Yes or no? Maybe it is the tens of millions of dollars that the opposition leader was giving to his mate 'Twiggy' for hydrogen. Is that coming back—yes or no? Maybe it is the $36.8 billion for Pioneer-Burdekin—and that is just the tip of the iceberg. We know that Snowy Hydro went from $2 billion to $42 billion. Imagine what Pioneer-Burdekin would cost today. How are they going to pay for it?

We know at the very outset under our Energy Roadmap it would cost every Queensland household at least $1,035. When they bring it back, that would be the starting point—another $1,035 on every power bill in Queensland, but how else would they pay for it? Would it be a tax on the family home? Would they do that? We abolished stamp duty for first home buyers purchasing a new build. Would they bring it back? Would they bring back the patients tax? Would they bring back the former treasurer's multi-jurisdictional land tax, the renters tax? Would they bring back all these taxes to pay for their pipedreams?

We have some insight into what the opposition leader might do, as he was talking to his fellow travellers at the Australia Institute in Canberra last year. We heard what he thought about taxes in Queensland. I am going to table this document, but let's listen to what the opposition leader told his fellow travellers at the Australia Institute about taxes in Queensland. He said—

... it's paying—

that is, the GST adjustments and the coal royalties—

for schools and hospitals in other states and territories too, thanks to the equalising mechanism of the GST.

I table that document.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 30 October 2025, titled ''Proud' Miles digs in on coal charges' [2026].

We have a Leader of the Opposition—and no wonder he has been silent on the GST distribution—who is very happy for money that belongs to Queenslanders to pay for our schools and hospitals to go across the border to New South Wales and Victoria to help them pay for theirs. That is the kind of opposition leader we have in Queensland. He is happy for our distribution of the GST to be shipped offshore to go to states that oppose our policy positions, whether it be on resources, the gas industry or our commitment to decentralisation in Queensland. That is the kind of opposition leader we have—one who is not serious, one who is more interested in TikTok trends. He is an opposition leader who is just not up to it.

Democracy

Ms BOLTON (Noosa—Ind) (2.58 pm): In my maiden speech in 2018 I asked everyone to close their eyes and imagine standing on the top of Mount Tinbeerwah. Today I am not going to ask you to close your eyes. Instead, I ask you to imagine what type of governments you wish to be remembered for in 10, 50 or 100 years; what type of world you would like to see for your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and what type of parliament can deliver that. What we do right now will make the difference.

Last sitting week I mentioned five words. The first one was integrity. Just imagine a chamber where decisions are made on evidence and data that has not been cherrypicked or skewed to suit; where we play the ball; where we debate policies that Queenslanders want to hear about, whether that is housing, homelessness or legislation on major donations; where parties and politicians inspire and are seen as credible sources of information, trusted and respected. The second one was

representation. Just imagine a House where there is plenty of time for Queenslanders to be heard: three- or even five-minute maximum speeches would ensure all MPs cut to the chase, reduce the filibustering and time to denigrate others; where no legislation or standing orders can silence Queenslanders or their MPs, and then there is no need to guillotine.

The third word was transparency. Just imagine where the 'push' model of information becomes a reality, reducing those RTIs, unanswered correspondence and calls in the chamber to release data—as we have been hearing about—advice and documents presented to cabinet solely to avoid publication; where grey corruption and pork-barrelling do not exist; where funds are allocated based on sound policy rather than political calculus. The fourth word was accountability. Just imagine where committees negotiate and there is no casting vote—as happens in the private and not-for-profit sector if agreement cannot be reached and members have to get back around the table until consensus is found; where responsibility for decisions then rests with both sides, ending the blame game and finger-pointing as power shifts left to right and back again.

The fifth word was scrutiny. Just imagine if the opposition was allowed and empowered to hold governments to account; where estimates and question time are free from Dorothy Dixers; reinstating a public works committee so all Queenslanders could know how much something is costing and when taxpayer funds are being wasted; where the sunk costs of abandoned infrastructure business cases and projects are clear and mandatorily reported.

Can this 'imagine' become a reality? Yes, it can. As I raised in 2021, parliamentary interns invested unicameral chambers in New Zealand, Scotland and Canada. Elements of New Zealand's system were pretty good—no chair's casting vote, committees can consider and act on petitions and there is mandatory regular review of standing orders to guard against—yes—executive dominance. These strong institutional constraints foster accountability, diverse representation and collaborative governance. New Zealand also uses mixed-member proportional voting, MMP, which requires major parties to form coalitions or negotiate crossbench support, effectively replacing the check of an upper house with the check of multiparty consensus.

Currently, Queensland uses the single-member preferential system and requires compulsory preferential voting. This can produce large parliamentary majorities, even when they have only secured a minority of the statewide vote. With optional preferential voting currently, it seems, the preference of government, would this address the problems of our House? Sadly not according to critics, who argue it can magnify unchecked executive power by producing even larger parliamentary majorities and therefore reducing oversight. Over the years there have been calls from Queenslanders for a return of the upper house, the Hare-Clark electoral system as well as citizens assemblies, while changing governments have not delivered the needed scrutiny, accountability, representation, integrity and transparency. This is an opportunity to imagine and move beyond what we have become to what we should be. That is real leadership by every single MP in this chamber. Just imagine that. Please, just imagine it.

HOME OWNERSHIP AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 3093, on motion of Mr Janetzki—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Mr CHIESA (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (3.03 pm): Today I rise to speak in support of the Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. For generations of Australians, owning your own home has been part of the great Australian dream. It is about more than four walls and a roof over your head; it is about security, stability, independence and the opportunity to build a future for yourself and your family. It is about having somewhere to raise your children, somewhere to put down your roots and somewhere you can proudly call your own. In regional communities like those I represent across Hinchinbrook, home ownership means something more: it means young people having the opportunity to stay in the towns where they grew up, raise their own families and contribute to the communities that helped raise them. Whether that is a young family purchasing their first home in Ingham, a couple building in Townsville's Northern Beaches or workers establishing themselves on the Cassowary Coast, the aspiration is the same. However, for too many Queenslanders that dream has become increasingly difficult to achieve, and that did not happen overnight.

Over Labor's decade of decline Queensland experienced significant housing supply and affordability challenges. Housing approvals declined, construction productivity deteriorated and the cost of building continued to rise. The Queensland Productivity Commission's independent investigation into construction productivity revealed some extraordinary findings. The commission estimated that, if productivity remained at pre-2018 levels—coincidentally the year that BPIC was introduced—Queensland could have built approximately 77,000 additional homes. Think about what that represents: thousands of families who could have had a greater opportunity to purchase a home and more housing availability for workers, young couples and growing families.

The commission also examined the impact of the former Labor government's Best Practice Industry Conditions. Its modelling found that continuing those conditions could have increased costs on affected major construction projects by between 10 per cent and 25 per cent. More importantly, it estimated that continuing BPIC could have resulted in up to 26,500 fewer homes being constructed by 2029-30 and a potential rent increase of 8.3 per cent. Fewer homes, higher rents: that is Labor's legacy. These were projections that could have happened had those arrangements continued, but they demonstrate the potential consequences of policies that constrain construction productivity and housing supply, because when construction becomes more expensive, when productivity declines and when fewer homes are built the consequences flow through to ordinary Queensland families. It becomes harder for our most vulnerable to find an affordable home, it becomes harder for young people to enter the housing market and it becomes harder for regional communities to attract and retain the workers they desperately need.

The housing challenge is not simply about helping people purchase homes; we must also ensure there are enough homes available to purchase. This means improving construction productivity, unlocking land and investing in the infrastructure needed to support new residential development. The Crisafulli government has introduced a number of measures addressing these challenges. Following the Productivity Commission's investigation, the government permanently removed BPIC requirements from its Procurement Policy. We have also established the $2 billion Residential Activation Fund, supporting infrastructure such as roads, water, sewerage and drainage to help unlock land for housing. Importantly, at least half of that funding is allocated in regional Queensland, and that matters to communities like Hinchinbrook, because having land available on a map is one thing; having land that is serviced, accessible and ready for families to build on is another.

Increasing housing supply is only part of the equation. We must also address the financial barriers facing first home buyers. The government has abolished stamp duty for eligible first home buyers purchasing or building new homes which 3,500 buyers have taken advantage of, saving $66 million. Through the $330 million Boost to Buy shared equity scheme, eligible Queenslanders can purchase a home with as little as two per cent deposit, with government equity contributions of up to 30 per cent for new homes and 25 per cent for existing homes. Importantly, half of the available places are reserved for regional Queensland. These measures are designed to help Queenslanders overcome some of the barriers that stand between them and home ownership, and there are encouraging signs in the broader housing data. According to the latest figures provided, dwelling completions increased by 14.4 per cent to the year ended June 2026 while dwelling approvals increased by 26 per cent and more than 50,100 are under construction. These figures demonstrate that we are certainly heading in the right direction, but we know there is more to do.

The Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 makes important changes to ensure Queensland's taxation and grants legislation operates consistently with the government's home ownership initiatives. While many of these amendments are technical, their practical consequences for homebuyers can be significant.

Firstly, the bill clarifies the taxation arrangements applying to participants in the Queensland government's Boost to Buy scheme and the Commonwealth's Help to Buy scheme. Under these shared equity arrangements, governments hold an equity interest in the participant's home. Over time, as their financial circumstances improve, participants may wish to purchase some or all of the government equity. The bill ensures eligible transactions do not attract unintended additional transfer duties simply because participants are increasing their ownership share. That is important. A scheme designed to help Queenslanders enter the housing market should not create unnecessary taxation barriers when they seek to increase their ownership.

Secondly, the bill addresses the treatment of vacant land for first home buyer concessions. Consider a young family purchasing a block of land with the intention of building their first home. That block might contain an old shed or another minor structure that is not suitable for residential occupation.

Under the previous arrangements, the presence of certain structures could prevent the land from qualifying for a vacant land concession. This legislation addresses that issue in specific circumstances. It is a practical example of ensuring the legislation reflects the intended purpose of the concession.

Thirdly, the bill address certain builders' terms arrangements. These arrangements can arise when builders and developers structure transactions involving newly constructed homes. The amendments help ensure eligible purchasers are not unnecessarily excluded from first home buyer assistance because of the way those transactions are structured. The bill also clarifies aspects of the first home owner grant, including the commissioner's discretion concerning residential requirements, and makes other revenue administration amendments.

These changes are particularly relevant to communities across Hinchinbrook. I grew up in Ingham, in the heart of the Herbert River district. I understand the importance of young people having the opportunity to establish their lives in the communities where they grew up. It is deeply important to me. When young families purchase homes locally, they contribute to our schools, sporting clubs, businesses and community organisations. In Townsville's northern suburbs, communities such as Burdell, Deeragun, Mount Low, Bushland Beach and Jensen demonstrate the importance of residential development and the infrastructure needed to support growing communities. For first home buyers purchasing newly constructed homes, the interaction between grants and concessions and construction arrangements can make a real difference. Housing availability is important, not only for families but also for the agriculture businesses, tourism operators, healthcare providers and other employers that underpin our regional economy. This legislation removes unnecessary barriers from arrangements intended to assist eligible homebuyers.

Finally, as a member of the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee, I had the opportunity to participate in the examination of this legislation. Following that examination, the committee recommended that the bill be passed. I support that recommendation. Home ownership remains an important aspiration for Queensland families. Improving access to that opportunity requires attention to housing supply, construction productivity, infrastructure and the financial barriers facing prospective purchasers. This bill makes practical amendments to ensure home ownership assistance operates as intended. For the young families of Ingham, the growing communities of Townsville's Northern Beaches and the families and workers of the Cassowary Coast that objective matters, and it is why I support this bill.

Mr McCALLUM (Bundamba—ALP) (3.12 pm): Listening to government member after government member get up to spruik this bill reminds me of a situation where someone takes away 100 bucks and then gives you back a dollar, because that is what this bill is doing when it comes to housing in Queensland. Yes, it might help facilitate more homes in Queensland, but that is only because of the provisions that relate to the federal government's Commonwealth Help to Buy scheme. When you consider the broader context, that the LNP government in Queensland has cut social home targets and has said to developers, 'No, we do not want you to build affordable homes; we are going to get rid of those mandated targets'—

Government members interjected.

Mr McCALLUM: They do not like it, Mr Deputy Speaker. They come into this place with this bill and say, 'Guess what, Queensland? We have the answer to the housing crisis that we are presiding over in Queensland.'

Let us look at the provisions of the bill. It helps facilitate the Commonwealth's Help to Buy scheme and the Queensland government's Boost to Buy scheme. Let's compare those two schemes. The Commonwealth federal Labor scheme will allocate 2,000 places to Queensland each and every year of the scheme. This government's Boost to Buy scheme will deliver 2,000 places in total over the course of three years. It is very clear that Queenslanders can rely on the federal Labor government to deliver twice as much as this government can. The housing minister refused to commit to this government's target of a million homes. We saw an article only today which reads—

> Housing Minister Sam O'Connor has refused to say whether the government can still hit its million homes target ...

It goes onto say—

> Mr O'Connor dodged questions around whether the government was still confident it could reach its housing targets or if any modelling had been done surrounding the looming drop in home construction.

He then says—

> "We're doing all we can as a state," ... "We can't control what comes from Canberra …

I table a copy of that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 13 October 2026, titled 'Housing target has foundations rocked' [2027].

It is a little ironic to me that we are here debating a bill that has provisions to implement a federal scheme that is going to provide literally twice as much as the state scheme. Honestly, you cannot make this stuff up. When we look at the hundreds of affordable homes that have been cut by this government in the middle of an affordability crisis in Queensland, it beggars belief that the only action this government is going to take is in this bill today. We have seen the scrapping of affordable homes right across South-East Queensland. We know that the housing affordability crisis under the LNP is making it harder—

Mr Vorster: Give me a break!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Burleigh—

Ms Mullen interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Jordan, I do not need your support. Member for Burleigh, it could be said that your interjection was disorderly.

Mr McCALLUM: Recently, in September, we held an Ipswich Housing Forum. I was there alongside the members for Jordan, Ipswich and Ipswich West. Ipswich came together to talk about the housing crisis that we are in the midst of and to discuss potential solutions. I have to say, there was not a spare seat in the room; it was standing room only. We had discussions focused on increasing housing affordability. At that forum, the people of Ipswich were absolutely steadfast in their support of affordable home targets. I say to the government through this debate: bring them back. That is what Ipswich wants. We need to have homes that working people can actually afford—in Ipswich, right across South-East Queensland and right across our regions.

We heard stories from locals about mortgage stress—households with two full-time workers that are still struggling under the increases in their mortgage. We heard about rents going up by over $120 per week. People are worried that if their rent or mortgage goes up again they will be pushed into homelessness. This bill is not going to help them. The people of Ipswich—like so many other Queenslanders—need a government that is committed to real solutions that will actually help them—whether they are renters, home owners, looking to get into a home or living in social housing. Affordable housing is one of the biggest challenges facing Bundamba, Ipswich and every community across Queensland. We need a government that is going to bring back real, effective measures. Whilst the provisions in this bill are worthy of support, it is mainly because those provisions relate to enabling a Commonwealth scheme that will provide twice as much as the state shared equity scheme.

I would like to touch on the provisions of the bill that relate to registration, in particular for veterans. Ipswich is a garrison city. I would like to place on record my thanks to each and every veteran for their service. This bill extends the vehicle registration exemption for ex-Defence Force servicepersons to current Defence Force servicepersons. Whilst I support that, I would ask the government to bring back the discount to registration that they refused to extend that Labor had put in place and which applied and was accessible to every single Queenslander. We are in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis. This bill is supposed to be providing housing relief and whilst we absolutely support a discount to vehicle registration for our veterans, why can that not be expanded more broadly? I say to the Treasurer, who introduced this bill: broaden that registration exemption. There are so many families and so many households that are struggling under the burden of cost of living under this government. Under the LNP it is only going up. They need real measures that will bring down their household budgets. Please expand the registration discount so that it is universally available across Queensland.

Hon. RM BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (3.21 pm): If you grow up in Mudgeeraba, get a job and work hard, buying a home in your own community should not be too much to ask. For too many young Queenslanders, buying a home in their own community has become a real struggle. They are working, they are saving, they are doing everything we tell them to do and still they are wondering whether they will ever get there. It is why I support the Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I grew up in Healesville, a small country town. I know how much it matters to have family nearby and neighbours you can rely on. People love Mudgeeraba, Tallai, Reedy Creek and our hinterland communities for precisely those reasons. Parents want their children to have a chance to stay. Grandparents want to be close enough to help with the school run. A nurse finishing a shift deserves to know hard work can still lead to owning a home; so does the apprentice getting up before dawn.

Labor left Queensland at the bottom of the home ownership ladder. Those opposite had 10 years—10 years to plan, 10 years to act. They cannot spend 10 years failing aspiring homeowners then lecture this side about how quickly we should fix their mess. The Crisafulli LNP government has

abolished stamp duty for eligible first home buyers buying or building a new home. We are backing them through Boost to Buy and the $30,000 first home owner grant. This bill ensures our tax and grant settings support those measures. Eligible buyers using Boost to Buy or the Commonwealth's Help to Buy will get the same concessions and grants as other eligible buyers. They also will not pay transfer duty when buying back the public equity share. They are working towards owning more of their home; why put another tax bill in their way? When someone has spent years putting money aside, every dollar matters. There is a history here those opposite might prefer to forget. The decade of decline can be summed up in two words—no plan. No plan for the housing crisis, no plan to reverse the lowest home ownership rate in the country. We are getting on with the job.

The bill also fixes a practical problem relevant to our hinterland. An eligible first home buyer will not miss out on the vacant land concession just because the block has a qualifying shed or carport. No first home buyer should miss out on support because there is a shed on the block. This might sound like a small change, but every dollar counts when you are saving for a home. The bill also makes sure buyers do not miss out on support because of the way a home is sold. These are practical changes to make home ownership easier for Queenslanders. We also need more homes available to buy.

In July, we announced $146 million through the Residential Activation Fund to support more than 18,900 future homes across the Gold Coast. It includes the Merrimac sewage treatment plant upgrade, supporting growth in Worongary, Robina and other growing communities. Getting more homes built means getting the infrastructure right and making sure we have the workers to do the job. It is why we are supporting construction businesses to train and retain apprentices and helping apprentices finish their qualifications. Training more workers also requires a fair funding deal, which brings me to federal Labor. In June, I warned this House that Canberra's proposed Free TAFE agreement would cut Queensland's funding and shift another $187 million in costs onto Queensland taxpayers. Federal Labor disagreed and tried to dud us. Queensland cannot build more homes with fewer resources to train the workers needed to build them. It is how a stronger economy delivers a better lifestyle. For families in Mudgeeraba, this is about being able to plan a future close to work, close to family and close to the community they already call home. Under Labor, young Queenslanders were expected to keep saving and keep waiting. Under the Crisafulli LNP government, we are cutting the tax, preparing the land and training the tradies because the young Queenslander building somebody else's home deserves a fair chance to own one.

Turning to the amendments circulated, competitive neutrality helps ensure government businesses and private sector firms compete on a level playing field, delivering better outcomes for Queenslanders and better value for taxpayers. Strong competitive neutrality arrangements support investment, innovation and productivity by giving businesses confidence that markets are operating fairly. The amendments will enhance the management of Queensland's competitive neutrality regime and support Queensland's commitments under the 2024 Intergovernmental Agreement on National Competition Policy, which was signed by the Treasurer on behalf of Queensland. The amendments proposed to the Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997 and other acts will strengthen the competitive neutrality regime by improving its coverage, transparency and effectiveness while also updating references to align with the 2024 intergovernmental agreement. Under the QCA Act, the minister is the final decision maker on competitive neutrality complaints and this will not change. On the completion of a competitive neutrality investigation, the Queensland Competition Authority will make a recommendation to the minister, and the minister must then, as soon as practicable, make a response to the QCA. There are no prescribed criteria for the minister's response. In addition to the QCA's recommendation, the minister may take other relevant matters into account, including public interest considerations. This supports a well-rounded decision that reflects all relevant circumstances.

To support Queensland's commitments under the 2024 intergovernmental agreement, the government undertook a comprehensive examination of Queensland's competitive neutrality regime led by Queensland Treasury. This included requirements for competitive neutrality regimes under the 2024 intergovernmental agreement, consideration of recent and current practice under the existing regime, interstate approaches and consultation with government entities, the QCA, Business Chamber Queensland and the Local Government Association of Queensland. The amendments before the House have therefore been informed by detailed analysis, practical experience and stakeholder feedback.

Firstly, the amendments will broaden the principle of competitive neutrality to allow complaints to be made about any net competitive advantage arising solely from government ownership, rather than competitive advantages limited to tax, debt and regulatory neutrality. Net competitive advantage also allows any competitive disadvantages to be considered. Secondly, the amendments will enable a

ministerial guideline to be issued to include guidance on determining net competitive advantage, in addition to setting out the process for dealing with competitive neutrality complaints under the current provision. This will facilitate transparent and public guidance for the QCA, government businesses and private competitors. This will also facilitate the replacement of the existing ministerial guideline, which dates from July 1996—over 30 years ago. Thirdly, an anomaly whereby subsidiaries of GOCs are not automatically covered by the competitive neutrality regime while their parent GOCs are will be removed. Instead of each GOC subsidiary having to be individually decided to be a significant business activity, GOC subsidiaries will automatically be included in the competitive neutrality regime. Queenslanders expect their GOCs to compete fairly where there are competitive markets and not be able to use corporate structuring to avoid their obligations. As the GOC minister, I expect the GOCs to focus on delivering the best services and value for Queenslanders regardless of whether it is the parent GOC or a GOC subsidiary.

I take this opportunity to address the comments made earlier by the member for Bancroft regarding bringing GOC subsidiaries automatically within the competitive neutrality regime. The proposed amendment to automatically define GOC subsidiaries as significant business activities does not change the structure or ownership of the GOC subsidiary as publicly owned. As I have indicated and as the explanatory notes for the amendments further outline, the GOCs were consulted by Queensland Treasury during its review of the competitive neutrality regime and the GOCs were consulted on the draft amendments regarding coverage of GOC subsidiaries. Not all of the GOCs and their subsidiaries have business activities in competitive markets. Many activities are, by their nature, monopolies. However, if a GOC subsidiary does operate in a competitive market, surely it is uncontroversial that it should not get a head start over any private sector competitor in that market just because it is a subsidiary and not the parent GOC.

The QCA did consider a complaint relating to a GOC's subsidiaries. As part of its report of 20 June 2024 to the then minister, the member for Woodridge, which is on the QCA's website, the QCA noted that there was uncertainty over the application of the competitive neutrality complaints regime to GOCs and their subsidiaries, including whether consideration should be given to the designation of all GOC subsidiaries as 'significant business activities' as one option to resolve any such uncertainty. The proposed amendment simply means that all parts of a GOC, regardless of how it is structured, should compete on a level playing field where there is a competitive market and that a parent GOC cannot avoid fair competition by structuring competitive business activities into its subsidiaries. I commend the bill and the amendments to be considered to the House.



Ms BOLTON (Noosa—Ind) (3.31 pm): While this bill is largely technical in nature, behind every amendment are Queenslanders—in this case, first home buyers navigating a complicated pathway to home ownership. The objective of ensuring Queensland's taxation and home owner grant legislation continues to operate as intended is a positive and the bill updates provisions that have become outdated over time, which is important in ensuring legislation remains fit for purpose. It is essential that first home buyers using Queensland's Boost to Buy scheme or the Commonwealth's Help to Buy scheme are not disadvantaged by Queensland taxes, duties and grants. As we are all aware, the dream of home ownership has become a nightmare for young Queenslanders, essential workers and families. Those who have secured a home face the increasing hardships of servicing a mortgage while those who do not have the bank of mum and dad face the impossible task of saving for deposits that continue to grow, despite working hard and earning above-average incomes.

In my electorate, for years entry-level houses were snapped up by investors for short-term accommodation purposes or by those seeking to demolish them to make way for bigger and better houses. This led to a chronic shortage of affordable accommodation to either purchase or rent. It has seen a loss of our essential service workers and long-term much loved volunteers who have had to relocate, creating hardships for our businesses and not-for-profit organisations and clubs. This domino effect has been felt across Queensland and Australia, ripping apart the social fabric, connections and networks essential for wellbeing. Any sensible reform that lessens the burden is welcomed. However, let us be blunt: these types of amendments only assist first home buyers if there is something available in their price range. With a maximum purchase price of $750,000 applicable, I ask: where can you buy a house for that? However, I will move on and go to some positives.

The clarification around the first home vacant land concession to include land with certain existing structures reflects the reality of many properties across Queensland where caravans, tiny homes, sheds or dongas have been constructed legally, and sometimes illegally, as a means to get a roof over one's head. First home owners should not be penalised for purchasing property with those types of structures. Another practical amendment ensures that homes previously sold under particular builder financing

arrangements continue to qualify as new homes for the purposes of the first home owner grant. This certainty for purchasers reflects what I believe was always the policy intent. Likewise, extending the vehicle registration duty exemption to current members of the Australian Defence Force is a sensible and equitable amendment that acknowledges their service, which I welcome.

Whilst the bill's technical improvements are welcomed, they do not address the realities, as I have raised many times in this chamber. It is a fact that genuine housing affordability remains the greatest issue across Queensland, including in my own community, for our service workers. They are our nurses, teachers, hospitality workers, police officers and carers. As I said earlier, many have already moved away to regions that have housing within their budgets, leaving our communities without those essential workers. Others sleep in their cars, with nowhere safe to go, and then they go to work each day. Our safe car park at the Salvos has been full since opening. It is full of women aged over 55 who work in the care industries. As we have requested for five years now, there is a former campground that would be suitable for up to 25 demountables, tiny homes or caravans, but we have had to listen to nonsensical excuses as to why it cannot be used as a safe temporary solution. How does that in any way pass the pub test?

While I acknowledge that $3.4 million has been committed in 2026-27 to deliver housing and homelessness services across the Noosa electorate, the fact remains that selling state land to developers without a genuine affordable housing component will not deliver homes to workers and neither will continuing to tout 'building more and quicker', as people cannot afford million dollar homes to buy or rent. As a society, we are supposed to look after our vulnerable, our elders, our women and our children. The number of those people who are at risk of or are currently experiencing homelessness is a disgraceful reflection on governments of all levels. The lack of secure affordable accommodation is a significant contributor to failing physical and mental health, domestic violence and addiction, yet we continue to use the same responses that, over decades, allowed this housing crisis to develop in the first place.

The lack of substantial action has led to local governments dedicating areas of public land for our homeless, with government responding that we have enough capacity for crisis and temporary housing. Evidently not, if the Wyllie Park situation in Petrie is anything to go by. Sadly—and I have said it before—the words 'housing affordability' have been used inappropriately for so long that the phrase has lost its meaning. Please, can government explain how homes under $700,000 will be available in places where workers are needed? What options will be used to replace the emergency accommodation funding next year? Temporary options, such as relocatable parks, are better than sleeping in a car or a tent.

While we are at it, we need a review of the social housing income threshold, because I talk to many organisations and they tell me that this is a serious issue. You cannot fix something by avoiding it. Shared equity programs, initiatives, barrier removal and building cost reduction through BPIC may assist our housing efforts. However, on their own or combined, they are not the full answer. The challenge remains: how do we achieve genuine—and I say it again, genuine—affordable options while ensuring our communities remain healthy and uncongested for residents to live, work, volunteer and play? This requires collaboration and bipartisan agreements that go beyond election cycles across all levels of government, industry and our communities as no-one can do this alone. The best outcomes are achieved when those affected have genuine opportunities to contribute their knowledge and lived experience and we hear what is constraining what they seek. What is needed are some frank and fearless conversations but, as yet, I do not see that occurring.

Mrs YOUNG (Redlands—LNP) (3.38 pm): For generations of Queenslanders, owning your own home has represented something incredibly important: security, independence and opportunity; a place to put down roots, raise a family and build a future. When Justin and I purchased our first home in Victoria Point, we were young and starting out. Like so many first home buyers, every dollar mattered. We accessed the first home owner grant and that assistance helped us to take one of the biggest steps of our lives. It was not just about buying a house; it was about establishing our future in the community we loved, where we would go on to raise our four children. I want that same opportunity for the next generation of Redlanders.

I was reminded exactly of why when I met a young Redlander named William. William is just 19 years old and has already purchased his first home, not somewhere hours away from his family but in Redlands where he grew up. William told me that our government's support for first home buyers helped him make that purchase, and I could not have been happier for him because, at just 19, William has achieved something many young Queenslanders are working incredibly hard towards. He has a place to call his own and the opportunity to build his future in our community that helped raise him.

I want more young Queenslanders to have that opportunity, but we know the challenges facing first home buyers today are significant. Saving a deposit while paying rent, managing everyday living costs and trying to find a home within reach can make that first step feel further away than ever. That is why the Crisafulli government is focused on removing barriers to home ownership, reducing up-front costs and supporting the construction of more homes. That is what the Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 is all about. It ensures our laws work alongside the programs designed to help Queenslanders achieve home ownership, rather than creating additional obstacles.

Take our government's Boost to Buy scheme. The government has doubled its investment to $330 million, supporting up to 2,000 first home buyers with half the places reserved for regional Queensland. For eligible Queenslanders who can afford mortgage repayments but are still struggling to save a deposit, Boost to Buy offers a pathway into the market with as little as two per cent deposit. The government can contribute up to 30 per cent towards a new home or 25 per cent towards an existing home.

But there is an important principle here. If government creates a program to help somebody buy their first home, our taxation system should not unintentionally penalise them for using it. This bill ensures eligible participants in Boost to Buy and the Commonwealth's Help to Buy scheme are not disadvantaged under Queensland's transfer duty, grant and land tax laws simply because they have accessed shared equity assistance. It also ensures participants are not charged additional transfer duty when buying back the government's equity under these arrangements. The outcome is straightforward: more certainty, fewer unnecessary barriers and a clearer pathway towards owning their home outright.

This bill is a practical example of common sense. Imagine a young couple in the Redlands who find a block of land where they want to build their first home. There might be an old shed on that block but no house. Under the existing rules, that shed could be enough to prevent them from accessing the first home vacant land concession. This bill changes that. Certain qualifying, non-habitable structures will no longer automatically disqualify a first home buyer from accessing the concession, provided they meet the requirements to build and occupy their new home. It is a relatively small legislative change, but for someone trying to get into the property market it could make a meaningful financial difference. Importantly, it supports another objective: getting more new homes built across Queensland.

The bill also removes a technical inconsistency affecting newly constructed homes sold through certain builders' arrangements. A first home buyer purchasing a genuinely new, never occupied home should not miss out on eligible grants or concessions simply because of how the land was transferred between a developer and a builder. This bill ensures qualifying homes can receive the treatment intended for new homes. Again the outcome is simple: making the pathway into home ownership easier, not harder.

The bill also protects the integrity of the first home owner grant while retaining flexibility for genuine circumstances outside an applicant's control. It extends vehicle registration duty exemptions to eligible current Defence Force members alongside eligible former members. That is particularly relevant in the Redlands where we have a proud defence and veteran community. It makes a number of other improvements to Queensland's revenue laws, providing greater clarity, consistency and certainty for taxpayers.

While these amendments are important, they form part of a much bigger picture. We cannot address Queensland's housing challenges through assistance alone. We need more homes. We need land supply, infrastructure and planning that supports growing communities. We need to ensure the next generation has a genuine opportunity to enter the housing market. That means addressing both sides of the equation—increasing housing supply while helping Queenslanders overcome the financial barriers to buying.

When Justin and I purchased our first home in Victoria Point, the first home owner grant made a real difference, and meeting William reminded me that the aspiration remains the same for the next generation: a place to call home, a place to build a future. As the member for Redlands, I want young people who grow up in our community to have the opportunity to stay there, buy their first home and raise a family just as Justin and I have done, because behind every grant, concession and housing initiative is a Queenslander working towards something that means so much more than bricks and mortar. It is about security of having somewhere to call your own. William's story is one I want to see repeated across the Redlands and right across Queensland—more young people getting their foot in the door, more families putting down roots and more Queenslanders experiencing the pride that comes with owning their own home.

Dr O'SHEA (South Brisbane—ALP) (3.45 pm): I rise to speak on the debate of the Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. I would like to thank the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee for their work in considering this bill and the Parliamentary Service staff for their assistance to the committee.

The bill proposes amendments to the First Home Owner Grant and Other Home Owner Grants Act 2000, the Land Tax Act 2010, the Duties Act 2001, the Payroll Tax Act 1971 and the Taxation Administration Act 2001. This bill aims to ensure people using the Queensland Boost to Buy and Commonwealth Help to Buy shared equity programs can also access other first home buyer concessions. It also clarifies rules around eligibility for first home owner grants, and expands the criteria for first home transfer duty concessions when purchasing vacant land. The provisions in this bill are important, as it has never been harder to buy a home. Home prices have increased across Australia by 50 per cent since 2020, and housing affordability in Queensland is now at an all-time low.

In the 2021 census, almost two-thirds of my South Brisbane electorate were renting, which is more than twice the national average. With weekly house rents at $700, units at $660 and rental vacancy rates at one per cent, many residents are desperate to move out of the rental market and into the security of their own home. Yet, breaking into the property market presents major challenges for our young people. The median age of a first home buyer in Australia has risen from 25 years in the 1970s to 36 years. It now takes Queenslanders on an average income almost seven years to save a 20 per cent deposit for a median priced home, the longest timeframe ever recorded for this state.

The housing insecurity our young people are experiencing also has significant effects on our wider society. I have met so many young couples who have decided to delay starting their family due to a lack of stable housing. Housing affordability is one of the major contributors to our falling fertility rate, with the total fertility rate dropping from 3.5 births per woman in the early 1960s to the current rate of 1.48, the lowest ever recorded. This fall in new births will have long-lasting repercussions for our workforce and society as our population continues to age, so we have to do all that we can to provide affordable homes for our young people to rent or buy.

Housing affordability in my electorate is at a record low with so many residents who have lived in South Brisbane for years either being forced into homelessness or having to leave their community due to rising rents. Increasing the supply of affordable homes is the key driver to making homes more affordable, both for first home buyers and for renters. When a renter moves into their own home, that rental property is freed up, helping to increase the vacancy rate and put downward pressure on rents.

However, the housing affordability crisis has been exacerbated by this government's decision to remove affordable housing provisions from new developments across our inner-city electorates, resulting in the loss of thousands of affordable homes in Woolloongabba and South Brisbane. The Deputy Premier has announced that more than 4,000 new homes will be built at the Visy site in South Brisbane, but he has failed to mention any provision for affordable homes on this huge seven hectares of state land. This new development could have included homes for our frontline workers—our teachers, our nurses and our police—who are currently being forced out of the community they serve due to rising rents and home prices. This is a devastating blow for our community, and I ask the Deputy Premier to ensure affordable homes are included in the development of the Visy site.

I support this bill as I welcome any measure that will get people out of the current rental market and into their own home. With first home buyers struggling to enter the property market, the federal and state shared equity schemes help people buy their first home sooner. The schemes achieve this through requiring only a two per cent deposit instead of a 20 per cent deposit for a home as well as reducing monthly mortgage repayments for the buyer by the government having equity in the home. Mortgage repayments are reduced as the buyer only makes repayments on the portion of the home they own.

The Commonwealth's Help to Buy program provides an equity contribution of up to 30 per cent for an existing home and 40 per cent for a new home. Under Boost to Buy, the Queensland government provides up to 25 per cent of the purchase price of an existing home and 30 per cent of a new home. The owner repays the government's share when the property is sold.

Amendments in this bill aim to ensure people using these federal and state shared equity programs are also able to access other first home buyer grants and concessions they may be eligible for, including transfer duty concessions, the land tax home exemption and the first home owner grant, which Labor doubled from $15,000 to $30,000 in 2023 when they were in government. These amendments are important as they give first home buyers certainty about this assistance as they save for a deposit for a home.

This bill also proposes amendments to allow a buyer access to the first home vacant land transfer duty concession if a piece of land has non-habitable structures such as sheds on it and clarifies that homes purchased under a builder's terms arrangement can still be treated as new homes for first home buyer grants and concessions. A builder's terms arrangement is where a builder builds a home on a developer's land and then buys the land and home from the developer. As the home has technically been sold once, it would not automatically qualify as a new home for first home buyer grants and concessions. This bill clarifies that homes bought under this arrangement meet the criteria for new houses.

Amendments in the bill also address the first home owner grant residence requirement. A person receiving this grant is generally required to live in the home as their principal place of residence for at least six continuous months. The Commissioner of State Revenue has discretion to provide a variation to this rule where there are good reasons for noncompliance with the residence requirement. These amendments clarify that good reasons not to comply must be due to circumstances outside the applicant's control.

This bill is important in that it supports first home buyers getting into their first home sooner. However, without building affordable housing, young people will continue to be locked out of the property market, particularly in inner-city locations like South Brisbane, disrupting strong longstanding and established communities. The lack of safe, stable and affordable housing is of prime concern for my community, and that concern is growing. Only the other week I was speaking to a class of year 6 students at one of our local primary schools. While discussing the issues affecting our community, one student asked me if he would ever be able to afford a home when he grew up. I felt great sadness that a 12-year-old boy in my community is already worried about being able to own a home in the future.

Our young people deserve better than that. They need hope that housing affordability will improve. More importantly, they need to know that their government has a plan to deliver affordable housing. I again ask the government to invest in affordable housing, particularly in my community of South Brisbane. I commend the bill to the House.

Hon. ST O'CONNOR (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (3.55 pm): I rise to support the Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 and our commitment to moving Queensland from last to first on the home ownership ladder. I start by commending the Treasurer and Minister for Home Ownership for his efforts in this space.

Mr Boothman: He's a great Treasurer.

Mr O'CONNOR: I take that interjection; he is a great Treasurer. Thank you, member for Theodore. For Queenslanders who are working hard and saving for their first home, their governments should be doing everything they can to make that goal easier to achieve. For a decade, the former Labor government let that dream slip further away. They left Queensland languishing at the bottom of the national home ownership ladder, with declining housing approvals, the least productive construction sites in the country and a generation of Queenslanders wondering whether they would ever have the opportunity to achieve their aspiration and own their own home.

Labor waited until its last budget to show any interest at all in supporting first home buyers. In contrast, within our first 10 sitting days our Crisafulli government abolished stamp duty for eligible first home buyers buying or building a new home. That is 10 budgets of inaction from Labor versus 10 sitting days of action from the Crisafulli government. That tells Queenslanders all they need to know about which party in this place made home ownership a central priority of the government of our state.

Before turning to the detail of the bill before us, I want to address some of the comments made by the shadow minister, the member for Gaven, in her contribution. She is my predecessor as housing minister, but her record means that she has absolutely no right to lecture anyone about the delivery of housing in this state. On rents, the member for Gaven in particular has a selective memory because, on her watch, between June 2023 and June 2024 median rents increased in Queensland by $70 a week. That is a 14 per cent annual increase—the largest increase in rents on record. For households in our state, that meant they had to put over $3½ thousand extra towards their rent each year.

We heard a lot of talk as well from the member for Gaven and many of those opposite about affordable housing. What did they actually deliver in the 10 years they were in government in this state? How many affordable homes were delivered by the Labor Party?

Mrs Kirkland: Was that a big zero?

Mr O'CONNOR: It was 100 actually, which has two zeros in it, member for Rockhampton. They delivered 100 in their final term, which is an average of 25 a year. They delivered 100 affordable homes, despite the rhetoric they have been bringing into this debate. They had record rent increases and an average of 25 affordable homes delivered each year in their final term. The member for Gaven has plenty of criticism for our government but, remarkably, few explanations for her own record.

Since the Crisafulli government was elected we have delivered 1,041 affordable homes, and work is underway on another 2,015 affordable homes. We have already delivered 10 times the number of affordable homes that the former Labor government delivered in their entire final term, and we have thousands more coming. These are not hypothetical houses. They did not just exist in the member for Gaven's press releases—like the homes that we hear the Labor Party claim we have apparently cut. These are real homes. These are homes that are contracted for delivery or homes that are under construction or homes that have been built.

On rental bonds, the member for Gaven complained that she could not question the Minister for Home Ownership about the RTA during estimates. She has no idea what the different portfolio responsibilities are, even though she is a former housing minister. She failed to ask me as the housing minister or the CEO of the RTA—we were both there to answer questions. She did not ask us a single question about that issue. The opportunity was there. The member chose not to take it. She decided to play politics instead.

If the member did want to discuss the treatment of renters' bonds, she should explain why the Labor Party made the decision to move those funds from the RTA to Treasury. Labor raided Queensland renters' bonds, and we have had to fix that mess and properly fund the RTA with a Treasury top-up to keep this important organisation running and serving Queensland renters right across our state. That is a record that the Labor Party cannot erase by simply selectively quoting from an annual report.

On social housing—these are numbers that I love to repeat because the contrast could not be clearer—the member for Gaven, the member for Algester and the member for Springwood combined sold nearly 2,000 social homes during their decade of decline. They added, on average, 509 social homes a year across our state. In contrast, in the last financial year, the Crisafulli government delivered 2,244 new social and affordable homes across Queensland. They are providing our most vulnerable Queenslanders in particular somewhere to live. That deserves to be acknowledged, and they deserve to be acknowledged because we are here to serve them. Right now we have 7,018 social and affordable homes under contract or construction across Queensland.

The member for Gaven is entitled to scrutinise our performance, but she should present the full picture instead of trying to scare vulnerable Queenslanders. She should take full responsibility for her record as housing minister and for the record of the Labor government more generally.

We have a strong record of unlocking housing supply and boosting home ownership. We have extended the $30,000 first home owner grant and doubled our Boost to Buy shared equity scheme to $330 million, supporting up to 2,000 first home buyers, with half of those places reserved for regional Queenslanders. Boost to Buy helps those Queenslanders who can service a mortgage but who cannot overcome the hurdle to put together their deposit, allowing eligible buyers to purchase with as little as a two per cent deposit.

Helping people buy must go hand in hand with building more homes. Getting together your deposit means not much if there are no homes on the market available for you to purchase. That is why supply, supply, supply is our No. 1 priority. It is so much our No. 1 priority that we repeat it three times! It is a very important priority for us. It is why we are unlocking over 51,000 new homes in three priority development areas alone which will include at least 20,000 homes specifically reserved for first home buyers. That is a $2.4 billion investment in catalyst infrastructure—roads, water, wastewater projects—to fast-track home ownership opportunities in Southern Thornlands, Waraba and Mount Peter south of Cairns, as well as other new growth areas across our state.

That fund is on top of our Residential Activation Fund, which has already unlocked over 166,000 homes by supporting similar infrastructure to bring developments to life and sites to market. This includes 18,900 homes on the Gold Coast, with a $146 million investment across multiple projects including in my own community at Parkwood. This is about turning land with housing potential into communities where Queenslanders can actually live.

Through A Place to Call Home, our 20-year housing plan—and I want to acknowledge the member for Everton for laying the foundations of our housing plan prior to the last election—we have committed to delivering a million new homes by 2044, unlocking sites and making it easier to build. Our approach is working. For the fourth quarter in a row we have more homes under construction in Queensland than at any point since data started being recorded. There are 52,500 homes under construction right now.

There is a lot more to do but we are moving in the right direction. This bill supports that work. It makes it clear that eligible participants in Boost to Buy and the Commonwealth's Help to Buy scheme can access the same transfer duty concessions, first home owner grant and land tax home exemptions as other eligible buyers. It prevents additional transfer duty being imposed when participants buy back the government's equity. Someone taking the next step towards owning their home outright should not be penalised simply because they needed help with that initial deposit.

The bill also addresses technicalities that can unfairly exclude first home buyers from assistance. It expands the vacant land concessions to include land with certain minor, non-habitable structures—an old shed or storage cage—so they do not stand between someone being an eligible buyer and receiving their concession. It clarifies that eligible newly constructed homes sold through certain builders' terms arrangements can qualify for the grant and duty relief.

These changes are all about ensuring assistance turns on what someone is actually purchasing rather than the technical arrangements between a developer and a builder. These are practical changes that remove barriers, support new housing and ultimately help more Queenslanders have a place to call home. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms BUSH (Cooper—ALP) (4.05 pm): It is always such a pleasure to be lectured to about housing by the housing minister, who literally scrapped an affordable housing project in his own electorate. The housing minister has more front than Myers to be able to stand up and lecture us about housing while scrapping affordable housing in his own electorate.

For generations, home ownership has been part of the Australian promise: the idea that, if you worked hard enough, saved and showed a bit of austerity, you would have the reasonable opportunity to own your own home—not a mansion, not an investment portfolio but just somewhere safe and secure to call your own. For an increasing number of Queenslanders that promise is slipping further out of reach. People are working hard. They are in really good jobs earning great income but are still finding that the deposit they need to buy their home is growing faster than their capacity to save for it. Young people cannot get into the market without the bank of mum and dad. Families are renting for longer than they want. Essential workers are priced out of the communities they serve in. Women are telling me that they are having to remain in toxic relationships because they are afraid they will not get back into the housing market post separation.

It is in this context that we consider the Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Labor will support the bill. The bill makes a series of technical amendments to facilitate the operation of the Commonwealth's Help to Buy scheme and Queensland's Boost to Buy scheme. Both schemes are based on shared equity, which is a concept that some members of the government did not support in opposition because it was a Labor initiative and 'hashtag' politics. Now they have found themselves in government and suddenly they have acquiesced and realised that they need to look at these types of initiatives. We welcome that change of heart from the LNP.

For someone who has been diligently saving but cannot keep pace with rising property prices, shared equity can make that difference between remaining in the rental market and getting into their first own home. There is an important distinction between helping someone purchase an expensive home and actually making housing more affordable. Shared equity helps people get into the housing market but it does not on its own make housing more affordable.

The Commonwealth's Help to Buy scheme will make 2,000 places available in Queensland each year. The Crisafulli government's Boost to Buy scheme, by comparison, provides 2,000 places in total over three years. That is not enough to keep pace with the demand here in Queensland. The government has been quick to describe the scheme as nation leading, but Queenslanders need more than impressive adjectives. They need a housing policy that matches the scale of the problem. That means looking beyond assistance for individual purchasers to the availability of affordable homes in the first place. This is where the government's approach becomes really difficult to reconcile. At the same time that they are promoting home ownership assistance, the Crisafulli government have been removing affordable housing requirements for major developments and axing housing projects. On the Gold Coast, 550 affordable homes were removed from the proposed development at Merrimac and Robina.

Mr Vorster: Imaginary homes that would never have been built.

Ms BUSH: These were homes that were specifically intended to support frontline and essential workers in this area.

Mr Vorster: You cannot live in a media release.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr J Kelly): Order, member for Burleigh!

Ms BUSH: I cannot believe that the member for Burleigh—I believe it would be him interjecting, of course. He is always interjecting on women on this side of the House.

Mr Vorster interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Burleigh is warned.

Ms BUSH: I cannot believe he is dismissing these types of projects. It is a shame to hear him dismissing housing projects when housing is so vitally important. I am sure his constituents will not be impressed by that. These were homes that were specifically intended to support frontline and essential workers in this area.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Resume your seat, member for Cooper. What is your point of order, member for Burleigh?

Mr VORSTER: I take personal offence at the member's contribution and I ask that she withdraw her pointed comments concerning my—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Resume your seat, thank you. I will just take some advice. Member, I was dealing with other interjections. I am not sure whether you named the member directly, but if you did, and to assist the orderly running of the House, I ask you to withdraw.

Ms BUSH: I withdraw. These were homes specifically intended to support frontline and essential workers in the area. Another 36 affordable homes were removed from a development at Lutwyche. That is 586 affordable homes that have been lost in just two developments. Remarkably, these changes were made following direct intervention by the Deputy Premier. We are not talking about affordable housing projects that failed to attract interest from developers. We are talking about developers who had proposed affordable homes, only for the government to directly intervene and request their removal.

The government argues that removing affordable housing requirements will accelerate housing supply. That is fundamentally not true. Supply and affordability are not interchangeable. You can progress both priorities. We know that the cuts they are making to affordable housing are driven through ideology and not evidence. Building more homes is essential. Labor supports increasing housing supply, but Labor also believes we cannot wait for supply to sort out the market. There are things the government can do such as bake in affordable housing targets, which will mean frontline workers and essential workers, like those in hospitality and retail, can afford to live in electorates like mine rather than live an hour away and have to travel in to work each day.

It makes little sense to celebrate helping 2,000 Queenslanders into home ownership while simultaneously removing hundreds of affordable homes from the development pipeline. It is particularly disappointing when Queensland is experiencing such significant housing pressures. In electorates like mine, there are suburbs where the median house price is now over $2 million. That is extraordinary and certainly out of reach for essential workers and frontline workers.

Speaking of developments and approvals, the LNP council just approved an apartment block in Milton that is going to have close to 400 apartments and 500 bike bays but no car parks, and of course in that area you cannot park for free on the roads. I do not know who they think is going to move into that area. I predict it will not be people who are looking at home ownership; it will be investors who then rent out to students. That is also important, but where do frontline and essential workers live and what homes are there to buy in areas like Milton when these types of developments are going ahead?

What is this government's ambition for housing affordability in Queensland? They say they want to be nation leading. Currently we are the second-worst state in the nation for home ownership. Is it simply to help a small number of purchasers compete in an expensive market, or is it to create a housing system where secure and affordable homes are genuinely within reach? Labor believes that home ownership should be achievable for any Queenslander who has that aspiration. We believe that renters deserve security and that it makes sense for essential workers to be able to live in the communities they serve.

Shared equity has a role to play in achieving those objectives, but it cannot do it alone. Labor will support this bill. Of course we will not stand in the way of any housing, but we need to address the structural barriers that are keeping Queenslanders out of the market. The measure of a successful housing policy is not how many announcements the government can make but how many Queenslanders can actually afford a place to call home.

Mr LEE (Hervey Bay—LNP) (4.13 pm): I rise to contribute to the Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. The great English jurist and Chief Justice Sir Edward Coke once observed that a man's home is his safest refuge. Although spoken centuries ago, that sentiment is just as relevant today. Home ownership has long been one of the defining aspirations of Australian life. It offers security, stability and independence. It provides families with a foundation to build their future, strengthens communities and gives people confidence that they have a place to call home.

Unfortunately, for many Queenslanders, particularly young people and first home buyers, that dream has become increasingly difficult to achieve. The reality is that Queensland's housing affordability crisis did not emerge overnight. It is the product of years of scarce housing supply, declining housing approvals and a failure to plan adequately for the growth of our state. Queenslanders have paid the price through escalating rents, reduced affordability and growing barriers to entering the housing market. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Queensland has one of the lowest home ownership rates in Australia, with approximately 63.5 per cent of households owning their own home outright or with a mortgage. At Hervey Bay that figures sits at around 66 per cent. While slightly higher than the state average, many young families, essential workers and first home buyers in our community continue to find it challenging to break into the housing market.

The previous Miles-Palaszczuk Labor government repetitively talked about housing, yet Queenslanders saw little improvement in affordability. Labor's housing policy was little more than a house of cards manufactured on shifting sands: vague, uncertain and unsupported by the long-term planning needed to meet demand. A Labor source has rightly said that being a social media influencer is no substitute for doing the hard policy work that is required. When Queenslanders needed more homes, Labor delivered more reviews. When families needed practical solutions, Labor delivered more round tables. Whilst Labor dithered, housing affordability deteriorated and home ownership moved further out of reach of so many Queenslanders.

Addressing these challenges requires more than forums. It requires constructive action to increase supply, remove barriers and create genuine pathways into home ownership. The Crisafulli government is focused on delivering outcomes rather than slogans. The Australian Productivity Commission has consistently identified supply-side constraints, planning restrictions and declining productivity within the construction sector as major contributors to housing affordability challenges. The Crisafulli government is serious about improving housing affordability and is focused on measures that increase housing supply through initiatives like the Residential Activation Fund and the Land Activation Program.

From the moment we came to office we made housing affordability a priority. Within our first 10 sitting days we abolished transfer duty for eligible first home buyers, removing a significant up-front cost and making it easier for Queenslanders to enter the property market. This bill builds on that commitment and recognises that improving home ownership requires a coordinated approach. The bill clarifies how revenue and grant concessions apply to participants in both the Queensland Boost to Buy and the Commonwealth Help to Buy shared equity programs. It expands eligibility for first home vacant land concession and restores the intended operation of first home buyer grant provisions. These reforms remove unnecessary barriers and ensure that government assistance reaches the people it is designed to help.

One of the most significant aspects of this bill is its support for the Boost to Buy program. Boost to Buy represents one of the most substantial housing affordability initiatives introduced by the Queensland government. Under this program, eligible first home buyers can enter the housing market with as little as a two per cent deposit. Through a shared equity arrangement, the Queensland government contributes up to 25 per cent of the purchase price of an existing home and up to 30 per cent of a newly constructed home. For communities like Hervey Bay, this initiative has the potential to make a real difference. For many aspiring home owners, the greatest obstacle is not managing mortgage repayments; it is saving enough money for a deposit whilst also paying rising rental costs. Boost to Buy directly addresses that challenge by lowering the up-front financial hurdle that prevents many people from purchasing a home.

For Hervey Bay residents such as a young couple, a single parent, a nurse, a teacher or a tradie, this could mean achieving home ownership years sooner than would otherwise be possible. Notably, both rounds of the Boost to Buy program reserve 50 per cent of available places for regional Queenslanders. Regional Queenslanders deserve the same opportunities as those available in South-East Queensland. The bill also ensures participants in both the Boost to Buy and the Help to Buy programs are not disadvantaged when accessing concessions and grants. The amendments make it clear that government equity interests are disregarded for relevant duty, grant and land tax purposes. This is a sensible reform that ensures participants receive the same support and incentives available to other eligible homebuyers.

The bill further strengthens assistance for first home buyers through changes to the first home vacant land concession. Currently, the concession generally applies only where no building exists on land at the time it is acquired. This bill expands the definition of vacant land to include certain non-habitable structures such as sheds and other minor non-residential improvements. This amendment will have vast practical benefits, particularly in regional communities where vacant blocks often contain small structures that should not affect their suitability for residential development. Eligible first home buyers should not miss out on assistance simply because there happens to be a shed on the property they wish to purchase.

The bill also improves the operation of the first home owner grant scheme. The amendments ensure homes sold through builder arrangements can continue to qualify as new homes for grant and concession purposes. The bill also restores the original intent of residence requirement provisions by clarifying the meaning of 'good reasons' for exemptions. These amendments strike an appropriate balance. They preserve the integrity of the scheme while ensuring flexibility remains available when circumstances beyond a person's control prevent compliance with the usual requirements.

The bill also includes amendments to support current and former Defence Force personnel through vehicle registration duty exemptions, whilst also updating provisions affecting primary producers and concessional registration duty for special vehicles to align with broader vehicle registration reforms. The bill furthermore includes some minor amendments to update Queensland's competitive neutrality scheme.

Queensland's housing challenges stem from years of Labor neglect, inadequate planning and a failure to ensure housing supply kept pace with population growth. The consequences of that failure are evident in housing affordability pressures felt by families right across our great state. By contrast, the Crisafulli government is focused on action. We are implementing reforms that remove barriers and we are creating genuine pathways to home ownership.

For Hervey Bay residents striving to buy their first home, these reforms make a difference. For young families saving for a deposit, for single parents seeking security and for essential workers wanting to put roots down in our community, this amendment bill helps to turn aspiration into reality. I commend the bill to the House.



Ms PEASE (Lytton—ALP) (4.22 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. The opposition will support this legislation because we believe every Queenslander deserves the opportunity to own their own home. However, let me be clear: while this bill makes some sensible changes, it is a drop in the ocean compared to the housing affordability crisis that Queenslanders are facing and the affordable housing projects that the LNP have scrapped.

Queenslanders need more than just legislative tinkering; they need homes they can actually afford. This bill makes a number of changes to Queensland's revenue and grants legislation, particularly to support shared equity home ownership schemes. It amends the Duties Act, the First Home Owner Grant and Other Home Owner Grants Act and the Land Tax Act to ensure participants in shared equity schemes are not disadvantaged. Notably, these changes support both the Commonwealth Labor government's Help to Buy scheme and the Queensland government's Boost to Buy scheme. Under the Commonwealth's Help to Buy scheme, eligible purchasers can receive an equity contribution of up to 30 per cent for an existing home or 40 per cent for a new home. The Queensland scheme provides up to 25 per cent for an existing home and 30 per cent for a new home. However, there is a very big difference. The Albanese Labor government's scheme provides 2,000 places for Queenslanders every year, while the LNP's scheme promises just 2,000 places over three years. The LNP can call this scheme nation-leading as often as they like, but the numbers tell a very different story.

This bill ensures participants can access eligible stamp duty concessions, first home owner grants and land tax exemptions without being penalised because the government holds an equity interest. It also removes transfer duty on subsequent purchases of the government's equity share. These are reasonable amendments and the opposition supports them.

The bill also expands the definition of vacant land for first home buyer concessions to include properties with certain non-habitable structures such as sheds. It clarifies that homes constructed under builders' terms arrangements remain eligible as new homes for grant and duty purposes, giving legislative effect to an administrative arrangement introduced under Labor in 2020. It also deals with the circumstances in which first home buyers can be exempted from residency requirements where circumstances outside of their control prevent compliance.

This bill also extends vehicle registration duty exemptions from eligible former Defence Force personnel to eligible serving defence personnel. We welcome this change. Supporting our veterans who have served our country is really important, because the LNP government refused to continue Labor's registration discounts for all Queenslanders, including veterans.

The real test of any government is not how many technical amendments it passes to the home ownership bill; it is whether Queenslanders can afford a roof over their heads. On that test, this government has some serious questions to answer. We know that the LNP has scrapped 550 affordable homes at Merrimac and Robina on the Gold Coast. These homes were intended to support frontline and essential workers. It has also scrapped 36 affordable homes at Lutwyche. At a time when nurses, teachers, police officers, hospitality workers and young families are struggling to find affordable housing, this government is cancelling projects that would have helped.

You cannot claim to be solving a housing crisis while stopping affordable houses from being built. I have heard from small businesses across Queensland that are crying out for staff but, because of the cost of rent, staff cannot afford to live close to where they work. Labor's record is different. We invested in social and affordable housing, expanded first home buyer assistance, increased the first home owner grant to $30,000 and introduced initiatives to help Queenslanders enter the property market. We understood that a housing policy must address the entire housing continuum, from homelessness and social housing through to affordable rentals and home ownership.

I am proud that after Labor's initial support the government has delivered some great housing in my electorate of Lytton. Recently, the housing minister made his first ever visit—and hopefully not his last—to Brisbane's bayside to inspect the new social housing development at Emsworth Street in Wynnum. Of course I was there to welcome him to the bayside, and I know the minister would not have it any other way. In fact, I was delighted to see him. It is not every day that someone from this government remembers that the bayside exists, unless they are wanting to slash something. He deserves a little pat on the back for his attendance.

The Emsworth Street development delivered 50 much needed social housing homes, providing security, stability and dignity for Queenslanders. This project was planned and fast-tracked under the former Labor government and, yes, it was funded through this government because this is what a good housing outcome is. I would welcome any return visits to see the delivery of more housing in my electorate, as there is plenty more work to be done.

The housing pressures facing baysiders are enormous. Look at Manly, where apartments along the foreshore are now being marketed for over $2 million. That is $2 million for an apartment. That is hardly the great Australian dream for young couples trying to buy their first home. Families who have lived on the bayside for generations are watching their children and grandchildren being priced out of the communities they grew up in, yet in this time of a housing crisis this government have directed EDQ to remove the requirement for developers to provide affordable housing in developments. That is something, I might add, that developers in my patch were always happy to support because they, too, want to encourage young people and their children to live in the place they grew up in.

While property prices rise, the pressure on infrastructure grows. What we need in the bayside is diversity of housing and the services and the infrastructure to go with it. Brisbane City Council's Wynnum precinct plan proposes substantial increases in density, including buildings of up to 15 storeys. We are talking about the prospect of thousands of additional residents over time. I support sensible development and more housing choices, but development must be accompanied by infrastructure and services. Where is the planning for additional public transport? Where are the upgrades to our roads, schools and health care, and what about water, sewerage, electricity and the other essential services that growing communities depend on? Where is the commitment to ensure Gundu Pa primary care clinic can meet the needs of a growing population? My bayside has been asking these questions repeatedly, and what have we heard from the state government? Crickets!

It sometimes feels as though the bayside is the forgotten corner of Brisbane. The LNP is happy to talk about housing targets, but where is the coordinated plan to ensure our community can grow and accommodate this growth? We cannot simply approve more apartments and hope infrastructure

catches up. That is not planning; that is passing the buck. While the LNP talks about home ownership, it must remember that not every Queenslander can afford a mortgage, even with government assistance. We need affordable rentals, social housing and genuine pathways into home ownership. We need a government prepared to build, invest and plan for the future.

Labor supports this bill because these amendments will help eligible Queenslanders access assistance and remove unnecessary barriers; however, supporting the legislation does not mean giving the government a free pass on housing. Queenslanders deserve more than announcements, more than slogans and more than ministerial photo opportunities. They deserve affordable homes, essential infrastructure and a government that understands the communities it serves. Labor delivered many social housing properties across Queensland. The LNP needs to start delivering, rather than cancelling, affordable housing elsewhere. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr HUTTON (Keppel—LNP) (4.32 pm): For over a decade Queensland went backwards on home ownership. Labor left Queensland at the bottom of the national home ownership ladder. Queenslanders would be forgiven for assuming that the Albanese Labor government had a Victorian Treasurer after all the damage that he has inflicted on the Queensland housing market, and Queenslanders are ropeable.

The Crisafulli LNP government has a very different ambition. We want more Queenslanders having a place to call home. We want more Queenslanders owning their homes and, as the member for Keppel, I want young people growing up in my community to believe that they can build their future in Central Queensland. That is why this government appointed Queensland's first Minister for Home Ownership, it is why we abolished stamp duty for eligible first home buyers purchasing or building a new home, it is why we extended the $30,000 first home owner grant and it is why we introduced Boost to Buy. By June, more than 3,500 Queenslanders had benefited from our stamp duty changes, saving more than $66 million.

Mrs Poole: How much?

Mr HUTTON: That is $66 million staying in the pockets of first home buyers rather than being collected by government. Boost to Buy has particular relevance to communities like mine in Keppel. There are people in my electorate with good jobs and steady incomes who can service a mortgage each and every day, but they are also paying rent while they are trying to save their deposit. They are paying for groceries, electricity, insurance, registration and fuel. Every fortnight they save a little bit more, but the deposit remains the barrier standing between them and home ownership. Boost to Buy tackles that barrier directly.

The government has doubled its commitment to $330 million, supporting up to 2,000 first home buyers. Importantly for people in the electorate of Keppel, half of those places are reserved for regional Queenslanders. That matters enormously to me. The great Australian dream belongs just as much to the apprentice in Emu Park, the nurse who works in Rockhampton, the first year teacher in Yeppoon or the young family renting in Zilzie as it should to someone in the south-east corner. These are Queenslanders doing all we ask of them. They are working, they are saving and they are contributing to our economy, and our government—the Crisafulli LNP government—is on their side.

When I think about this bill, I also think about the young people I meet across Keppel—young people who grew up in Central Queensland who went to one of our brilliant local schools in our community, who got their first job employed by a local small business owner and who now want the opportunity to build their future, surrounded by family and friends. For many of them, part of that future is a simple aspiration: to own their own home—a first home in Yeppoon, a block of land at Emu Park where they can build, a home in The Caves in Norman Gardens or Parkhurst—somewhere they can put down roots, raise a family and build a future.

Home ownership is about more than bricks and mortar; it is about our sense of personal security, our sense of personal independence and the opportunity it provides for our future. I make absolutely no apology for believing that government should support Queenslanders who work hard, save and aspire to own a home of their own. That is why I support the Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026.

This bill ensures we do not just help those Queenslanders through the front door with Boost to Buy only for them to trip up with unintended tax consequences on the other side. It ensures that someone who qualifies for Boost to Buy should not be disadvantaged by transfer duty, grants or land tax laws simply because the government helped them into the market. If they want to get ahead and purchase more of the government's equity, we want them owning more of their own home, not paying more tax for doing so. That is common sense.

There is another commonsense change in the bill that has particular relevance to regional communities like mine. Imagine a young couple in Keppel finds a block of land where they want to build their first home but there happens to be an old shed sitting on it. Under the existing rules, that can be enough for the property to not satisfy the definition of 'vacant land'. Try explaining that to the young couple who simply want to build their first home. This bill fixes that. An old shed should not stand between a first home buyer and a concession designed to help them build a home.

This bill takes the same practical approach to builders' terms arrangements. A newly constructed house should not stop being considered a new home simply because of the technical way the land passed between a developer and builder before the first home buyer purchased it. These are technical legislative changes we are making in this chamber, but to someone trying to build their first home in Keppel or buy their first home in Keppel these changes mean they can have a place to call home.

Helping people purchase homes is only half the equation. We also need more homes. Keppel is growing. People want to live on the Capricorn Coast. They want to live in the northern growth corridor of Rockhampton, and it is not difficult to understand why. If we want people to stay and for new families to establish themselves in our communities, housing supply must keep pace. As the Deputy Premier says, supply, supply, supply. Queensland dwelling completions rose 6.5 per cent in the June quarter, dwelling approvals in August were 18.2 per cent higher than a year earlier and more than 50,000 dwellings are currently under construction across Queensland. We need to keep that momentum going.

There is a clear difference in the ambition between the two sides of this House. Labor had a decade to address declining home ownership. The former government waited until its 10th budget before delivering meaningful transfer duty relief for first home buyers. Our government—the Crisafulli government—abolished stamp duty for eligible first home buyers purchasing or building a new home within our first 10 sitting days. That contrast tells you everything you need to know about our priorities. We do not accept that declining home ownership is inevitable and I do not accept that the next generation of young people growing up in Keppel should abandon the aspiration of owning their own home. I want our young people to stay. I want them to build careers and build businesses. I want them to build and raise their families surrounded by their friends and their extended family network. I want them to join our local sporting clubs and volunteer in our community organisations, and I want them sending their kids to our brilliant local schools.

I want our young people to have the opportunity to own just a small piece of the community that they contribute so much to. When someone buys their first home in Yeppoon, Emu Park, Zilzie, The Caves or Rockhampton, they are investing in so much more than just property; they are building the community in which they live. I believe in the young Queenslanders saving for a deposit. I believe in the couple who are trying to buy their first home. I believe in the family who are wanting the security of a place to call their own. Whether they live in Brisbane or Keppel, that aspiration deserves a government that is on their side. This bill is another practical step to providing a place to call home for more Queenslanders. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms MULLEN (Jordan—ALP) (4.41 pm): I rise to speak on the Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026—a bill that deals with important aspects of home ownership and the financial arrangements designed to help Queenslanders enter the property market. The bill before us makes legislative changes to support the Boost to Buy and Commonwealth Help to Buy shared equity schemes, including clarifying the treatment of transfer duty and land tax. It also makes changes relating to home owner grants. These measures have already, through some administrative arrangements, assisted eligible homebuyers, and I recognise that any genuine effort to reduce the barriers to home ownership is welcomed, because we know that owning a home is more than a financial investment; it is about security, stability, dignity and the opportunity to build a future for yourself and your family.

For generations home ownership has been part of the Australian dream, but for far too many Queenslanders that dream is becoming increasingly difficult to achieve. I have previously shared the words of one of my constituents in this House, but it bears repeating. She wrote to me and said—

> I am writing to you in hopes of a better future. I am incredibly frustrated with the cost of living and house prices. It is becoming increasingly impossible for anyone my age to be able to afford a home (I'm 28). I know maybe a handful of people who own homes. Speaking with other people my age, there is a lot of hopelessness when it comes to talking about the future. It feels as if our generation has been left out. I studied in university and got a good job, and even then I am no closer to buying a house.

Young people are watching property prices rise faster than their ability to save. Working families are struggling to meet mortgage repayments and household expenses. Single parents are trying to provide stability for their children and many Queenslanders who work hard, pay their taxes and

contribute to their communities are wondering whether they will ever own a home of their own. Against this backdrop, we must ask an important question: are the policies of the LNP government genuinely making housing more affordable, or are they simply making it easier for some people to enter an increasingly expensive market?

I acknowledge that the government has introduced measures intended to help first home buyers, including stamp duty relief for eligible purchases of new homes and the Boost to Buy scheme, but we must recognise the limitations of these measures. A reduction in up-front costs can be valuable, but it does not automatically make an expensive property affordable. A shared equity scheme can help eligible buyers overcome the deposit barrier, but it does not remove every obstacle associated with high property prices, mortgage repayments, insurance costs and the cost of living, and nor do these measures by themselves provide a home for someone who cannot afford to buy at all.

We need a comprehensive housing strategy that recognises the different circumstances of Queenslanders. For some, that means assistance to buy their first home. For others, it means secure and affordable rental accommodation. For people experiencing homelessness, it means access to appropriate housing and support services. For women and children escaping domestic and family violence, it means having somewhere safe to go. These needs are interconnected and they cannot be addressed through home ownership incentives alone, because helping people purchase a home is only one part of the housing challenge. We must also ensure Queenslanders can find an affordable place to rent, that vulnerable people have access to secure accommodation and that sufficient, genuinely affordable homes are being built, and this is where the government's approach deserves serious scrutiny.

In March 2026 the LNP government abandoned a previous planning initiative that would have required affordable housing to be included in certain developments under the state facilitated development framework. The government argued that removing the requirement would reduce red tape and help deliver homes more quickly, but the removal of an affordable housing requirement raises a very real question: where is the guarantee that the homes being delivered will actually be affordable to the people who need them most? The consequences of this policy shift are deeply concerning. Queensland's peak housing body Q Shelter has previously raised the alarm. As it has said publicly—

> Without clear affordability requirements, expedited pathways, such as SFD, risk delivering more market housing that remains out of reach for low and moderate income households ...
>
> Q Shelter urges the Queensland government to strengthen the SFD pathway by integrating affordability targets and public value outcomes alongside increased supply.

As we know, we have already seen affordable housing removed from major projects, including 36 affordable homes in Lutwyche and 550 in Robina and Merrimac. We know these are not simply numbers on a spreadsheet; each home represents an opportunity for a person or a family to live with greater security. Each home could make the difference for a key worker struggling to live near their workplace—for example, in Lutwyche a health worker at the RBWH—a single parent trying to keep their children in the same school or an older Queenslander living on a limited income. When affordable housing requirements are removed, we must ask: who benefits and who loses? Developers may gain greater flexibility, but what happens to the families who cannot afford market rents? What happens to the essential workers who keep our hospitals, schools and communities operating? What happens to Queenslanders who are already struggling to find a secure place to live? Reducing red tape may be a legitimate policy objective, but it cannot become an excuse for abandoning affordability as a public responsibility.

When we talk about housing supply, my electorate has been doing the heavy lifting in this space. Whether in Greater Springfield or in the Greater Flagstone Priority Development Area, there are hundreds of homes that are being built or being planned. I support the provision of more homes for our state, but we also need to recognise that, without the corresponding infrastructure, especially road upgrades, existing residents and new residents moving to these communities are feeling the brunt. In Greater Flagstone, the Deputy Premier's tone-deaf message of 'build, baby, build' is not going down very well when residents are struggling to get out of their own streets because the existing local Logan roads, which are the old rural roads Beaudesert council built, are simply not coping. Again, I recognise the need for new housing, but we must see funding not only for new roads under programs such as the Residential Activation Fund or the Infrastructure Activation Fund but support the upgrade of existing roads to ease the congestion imposed on local communities like mine.

Housing supply matters, but housing affordability matters just as much. A home built at a price beyond the reach of ordinary Queenslanders does not solve the affordability crisis for those people. The government cannot simply count the number of homes approved or built and declare success. It must also consider who can afford those homes, who can access them and whether they meet the needs of our growing and diverse population. I am particularly concerned about the impact of inadequate affordable housing on vulnerable Queenslanders. When affordable rental options are scarce, people can be forced to spend an unsustainable proportion of their income on rent. They may have to move away from their jobs, their children's schools, their support networks and their communities. Housing insecurity can place enormous pressure on families. It can affect children's education, people's physical and mental wellbeing and the ability of workers to remain in the communities that depend on them. This is why affordable housing must be treated as essential social infrastructure alongside schools, hospitals, roads and public transport. We would not expect a growing community to function without adequate schools or health services, and we should not expect it to function without enough affordable homes.

The government must explain how it intends to address the affordable housing gap created by its policy decisions. If the government removes affordable housing requirements from developments, what alternative mechanisms will ensure that low- and middle-income households are not left behind? If the government argues that removing restrictions will encourage more construction, where are the measurable commitments to ensure the benefits flow through to first home buyers? If this government is serious about giving every Queenslander a fair chance to own a home, why is its approach not matched by equally strong action to protect and expand affordable housing? These are reasonable questions and Queenslanders deserve clear answers. The government should commit to measurable affordable housing targets and transparent reporting on housing delivery. It should also ensure major developments receiving significant government support deliver tangible public benefits, including an appropriate contribution to affordable housing.

We must build more homes, but we must also build the right homes in the right places at prices people can afford. Can a young Queenslander save for a deposit without being overwhelmed by rent? Can a nurse, a teacher or a police officer afford to live in the community they serve? Can a single parent find a safe and affordable home? Can an older person on a fixed income remain close to family and essential services? These are the questions that should guide Queensland's housing work. This is the work that Queensland Labor is doing through the release of our housing affordability paper and our recent housing forums held across the state.

The Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 provides an opportunity to consider how legislative changes can support home ownership, but the government must not allow these measures to distract from the broader challenge of ensuring every Queenslander has access to safe, secure and affordable housing. Home ownership should not be an exclusive privilege reserved for those with family wealth, substantial savings or access to financial assistance; it should remain an achievable aspiration for ordinary working Queenslanders.

Queensland needs a housing policy that combines practical assistance for first home buyers with a strong commitment to affordable rental housing, social housing and homelessness prevention. At the end of the day, housing policy is not just about property markets, planning rules or taxation arrangements; it is about people. It is about families who want security for their children, it is about young people who want a future in the state they call home and it is about ensuring no Queenslander is denied dignity and opportunity simply because they cannot afford a roof over their head. I support genuine measures that help Queenslanders achieve home ownership, but the government must be serious about housing affordability and it must do more than help some Queenslanders buy a home. It must ensure Queensland remains a place where everyone has a fair chance of finding one.



Mr VORSTER (Burleigh—LNP) (4.51 pm): I rise to address the long title of the bill, but, before doing so, I want to extend my condolences to the Treasurer and Minister for Home Ownership. Over the course of this debate he has had to sit through contributions from those opposite who would have this chamber believe that they were not the architects of the housing crisis—a crisis which has pushed too many aspirational and vulnerable Queenslanders to absolute breaking point. The Treasurer has had to sit and listen to contributions from those opposite, who oversaw such failed policies that good Queenslanders were forced to sleep in their cars, tents and ablution blocks, because when in government they were incapable of or unwilling to do what was necessary to right the ship.

This bill is an opportunity to help correct the course of housing policy in the state. It follows a series of corrective manoeuvres that the LNP Crisafulli government has already taken. These include abolishing stamp duty for those buying new homes—regardless of the value of those homes—and not

only raising the stamp duty threshold but also ensuring that first home buyers who purchase a home and have the temerity and gall to rent one of its rooms still qualify for the stamp duty concessions. Of course, when those opposite were in power they stripped those opportunities from aspirational young people who were trying to ease the rental crisis by making a second or third room available on the market, stripping them of those concessions.

Not only did those opposite use state policy to exacerbate the housing crisis when they were in government; they also wielded power over local government to make things worse. I saw that firsthand as a Gold Coast City councillor who sat on the city's planning committee for eight years. For eight years our local government attempted to amend the planning scheme under the former Labor government. For eight years we attempted to amend the planning scheme to unlock more affordable housing in our city. The former Labor government were incapable of working in good faith with our local government to do that. When I gave one of my last speeches in the council chamber, I remarked on what a waste those eight years were. I was not prepared to leave it at that. I left the council chamber so that I could walk into this parliamentary chamber and do what Labor was not prepared to do; that is, to put a roof over the heads of young Queenslanders. I feel so very passionate about that, because only those with a stake in their community can be optimistic about the future. This community, this state and this society, in this moment, need a bit of optimism; however, they were robbed of that optimism when they were robbed of the opportunity to put a roof over their heads.

The member for Cooper—she is a member of the opposition, but we are not quite sure for how long; she might be looking for a new political home—walks into this chamber and has a go at me, the member for Burleigh, suggesting that somehow I was standing in the way of housing in my community. I would like to draw that member's attention to the fact that it was I, as the division 11 councillor on the Gold Coast City council, who approved the very development that she referred to. I approved that development. Not only did I approve that development; upon coming into this place I was also in a position to work with the Deputy Premier to unlock state owned land next to the Varsity Lakes station that had been left undeveloped.

I can share with this House that the former Labor government, on no fewer than three occasions, tried to get up a development scheme on that site. It failed three times. What a ridiculous hat-trick that was. During a housing crisis, we had hectares of land available next to a heavy rail station that was not just left vacant; it was fenced off from the community. What an insult to every key worker who, while driving or using public transport to get to that station and feeling anxious about home ownership, had to pass by state owned land left completely purposeless. The Deputy Premier came to the Burleigh electorate, stood on that site and announced a process to unlock that land. Just weeks later, we announced two successful proponents. One proponent will deliver over 250 build-to-sell units to give more people an opportunity to put a roof over their head and have a stake in that community. Not only are we delivering more homes which Queenslanders can purchase; that same process will deliver 57 build-to-rent units reserved for key workers. The very people those opposite claim to look after and to serve were left effectively homeless because the former Labor government were incapable of putting up a viable scheme. It took the LNP Crisafulli government to take that land and give it purpose by creating homes. I am so very proud of that announcement.

This bill is another important step towards ensuring every single policy setting is in place to maximise the ability to deliver housing in this state. I thank the Treasurer—who is also the Minister for Home Ownership—for working calmly and methodically and in partnership with his federal counterparts to make sure Queensland's laws are fit for purpose and can respond to opportunity. It would be remiss of me to ignore the fact that there are other overwhelming policy settings making life more difficult for the aspirational Queenslander. Without being too ungenerous to the federal government, under their watch it has become so much more difficult for people to put a roof over their head or to afford rent—so much more difficult. Although our Treasurer and Minister for Home Ownership can take fair credit for how quickly we are rising through the ranks in terms of construction starts and new homes in Queensland, that is in spite of the Albanese Labor government—not because of it. In spite of that government, we are delivering results.

If only the Labor government federally could see fit to lift some of our policies maybe we could do even more. I want to draw that contrast into sharp focus by reflecting on this. When our government announced the Residential Activation Fund we put $2 billion on the table to unlock tens of thousands of homes, but when the Albanese Labor government announced a somewhat similar policy—let us call it a Temu policy, when they tried to rip off Queensland; they did not get a photocopier, they got a hand sketch, some weird artist impression thing—they mucked it up so that the return on investment in terms of projected lots per dollar invested is less than what you would get if the money was simply handed to Queensland.

I call on the federal Labor government to stop trying to reinvent the wheel. There is no monopoly on good ideas. If you are incapable of meeting the housing challenge with competency and efficacy, give us the money and we will get the job done because we deliver for Queensland. For those who might review the *Hansard* or rewind and listen to this contribution online, if you want to test the veracity of my comments go down to the Varsity Lakes station and you will see construction activity—not a media release, not a flyer, not false hope. That is the difference: when we promise homes we put roofs over heads; when they promise homes they cause desperation and dread. I am glad that the member for Gaven is here; she is responsible.

Ms ASIF (Sandgate—ALP) (5.01 pm): I rise to speak on the Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. Home ownership has always been at the heart of the Australian dream: a suburban home with a backyard for the good old Aussie barbecue, a patio where you can watch the kids play some cricket. That is an aspiration central to our nation's identity. However, under nine years of a federal Liberal coalition government led by Abbott, then Turnbull, then Morrison we saw policies that favoured investors over families. They backed tax breaks for property investors over working Australians trying to buy their first home. Their policies turned that dream of owning a home into nothing but a fantasy for our younger generations. The days of working hard, saving up and buying your first home in your 20s are far behind us. Young Queenslanders are being left behind in the housing market. Like every generation before them, our young people deserve a fair shot at home ownership. Giving them the opportunity to buy their own home gives them a foothold in their future. It gives them a reason to build their lives and careers and the freedom to plant roots in the community that they want to live in.

Right now too many young Queenslanders are told to work hard, save hard and yet they watch their dream of home ownership slip further away under this LNP government. There are too many health workers who cannot afford to live in the communities in which they serve, too many people who are faced with domestic and family violence who have no accommodation to go to or cannot afford to rent. There are simply too many people who cannot get into a home under this government and there is not much being done to address the fact that we need those affordable homes so people can live and serve in their communities.

There was a lot of contradiction in the member for Burleigh's contribution—'are the federal government doing enough or are they not; we are doing a lot but they are not'—so here is what actually happened. Talk about stealing policies. The federal government had the Help to Buy shared equity scheme and then this government brought in Boost to Buy. Let us talk about who is copying whose policies here. Since coming into government in 2022, after nine years of neglect under the former Liberal government nationally, the Labor government took bold steps to level the playing field when it comes to buying a first home. We know that all levels of government need to work together when it comes to building homes, ensuring they are affordable and the right people are in the places where that build is happening.

The federal government's Help to Buy shared equity scheme made 2,000 places available to Queenslanders in its first round. Shared equity is not new to Queensland. Under the former Labor government the Pathways Shared Equity Loan gave public housing tenants the chance to buy a share of the home they rented. In 2024 the Miles Labor government made Queensland the first state to sign up to the Help to Buy scheme. After the federal program opened, the Queensland government then opened its own shared equity scheme, the Boost to Buy program. Might I add that their federal LNP mates voted against Labor's Help to Buy scheme.

This bill seeks to ensure participants in this scheme remain eligible for concessions that would ordinarily be available for their first home and removes the barriers that would otherwise prevent Queenslanders from accessing this important assistance. Home ownership is becoming increasingly out of reach for many young people who are looking to buy their first home, for single parents who are hoping to provide stability for their family and essential workers who are working in our communities and need to be able to live where they serve. The challenge is no longer just saving a deposit, it is keeping up with rising costs and managing day-to-day living expenses. In Queensland's current cost-of-living crisis initiatives that lower the barriers to home ownership deserve government support.

Shared equity schemes are just one tool in bridging that gap between aspiration and reality. We want to ensure there are more solutions put forward so that we can continue to build homes that are actually affordable. Many current developments now no longer have the requirement for affordable homes which is a real shame. People want to see not only homes being built but also homes they can afford being built. There is no point building multimillion dollar homes that no-one is able to buy. No nurse is able to afford a $2 million home in the community that she is serving. These reforms are

important and we must continue to see more of them. It is worth acknowledging that the legislation demonstrates the importance of cooperation between both levels of government. The Commonwealth's Help to Buy scheme and Queensland's legislative framework need to work together so that it is Queenslanders who are getting the full benefit and so that the assistance that is designed to provide that benefit is able to get to them.

The Boost to Buy scheme is not working as it should. If anyone on that side wants to rebut that, the facts are there. Seventeen thousand Queenslanders registered for the Boost to Buy scheme. When registrations closed the Treasurer said it was great news that so many people had shown support for it, but by June this year only 111 of those 17,000 people had settled into a home. That is less than one in every 150 people who put their hand up for this scheme. About 1,800 got as far as an appointment with the bank, but only 111 settled into a home. In estimates when we asked why the rate was so low the Treasurer said that the scheme does not actually collect reasons it is not successful. I am not sure why the government would not want to fix something that is clearly broken. The success rate is less than one per cent. Some 111 out of 17,000 is the success rate—not really a success rate; a rate of 0.65 per cent.

I would say the scheme is not working. I urge the government to look at what is going on. This is a failed scheme. If it is designed to help people to get into homes, why are there only 111 people, less than one per cent, able to get into a home using this scheme? It is something that the government needs to look into. If it is lacking this badly it simply needs to change. We need to ensure everything that can be done by the government is being done because there are far too many people who are struggling, including in my community.

Since February I have been trying to help a couple whose rent was hiked by almost 20 per cent—from $610 to $730 a week. They are on a pension and cannot afford to pay $730 a week. These conversations where they are saying they cannot afford it because they are on a pension, they are retired, are really tough. It is not acceptable. This government is simply not doing enough when it comes to helping vulnerable people in our communities. It is happening under their government. No matter how much they pretend their legislation and reforms are working, it is simply not true when we have people who have contributed to our community and our economy their entire lives cannot afford to live in a home they have lived in for several years.

People need a government with a clear and comprehensive plan to increase housing supply across the state, particularly the supply of affordable housing. That is where my concern remains. I do not think enough work is being done not only to allow people to buy their first homes; in our communities, people also need to be able to pay their rent, put food on the table and have the life they want. We talk about the Australian dream of going on a holiday, but for so many families that cannot be further from the truth right now. Many families cannot even fathom going away for Christmas. Those conversations that we have with members of our communities are devastating, and I know that would be true of the communities of all members opposite.

We need to do more to help people pay their rent, to make it affordable, and also to increase housing supply. There are simply not enough homes being built in Queensland, especially when affordable homes are blocked in new developments. How can you say you are investing in homes in Queensland when you are not building the right types of homes to get people in the door? We need to see a lot more from the government when it comes building more homes, including affordable homes and crisis accommodation. A lot of the frontline workers who support vulnerable people say that they have nowhere for those people to go. They come looking for assistance, but there is nowhere they can be referred to. Agencies are telling us, 'The government is not giving us any money to provide support to them.'

Mr JAMES (Mulgrave—LNP) (5.11 pm): I rise to support the Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. This bill is another practical step in the Crisafulli government's plan to open the door to home ownership for more Queenslanders while also ensuring our revenue laws remain current, effective and fair. For a decade, Labor watched Queensland slide to the bottom of the national home ownership ladder. The former Labor government did not deliver meaningful transfer duty relief for first home buyers until its 10th budget. By contrast, within its first 10 sitting days the Crisafulli government abolished stamp duty for eligible first home buyers purchasing or building a new home.

Home ownership is about much more than bricks and mortar; it is about security, independence and opportunity. If Queenslanders work hard, save and aspire to own a home then governments should be removing barriers, not putting more in their way. That is why this government appointed Queensland's first Minister for Home Ownership, abolished stamp duty for eligible first home buyers

purchasing or building a new home, extended the $30,000 first home owner grant and introduced the Boost to Buy scheme. Since stamp duty was abolished for eligible first home buyers purchasing new homes, more than 3,500 Queenslanders had benefited by June, saving more than $66 million.

The Boost to Buy scheme addresses one of the biggest barriers confronting aspiring home owners: saving the deposit. The government doubled the scheme to $330 million, supporting up to 2,000 first home buyers, with half of the places reserved for regional Queensland. Eligible Queenslanders can purchase with as little as a two per cent deposit, with the government contributing up to 30 per cent towards a new home or 25 per cent towards an existing home. That regional allocation is particularly important to communities like those I represent in Mulgrave. The opportunity to own a home should not depend on whether you live in Brisbane or regional Queensland.

This bill makes sure participants in the Boost to Buy and the Commonwealth's Help to Buy schemes are not disadvantaged under Queensland's transfer duty, first home owner grant or land tax arrangements simply because the government holds an equity share in their home. The principle is straightforward: if the government is helping someone through the front door of their first home, our tax system should not create another barrier on the other side.

The bill also applies some much needed common sense to the vacant land concession. A first home buyer should not lose a concession simply because the land on which they intend to build contains an existing structure that is not approved as a home, such as a shed. The amendments expand the concept of vacant land in prescribed circumstances, providing relevant requirements are met. Similarly, the bill addresses builders' terms arrangements. It ensures eligible buyers are not denied the first home owner grant or first home new home transfer duty relief simply because of the technical way land and a newly constructed home have previously passed between a developer and a builder. These may sound like technical amendments, but for Queenslanders trying to buy their first home they can make a real difference. The legislation also extends vehicle registration duty relief to eligible current Defence Force members, bringing their treatment into line with eligible former Defence Force members.

Importantly, the amendments being considered with this bill also strengthen Queensland's competitive neutrality regime. Competitive neutrality means government agencies carrying on significant business activities should compete on a level playing field with private businesses. It helps prevent markets being distorted because a government business is operating under conditions that a private competitor could not achieve. That matters because fair competition supports productivity, innovation and investment. Businesses need confidence that, when they invest, employ Queenslanders and compete for work, the playing field is fair. Queensland's competitive neutrality framework operates under part 4 of the Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997. Under the current complaints-based system, competitors or potential competitors can raise concerns with the Queensland Competition Authority about a government agency carrying on a significant business activity. The QCA investigates and reports to the responsible minister, who remains the final decision-maker under these amendments.

The proposed reforms make three important improvements. First, they broaden the competitive neutrality principle so complaints can address any net competitive advantage arising solely from government ownership, rather than being confined to tax, debt and regulatory neutrality. Importantly, the broader test also allows competitive disadvantages to be considered. Second, the amendments allow expanded ministerial guidance on what constitutes a net competitive advantage and the matters that may be considered by the QCA when investigating a complaint. This improves transparency and provides greater clarity about how the regime operates. Third, the reforms address an inconsistency involving government owned corporations. GOCs are automatically covered by the competitive neutrality framework, but currently their subsidiaries are not. The amendments extend the definition of 'significant business activity' to include the business activities of GOC subsidiaries, ensuring consistent treatment regardless of corporate structure.

These reforms follow a Queensland Treasury review and consultation with relevant government entities, the Local Government Association of Queensland, the Queensland Competition Authority and Business Chamber Queensland. They also support alignment with requirements under the 2024 Intergovernmental Agreement on National Competition Policy. These are sensible reforms. They strengthen transparency, improve consistency and reinforce the principle that public and private businesses should compete fairly.

The bill demonstrates what practical government looks like. We are removing unnecessary obstacles for first home ownership. We are making the Boost to Buy scheme work as intended. We are fixing technical anomalies affecting vacant land and newly constructed homes. We are supporting eligible serving Defence Force personnel. Through the competitive neutrality amendments, we are

strengthening the conditions for fair competition, productivity and investment in Queensland. There is a clear contrast: after a decade under Labor, too many Queenslanders had lost hope that the great Australian dream of owning their own home was within reach, and this government is determined to turn that around.

We believe in the Queenslander saving for a deposit, we believe in the young couple trying to buy their first home, we believe in families who want the security of a place of their own and we believe Queensland businesses should have the confidence to invest, employ and compete on a fair and level playing field. This bill brings those principles together: opportunity, fairness, certainty and common sense. It removes barriers, strengthens our laws and helps build a Queensland where more people can own a home and more businesses have the confidence to invest and grow. I commend the bill to the House.

Hon. DE FARMER (Bulimba—ALP) (5.19 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. The Labor opposition has already made it clear we will be supporting the bill. Of course we will support it because we will always support shared equity and any initiative that will make a dent in one of the biggest issues facing Queenslanders, facing Australians and, I think, facing people all over the world. It is a desperate issue and probably one of the most desperate of our times. There would not be a member in this House who does not have people coming into their office every single day expressing that desperation.

For the LNP to use the passage of this bill as a reason to claim some kind of moral superiority, to paint themselves as the champions of housing affordability and accessibility, is not only actually ludicrous but also offensive. I think the member for Burleigh probably takes the cake. It has been a bit trying listening to them all day anyway, but the member for Burleigh, who surely did speech and drama when he was at school, made the grand announcement, 'This bill will correct the course of housing policy in Queensland!' The righteousness of it! The righteousness of these people! It has been a similar theme all day.

The first thing that is really offensive about this bill is that this government has allocated half a day to talk about housing. It is one of the most desperate issues of our time and we have half a day to talk about housing. This bill, while important, is hardly the be-all and end-all of fixing housing affordability and accessibility in Queensland. It does sort of facilitate the implementation of the Commonwealth's Help to Buy scheme, which we know contributes up to 30 per cent of the purchase price for an existing home or 40 per cent for a new home. We know that that scheme delivers 2,000 places a year for three years. We already passed a bill to do this before we left government. I know the LNP accused us of rushing it, but, gee, on this side of the House, we think housing is an emergency, so we will never apologise for passing housing initiatives as soon as we possibly can. They did not oppose it at the time, but they did accuse us of being socialists. Go figure!

With this bill the LNP claim they are fixing something that they already agreed to pass at the time. It was obviously so important to them that it took them two years to fix whatever it is they did not think was an emergency at the time. In putting this bill to the House, they have made Queensland one of the last states to harmonise state and federal laws in their special way. So, great leadership from the LNP yet again on housing across Australia!

This bill does smooth the way for people to participate in their Boost to Buy scheme which contributes up to 25 per cent for existing homes and 30 per cent for new homes, as opposed to the 30 and 40 per cent for the Commonwealth scheme. It delivers 2,000 places over the life of the program, as opposed to the 2,000 per year that the Commonwealth system does. However, it will deliver those places, so it is not to be sneezed at, and it is fine to support this.

However, it is the things this government is doing and not doing in terms of housing that I take exception to. Don't tell me, don't tell us and don't tell the many Queenslanders who are homeless or can never aspire to owning their own home or who are struggling to keep a roof over their head that the LNP are the champions of housing affordability and accessibility when they removed affordable housing targets from the State Facilitated Development scheme, meaning more houses will be built that are out of the reach of most income earners. They are our teachers, our nurses, our childcare workers. They are the people who keep our community going.

Don't tell us that the LNP are the champions of housing affordability and accessibility when the Deputy Premier directed developers to scrap 586 affordable homes across Lutwyche and Robina and instead sell them at the market rate. Don't tell us that the LNP are the champions of housing affordability

and accessibility when during estimates last year it was revealed that the LNP had resumed the sale of public housing, and when the Deputy Premier was asked about it at a media conference in February this year he just said, 'Cry me a river,' because he cares so much, obviously.

Don't tell us that the LNP are the champions of housing affordability and accessibility when they cut $42 million from their emergency hotel housing program and reduced the funding to 25 frontline homelessness support services that are too afraid to say anything in case they lose even more funding. Don't tell us about being the champions when social housing wait times are 2.6 times the target, when demand for specialist homelessness services is up 14 per cent and when the department is issuing 635 fewer rental grants than last financial year and 406 fewer bond loans.

I will read out some of the stories that were sent to me from people in my electorate, and I would like the government to tell them what they are doing to help shore up their future. The first states—

I'm living with my ex. He has a DVO out on him and I cannot find a place to rent on my income alone while providing for my two sons and all their costs. It is extremely soul-crushing to still depend on someone who has hurt myself and my sons, for housing.

The next story states—

I'm a 61-year-old single female working full-time. I can barely pay rent. I eat one meal a day. I have no idea how I will ever retire. I can't go far due to petrol. I catch the train to work. Thank god for 50-cent fares. Everyone talks about mortgages and young people getting into the market, but older divorced women are the fastest demographic of homeless. I'm paying $800 a week in rent. I'll never get a home and there is no social housing. Where do I go when I can't work and can't pay rent anymore? Who is thinking of us?

The next story states—

I have to live with an abuser because I cannot afford basic shelter and food anymore. My mental and physical health have deteriorated dramatically and most days I wish I had never been born.

The next story states—

I need to buy a house but that would mean moving at least 45 minutes away from where I am. I have young children and aging parents who need me so I can't really leave the area.

The next and last story I will quote today states—

The unaffordability of housing has made me realise I will have to work until I die. I'm turning 67 and I have to cancel specialist appointments to afford my rent.

These are the people who need a government to give them hope. This government made a lot of promises, but one by one they have cut out every single opportunity for Queenslanders to get ahead, to live out their basic right to have a roof over their heads. People are suffering.

This bill—great, we will support it; it achieves something. It will achieve 2,000 places if it is successful, and I commend the member for Sandgate, my friend, who read out some very disturbing statistics about how successful the program actually is not. I am begging this government. They have the ability as a government to give hope. They have the ability as a government to provide real solutions to Queenslanders. That is what they need. That is what they deserve. Please, do the right thing.



Ms DOOLEY (Redcliffe—LNP) (5.28 pm): I rise in strong support of the Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, a bill that makes important and practical changes to Queensland's revenue and grants legislation so that our laws support the goal of home ownership—a place to call home. Home ownership is the great Australian dream. For Redcliffe locals, for my four adult children and pretty much for all Queenslanders, home ownership is about a place to call home, security, independence, stability and the opportunity to build a future. It is about having a place to raise a family, put down roots and participate fully in the community. For too many people that dream has felt further and further out of reach after a decade of decline under those opposite.

As the member for Redcliffe, as a mum and as an ambassador for the Forgotten Women's Live Like Her Challenge, I see the housing challenge from many different angles. I hear from young people who are trying to save for a deposit while paying high rents, families who need more space but cannot find an affordable place, older Queenslanders worried about security and cost, and people who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of losing their house. These are very different experiences and they show that our housing policy must create pathways into secure housing and remove barriers wherever it reasonably can. After a decade of decline under those opposite, who promised the world and delivered nothing, we are playing catch-up. It is no wonder we are in a housing crisis.

In the two years since the LNP Crisafulli government was elected, we have delivered 556 homes in Redcliffe, in the City of Moreton Bay. We have 559 homes under construction, 101 homes under contract and 40 units yet to be commenced with the Moreton Bay Youth Foyer.

Mr O'Connor: Dooley delivers!

Ms DOOLEY: I take that interjection from the Minister for Housing. That is a total of 1,256 homes versus—listen to this—only 503.

Mr O'Connor: Over how long?

Ms DOOLEY: That was during a decade of decline, Minister, under Labor. I will say it again for the House: 1,256 have been delivered in two years under the LNP Crisafulli government compared to 503 in 10 years of Labor.

A government member: Shame.

Ms DOOLEY: Shame. The LNP Crisafulli government recognise that people need help at different stages of the journey. That is why we have appointed Queensland's very first Minister for Home Ownership, abolished stamp duty for eligible first home buyers purchasing a home, extended the $30,000 first home owner grant and introduced Boost to Buy.

Boost to Buy is particularly important because many people can manage mortgage repayments but struggle to save the deposit to enter the market. Under this scheme, eligible buyers can purchase with as little as a two per cent deposit, with the government contributing up to 30 per cent towards a new home or up to 25 per cent towards an existing home. Following strong demand, the scheme was doubled to $330 million, with support for up to 2,000 first home buyers, and half of the places were reserved for regional Queensland. By June 2026, more than 3½ thousand Queenslanders had benefited from the stamp duty changes for eligible first home buyers, saving more than $66 million. That is money remaining with households as they take on the significant costs of buying and establishing a home.

Assistance must be designed carefully. It would make little sense for government to help someone into home ownership through a shared equity scheme and then expose them to unintended tax consequences because the law had not properly accounted for the arrangement. This bill is addressing that issue for Queensland's Boost to Buy scheme and the Commonwealth's Help to Buy scheme. This bill clarifies how transfer duty, land tax and the first home owner grant rules apply to participants in these schemes. It also ensures a participant who later buys back some of the government's equity is not unfairly hit with additional transfer duty.

This bill also makes commonsense changes for first home buyers purchasing land to build on. Existing rules on a small or uninhabitable structure such as a shed on the land can mean a block does not qualify as vacant land for a concession. The amendments broaden the treatment of vacant land where certain existing structures are present. A first home buyer acting in good faith should not lose out because of a technicality that has little to do with whether they can build a home there.

Likewise, the bill recognises that a newly built home should not necessarily lose its status as a new home for grant or duty purposes because of the technical way the land has passed between a developer and a licensed builder under certain builders' terms agreements. The law should recognise the substance of the transaction and provide certainty for the eligible buyer. With that, I put on the record congratulations to my son, who is a builder and about to put on his first apprentice. I am a very proud mum.

At the same time, assistance must go to the people it is intended to help. The bill restores the intended operation of the 'good reasons' discretion for the first home owner grant residence requirements while retaining flexibility where circumstances outside an applicant's control genuinely prevent compliance. Compassion and integrity can and should go hand in hand.

While this bill is about revenue and grants legislation, it also sits within a much bigger housing challenge. Helping people buy homes is essential, but it cannot be the only answer. We must also build more homes—more social homes, more community homes, more affordable homes—support those who cannot immediately access the private market and respond to homelessness with practical, coordinated services. That is something that we see clearly in Redcliffe and across the City of Moreton Bay. Our community is addressing this through a range of housing responses. I thank the Minister for Housing for all of his support in this space and for delivering more social housing in Redcliffe.

We are working collaboratively with the City of Moreton Bay, local organisations, church groups, charity groups, community groups and service providers because no single organisation can solve homelessness on its own. I continue to advocate strongly for additional support, including crisis accommodation and supportive housing, that meets the needs of people with complex mental health issues who are sleeping rough, of people who are feeling unsafe and of people who are experiencing repeated housing instability.

I welcome the commitment of the Moreton Bay Youth Foyer and look forward to turning the first sod on that project in the next 12 months. This proposed development will provide 40 self-contained units for vulnerable youth aged 16 to 25, alongside 24/7 wraparound supports in education, training and employment. For a young person facing homelessness, the youth foyer model has demonstrated that a stable home combined with practical support can set them up for success. I will continue to advocate for supportive housing in our region, and I encourage community members to sign my petition.

The contrast with the former Labor government is very clear. Queenslanders ended Labor's time in office when we were at the bottom of the national home ownership ladder—after a decade in which home ownership declined and housing approvals fell. This government acted within its first 10 sitting days to abolish stamp duty for eligible first home buyers. We are determined to turn that record around by removing barriers and supporting more supply, and this bill goes a long way to supporting that.

The committee supports the passage of this bill, recommending that it be passed. I note that Labor did not add a statement of reservation or a dissenting report, despite their whingeing today. It supports fair treatment for people using shared equity schemes, removes unnecessary technical barriers, protects the integrity of grants, recognises current serving Defence Force personnel and improves the administration of revenue laws. Redcliffe locals want to see housing policy that is both ambitious and practical, and this bill addresses that. I commend the bill to the House and having a place to call home.

Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (5.38 pm): I rise to make my contribution on the Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. It is worth saying at the outset that I do not intend to oppose the bill because it does, in fact, tidy up some oversights in the initial proposals from the government. I will not speak entirely against the bill because it is important to acknowledge that. I will not vote against the bill because people are so genuinely desperate for any assistance they can get to ensure they have stable housing.

However, I am as sure as eggs is eggs not going to stand here and applaud the LNP and Labor for their most recent attempts to throw us a bone. It is vitally important that we get on the record that demand-side policies like this are nothing more than a false promise from governments that cannot bring themselves to do anything that might dent the profits of the private development sector and governments that are not willing to make the investment in public and social housing that we so desperately need and have needed for years. These are false promises that simply cannot fix the busted housing system and the market as it is at the moment.

I will give a bit of an overview of the LNP's Boost to Buy policy. It was initially opened up with 500 places on offer in December 2025. After 11,000 applicants expressed interest in the first round—11,000 applicants for those 500 initial places—we then saw another 500 places open up in April 2026. Those two 500-places releases give us our '1,000 dreams'. How could any of us forget the Treasurer and his budget making that starry-eyed proclamation about the '1,000 dreams' Queenslanders could look forward to realising?

The scheme requires a minimum two per cent deposit and a maximum $1 million home value. You have to meet the income thresholds. You have to be a first home buyer. The Queensland government equity contribution is 25 per cent for existing homes or 30 per cent for new homes. Importantly, those first home buyers need to remember that the government will recoup its share of the gains and also would bear its share of the losses. Nonetheless, first home buyers stand to lose some of their equity at whatever point they sell out of this scheme.

Let's pause for a moment to reflect on how it is all going at this stage. As at estimates, just a couple of months ago now, we learned that only 115 homes have settled under the scheme, and there are still regional allocations under the scheme that remain unclaimed. We have gone from '1,000 dreams', if that was a big number to start with, down to 115 homes so far. It is frankly laughable.

Meanwhile, we have federal Labor's Help to Buy scheme, which opens up 10,000 places for the entire country, mind you. It still has the minimum two per cent deposit. You cannot fall below the income thresholds. The Australian government proposes to contribute 30 per cent of equity for existing homes and 40 per cent for new builds. Again, when you sell, the government will recuperate its share of any capital gains or losses on that property.

For all of the toing and froing between the government and opposition in this debate about who is more trash on housing, let's pause to reflect on the fact that these two schemes—Help to Buy and Boost to Buy—are effectively identical schemes being proposed by Labor and the LNP at the federal and state level. Neither of those schemes can possibly be the solution to fix the housing market in the state that it is in at the moment. I repeat: these are demand-side policies that cannot fix the problem

and will only drive house prices up, and that is exactly what these two and five per cent deposit schemes have done. From 2025-26 median house prices in Brisbane rose 17.4 per cent. It is staggering. The median house price is over $1 million. Remember that the criteria to even participate in the scheme is that the house cannot be worth $1 million or more.

Then there is the hysteria: 'I thought the housing market was crashing.' This investor panic is overblown, but it also skims over a really crucial point in the current landscape. Any price drops we are seeing are largely concentrated or basically limited to the upper end of the market because there are still so many people at that lower end struggling to get their foot in the door, struggling to get their first home.

Ultimately both of the major parties' policies through these demand-side grant schemes and shared equity schemes are bandaids on bullet wounds. The demand for entry-level houses will continue to increase and it will continue to push prices higher. Those first home buyers who are lucky enough to win this lottery will see their purchasing power increase but they will still in almost every case be carrying a crippling mortgage and they will lose the government's share of equity when they ultimately sell, leaving them worse off in the long run.

The bottom line here is that neither Labor nor the LNP are interested in seeing house prices go down. The housing minister, on my recollection, will not even tell us whether he thinks they should. We ultimately do not even need to hear their answer. We just need to look at their policies. They make absolutely clear that they want to see house prices continue to rise from the completely unattainable and unaffordable levels they are at already.

We still have a state rental system that allows unlimited rent increases, no security of leasing and all of that in the context where it is nigh on impossible for some people to buy a home. We still have a complete free-for-all on Airbnbs and other short-stay accommodation. We have no consequences—no cost—for developers or investors who choose to leave perfectly good homes and land vacant because it suits their personal financial purposes at any point in time. There is no penalty for wasting perfectly good homes while families sleep in tents in parks. It is disgraceful. Handouts for the private market that got us into this mess continue while we are still seeing a pitiful investment—a woeful underinvestment—in public and social housing.

It even goes further than that. The Deputy Premier has directed developers to remove the affordable housing components of their applications—550 homes earmarked as affordable as part of a development of 2,500 homes will now return to the market rate. We have to remember this: when the major parties pretend that their first home owners grants are fixing or going anywhere near addressing this crisis, they still want house prices to go up faster than wages can catch up. They have no interest in correcting that disparity between increases in house prices and wage growth. Instead, this government's priority is making it lawful to once again receive corrupting donations from developers—from their mates in the development industry who are working within the framework of Economic Development Queensland, which is now being run by their mate, the former LNP councillor and federal member for my area. How he could possibly be considered qualified to be in charge of development for the state is absolutely beyond me.

It is a disgrace that they are putting jobs for mates and developer donations to plump up their campaign war chests ahead of Queenslanders having a safe place to live. Shame on them! Shame on anyone who is not prepared to take real steps towards limiting the financial power and the political influence of massive development companies that are making profits hand over fist at the expense of ordinary people. Shame on anyone who is not prepared to offer renters in this state genuine security and real rights, because we are not going to see this property market turn around overnight. We need real rights for renters—caps on rent increases and a genuine end to no-ground evictions so people can live their lives with stability and security so that their kids can know that they will have a safe place to live and that they can genuinely settle in and put roots down in their community. At the moment we are seeing nothing more than the continued flourishing of self-interest from this LNP government and their developer mates.

Mr LISTER (Southern Downs—LNP) (5.48 pm): I rise to speak on behalf of the electors of Southern Downs on the Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. I want to say at the outset that my electorate of Southern Downs is experiencing probably the lowest level of vacancies in rentals, the greatest rise in house prices and the lowest availability of houses to buy of anywhere in the state. This has been a very difficult situation to face in an area like Southern Downs because we are not, by and large, a wealthy electorate. Many people are doing it very tough indeed. The cost of housing is not least among the reasons for that. I support this bill. It contains provisions to ensure that

the mechanisms we have employed to put housing within the reach of everyday Queenslanders are as effective as possible. These are commonsense, practical reforms that reduce red tape. There are also excellent provisions in relation to Defence Force members, and I will get to them in due course.

Firstly, there are provisions in the bill to protect shared equity buyers in the Boost to Buy scheme we brought online. Obviously, if you have shared equity with the government then technically they are a co-owner, and we want to make sure that access to grants and supports is not extinguished by that particular fact. Importantly, it backdates vital shared equity tax protections to 5 December 2025 for the federal program and 15 December 2025 for the state program. It also incorporates vacant land concessions. As many members have said, it would be a terrible thing if a block of land had minor developments or facilities on it that would classify it as not being vacant land for the purpose of first home owner grants and so forth. It also extends exemptions for veterans under the Duties Act 2001 to formally extend vehicle registration exemptions to eligible former ADF members and veterans, ensuring that retired personnel—and that is the important part—receive the same financial relief as active service members. That is no small thing. There are many veterans in my electorate of Southern Downs who will benefit from that particular legislation.

I will now turn to the criticism I have heard from the Labor Party in the course of this debate. I have heard many of them say from an armchair how they and not us were the ones who provided housing for essential workers like nurses, police and teachers. I am sure that would be news to the good folk of Southern Downs, because I have had conversations with many employers who have told me that they found excellent staff who were willing to work but they could not take the job simply because there was no housing available to them. We are talking about aged-care workers in fine nursing homes like Kaloma in Goondiwindi, Akooramak in Warwick or Yallambee in Millmerran. We are talking about a high school principal who said to me that he had a teaching couple—one was in one particular category and the other was another subject specialist—and that would have solved the problems we have in those particular subject fields in this particular high school, but they had to turn down the offers because they could not find anywhere to live. I am quite certain you could say the same thing about police and nurses.

This is not a new problem. This is something I championed at length and tried to get the assistance of the former Labor government to solve. In one example, Killarney Memorial Aged Care, now known as K-Life, had a block of land with subdivisions and a master plan. They wanted to partner with the state government to provide low-cost housing for staff and the partners of residents in Killarney Memorial Aged Care. Do you think we could get past just talking? There was just talk, talk, talk and no action whatsoever. We have taken that concept and supercharged it with the Community Housing Investment Pipeline, Q-CHIP. To point to an example in Warwick, we have 35 homes being constructed of one-, two- and three-bedroom styles to support the very people who need accommodation. We are talking about elderly single women and single parents with kids. None of this would have happened under the previous Labor government.

I hear complaints that the system is geared to look after the well-off and decrying the outcome of these programs. Labor caused this crisis; we all know that. I think I heard the member for Redcliffe say there was a net increase of 500 social and affordable homes under Labor in a decade and 2,000-odd in the two years since we came to office. It is not about ideology, as some of them said; it is about what works. It is about pragmatism. We have to have a variety of mechanisms to encourage an increase in supply.

I already mentioned the Queensland Community Housing Investment Pipeline. We have a strong interest in that program in Southern Downs. I have been with a number of groups who would like me to introduce them to the housing minister and the department to get things off the ground. There is also the Land Activation Program, which identifies surplus or unused Crown land and takes it from the department that has custody and uses Economic Development Queensland to provide development approvals and the setting out of blocks and so forth to enable housing to be built.

There is also the Residential Activation Fund, which has been a wonderful scheme for my electorate of Southern Downs. The Southern Downs Regional Council received $17 million from that program to assist them in beefing up their sewerage and infrastructure, so that will enable 2,000 more homes to be built in the electorate of Southern Downs. When you have a council that is relatively impecunious, they do not have the money to put up-front for that kind of infrastructure; nor do the developers who might contemplate doing it as a private sector initiative, so that makes a real difference. I was with the Deputy Premier in Goondiwindi when he announced not only that $17 million but also $3 million to provide road and other infrastructure to enable housing to be built. These are very important things.

I also heard Labor members talk about cutting social and low-cost homes. The most pernicious thing about that statement is the fact that these were paper homes. Labor demonstrated their inability to build homes over a decade, and we are expected to take as a leap of faith their assurance these homes were in fact real. You cannot cut a press statement—it is done. People look at the numbers. We know that Labor never delivered. In my electorate of Southern Downs, the paucity of additional housing was a disgrace and there are many people doing it very tough indeed. It is not only the fact that cashed-up wind farm staff displaced those who had been renting for years in places like Warwick; there has been hardly any or none in the way of social housing built in my electorate of Southern Downs for some time.

We abolished stamp duty for eligible first home buyers, extended the first home owner grant and instituted the Boost to Buy scheme. These things on their own are great, but when you combine them with an economic philosophy that does whatever it takes to get homes built then it makes a real difference. I note there have been references to getting rid of BPIC. Some say that the CFMEU does not build houses. Yes, but the staff who work on these projects could, and these things distort the economy and the housing market and make it even harder for hardworking Queenslanders to get ahead and get a start.

I support this bill. I defend the record of the Crisafulli government. In the two years that we have been in power we have actually been doing something, because I can tell you that in my electorate there was nothing much happening when Labor was in power. I now have projects underway. We now have community housing providers, local churches and organisations like the local RSL sub-branch in Stanthorpe with their tongues hanging out. They cannot sign up fast enough to provide houses to meet the needs of the good folk of the electorate of Southern Downs.



Mr RUSSO (Toohey—ALP) (5.58 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. At the outset, the opposition acknowledges the work of the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee in its consideration of the legislation and notes the committee's recommendation that the bill be passed. We also acknowledge the evidence provided by Queensland Treasury and the submission received during the committee's inquiry process.

As has been noted, the bill is, in large part, a technical and administrative piece of legislation. It seeks to: clarify the operation of existing revenue and grant laws, particularly as they relate to participants in shared equity home ownership programs; expand eligibility for the first home vacant land concession; and correct a range of technical and drafting anomalies across several acts. The committee report identified five principal objectives of the legislation. These are: clarifying how revenue and grant concessions apply to participants in the Queensland Boost to Buy and Commonwealth Help to Buy shared equity programs; expanding eligibility for the first home vacant land concession; correcting technical and drafting differences across revenue legislation; giving legislative effect to certain longstanding administrative arrangements; and restoring the intended legal interpretation of key terms affecting first home buyer grants.

The opposition supports measures that provide certainty to Queenslanders seeking to enter the housing market. We know that for many families home ownership remains a fundamental aspiration. The committee recognised that home ownership continues to be an important symbol of independence and upward mobility for Queenslanders. However, while the provisions contained in this bill may improve the administration of existing schemes, it is important that we do not confuse administrative tidying-up with a comprehensive response to Queensland's housing challenges.

The central feature of the bill is its treatment of shared equity programs. The legislation clarifies how transfer duty concessions, first home owner grants and land tax exemptions apply when a property is purchased through either the Queensland government's Boost to Buy program or the Commonwealth government's Help to Buy scheme. The committee report outlined that under Boost to Buy the Queensland government contributes up to 25 per cent of the purchase price of an existing home or 30 per cent of a new home. It also noted that the first round of the program offered 500 places and that a further 500 places were made available in the second round. Similarly, the Commonwealth's Help to Buy program contributes up to 30 per cent of the purchase price of an existing home or 40 per cent of a new home and is intended to deliver up to 40,000 places nationally over four years, with 2,000 places allocated to Queensland in the first round.

The amendments contained in this bill ensure participants are treated fairly for duty, grant and land tax purposes and are not disadvantaged because the government holds an equity interest in their property, including any later buyback of that equity stake. The opposition supports that principle. Participants in shared equity programs should receive the same concessions and support available to other first home buyers.

The bill also expands the definition of vacant land for the purposes of the first home vacant land concession. Under the proposed changes, land containing certain non-habitable structures, such as sheds or non-residential buildings, may still qualify for the concession provided specific requirements are met. Again, we see merit in removing unintended barriers that may prevent first home buyers from accessing concessions where there is no genuine residential dwelling on the land. The committee report notes that the sole stakeholder submission that was received supported this change and regarded it as a practical reform for first home buyers.

The bill also contains technical amendments affecting transfer duty exemptions, vehicle registration duty arrangements, payroll tax administration and taxation dispute resolution. These include extending vehicle registration duty exemptions from former Defence Force service persons to current Defence Force service persons and clarifying taxation appeal pathways. The opposition acknowledges these measures. Registration is expensive in this state after the LNP refused to continue registration discounts for Queenslanders. The bill also seeks to provide legislative backing for certain administrative arrangements that have been operating in practice. This includes arrangements relating to the treatment of builders' terms transactions under the first home owner grant framework and the operation of payroll tax grouping provisions.

The committee concluded that the bill is compatible with human rights and does not raise concerns regarding fundamental legislative principles. It further noted that the amendments are intended to ensure consistent treatment under Queensland's revenue and grants framework.

While the opposition does not oppose these measures, it is important to place them in their proper context. This bill does not contribute to the construction of new homes, it does not directly increase housing supply, it does not address the affordability pressures that are placing home ownership further out of reach for many Queenslanders, and it does not solve the challenges confronting renters, first home buyers or families struggling with the cost of housing. What this bill does is improve the administration of existing concessions and schemes. Those improvements are worthwhile, but they are only one small part of a much larger challenge.

The committee report itself characterises the legislation as a straightforward and largely technical amendment bill. It notes that the very small number of submissions received reflects the technical nature of the changes being proposed. Queenslanders expect more than technical amendments; they expect governments to tackle the underlying drivers of housing affordability. They expect action that expands supply, supports first home buyers, strengthens housing availability and delivers greater certainty for families seeking a secure place to live.

The opposition believes that home ownership should remain an achievable goal for working Queenslanders. We support sensible reforms that remove unintended barriers and ensure government assistance programs operate as intended. We support fairness for participants in shared equity schemes. We support consistency in the administration of grants, duties and taxation laws. For those reasons, the opposition will not oppose the bill. However, we make the point that Queenslanders deserve a broader housing agenda than the one reflected in this legislation. Administrative clarity is important, but it is not enough on its own. Technical amendments have their place, but they cannot substitute for a comprehensive strategy that addresses housing affordability and housing supply.

The committee found that the amendments would provide certainty for participants in shared equity programs and ensure they can access transfer duty concessions, first home owner grants and land tax exemptions in the same way as other home buyers. The opposition agrees that this certainty is appropriate and necessary.

While the opposition supports these measures, it is important to recognise their scale. These changes will provide greater certainty for participants in the Commonwealth's Help to Buy scheme and Queensland's Boost to Buy scheme, and that is a positive outcome. However, they are only a small contribution when compared to the broader housing affordability challenges facing Queenslanders. In many respects, this bill is a drop in the ocean compared to the affordable housing that has been lost under the LNP government. At a time when Queensland is experiencing a housing affordability crisis, Queenslanders expect governments to be increasing housing supply, not reducing it.

Mrs KIRKLAND (Rockhampton—LNP) (6.07 pm): I rise to support the Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. The bill is about removing barriers, applying common sense and helping more Queenslanders to achieve the dream of home ownership. It is also about ensuring government assistance programs work as intended. The parliamentary committee recommended that the bill be passed with no statement of reservation, no dissenting report and no adverse findings. They concluded that the amendments are beneficial to taxpayers, support home ownership, ensure

consistent tax treatment and reinforce the integrity of Queensland's revenue and grant systems. This demonstrates that industry, stakeholders and the committee all recognised that this legislation delivers practical improvements rather than ideology. It is a straightforward bill that will make life easier for Queenslanders trying to enter the housing market.

Since coming to office, the government has: appointed Queensland's first minister for home ownership; abolished stamp duty for eligible first home buyers purchasing or building a new home; extended the $30,000 first home owner grant; and introduced the nation-leading Boost to Buy scheme. More than 3,500 Queenslanders have already benefited from that stamp duty abolition to June 2026, saving more than $66 million.

The government has also doubled Boost to Buy to $330 million, supporting up to 2,000 first home buyers and half of those places are reserved for regional Queensland. Closer to home in Rockhampton, the region has recorded its highest residential building approvals in 12 years. Residential building approvals increased by 62 per cent in the 2025-26 financial year, with 329 dwellings approved and almost $189 million in residential building approvals recorded. We are also seeing substantial growth in Gracemere and across Central Queensland. More than 200 social and community homes are currently under construction or under contract across Central Queensland, including 74 homes across Rockhampton.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House, I call the Treasurer to reply to the second reading debate.

Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (6.10 pm), in reply: I thank those members who have provided their support for the bill including the member for Rockhampton. Apologies for the curtailment, but there is a lot more to say in this reply and I look forward to sharing some views that I have on the contributions of those opposite. Let me first start with my opening remarks.

I noted that this bill supports the government's commitment to deliver a place to call home for more Queenslanders and support the construction of more new homes across the state. In particular, the bill confirms the application of revenue and grants legislation for participants in the Queensland Boost to Buy and Commonwealth Help to Buy shared equity programs, providing certainty to potential homebuyers looking to access these programs.

The bill also expands the definition of 'vacant land' for the purposes of the transfer duty first home vacant land concession to include land with certain existing structures on it. This will broaden the types of properties that the concession can apply to, assisting Queenslanders looking to build their first home. The bill makes other amendments necessary to ensure the proper operation of revenue and grants legislation, gives effect to government policy decisions and protects state revenue.

The Crisafulli government is delivering real and meaningful reform to help more Queenslanders achieve the Australian dream of owning their first home. We have abolished stamp duty for eligible first home buyers purchasing or building a new home, we have extended the boosted $30,000 first home owner grant, we have introduced the nation-leading Boost to Buy scheme and we are here tonight removing additional barriers to the great Australian dream of home ownership. What is Labor's policy to help Queenslanders buy their own home? We learned nothing tonight and this afternoon from those opposite in relation to what they would do. This is after a week of disruption and commentary on the performance of the Leader of the Opposition. We have to go scratching around for some of their views on housing policy and home ownership. I always turn to the housing affordability crisis in Queensland.

If we remember correctly, there was this document from those opposite. It is like an issues paper to a green paper to a white paper to maybe a policy at some stage in the next few years. We know that the only policy the Leader of the Opposition seems to have now, after the Labor conference earlier this year, is that the shadow home ownership minister is running again. That is the big policy announcement from those opposite when it comes to housing affordability and home ownership. I looked at this policy document—that issues paper to inform a white paper to get to a green paper—and I asked the question: how will that unlock a single new home in Queensland? How will it improve home ownership levels in Queensland? How will it improve the situation for young Queenslanders wanting to buy their first home?

If you look deeper into this document you also find some of the things those opposite have opposed in the past. For instance, they opposed a Queensland productivity commission. They actually voted against productivity. That is what those opposite do: they vote against productivity, and I am going to come to the CFMEU shortly. In this issues paper that is to become a green paper that might become a white paper—or is it a white paper that might become a green paper that is an issues paper;

I am not exactly sure—they actually reference the Queensland Productivity Commission that they voted against. They voted against the Queensland Productivity Commission, but they reference it here in the footnotes of their issues paper.

Mrs Gerber: It is in the plan.

Mr JANETZKI: It is in their plan. They voted against something that they have now included in their plan. It is really interesting that they would take that particular approach. What is more important when it comes to productivity is not that they vote against productivity; it is what they have walked past for the last decade—

Mrs Gerber: What they have been willing to accept.

Mr JANETZKI:—what they have been willing to accept; I take the interjection from the member for Currumbin—and it has been obvious. To see this, we only need to look to the commission of inquiry and what it has delivered. Notably, in the last week or so some new evidence has come out such as, 'We've got to talk to Jackie Trad about you.' That was one of the comments. What else have they been saying? The CFMEU had been saying, 'We know you have two sons.' That is an interesting behaviour that those opposite walked past for a decade.

The Queensland Productivity Commission found not just a lack of productivity; it found 77,000 fewer homes across 458 pages of analysis. We have seen a nine per cent drop in Labor productivity since 2018, and there would have been an additional $20.6 billion in costs to the Queensland economy had BPIC survived. The Queensland Productivity Commission recommended it be abolished and the Minister for Housing abolished it. We are now learning more about the behaviour that those opposite walked past: those threats, that intimidation, that bullying, that misogyny and that violence. That is what they walked past, that is the cause of lower productivity and that is what has created the housing crisis in Queensland.

Those opposite always put the CFMEU ahead of Queenslanders and Queenslanders who wanted to own their own home. They spent a decade making it harder and more expensive to build homes in Queensland. Do honourable members know who was left paying the price? Queenslanders were left paying the price.

Mrs Gerber: Young people who can't get a rental, families who can't get a house.

Mr JANETZKI: I 100 per cent agree with the interjections from the member for Currumbin. Let's get them into *Hansard*. It means higher costs, fewer homes and less productivity. That is what it means. All the time while construction costs were going up, the dream of home ownership slipped further and further away and the cost of building homes in Queensland grew higher and higher.

I have to turn to some of the comments from my parliamentary colleagues across the chamber. Those opposite have talked more about home ownership this afternoon than they did during 10 years in government. They have been forced, kicking and screaming, to come into this House and talk about this home ownership bill, because they never talked about it when in government. In fact, the member for Waterford never once mentioned home ownership. The member for Woodridge, the former treasurer, spoke about home ownership twice but on both occasions he was being derisive of us talking about home ownership. That is how much those opposite cared. They have been forced into the chamber this afternoon and they have now spoken more about home ownership in one afternoon than they did in 10 years of government.

Let's start with the member for Gaven, who had the temerity to criticise the Boost to Buy scheme. At the same time, she was the one who had rushed through amendments in the middle of 2024 for the federal government's Help to Buy scheme. I am not sure if the member for Gaven actually realises that her actions while she was a minister are some of the reasons we are here having to pass this bill tonight. The political stunts of those opposite, the round tables and the summits—

Mr O'Connor: Oh, the summits.

Mr JANETZKI: Does the Minister for Housing remember the summits they would have? They would get everyone around the table and it would be so stilted and nobody would be able to say what was really on their mind—a desperate attempt after 10 years.

Mrs Gerber: The minister would leave.

Mr JANETZKI: The minister would leave; I take the interjection. It was so awkward and stilted. It was designed to be an artifice, the pretence never actually delivering any change on the ground. I was shocked to hear the member for Gaven criticise our delivery of social and affordable housing, and the Minister for Housing summed it up. In the last term of the former Labor government there were 100 social and community homes.

Mr O'Connor: No, 100 affordable.

Mr JANETZKI: One hundred affordable homes in the last term. In terms of what we are now doing, it was 509 homes per year across that 10-year period.

Mr O'Connor: Of social.

Mr JANETZKI: Of social homes. Now we have more than 7,000 homes under construction and financially committed. That is done with $5.7 billion in the budget towards social and community housing in Queensland, but we are not just stopping there, because we see housing as a pipeline for vulnerable people through social and community homes into rentals into home ownership eventually. That is why along the housing pipeline we have invested $83 million into rental supports for vulnerable Queenslanders, the 20 per cent specialist homelessness uplift that we delivered in the first budget and the $450 million in this budget for specialist housing services to support the housing pipeline. We heard the shadow home ownership minister speak for 17 minutes out of the 30 available. That probably tells us that those opposite do not want to speak about their record and they do not want to talk about the delivery that we are now seeing in Queensland under this Crisafulli government.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: I get a feeling that the member for Bonney did a fair bit of interjecting that burnt up some of that 17 minutes as well.

Mr O'Connor: Maybe five minutes.

Mr JANETZKI: Maybe five minutes of that. It is very difficult to talk for too long when you have no achievements of your own. I contrast that with how we are going. I have already talked about the funding in last year's budget and then this year's budget, but then I turn my mind to the supply side. Whether we have been abolishing stamp duty for first home buyers purchasing a new build on the demand side, we are delivering on the supply side. The Residential Activation Fund is a $2 billion fund to fill the gap between developers and local governments to ensure we are getting housing out of the ground. I saw that another 20,000 lots were being released in Logan on the weekend with the Deputy Premier and Mayor Jon Raven, but we have seen lots right across Queensland. There is $145 million to unlock 33,000 lots in the Darling Downs and the Lockyer Valley, but it is spread far and wide. It does not matter if you are in Boulia, Barcoo or Barcaldine; we are building homes. We are unlocking lots and we are building homes right across Queensland, no matter which corner of the state you are in.

Mr Nicholls: Bedourie.

Mr JANETZKI: Bedourie too; I take the interjection from the member for Clayfield. It does not matter where you are: in any town starting with 'B' in outback and remote Queensland, we are unlocking lots to get more homes built because we on this side of the chamber know that the supply side is vitally important and the record of those opposite is both woeful and glaringly bare. Equally, in terms of the member for Waterford's contribution, she spoke for five minutes. The person who wants to be the treasurer of Queensland—

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: Yes, there have been a lot of numbers.

Government members interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: True. The shadow treasurer is ambitious for the opposition leader—ambitious and busy doing numbers there—because there was only five minutes on the board today, and that says everything. She never spoke about home ownership in government and now offers five minutes of nothing. She could not bring herself to congratulate the government on the extension of the first home owner grant and the abolition of stamp duty for first home buyers purchasing a new build that has helped 3,500 Queenslanders and saved them $66 million. She could not even bring herself to congratulate the government on those good policies. The member for Bundamba criticised our nation-leading Boost to Buy scheme, but I must remind the member for Bundamba that those opposite did not even design a state-based scheme—did not even bother—so I am not sure exactly how they can criticise our side of the House for introducing the Boost to Buy $330 million to help 2,000 Queenslanders. I do not know how they can bring themselves to criticise it when they did not even do anything.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: I also note that the member for Bundamba seemed to announce policy. Today during the MPI debate I was talking about how the opposition leader has not shown any seriousness when it comes to policy except for announcing that the shadow home ownership minister is running again, which is not exactly a policy to write home about. However, the member for Bundamba seemed to extend measures this afternoon at prime time on a Tuesday afternoon at 3.31 pm in terms of the cost of living through registration, so that was great. I was expecting policy pictures from the member for Waterford or the former treasurer, but I was not expecting the member for Bundamba to make a play, so that was very interesting. Maybe the member for Bundamba is making a play for the leadership. If he was so passionate about helping Queenslanders bridge that deposit gap and get into a home sooner, they had the chance to do something about it and they did not.

I want to talk about Labor members opposite bemoaning the technical nature of this bill. They had lots to say that this bill was technical in nature, but let me remind the chamber: behind every technical amendment is real results for Queenslanders. That is why it matters after a decade of decline. I have touched on some of the failures of those opposite, but let's think about the other failures they had. They had 750 build-to-rent homes and not one was delivered on time. They had a $2 billion Housing Investment Fund that did not deliver a single house. They had a $2 million investment into Griffith University that delivered nothing except some favours banked for Labor mates. That is literally their record on housing, and that is not to mention the renters tax. They wanted to introduce a tax on renters that would drive out investments and drive up rents in the middle of a housing crisis. That was some of their commitments that they made in government.

We are pulling every lever available to us and fine-tuning legislation to get the absolute best results for Queenslanders, and we are seeing now that the record is starting to speak for itself. The housing pipeline and dwellings under construction have reached a historic high of more than 52,000 under the Crisafulli government. That is not to mention—and there was lots of talk about affordable and social homes from those opposite—the more than doubling of the affordable and social homes through ministerial infrastructure designations that the Deputy Premier has led. There was no talk about that improvement from those opposite.

I want to make a last few comments on the importance of home ownership in Queensland and in fact for our country. When the Premier appointed me as the first ever home ownership minister, it was something I took on seriously. So much of my personal and professional life before politics revolved around getting young people into their first homes. It was a large part of my professional life. After a decade of Labor decline and when the now Premier appointed me, in opposition we always called it for what it was: it was a housing crisis, and we saw that with those opposite. With a 29 per cent and 36 per cent drop in lot approvals and home approvals, we had seen a significant decline and it was a housing crisis. We had in fact seen a drop in hope, a drop in confidence, a drop in aspiration over a long period of time. I reflect more broadly over 50 years: in 1971, 53 per cent of 25- to 29-year-olds owned their own home and 50 years later that was down to 35 per cent of 25- to 29-year-olds owning their own home in 2021. So it is a significant challenge that society faces and we were very determined to do something about it, because after that decade of those opposite they checked out of governing and Queensland was suffering.

In that 2021 census we saw that Queensland had the lowest home ownership rates at 63½ per cent when New South Wales was at 65 per cent, Victoria and South Australia were at 69 per cent, WA was at 70 per cent and Tasmania was at 71 per cent, so we were coming off the bottom. We have seen some green shoots out of that independent report that has shown that since we came to government there has been a one per cent increase in home ownership, but we will learn more in the next census. However, there had never been any response from those opposite and we were determined to make a serious response when we came to government, and that is what we have seen. Whether it is abolishing stamp duty for first home buyers purchasing a new build, whether it is extending the first home owner grant, whether it is renting out a room, whether it is a $5.7 billion investment into social and community housing, whether it is a $2 billion RAF unlocking 166,000 lots in every corner of our state from the urban areas to the regions, we are pulling every lever available.

I note the contribution from the member for Keppel. The member for Keppel talked about the fact that home ownership should be for anyone, whether it be the tradie in Emu Park or the young family in Zilzie. I think about those people. I often think about John and Lina, Syrian refugees who have been in our country for eight years. With our first home owner grant extension and the stamp duty concession on first home buyers purchasing a new build, during the last budget we stood with them to talk about what those actions meant for them to get into home ownership. This is a societal-wide challenge that

we face, so I think about that tradie in Emu Park and the young couple in Zilzie and I think of John and Lina, because we are determined to restore the belief that home ownership is achievable and the aspiration that lies deep in every Queenslander—in fact, every Australian—to own their own home continues, and the Crisafulli government is absolutely determined to realise this aspiration across every corner of our great state. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, the question is—

That the bill be now read a second time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: 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. I call the Treasurer to table the explanatory notes to the amendments and the statement of compatibility with human rights.

Mr JANETZKI (6.31 pm): I table the explanatory notes to my amendments and the statement of compatibility with human rights.

Tabled paper: Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes to Hon. David Janetzki's amendments [2028].

Tabled paper: Home Ownership and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. David Janetzki's amendments [2029].

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I note that the Treasurer's amendments Nos 1 to 4 are outside the long title of the bill and therefore require leave of the House. Is leave granted?

Leave granted.

Question put—That the Treasurer's amendments Nos 1 to 4, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments, as circulated—

1 After clause 1

Page 6, after line 5—

insert—

Part 1A Amendment of City of Brisbane Act 2010

1A Act amended

This part amends the *City of Brisbane Act 2010.*

1B Amendment of s 47 (What this division is about)

(1) Section 47(1), 'Agreements'—

omit, *insert*—

Agreement

(2) Section 47—

insert—

(6) In this section—

National Competition Policy Agreement means the Intergovernmental Agreement on National Competition Policy agreed on 29 November 2024 between the Commonwealth and the States, as in force from time to time.

1C Amendment of sch 2 (Dictionary)

Schedule 2, definition *National Competition Policy Agreements*—

omit.

2 After clause 1

Page 6, after line 5—

insert—

Part 1B Amendment of Competition Policy Reform (Queensland) Act 1996

1D Act amended

This part amends the *Competition Policy Reform (Queensland) Act 1996*.

1E Amendment of s 3 (Definitions)

(1) Section 3(1), definition *Conduct Code Agreement*—

omit.

(2) Section 3(1), definition *participating jurisdiction*, 'Conduct Code Agreement'—

omit, insert—

National Competition Policy Agreement

(3) Section 3(1)—

insert—

National Competition Policy Agreement means the Intergovernmental Agreement on National Competition Policy agreed on 29 November 2024 between the Commonwealth and the States, as in force from time to time.

3 After clause 20

Page 18, after line 29—

insert—

Part 4A Amendment of Local Government Act 2009

20A Act amended

This part amends the *Local Government Act 2009*.

20B Amendment of s 43 (What this division is about)

(1) Section 43(1), 'Agreements'—

omit, *insert*—

Agreement

(2) Section 43—

insert—

(6) In this section—

National Competition Policy Agreement means the Intergovernmental Agreement on National Competition Policy agreed on 29 November 2024 between the Commonwealth and the States, as in force from time to time.

20C Amendment of sch 4 (Dictionary)

Schedule 4, definition *National Competition Policy Agreements*—

omit.

4 After clause 23

Page 21, after line 6—

insert—

Part 5A Amendment of Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997

23A Act amended

This part amends the *Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997*.

23B Amendment of s 38 (Principle of competitive neutrality)

Section 38(1), from 'enjoy' to 'because'—

omit, *insert*—

enjoy a net competitive advantage over competitors or potential competitors in a particular market solely because of the agency's public ownership, including because

23C Amendment of s 39 (Significant business activities)

(1) Section 39(1), after 'corporation'—

insert—

or its subsidiaries

(2) Section 39(3)(b), after 'corporation'—

insert—

or a subsidiary of a government owned corporation

(3) Section 39—

insert—

(5) In this section—

subsidiary, of a government owned corporation, see G*overnment Owned Corporations Act 1993*, section 2.

23D Amendment of s 41 (Making competitive neutrality complaint)

Section 41(1)(b) and (2)(c)(ii), before 'competitive'—

insert—

net

23E Amendment of s 43 (Guideline for dealing with complaints)

Section 43(1), after 'complaints'—

insert—

, including methods for determining whether a government agency carrying on a significant business activity enjoys a net competitive advantage over competitors or potential competitors in a particular market solely because of the agency's public ownership.

23F Omission of s 258 (Guideline for dealing with competitive neutrality complaints)

Section 258—

omit.

23G Amendment of sch 2 (Dictionary)

Schedule 2, definitions *competition policy*, *competition principles agreement*, *conduct code agreement*, and *implementation agreement*—

omit.

Question put—That clauses 1 to 28 and schedule 1, as amended, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 28 and schedule 1, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading

Question put—That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

Question put—That the Treasurer's amendment No. 5, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment, as circulated—

5 Long title

Long title, from '*Duties Act 2001*' to '*Payroll Tax Act 1971*'—

omit, *insert*—

City of Brisbane Act 2010*, the *Competition Policy Reform (Queensland) Act 1996*, the *Duties Act 2001*, the *First Home Owner Grant and Other Home Owner Grants Act 2000*, the *Land Tax Act 2010*, the *Local Government Act 2009*, the *Payroll Tax Act 1971*, the *Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997

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

Motion agreed to.

Sitting suspended from 6.32 pm to 7.32 pm.

QUEENSLAND PROTECTION COMMISSION BILL

Resumed from 26 August (see p. 2549).

Second Reading

Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (7.32 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Every child and vulnerable person, in every setting, has a right to feel safe and protected from harm. The reality is this has simply not occurred in Queensland's recent history. However, good government does not retreat from tragic truths. It stands strong in the face of them. It seeks answers. On receiving those answers, it not only maps a way forward; it delivers a robust response. The Queensland Protection Commission, established by this bill, fulfils that ambition.

While there is always more work to do, Queensland children will be made safer through the work of the commission to identify and address the risk of child offending before it results in harm. This comes after a chain of child protection and safety failures during Labor's decade of decline, including: the refusal to legislate a reportable conduct scheme until six years after they promised it, with the Crisafulli government fast-tracking its commencement by 12 months to July of this year; a dearth of investment in family-based care and early intervention that fanned an explosion in the number of children and young people in residential care under the former Labor government by 229 per cent; and the systemic breakdowns that ultimately allowed Ashley Paul Griffith to evade detection for two decades while committing more than 300 sexual abuse related offences—that we are aware of—at early childhood education and care service centres across Queensland. That is the Labor model that failed Queensland children and their families for a decade.

On coming to office, the Crisafulli government requested the Child Death Review Board assess the Griffith case as a basis for examining the framework of the state's early childhood education and care sector and how it interacted with police services and the blue card regime. The board's 10-month review resulted in the *In plain sight* report, identifying fragmented responsibilities, insufficient thresholds for action against offenders, poor record keeping and yawning sector and interagency gaps—weaknesses that, when combined, conspired to cover Griffith's offending.

Families have been shattered by the harm that Griffith inflicted. The review pinpointed 18 missed opportunities where his offending could—and should—have been detected earlier. Critically, it found that Ashley Paul Griffith could have been caught earlier, on up to five occasions, had Labor delivered a reportable conduct scheme when it was recommended in the 2017 royal commission. Despite multiple commitments by the former Labor government to deliver the scheme as a priority, they dragged their feet. That is Labor's legacy and their record on the system we inherited.

To help close those gaps in a system that he exploited, we brought forward the commencement of the Reportable Conduct Scheme for all relevant sectors. I also announced as a priority a nation-leading entity to prevent the horror of harmful conduct against children, particularly sexual abuse. The Queensland Protection Commission will be the state's first centralised child safeguarding office, providing a single point of leadership, coordination and accountability for child safety across the state. In doing so, the Queensland Protection Commission, led by a Queensland Protection Commissioner, directly satisfies the flagship recommendation of the *In plain sight* report. The bill co-locates key safeguarding and child protection oversight functions within the commission including the Reportable Conduct Scheme, Child Safe Standards and blue card and disability worker screening schemes. Further, the commissioner and the commission will increase the focus on harm prevention by proactively identifying and analysing risks to children with the aid of a future child safeguarding intelligence hub.

The bill was introduced to the parliament on 26 August 2026 and referred to the Education, Arts and Communities Committee for consideration. The committee tabled its report on 9 October 2026 with but one recommendation: that the bill be passed. I thank the Education, Arts and Communities Committee, chaired by the member for Keppel, for its detailed consideration. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all parties who provided a submission, particularly those speaking on behalf of children who have experienced child sexual abuse. I would also like to acknowledge the Principal Commissioner of the Queensland Family and Child Commission and chairperson of the Child Death Review Board, Mr Luke Twyford, for his tireless work to deliver the *In plain sight* report and his full

support for this nation-leading bill. I also thank the recently appointed Child Death Review Board member Hetty Johnston AM for her longstanding advocacy on behalf of all children and for her comments during the committee process that this bill represents what she has been working towards for years.

In his submission, the QFCC principal commissioner stated that Queensland's existing architecture for protecting children from sexual abuse has been inadequate. He emphasised that the offending of Ashley Paul Griffith was not isolated: indeed, that, devastatingly, child sexual abuse was neither rare nor exceptional. Mr Twyford said his research showed the average offender sexually harmed children for 11 years before detection and one in four Queensland children would experience child sexual abuse unless something changed. Overwhelmingly, stakeholders supported the bill's objectives to establish a centralised child safeguarding entity. Many stakeholders impressed the need to integrate critical safeguarding and oversight functions, to better understand cross-system issues, to ensure information was shared and connected and to strengthen accountability for keeping children safe. Each factor goes to the primary objective of the bill.

I note the Labor opposition will ultimately be supporting this bill, but there has been no acknowledgment that changes are necessary because of their failures. At this point, I want to state clearly and unequivocally that the Crisafulli government will not be supporting the amendments proposed by the Labor opposition. We reject the very Labor model that for a decade placed the interests of politicians ahead of the safety of Queensland children. It is the Labor model that would take Queensland backwards and risk repeating the very failures that were exposed by the *In plain sight* report. Unlike those opposite, the Crisafulli government is focused on one paramount objective: protecting our children. We are implementing meaningful reforms that respond directly to the lessons of the past and deliver on recommendations arising from the *In plain sight* report. Queensland children cannot afford a return to the systems, structures and culture that allowed warning signs to be missed, information to remain siloed and vulnerable children to fall through the cracks. This government's focus is not on protecting institutions or preserving the status quo. Our focus is on protecting children, strengthening safeguards and ensuring the failures identified in the *In plain sight* report are never repeated.

I now draw attention specifically to those parts of the bill that establish the Queensland Protection Commission and the Queensland Protection Commissioner. In doing so, I will address matters raised during the committee process regarding the proposed governance framework of the commission, particularly the independence of the Queensland Protection Commissioner; the appointment and removal provisions; and the scope of ministerial direction powers. As recommended by the Public Interest Map policy, introduced by Labor, the bill establishes the Queensland Protection Commission as a statutory authority attached to the Department of Justice. The commission will oversee important child safety functions, including the blue card system, yellow card system and the Reportable Conduct Scheme. This structure enables a statutory separation of responsibility between the performance of functions by the commissioner and the administrative management of the commission, which is proposed to rest with the chief executive of the Department of Justice. Some stakeholders, and the non-government members of the committee, proposed a statutory body should be retained. However, as the Principal Commissioner of the QFCC noted in his response to the committee—

> The Queensland Protection Commissioner will collect public revenue. They will make life-changing decisions about a person's ability to work in child related employment or not. They will be a regulator of organisations with the ability to penalise private organisations and, indeed, to make public information that may tarnish the reputation of a private organisation should it be shown to have not operated in a child-safe way.

He goes on—

> They are distinctly significant public powers, and with that there must be an appropriate attachment of accountability to the commissioner who is making those decisions.

He goes on—

> That is profoundly different from my current role as Queensland's Family and Child Commissioner.

The structure of the commission must align with its unique status as a centralised safeguarding entity of oversight and regulatory functions whose scale spreads significantly beyond the QFCC's current remit. Its task is to balance independent decision-making with public accountability. Being a statutory authority does not affect the commission's independence in making its regulatory decisions. That is important to note, because I understand the opposition wish to move amendments in this regard. It is clear; I will say it again—being a statutory authority does not affect the commission's independence in making its regulatory decisions. Similar organisations already have departmental oversight for

administration and finances while remaining independent in their statutory decision-making. For example, this model has been adopted for other statutory offices delivering core public services, including the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and Forensic Science Queensland. Those structures recognise that significant public powers require stronger levels of public accountability and need to be appropriately resourced by government.

As an authority attached to the Department of Justice, the Queensland Protection Commission will implicitly be a unit of public administration under the Crime and Corruption Act. As the accountable officer for the commission under the Financial Accountability Act, the chief executive of the Department of Justice must meet usual legislative requirements in reporting publicly on the commission's budgets and financial expenditure.

The bill also includes a function to carry out and support activities to improve the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. In this respect, the responsible minister has the discretion to furnish the commissioner with a written statement of expectations about the performance of this function. The statement of expectations may provide for the nature and scope of activities to be carried out by the commissioner in relation to the function. The commissioner must have regard to, but is not bound by, the statement of expectations and, to maintain transparency, any statement of expectations must be published on the commission's website. This approach is intended to ensure activities delivered under this function are in step with government and community expectations and priorities so far as the safety and wellbeing of Queensland's children. The ability to issue a statement also facilitates the flexibility to respond to and signal emerging issues where the commission's efforts and energy are required.

With respect to powers in the bill for the minister to direct the commissioner, the bill's approach is modelled on what currently applies to the commissioners of the QFCC under the Family and Child Commission Act. Under section 22 of that act, a QFCC commissioner is subject to the direction of the minister with respect to the performance of their functions. This bill actually limits ministerial direction powers to the core functions of the QFCC that are being continued by the commissioner. We could not be any clearer. The commissioner will not be subject to the direction of the minister in relation to any of its regulatory functions, including decisions made under the Reportable Conduct Scheme, Child Safe Standards or the blue card or disability worker screening schemes.

In light of the expanded powers of the commissioner under the bill, the effect is that ministerial direction powers will be reduced compared to what currently applies to the Principal Commissioner of the QFCC. It is my understanding that the Labor opposition have confirmed that they are supportive of this clarification to the ministerial direction powers. At the committee's public briefing for the bill, the principal commissioner reflected that the narrowing of the scope of functions to which a ministerial direction can apply and the requirement for it to be publicly transparent were effectively a strengthening and modernising of his current role. To further support transparency, the bill also requires the commissioner to report on the number of directions given by the minister for a financial year.

The bill includes provisions to permit the removal of a commissioner for any reason or none. Providing for the removal from office for any reason or none is not unprecedented. As set out in response to a question on notice taken by the Department of Justice at its public briefing of the committee, several similar examples exist, including section 10(3) and (4) of the Forensic Science Queensland Act 2024. On that, I encourage the member for Stafford to learn how to find a current 'in-force' copy of legislation before he challenges another member on what the law is and says.

The removal power acknowledges the significance of the commissioner and deputy commissioner roles, which together are responsible for delivering a broad range of critical child and vulnerable person safeguarding functions. For the first time, in addition to child safety system oversight, this will include the Reportable Conduct Scheme, Child Safe Standards and worker screening schemes. The commissioner assumes responsibility for crucial regulatory matters, such as decisions on who is suitable to work with children and persons with disability, and will be empowered to take legal action against organisations failing to meet legislative obligations.

As the Principal Commissioner of the QFCC noted in his submission to the committee, these are significant public powers that bring greater responsibility and accountability than those currently held by the head of the QFCC. They hinge on public trust: the trust of parents, those who report conduct of concern, the various sectors responsive to child safeguarding and the broader community. The community rightfully demands and must have confidence that the people appointed to these roles are consistently—and to the highest standard—protecting the safety and wellbeing of Queensland's children and vulnerable people.

I now turn to the appointment particulars for deputy commissioners under the bill. The bill requires that one deputy commissioner be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person or have demonstrated ability or experience working with Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children. I acknowledge that non-government members of the committee raised concerns about this aspect of the bill and recommended that the existing Family and Child Commission Act requirement be retained so that one deputy commissioner must be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person. The bill retains the ability for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person to be appointed as deputy commissioner. It also reflects that a person may possess a range of cultural and professional experiences suitable to drive the outcomes the commission will be expected to deliver. The bill also includes several measures to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and experiences feature prominently in the commissioner's work.

The commissioner will be empowered to establish advisory councils on matters relating to the commissioner's functions. The bill includes a requirement that at least one member of each advisory council be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person. The commissioner also has the flexibility to decide the broader membership of advisory councils, which may include additional First Nations representatives. In performing its non-regulatory functions, such as child protection oversight, the commission must ensure the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are adequately and appropriately represented.

The commissioner will also be required to report annually on Queensland's progress in reducing the number of and improving the outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in the child protection system. As well, the commissioner must respect and promote the role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service providers in supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities to protect and care for their children, young people and vulnerable persons.

I also note comments made by the non-government members of the committee regarding the timing of annual reporting by the commissioner and that the Crisafulli government is somehow 'running from accountability'. As per the current FCC Act, the bill requires the commissioner to report annually to the minister on the commission's progress. However, the bill removes the requirement for the commissioner to provide its first report only five months after establishment to support the transition from the QFCC. Instead, the bill requires the chief executive of the Department of Justice to include in the department's annual report for the 2026-27 financial year the matters the QFCC would have been required to include in its annual report for that financial year. This ensures information about the final seven months of operation of the QFCC are publicly reported on in the 2026-27 financial year and that the commission can report fulsomely on its operations in the 2027-28 annual report, with a more complete and meaningful picture.

Importantly, the bill retains the requirement for the minister to table the report to the parliament within 14 sitting days, ensuring the commissioner's findings are transparent and a matter of public record. I also note that the bill does not remove ministerial discretion to request a report on the commission's operations at an earlier stage or prevent the commissioner from providing an interim report should the commissioner consider that appropriate.

Finally, I turn to the amendments in the bill that implement key national working with children check reforms agreed through the Standing Council of Attorneys-General. In November 2025, all attorneys-general endorsed the Agreement to Deliver National Working with Children Check Reform. This outlines six priority actions targeting mutual recognition of working with children clearances nationwide. The bill amends the Working with Children Check Act to support Queensland's commitments under the agreement.

A priority action is meaningful consistency in the disqualifying offence frameworks of all working with children check schemes across Australia. These regimes are in place in every state and territory to ensure individuals convicted of offences that make them unsuitable to work with children cannot hold a working with children clearance. In July this year all attorneys-general agreed to a minimum baseline for disqualifying offences, including both automatically disqualifying and presumptively disqualifying offences.

At this juncture, I thank all of the attorneys-general who sit around that table as we work together for the protection of children. I know that many of them are awaiting with interest the passing of this bill and have sought instruction not only from the QFCC commissioner but also from me in relation to Queensland's nation-leading reform. As a result of those conversations, the bill amends the Working with Children Check Act to include new disqualifying offences and new serious offences. Queensland

leads the reform as the first jurisdiction to move legislative amendments relevant to the nationally agreed baseline. I foreshadow that I will be moving a technical amendment during consideration of the bill in detail to ensure new offences added to the serious offence framework align with recent reforms to dangerous driving offences made by the Criminal Code (Dangerous Driving) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2026, which was passed just last sitting week.

Queensland children must be protected. They have not been, cannot be and will not be by a system that responds only after harm occurs. That is why the Crisafulli government is establishing the Queensland Protection Commission with the Queensland Protection Commission Bill 2026, connecting major child safeguarding and oversight functions such as Worker Screening Services, the Reportable Conduct Scheme, Child Safe Standards, disability worker screening, the Child Death Register and child death prevention and delivering nation-leading, proactive, multifaceted risk protection, integrated data and clear reporting channels to identify patterns of concern and danger.

Raising the Queensland Protection Commission involves far more than accepting a difficult challenge; it is about what has to be done—a front-foot approach to remove the threats, prevent abuse and restore confidence to every Queensland family. I commend the bill to the House.



Ms McMILLAN (Mansfield—ALP) (8.00 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Queensland Protection Commission Bill 2026. At the outset, I thank the Child Death Review Board for their careful and considered work to develop the *In plain sight* report. In particular, I wish to thank the chair and QFCC Principal Commissioner Luke Twyford for his outstanding service to Queensland in this role. Commissioner Twyford has been strong and unwavering in ensuring the voices of Queensland children and young people, especially those most in need, are heard in the long and echoing corridors of government. This commitment, even if it meant exposing uncomfortable truths or speaking out against the government of the day, has no doubt prevented further harm to many children across our state.

The Queensland Protection Commission Bill is the first step in implementing the recommendations of the *In plain sight*: *review into system responses to child sexual abuse* and of the child safety commission of inquiry, a commission of inquiry cut short by this government, and that is the truth—a politically expedient decision to avoid facing the reality the child safety system has rapidly deteriorated under this government and the Minister for Child Safety.

Instead of accountability or action, what do we get? We get deflection from Premier Crisafulli. He dismisses his critics and the government's critics without listening to what they are saying, which is that the child safety system is buckling under pressure with no sign of this pressure easing. The actions of the child safety minister are making it worse. Her department's decision to turn on the Unify IT system before it was ready sparked widespread issues with workers unable to find crucial information about children in care—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance to the bill before the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): I was beginning to head down that path myself. Member, come back to the bill if you could, please

An opposition member interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: We can do this without comment, thank you. Member, you have the call.

Ms McMILLAN: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The minister provided a frankly confusing timeline of what she did or did not know. Minister Camm scrapped—

Ms Scanlon interjected.

Ms McMILLAN: I take that interjection—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The speaker on her feet is blatantly disregarding your previous ruling. I ask you to rule again on relevance to the long title of the bill.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. If you bear with me, Deputy Speaker, this morning in question time in answering a question about child safety data, the minister on her feet referred—

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

Mr de BRENNI: I am responding to the Attorney's point of order, Deputy Speaker. If you bear with me, I will outline the reasons for my point of order. In responding to the question, the minister said of the Queensland Protection Commission Bill, which we are debating at the moment: 'What I was going to explain to the House is how important child safety data is, how important government data is, how important transparency of—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry! I will have some silence. I will give it a little longer, but I do not need commentary from the floor, thank you. Just one moment. You have the call.

Mr de BRENNI: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. What I am explaining to you, Deputy Speaker, is what the minister herself said about data this morning during question time. I make these two points for your consideration: firstly, in making those remarks this morning, the minister has made clear that transparency of data and—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just a moment. Is this not a different line of business? I am failing to see the relevance to the long title of the bill.

Mr de BRENNI: Yes, Deputy Speaker, if you let me finish—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you get to the point, please.

Mr de BRENNI: I will do that, thank you, Deputy Speaker. I make two points: in her response this morning, the child safety minister made clear the transparency of data and use of child safety data is key to the Queensland Protection Commission. They were her own words that she put before the House this morning, therefore it is entirely relevant. Secondly, I draw your attention to the guidance given by Mr Speaker this morning during question time where he acknowledged the potential enlivenment of the rule of anticipation that the minister—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry, member for Glass House, take a seat for a moment. I want you to conclude now, please.

Mr de BRENNI: I will.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot see this is going anywhere that is helpful to the debate. I want you to conclude, please.

Mr de BRENNI: Deputy Speaker, the two points I am making—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have heard the first one.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr de BRENNI: I take the member's interjection. It is difficult to address—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Attorney-General! The House will come to order. The next person who speaks I will warn. I want you to conclude your submission, please, so we can get on with the debate. I have heard the first point. Make the second point, please.

Mr de BRENNI: The second point is that the Speaker provided guidance in respect of those remarks about the importance of data to the Queensland Protection Commission in respect of the rule of anticipation. Ipso facto, if the rule of anticipation was enlivened—

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

Mr de BRENNI: Deputy Speaker, it is very difficult for me to conclude when I continue to be interrupted.

Mr POWELL: This is an excessively long point of order, Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I take the point. I have heard enough, thank you. Member for Mansfield, please resume and I want you to address the long title of the bill. If you divert again, I will pull you up on relevance.

Ms McMILLAN: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I also rise to a point of order before I continue.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Certainly. What is your point of order?

Ms McMILLAN: I did take the interjection made by the member for Gaven in relation to the Unify data.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: And that is relevant to? Here is my ruling: proceed with your presentation in relation to the long title of the bill, please.

Ms McMILLAN: So, Minister Camm scrapped the My Life in Care Survey, with the QFCC Principal Commissioner Luke Twyford saying that decision meant he had no idea how the child safety system is operating due to a lack of visible data or survey results. Reports last week in the *Courier-Mail* stated that—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. With the greatest respect, this is my bill; I know what is in it. I ask the member on her feet to come back to being relevant to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Relevance, thank you. I will do the directing. Keep your seat for the moment.

Mr POWER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Speaker this morning made it clear—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, take a seat, please. That is not a point of order.

Mr POWER: I want to make a point on relevance. The Queensland Protection Commission will be analysing—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, take a seat, please. Member for Mansfield, could you just demonstrate to the House how this line of debate is relevant to the long title of the bill that is currently before the House? I will have everyone else remain quiet, please.

Ms McMILLAN: Certainly, Deputy Speaker. I have been referring to the key elements of the Queensland Protection Commission Bill—that is, the importance of data in managing the safety of children. This new commission is solely responsible for the protection of children, yet we have seen—

Ms Bates: What have you got against child safety officers?

Ms McMILLAN: I beg your pardon?

Ms Bates: What have you got against child safety officers?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): One more outburst and I will warn you, member. I have heard enough. Can you proceed with your presentation in relation to the long title of the bill. If you veer again, I will warn you. Ultimately, if you are not relevant I will sit you down. I ask the rest of the House to let me do the adjudicating, please.

Ms McMILLAN: I state at the outset that the Queensland Labor opposition will be supporting the bill. However, after speaking with stakeholders and hearing their views on the bill, we will move amendments, which I now table, during the consideration in detail stage to put into effect what we believe are practical and sensible changes to strengthen the independence and accountability of the new commission.

Tabled paper: Queensland Protection Commission Bill 2026, amendments to be moved by Ms Corrine McMillan MP [2030].

Tabled paper: Queensland Protection Commission Bill 2026, explanatory notes to Ms Corrine McMillan MP's amendments [2031].

Tabled paper: Queensland Protection Commission Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Ms Corrine McMillan MP's amendments [2032].

This bill establishes the Queensland Protection Commission and the Queensland Protection Commissioner to consolidate and centralise child safeguarding and protection oversight functions. The issue of Child Safe Standards and blue card functions must be central to any serious discussion about strengthening Queensland's child protection system. Child Safe Standards are not simply a compliance exercise or another set of boxes for organisations to tick. They are about creating environments where children are safe, where concerns are taken seriously, where allegations of harm are acted upon and where children are listened to.

The Queensland Protection Commission Bill provides an opportunity to consider whether the oversight, accountability and regulatory arrangements surrounding child safety are strong enough to prevent harm before it occurs. We must ensure Child Safe Standards are consistently implemented across organisations that work with children, responsibilities are clearly understood and there are meaningful consequences when organisations fail to meet their obligations.

The same principle must apply to Queensland's blue card system. A blue card is an important safeguard, but it is only effective if relevant information is shared, risks are properly assessed and concerning behaviour is identified before a person can continue working with children. The new Queensland Protection Commission must have clear lines of responsibility and effective information-sharing arrangements with Blue Card Services, police, child safety authorities and other relevant regulators. We cannot afford to have gaps between agencies, information that fails to reach decision-makers or warning signs that are overlooked. Labor will scrutinise whether these reforms deliver genuine accountability and stronger safeguards in practice, because the test of this legislation is not whether it creates a new commission but whether it makes children safer. Stakeholder feedback makes one thing clear: there is broad recognition that Queensland needs strong, independent child safeguarding, but there are legitimate questions about how these reforms will work in practice.

Independent Schools Queensland supports stronger coordination and oversight but wants a proportionate and practical framework. Sisters Inside, meanwhile, warns that child protection must not become a system of expanded surveillance and exclusion while overlooking harm within state institutions. These are important issues that the government must address.

Child Safe Standards and blue cards must work together, not be treated as interchangeable safeguards. A blue card may identify risks associated with an individual, but it cannot guarantee that an organisation has a child-safe culture, responds appropriately to complaints or acts on warning signs. The question for this parliament over the coming days is whether the new Queensland Protection Commission will have the powers, resources and effective information-sharing arrangements to ensure both systems work as intended. Ultimately, the measure of this legislation must be whether it prevents harm and makes Queensland's children safer.

During the committee process, it was made clear that the bill as drafted risks not achieving its intended purpose. If the commission is not truly independent, we risk its ability to properly advocate and protect the rights and interests of all Queensland children. That is why the opposition will move several amendments to strengthen the bill, which I will focus on in my contribution.

With regard to ministerial removal powers, many stakeholders raised concerns with the extraordinary power this bill gives the minister over the commission. The minister will be able to sack the commissioner or deputy commissioner for any reason or no reason. The government tries to explain this away by saying that it allows flexibility and is responsive to leadership or operational issues. That is convenient LNP-speak for, 'We want to be able to sack them if they say something negative about us.' That is the reality.

The QFCC are currently protected from consequence if they speak out about the government and the issues plaguing the child safety system, as the current commissioner has done so well. The QPC will not be afforded the same protection. How can the government genuinely say with a straight face that the new commissioner will be able to speak freely when that person will know that the government can sack them whenever they choose? This government has already been called out by community service organisations that have been threatened with funding cuts if they criticise the LNP.

The new child safety watchdog will have that same fear, and there is no doubt in our minds or those of the very experts, researchers and stakeholders who provided submissions on the bill that this jeopardises the independent operations of the commission. That is why Labor will move to restrict the minister's powers over the commission, only allowing for the commissioner to be removed on grounds of misconduct, incapacity or neglect of duties.

To further strengthen the independence of the commission from the government, Queensland Labor will also move to establish it as a statutory body under the Financial Accountability Act. This gives the commission control of its own budget and resources, as it should have. The government's proposal to have the budget controlled by the Department of Justice is a flawed approach. Once again, I quote Kelly Jebb from PeakCare, who said at the public hearing—

> The Protection Commission will oversee systems and agencies of government, and for that reason we think there is value in ensuring that the staffing and resources and administrative arrangements cannot constrain or reasonably be perceived to constrain the commission's ability to perform that oversight.

How can the commission truly operate independently if a director-general in 1 William Street is telling them how to spend their money?

In relation to ministerial directions, the opposition will also move an amendment to require that any ministerial direction provided by the minister under proposed section 28 must be tabled in the parliament within 30 days of that direction being given. This implements a recommendation made by

the Crime and Corruption Commission to strengthen transparency around ministerial directions to the independent child safety watchdog. They are not Labor's words; they are the words of the Crime and Corruption Commission.

Regarding First Nations peoples, many stakeholders expressed disappointment in the bill in relation to the deputy commissioner. Proposed section 12(3) of the QPC Bill, which pertains to the appointment of deputy commissioners, does not require the mandatory appointment of at least one Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person. It states that they may either be Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander or have experience working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. I draw on my own experience in relation to this. I have many years of experience as a school leader working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, but I certainly would not consider myself adequate to be the deputy commissioner as a non-Indigenous person.

Child safety data released at estimates showed that the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children continues, with the number of First Nations in care representing 49.7 per cent of the total number of children in care, hence the importance of making sure that at least one of the deputy commissioners is a person of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

Work must continue to be done to reduce this over-representation. The Child Safe Organisations Bill 2024 introduced the mandatory implementation of the universal principle of cultural safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children—that is, to create environments that promote and uphold the right to cultural safety for those children. How can the new commission uphold the rights of First Nations children and their rights to cultural safety when it may not even have an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person with lived experience and cultural knowledge in its leadership team? PeakCare's CEO Kelly Jebb provided a powerful statement to the committee on this matter, arguing—

> To reduce the over-representation of First Nations children in child protection we must listen deeply and contribute to healing, and therefore a First Nations commissioner is critical.

I repeat: 'is critical'. They are not my words but the words of the new PeakCare CEO. That is why the opposition will move an amendment to require at least one of the deputy commissioners to be an identified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander position.

In relation to a new parliamentary committee, Labor will move to establish a new statutory committee of the parliament—the Parliamentary Child Protection Committee. This new committee, modelled off the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, will have the powers to review and monitor the new child safety watchdog to ensure it is operating the way Queenslanders expect—and that it is operating in the best interests of Queensland children. Stakeholders pointed out the need for a review of how the commission was operating, particularly when it was apparent during committee hearings that the commission is unable to investigate those actions of the department of child safety. Given the size and scale of the commissioner's role and the task at hand, Labor considers it prudent to ensure there is a consistent approach to how the commission is monitored.

Ultimately, the fundamental weakness of this bill is that the government is asking parliament to support a major restructure of Queensland's child safeguarding system—one, I might add, that is not working as it stands—without providing sufficient detail about how it will be resourced, how the recommendations of the *In plain sight* review will be implemented or what further legislative changes will be required to deliver the reforms promised. There is also a lack of clarity around the implementation of the proposed child safeguarding intelligence hub, including its timeframes, its operational capacity and how it will work with other agencies across government to identify risks and prevent harm. These are not minor administrative details. They are essential to ensuring this reform delivers on its promise.

Queenslanders need a properly resourced commission, clear accountability, effective information sharing and a transparent implementation plan. I note that during the committee hearings I asked what staffing would be required—how many and how much—and that information was not forthcoming and could not be shared. Labor will continue to scrutinise this legislation, this lack of planning, this lack of an implementation plan, and we will continue to demand answers from this government—a government that has failed on many child safety measures to date—because Queensland children deserve more than another restructure, more than moving boxes around a piece of paper, more than drawing another mind map. Our most vulnerable children in Queensland deserve better than another promise. They deserve a safeguarding system that works, that acts on warning signs and that uses data and evidence to make sound and accurate decisions.

Ms Pugh: We need to see the data.

Ms McMILLAN: I take that interjection. We need to see the data, and for two years that data has not been forthcoming. That makes it difficult for any new agency to action an implementation plan or to respond to emerging issues.

Our most vulnerable children in this state deserve a safeguarding system that works, that acts on warning signs, that puts their safety first, that is transparent and that is accountable. On those last two measures, this minister and this LNP government have failed miserably. We have seen in the last week that 91 children—an increase of 60 per cent—have died under the watch of this LNP government. That data was released at the last minute prior to a Friday night AFL game. Our most vulnerable children deserve so much better. I will leave my contribution there.

Mr HUTTON (Keppel—LNP) (8.26 pm): As chair of the Education, Arts and Communities Committee, my committee had the responsibility of examining the Queensland Protection Commission Bill 2026. Our committee considered 33 submissions, received a public briefing from the department and heard directly from stakeholders at a public hearing. Overwhelmingly, the evidence recognised the importance of the work this new commission will undertake.

The committee recommended that the bill be passed. This legislation is significant because it responds directly to what *In plain sight* told us went wrong. What happened to these children was not simply the work of an offender who successfully hid from authorities. There were warning signs. There were concerns. There were pieces of information sitting within different parts of the system, yet Queensland did not have a safeguarding system capable of bringing that information together, recognising the patterns and intervening early enough. Children paid the price of that failure. The Queensland Protection Commission, a nation-leading reform, will protect Queensland children.

For almost a decade the former Labor government was responsible for these systems. Labor had the benefit of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. They had recommendations calling for stronger safeguards, better information sharing and greater oversight. Yet Queensland was left exposed. Perhaps one of the most confronting findings from *In plain sight* was that there were potentially multiple opportunities for early detection if Queensland had a reportable conduct scheme. The royal commission recommended such schemes years earlier. Labor failed to deliver one. The former government had time to act. It had recommendations before it, yet critical safeguarding functions remained fragmented and information remained separated across different parts of government and the community. The Crisafulli government has placed at the heart of this bill a simple principle: Queensland's safeguarding system must put Queensland children first.

The Queensland Protection Commission will provide a central point of leadership, accountability and coordination for child and vulnerable person safeguarding in Queensland. From 1 February 2027 it will replace the Queensland Family and Child Commission while continuing its important existing work, including systemic oversight of the child protection system, advocacy review and analysis, administration of the Child Death Register and support for the independent Child Death Review Board. For the first time, critical safeguarding functions will be brought together within a dedicated safeguarding entity: the Reportable Conduct Scheme, Child Safe Standards and Queensland Worker Screening Services. Importantly, the bill lays the legislative foundation for a nation-leading child safeguarding intelligence hub.

One of the clearest lessons from the *In plain sight* report is that information sitting separately can look very different when someone finally puts the pieces together. A parent may raise a concern about someone's behaviour around their child. An employer might notice something unusual. Police may hold information from an early interaction. A regulator may hold another piece of the puzzle. Individually, those pieces may not establish that a criminal offence has occurred; together they may tell us that a child is at risk. That is why this bill gives the commissioner the ability to exchange information relevant to proactively identify and protect children, young people and other vulnerable people from threats to their safety and wellbeing. It is an incredibly important shift in thinking. Child safeguarding cannot begin and end with the question: 'Can we prosecute?' We must also be capable of asking, 'What is the risk to this child and what can we do about it?'

The bill also strengthens Queensland's working with children check framework, adds further offences and facilitates Queensland's participation in national continuous checking arrangements. The bill is building the infrastructure that Queensland needs to identify risks earlier, connect information sooner and act before another child becomes another victim.

Reform of this significance does not happen without individuals stepping up. I thank the Attorney-General and her team for their efforts in the drafting of this bill. I would also particularly like to take a moment to acknowledge Queensland Family and Child Commissioner Luke Twyford.

Commissioner Twyford chaired the Child Death Review Board that undertook *In plain sight* and was central to the work that helped shape the new safeguarding architecture now before this parliament. The legislation we are considering today will repeal the act governing the organisation Commissioner Twyford leads.

From 1 February next year the Queensland Family and Child Commission will be replaced by the Queensland Protection Commission, yet Commissioner Twyford has embraced the case for reform. To me, that is a powerful demonstration of what putting Queensland children first actually means. It means that institutions are not the priority, nor is his personal position: Queensland children are. Commissioner Twyford's contribution demonstrates public service in its truest sense—following the evidence and asking not what arrangements best preserve the institutions we have but what system will best protect Queensland children. I thank him for that contribution and I am excited that he will have the opportunity to build the new QPC.

I also acknowledge Hetty Johnston. For decades Hetty has been one of Australia's most dedicated voices for the protection of children from sexual abuse. That also raises a really uncomfortable question. If advocates have been calling for change for years, if the royal commission provided governments with a road map and if the need for stronger safeguards was known, why did Queensland have to wait so long? Labor governed Queensland for a decade. Queensland children should not have had to wait for a change of government for this work to be done.

I represent communities where parents know their childcare educators, their teachers, their coaches and their volunteers by name. In Yeppoon, The Caves and communities right across Keppel, parents place enormous trust in the people who work with their children. The overwhelming majority—

Ms McMillan interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): Just one moment, member for Keppel. Member for Mansfield, your interjections are not being taken.

Mr HUTTON: The overwhelming majority of these people deserve that trust, but parents should not have to understand the machinery of government to know that their children are protected. They should not have to know which department holds which piece of information or whether a concern sits with the police. Does it go to a regulator? Is it an employer or is it a screening authority? Are those organisations talking to each other? They should simply be able to expect that the system works.

In plain sight painfully showed us what happens when the system does not work. That is the significance of the Queensland Protection Commission. It reflects the lessons of *In plain sight*, it reflects the lifetime of advocacy of people like Hetty Johnston, it reflects the willingness of public servants like Commissioner Twyford, who puts better outcomes for children front and centre, and it reflects the ambition of the Crisafulli LNP government, which is prepared to act where the former Labor government did not.

After a decade of decline, we are building a nation-leading safeguarding system with one overriding purpose: putting Queensland children first because they deserve it. As chair, I thank my fellow committee members, the members of the secretariat, the department and every individual and organisation that contributed to our inquiry. The committee recommended that this bill be passed. I commend the bill to the House.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is too much background noise in the chamber so it is difficult to hear the members give their speech. If people want to have a conversation, please go outside.



Hon. MAJ SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (8.35 pm): I rise to speak on the Queensland Protection Commission Bill. The government says that this bill creates the body that will watch over Queensland's child safety system. Its job is to monitor that system, to report on it and to tell this parliament and the people of Queensland the truth about how children in the state's care are really faring. That job depends on two things: access to data and the freedom to say what the data says, even when the government of the day does not want to hear it. You cannot debate this bill without talking about the data because the data tells you exactly why this commission must be independent. This government's record on that data tells you exactly why it does not—

Mr NICHOLLS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order: relevance. The long title of the bill is very clear. It is about the establishment of the Queensland Protection Commission. No section of the bill mentions data of the type being mentioned by the member for Gaven. I would ask you to bring the member back to relevance to the long title of the bill.

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

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): One moment, member for Logan. Could you resume your seat for a moment.

Mr POWER: I am just making a point to the same point.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just resume your seat for a moment. Member for Gaven, can you just explain how what you are speaking about is relevant to the bill?

Ms SCANLON: Certainly, Madam Deputy Speaker. Data is referred to in the context of sharing, collection, disclosure and reporting no less than 220 times in the government's explanatory notes. I am simply referring to the very function of the commission and the importance of data, which the government clearly thinks is important as it mentioned it no less than 220 times.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice, thank you. Member for Gaven, I want to make sure that when you are talking about the data it is relating to the functions of the commission.

Ms SCANLON: Thank you, I am. You cannot debate the bill without talking about the data, because the data tells you exactly why this commission must be independent. Let me start with some of those numbers, because in child safety numbers are children.

Mr NICHOLLS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In relation to information, the information provisions pertinent to the conduct of the new proposed Protection Commission are set out in paragraph 32 of the bill in relation to data sharing, the collocation of information. They have nothing to do with the subject matter that is being raised by the member for Gaven. The information she is talking about is not the information this bill refers to. I would ask you to bring the member back to the contents of the bill and the long title of the bill. It is the long title for the bill that is the governing rule in relation to these standing orders.

Ms SCANLON: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. The data is the commissioner's job under section 3(1)(b) of this bill. One of the act's main purposes is to 'provide oversight of the child protection system'. Clearly, data is a requirement for providing oversight of the child protection system. I am not sure how you do that if you do not have access to data.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am reflecting on something the shadow minister just said. She said that the word 'data' is in the explanatory notes 200 times. I have just had it confirmed that the word 'data' is not in the explanatory notes once.

Ms SCANLON: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: If everybody resumes their seats for a moment, I will take some advice.

Mr Power interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order, please.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have asked everybody to resume their seats. Could you please resume your seat for a moment?

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Gaven, I will allow you to introduce the data but you must make it relevant to the commission's role and not dwell on it and then move on to the rest of your speech. Attorney-General, did you have a point of order?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take personal offence and I ask the member for Logan to withdraw.

Mr POWER: I withdraw. I take personal offence at the Attorney-General and I ask her to withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, I did not hear what you said that referenced the Attorney-General, but would you be happy to withdraw if anything has given offence?

Mr POWER: As I said, I withdraw. Separately—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: One moment, member for Logan. Could you resume your seat?

Dr ROWAN: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. I am unclear in relation to what the member for Logan is taking offence to. I did not hear anything come from the Attorney-General.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for that comment. Attorney-General?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Member for Gaven, could you continue, please?

Ms SCANLON: To clarify, my comment was in relation to data in the context of information sharing, collection, disclosure and reporting that has been mentioned in the explanatory notes no fewer than 220 times. I am not sure what those agencies are sharing if it is not data. Data is incredibly important to this debate. We are told that the purpose of this bill is to ensure there is a body that can oversee the protection of children, so the number of children who are at risk is important.

Ms McMillan: And increasing.

Ms SCANLON: And increasing. I take the interjection from the shadow minister. In fact 4,877—

Mr NICHOLLS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point is the same one I have made previously in relation to relevance. The bill itself says the information provisions are in relation to asking a public entity for information, complying with the request for information and those types of matters. It has nothing to do with the information that the shadow minister is trying to introduce into this debate. That is outside the purposes for which this legislation was introduced and the long title of the bill. I would ask you to bring the member back to being relevant to the bill and the discussion.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for your point of order. However, I have made my ruling and it is relevant about the performance of relevant agencies and delivering services. I have asked the member for Gaven to make her point about that and then move on to the rest of the bill.

Ms SCANLON: That is how many Queensland children were in need of protection to June 2026. Less than 10 per cent: that is how many of the children needing priority protection within 72 hours were actually seen in—

Mr NICHOLLS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I will continue to make these points of order in relation to relevance because the member is straying outside the long title of the bill and the contents of the legislation in relation to the operation of the Queensland Protection Commission. It has nothing to do with the matters that are being raised in debate by the member for Gaven in relation to the functions and operation of the Protection Commission which is the subject matter of this bill under the long title of the bill. I would ask you to bring the member back to being relevant to the bill.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for your point of order, member for Clayfield. However, I have made my ruling and I will ask the member for Gaven to continue.

Mr de BRENNI: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order draws your attention to the standing orders which prohibit a member from engaging in behaviour which seeks to deliberately disrupt and prevent the member on their feet from conducting their duty as a member. That is clearly outlined as a contempt. I would suggest to you, Madam Deputy Speaker, that the Minister for Health's conduct is highly disorderly and is bordering on dissent.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for your contribution. I would like the member for Gaven to continue with her speech.

Ms SCANLON: These are the children the system has already flagged as being at serious risk. The commission, we are told, is supposed to now be the watchdog overseeing those numbers, and nine out of ten of them are left waiting right now. Thirty-three per cent: that is how much the number of children in residential care has grown under the Crisafulli government since September 2024. This government has promised to fix residential—

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

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, could you not talk across the chamber? We have a point of order.

Mr KRAUSE: My point of order is on relevance. The member on her feet has made reference numerous times to matters that are ancillary to the bill in trying to make a point about the bill. I think that point has been made. I would ask you to bring the member back to the relevant part of the bill, please.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for that point of order. Member for Gaven, you have seven minutes and 12 seconds left. You have made your point about that data and I think you should move on now with your speech and address the rest of the bill.

Ms SCANLON: This is actually a serious issue. These are children who are being neglected or harmed and those opposite do not want to be truthful about that. They do not want us to talk about this data because it is not a good news story. The whole purpose of this commission is supposed to be to protect vulnerable children. All of this data demonstrates that those vulnerable children have not been protected under those opposite.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, again, I rise on a point of order in relation to relevance, but now it goes further. The speaker on her feet is deliberately defying your very respectful ruling that she ought to move on. I ask—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): Thank you for your point of order, Attorney-General. Member for Gaven, would you confine your comments now to the substance of the bill including about the functions of the commission that is being set up.

Ms SCANLON: I am happy to turn to the functions of the bill because I know that those opposite do not want to talk about the children being neglected in this state. The first issue in this bill is the money.

Mr Dick: They think it's funny.

Ms SCANLON: I take that interjection from the deputy leader. They think this is funny. The new commissioner—

Mr Dick: Look at them all laughing; 91 kids dead.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the deputy leader; 91 children are dead. This explains why this is serious and why this bill is important and why we should be able to have a conversation about what the real numbers demonstrate, but I am happy to move on.

Ms Camm: Do that tomorrow in question time. I will answer all the questions.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the minister. I would love her to answer the questions tomorrow because we have not had any questions answered today on basic—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. With the greatest respect, I ask you again to bring the member on her feet back to the bill before the House that we should be debating and I ask you to rule on relevance.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Gaven, please address your comments, the rest of your speech now, to the bill in front of us.

Ms SCANLON: With respect, I was taking interjections from the child safety minister, so I am being directly relevant to the government MPs, who are responsible for this.

The difference between independence and appearance is quite stark in this bill, because this bill is all about appearance. The new commissioner will not control their own budget, and that should concern this parliament. If the commissioner publishes something embarrassing, what happens at the next budget? Imagine telling the Auditor-General their budget will be set by the agencies they audit. Nobody here would accept that. Submitters raised exactly this risk. Labor will move to make the commission a statutory body under the Financial Accountability Act because it should have its own budget and it should be independent of government.

Second, there is the issue of the ability for the person responsible for this commission to just be sacked. Under this bill, the minister can recommend removing the commissioner or a deputy for any reason or none. I repeat: any reason or none. Picture it: the next set of numbers come in—and I know they do not like talking about the numbers—and it is kids on mattresses again. The commissioner wants to tell the public and the minister holds the power to have them be gone without giving a single reason. How is anyone meant to give frank and fearless advice with that hanging over them? Remember when they used to talk about how they wanted to let the sunshine in—and didn't that go out the window as soon as they got into government?

This government is one that hates criticism. It has been reported that this Premier and his own government seek to silence those who speak out. A 'sack at will' clause is exactly the tool you would write if that was your aim. Security of tenure is not a perk; it is the foundation of independence. It is why we protect it for judges and integrity bodies. Labor's amendments limit removal to stated reasons including misconduct and neglect. If a commissioner does the wrong thing, of course they should go. If they tell Queenslanders the truth, they should stay though.

The third issue with this bill is around directions. We welcome the carve-out protection, the commissioner's child safety and information-sharing functions. That is sensible, but the minister can still direct the commissioner. Several submitters, including the Crime and Corruption Commission, said those directions should be public. Labor's amendments require any direction to be published within 30 days.

The fourth issue is the annual report. Clause 83 means the commission's first annual report will not have to be tabled until after the next state election. This government has already lost the data once and now it is writing the delay into law. Labor's amendments require it to be tabled by 30 September 2028—before Queenslanders vote, not after.

On First Nations leadership, we should not expect anything less from those opposite because we, of course, have seen all of the callous decisions they have made: 'Project Invisibility'. Their first act in this parliament was to, while young people were sitting in the gallery, effectively remove bills that First Nations people had fought hard for.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Again I ask the member on her feet to return to the long title of the bill. Again it is on relevance.

Mr de BRENNI: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I refer you to several Speakers' rulings that have made it very clear to the House that interjections and points of order that are repeated that seek to interrupt the flow of debate—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you have a point of order?

Mr de BRENNI: Yes, I am referring you to previous Speakers' rulings. Points of order that seek to interrupt the flow of debate are considered to be highly disorderly and are inconsistent with the provisions of standing order 251—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, that is fine. Leader of the House, what is your point of order?

Dr ROWAN: Madam Deputy Speaker, I do have to rise to a point of order because, in relation to the point of order raised by the Attorney-General, there was additional and new content being raised by the member for Gaven which was not relevant to the long title of the bill. Therefore, I want it on the record that the Attorney-General was raising a valid point of order in relation to new material that was not relevant to the long title of the bill.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Gaven, could you resume your speech. You have two minutes and eight seconds remaining. Maybe just move on now to address the long title of the bill.

Ms SCANLON: This is the state that could not report its First Nations child protection data to the nation, yet this government abolished the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Commissioner. This bill says that a deputy commissioner could be a First Nations person—could be, maybe. QATSICPP told the committee they do not support professional experience or cultural capability being used as an alternative to identified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership. Labor's amendment makes it a must. Labor will also move to establish a parliamentary child protection committee with constant oversight of the commission, just like the PCCC oversees the CCC, because when a government loses track of the data parliament needs a way to keep the lights on.

Let me bring it back to where I started: children in need of protection and a department that could not say, though, how many kids had been harmed and a minister who does not seem to be concerned. Those were her words when she was asked by a journalist: she was not concerned about some of the horrific cases and data that have been exposed by media. The commissioner who heads this new body must be free to say all of that out loud without fear of losing their budget and without fear of losing their job. Our amendments do not reduce this commissioner's powers; they make them independent. The government says that is what it wants, so here is the test: support the amendments. If they vote them down, Queenslanders will know what 'independent' means to this government: independent until it is inconvenient. Children in this state do not need a watchdog that is scared of its owner. They need one that can actually tell the truth, because every one of those numbers is a child. If the Attorney-General cared about that case, she would support these amendments.



Ms HATCHER (Caloundra—LNP) (8.58 pm): There is something fundamentally wrong with a child protection system that has information about a potential threat to a child but fails to connect the dots. After that 24-minute absolute disgrace, it is now not a surprise to anyone in this House why the system is in such a mess. There is something fundamentally wrong when one agency knows something and another agency knows something else but neither has the complete picture.

Ms McMillan: Ninety-one dead.

Ms HATCHER: What happened after 10 years? This is why we are in this mess.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Mansfield, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms HATCHER: There is something profoundly wrong when we discover that, after children have been harmed, the information needed to intervene was there all along and it was not shared. That is not simply an administrative failure; that is a complete failure of responsibility.

Ms SCANLON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the comments made by the member earlier and I ask her to withdraw.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, you are warned under the standing orders.

A government member: Hear, hear!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take advice in silence, and that includes you, member for Hinchinbrook. Member for Caloundra, I did not hear any personal reference but, for the benefit of the House, would you withdraw, please.

Ms HATCHER: I withdraw.

Debate, on motion of Ms Hatcher, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the House do now adjourn.

Child Safety System

Hon. DE FARMER (Bulimba—ALP) (9.00 pm): Today the Minister for Child Safety sold Queensland kids short. If I was a child who was in the care of the department of child safety or had been in the care of the minister's department and I heard her pretty much say the things that she said today about child safety figures being okay after I had lived a life, as have most kids in care, of poverty, homelessness, domestic violence, substance abuse, neglect, ill health, disengagement with education, lack of a single person to walk alongside them and all with no-one in their lives who had ever said to them that they loved them—if I was one of those kids and I heard this minister pretty much say that things are going okay in their world—I would be devastated that that minister, someone who is supposed to be the one person I can count on to care about me in a life where no-one cares, should start off her press conference today to announce the child safety data that those opposite had been avoiding publishing for months by saying that she had exciting news. Can members imagine exciting news about child safety? The exciting news she had—

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

Ms FARMER: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Thank you, member for Bulimba.

Ms FARMER: The exciting news that she did announce was a slight drop in the number of kids in resi care for the last month, but she just did not explain the overall increase in kids in resi care. However, what she did not talk about today was the many other things about that data dump that were just appalling—that fewer than 10 per cent of kids reported to be at immediate risk of harm were assessed in time, that the number of children under five in residential care has risen by 58 per cent in the last year, that the number of children self-placing has increased by seven per cent, that the number of distinct children assessed as in need of protection from sexual abuse has risen by 16 per cent. She did not announce that in the 'exciting' package of news she was giving about child safety, and that is just a snapshot. There is so much more that is terrifying about that data dump today, and in particular terrifying for kids in care. We did not hear the minister respond at all to the figures that were released the night before the AFL grand final—that is, that 91 children in contact with the department of child safety had died in the last year, an increase of 60 per cent. This is a minister who just does not care. She was forced to reveal the data today—

Ms CAMM: Mr Deputy Speaker—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause please, member for Bulimba. Yes, member for Whitsunday, do you have a point of order?

Ms CAMM: I do, Mr Deputy Speaker. I take personal offence and I ask that the member withdraw.

Ms FARMER: I withdraw. So didn't they sell her a pup with those figures? She gets back from leave today. They wait for the—

Ms CAMM: Mr Deputy Speaker—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bulimba—just one moment please, member for Whitsunday—I would ask you to withdraw unequivocally.

Ms FARMER: I withdraw, Mr Deputy Speaker, unequivocally.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Ms FARMER: Didn't they sell her a pup though? She gets back from leave. They have this big data dump they have been leaving and they left it for her to release it. So how did she deal with that? She did not come clean. She did not tell everybody what the real story is. She just basically sold Queensland kids out. She needs to go.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bulimba, would you withdraw please?

Ms FARMER: I withdraw.

Warrego Electorate

Hon. A LEAHY (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (9.04 pm): There have been celebrations in my electorate of Warrego marking some incredible milestones. Hungerford recently celebrated 150 years. While the celebration was a year later than the actual 150th birthday due to flooding in 2025, it was still a monumental occasion marked by the launch of a book *150 Years of Hungerford 1875-2025*. Putting the book together was a massive team effort coordinated by the Horse Sports and Motorbike Gymkhana and the progress associations as well as some great locals: Jocie Keane, Stacy Keane, Michaela Fisher, Kylie Fisher and Alana Baxter. It details how Ted Hungerford camped on the Paroo River—a place which became known as 'Hungerford's camp'. That site became known as Hungerford. In the 1900s, the town boasted a magistrate's office, a police station, a post and telegraph office, a school, a customs house, four churches, some shops and three hotels. Hungerford has always been on the map and on the border, and its history and its people are now captured in this incredible book.

Another milestone has been celebrated in Charleville. Western Meat Exporters abattoir last weekend celebrated 30 years of operation. The need for small-stock processing was identified and developed from a future search workshop in the early 1990s, along with the Tambo Teddies. At this time, regional sheep and harvested rangeland goat numbers were high, but the local processing infrastructure was non-existent. The workshop identified the opportunity in Western Queensland and the need for a dedicated regional small-stock processing facility. Western Meat Exporters was officially opened by the then premier of Queensland, Rob Borbidge, in 1996. The plant has undergone several expansions since to become the largest employer of locals and visa holders in the Murweh shire. It is companies like this that keep regional communities thriving. They have continued to operate through fires, drought, floods and worker shortages, and they give back to our regional communities. There would hardly be a campdraft, an agricultural show or a sports gymkhana across South-West Queensland that does not receive recognition from Western Meat Exporters and support from this family. A big congratulations to Campbell and Kylie McPhee, their family and their staff on 30 years of Western Meat Exporters operations. It was very pleasing to join them at their celebrations and to see all of their staff, who come from very different backgrounds—including Indonesian, Vietnamese, Pacific Islander and Cambodian. I congratulate their staff for what they do to ensure they keep that facility operational. I believe that they process around a million stock per year.

Transport Infrastructure

Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (9.07 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker Krause, can you imagine a Bruce Highway upgrade sitting there not open for two years? Can you imagine a hospital that is complete and fully fitted out sitting there, kept away from the public for two years? Can you imagine a light rail section

that is complete and ready to go but kept from the public for two years? I cannot imagine that either, but that is exactly what is happening right now with the Yamma active transport bridge between Dutton Park and Annerley. It has been complete for two years—it is entirely separate from the Cross River Rail project that funded it—and it is being prevented from being opened by the current transport minister. It is an absolute disgrace. Anybody who takes a train through the junction can see that it is complete. Anybody who works at the PA and anyone who works at the Translational Research Institute—

Government members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: I hear government members interjecting in favour of my speech. That is good to hear, because they need to talk to the transport minister to tell him to open that active transport bridge that everybody in Dutton Park and Annerley can see is ready to be open. A couple of railings have been deliberately left off to keep it closed. It is entirely separate to the Cross River Rail project and the rail corridor and it needs to be opened.

Active transport users need this connection to the Veloway on the eastern side, across to Dutton Park to the University of Queensland and to all of the suburbs around there. There is a very dangerous intersection at Annerley Road and Cornwall Street. Cyclists avoid it like the plague because it is horrendously dangerous with a lot of traffic. This bypasses that altogether. It services the new high school at the top of Dutton Park. A lot of kids from grade 7 through to grade 12 cycle to school. This means a safer corridor for them, as well as any cyclist, e-scooter rider, any pedestrian, in fact, who needs to use this. It is being kept from being opened by this transport minister. I call on him to get out there and have a look at it and concur with me and get it open. We do not need to wait another three years. That is how long the Cross River Rail project has been delayed by this government. We do not need another three years of it being closed. I put this helmet on in solidarity with active transport users across—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member, take the helmet off, please. There are no props to be used in the House.

Mr BAILEY: I am in solidarity with all the active transport users who need to use this active transport bridge because it is a safer corridor. It is complete and it needs to be opened by this transport minister. I say to him: open the Yamma active transport bridge at Dutton Park and Annerley right now.

Hervey Bay Electorate

Mr LEE (Hervey Bay—LNP) (9.10 pm): Hervey Bay is changing. We are no longer simply one of Queensland's great coastal communities, we are a growing regional city, a critical economic centre and a major contributor to the future of the Wide Bay-Burnett. This rapid population growth creates enormous opportunity but it also requires careful planning and investment. For over a decade our growth has outpaced the infrastructure and services needed to support our community. The Crisafulli government's $100 million Residential Activation Fund recognises the importance of investing in the Fraser Coast. However, housing is only part of the equation. As our population increases demand grows across roads, water infrastructure, hospitals, schools, aged care and government services. Investment must keep pace with the people choosing to call Hervey Bay home.

Water security remains one of our most important priorities. The Queensland government's $40.4 million investment in the Fraser Coast Water Grid is a significant step forward, but long-term planning will be essential to ensure sustainable water supplies for future generations. Education and skills development must also remain a focus. Through stronger cooperation between TAFE Queensland Hervey Bay and the University of the Sunshine Coast campus we can develop a future education precinct that strengthens local skills and creates pathways for young people to build their careers on the Fraser Coast.

Health infrastructure must continue to grow alongside our community. Continued investment in Hervey Bay Hospital and specialist services, including a cardiac catheterisation laboratory and future health facilities, will help ensure residents can access the care they need closer to home. Economic growth must be supported by strategic infrastructure. The Urangan Harbour and marina precinct remains one of our greatest assets and must better support tourism, marine industries and local jobs with significant potential for future growth.

Tourism continues to play a vital role in our economy. As Australia's whale watching capital and the world's first whale heritage site, Hervey Bay enjoys an international reputation that attracts visitors and investment from across the globe. Reliable transport connections will also be critical, with continued investment in the Hervey Bay Airport and aviation precinct, improved links to the Bruce Highway and upgrades to key intersections that will help reduce congestion and support future development.

I will continue to strongly and consistently advocate for sustainable investment in our rapidly growing city. When Queensland invests in Hervey Bay it is not simply responding to growth, it is investing in one of the great regional cities for Queensland's future.

Electricity Prices

Ms ASIF (Sandgate—ALP) (9.13 pm): Speaker—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Are you seeking the call, member for Sandgate?

Ms ASIF: Yes.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did not hear you call.

Ms ASIF: I called. I said, 'Speaker'. Apologies if you did not hear it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Sandgate. I remind all members: when you are seeking the call, rise and seek the call from the Speaker. To rise is not enough; you must seek the call from the Speaker.

Mr Kempton: It's called standing orders.

Ms ASIF: To correct the record, I did seek the call. Apologies that you did not hear it. However, I do not need members behind me lecturing me on how I should behave in the chamber.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Sandgate, please stop for a moment. I did not hear you seek the call. If you did, I apologise.

Ms ASIF: I took offence at what the member behind me said. I do not need to be told how I should be behaving in the chamber.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: From whom have you taken personal offence?

Ms ASIF: The member for Cook.

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

Mr KEMPTON: No, I would not because I did not mention the member.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Cook, under the standing orders I am asking you to withdraw your comment, as requested by the member.

Mr KEMPTON: The standing orders require that I mention the member by name. I did not do that, but I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Cook, for assisting the House. Member for Sandgate, continue with your contribution, please.

Ms ASIF: Across Queensland, families are feeling the pressure of rising costs in almost every part of their daily lives, from groceries and rent to insurance and council rates. People in my community are being forced to make sacrifices to balance their household budgets. It is the government's job to understand the challenges facing their people and to deliver targeted solutions, which means creating a clear plan to reduce the pressure that is facing Queensland households. Instead, the government seems to continue to turn the other way and point to anyone else rather than focus on solutions that might help Queenslanders.

In my community, for seniors such as Clifford the government's lack of action in tackling energy price rises means they are now paying almost twice as much as they were for electricity. Clifford told my office that he thinks this LNP state government is not doing enough to help him with the rising cost of living, and I agree. In Brisbane, rent for houses has hit a record high and people cannot afford to keep up with those increases. It is certainly not making life easier for people in Queensland. Clifford asked me what the government was doing and I could not point to a measure that would assist him when it comes to his challenges.

Instead of focusing on the cost of living, the Premier flew to the United States and came back to tell people, 'I've sold our Queensland land to the highest bidder.' That has been all for nothing. It is to build a data centre that will see energy prices continue to increase. Instead of being told how this investment will benefit regional Queenslanders, people are simply being told that it is an amazing opportunity. However, there is no evidence to show that it will mean relief when it comes to rising energy prices. While people are being told that this will mean decreased energy prices in regional Queensland, there is no modelling to suggest that.

No-one on this side of the House has seen any modelling to suggest that the data centre will make Queensland household costs come down. The data centre will use as much as 1½ million households worth of electricity. I look forward to the government and the energy minister releasing that modelling to show how this data centre will make Queensland's energy prices come down. While we welcome investment and infrastructure opportunities, they need to benefit Queensland families.

Barron River Electorate, Events

Ms JAMES (Barron River—LNP) (9.17 pm): Baby, I've got something on my mind and it is pretty big news for Cairns. Powderfinger is coming to town and Cairns is the only regional stop on their Australian reunion tour. That is right: two exclusive shows will be held on 17 and 18 September 2027.

Mr McDonald: Bree James, support act.

Ms JAMES: I would love to be the support act, but I cannot see that happening. This did not happen by accident. 'My happiness' is certainly overflowing because, as the local member for Barron River and the assistant minister for tourism, I am proud to have worked alongside the Premier, the tourism minister, Tourism Events Queensland and the team at Cazalys that helped make that happen. Understanding the opportunity is one thing, but backing it with investment and securing the event is another. Powderfinger is just one example. Our government wants Queensland to be the events capital of Australia. That means actively pursuing major events, working with industry and making sure regional Queensland gets its share of opportunities.

We are seeing that ambition translate into results for Far North Queensland. Take the T20 Cairns Gold Clash, coming to Cazalys Stadium this November. It is an Australian-first event bringing cricket royalty and sporting legends from other codes together for a T20 showdown. We are talking Brian Lara, Usman Khawaja, Matthew Hayden, Michael Hussey and Ash Barty taking on sporting greats, including Johnathan Thurston, Sam Burgess, Joel Selwood and Dale Thomas. That is an extraordinary line-up coming to Cairns, attracting attention and giving visitors another reason to come to our region.

A huge shout-out to Suzy and James Dean and their team for bringing another sensational Savannah in the Round festival to Mareeba, with 27,000 people attending on the weekend. Our government is proud to have confirmed funding for the festival through to 2029, helping provide certainty for an event that brings visitors, supports local businesses and showcases our region.

We are also investing in the infrastructure needed to attract bigger events, including the Barlow Park upgrade which will increase permanent seating capacity from 1,700 to 5,000 with the potential to accommodate future concerts of more than 15,000 people. If we want to attract bigger events, we need the infrastructure to match our ambition.

Our government understands that events are not just about the show, the match or the race. They bring visitors through our airports, fill our hotels and restaurants, support local businesses and create jobs. When people come for an event, we want them to discover everything else our incredible region has to offer: the Great Barrier Reef, our ancient rainforests and the people who make Far North Queensland such a special place to visit. When it comes to major events, Cairns is not just dreaming of 'these days'; we're making sure there is plenty more to come and plenty of exciting things to get in your calendar.

Health System

Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (9.21 pm): Under the LNP, our health system is under increasingly immeasurable pressure. The LNP health crisis is affecting all corners of Queensland, but it is particularly being felt in the Caboolture region. The myth being perpetuated on the people of Caboolture by this LNP government, under their LNP health crisis, is extraordinary.

It was only a few months ago that we saw those expensive blue billboards were telling a falsehood about this government's lack of investment in the Caboolture Hospital. They talked about a new paediatric ward for the Caboolture Hospital—a fake ward, we discovered, because it is not actually happening. I asked some questions of the health minister and he seemed to turn himself in twists and turns to try to get out of this myth, this falsehood. The more you dig, the more trouble you get in. The cover-up gets you in the end.

Stick with me for a couple of moments because the problem for the LNP under their health crisis is their health minister has created an even further crisis for them in respect of this issue. In May of this year, I asked question on notice 540 about the Caboolture Hospital paediatric specialist outpatient department. The minister did not really answer the question, but the point is he answered it in respect of the Caboolture Hospital paediatric specialist outpatient department.

A month later, I asked a similar question about the new paediatric ward. It is question on notice 696 of June 2026. This is the fake ward that the minister is spruiking on those blue billboards. It was interesting because in respect of parts (a), (d) and (e) where I asked about capital and operational components, when I asked about the expected construction timelines, when I asked about the expected FTEs, what did the minister do? He responded, 'I refer you back to my answer in May to question on notice 540 about the specialist paediatric outpatient department.' He admitted, without admitting, that his fake paediatric ward does not exist and is, in fact, another project altogether.

This is where he gets in trouble. I also asked in part (c): 'What will happen to the existing paediatric ward in the hospital?' The minister said, 'I am advised the existing space will be repurposed to accommodate an additional outpatient clinic.' So, not only have we been sold a falsehood that there is a fake one, but the minister in his answer said, 'We are getting rid of the existing one.' The minister needs to clarify his answer.

(Time expired)

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

Ms MARR (Thuringowa—LNP) (9.24 pm): I am a very proud Queenslander and even more proud to be a North Queenslander. Our people are passionate, innovative and hard working. Nothing makes you feel like a true North Queenslander more than when the humidity starts rising and you know that disaster season is upon us. North Queenslanders know only too well what it means to be hit with floods, cyclones, power outages, road closures and resulting isolation.

Disaster season can be unrelenting and devastating to our community, with destructive weather destroying homes, businesses, schools, community facilities, sporting grounds, roads and infrastructure. The cost required for disaster recovery can have a crippling impact for years to come. That is why my community was completely floored when the federal government proposed to cut disaster funding relief from up to 75 per cent of Commonwealth funding to a 50-50 funding split with the states.

This proposal showed that our federal Labor government do not prioritise regional Queensland, and they do not understand the struggles and challenges of living in the north of our state. The proposed funding cut would have stripped Queensland councils of hundreds of millions of dollars in disaster recovery funding and left communities to make up the shortfall, adding another burden on councils and households during a cost-of-living crisis.

The LNP Crisafulli government will always stand up for Queenslanders. Across the state last week our government stood side by side with all 77 Queensland councils to speak out against the devastating effects of this proposal. Our Premier, David Crisafulli, personally spoke to the Prime Minister to talk him down. The Crisafulli government is for all Queenslanders. We will not stand silent when the federal government tries to pull the rug out from under us. The turmoil, hard work and suffering continues long after those in Canberra have watched the disaster on the news. Thanks to the collective advocacy of this government, together with local councils, we stopped Canberra's disaster funding cuts. If these proposed disaster recovery funding changes had gone ahead, they would have been a wrecking ball for local councils and communities across our state, including Thuringowa.

We never quite know how disaster season is going to play out in North Queensland, but what I know is this: the people of Thuringowa will not take it sitting down. They know the risks. They are making a plan. They are packing their emergency kits and preparing their homes and families. That spirit of resilience and preparedness is what makes our community so strong. This disaster season I am calling on all Queenslanders to get ready, stay safe and support one another, because when Queenslanders stand together there is no challenge we cannot overcome.

Resources Industries

Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (9.27 pm): As we have heard from the member for Thuringowa, climate change is no longer a future problem; it is upon us now and biting hard. Five days into spring, Brisbane reached a high of 34.4 degrees. The incoming El Nino is so extreme it does not even have a scientific category. Renowned climate scientist Daniel Swain is telling us that it does not even fit on the same axis we have used for these events. BoM is predicting deadly heatwaves and at least one severe cyclone in Queensland this summer because of warmer air and oceans.

The UN's *Limiting overshoot* report tells us that global warming will now exceed 1½ degrees of average warming across the world. What we do now is absolutely crucial in limiting the duration and peak of global warming into the future. That 'we' includes people in this room who continue to approve new coal, funding it with taxpayer dollars and acting as fossil fuel industry cheerleaders.

They are using the drug dealers' defence to justify new coalmines. What is the drug dealers' defence? It is when they say, 'I'm just supplying a market that clearly exists. What someone does with my product is not my responsibility. If I don't give it to them, then obviously someone else will. Plus, my product is the best.' That is a morally vacuous argument that drug dealers use, and it is one that fossil fuel corporations and the major parties use, too.

Here is the problem: there is no such thing as clean coal, just as we keep hearing from the other side that there is no safe way to shoot up heroin. Unlike dealers, coal corporations and their political cheerleaders are not just supplying an industry; they are wrecking the entire planet. Dirty or slightly less dirty: all coal counts against a finite global carbon budget. Our coal is here. It is plentiful. It has a relatively low production cost. If we take it off the market it cannot be easily replaced, except with renewable alternatives. It is our coal. It is our responsibility to keep it in the ground.

Australia is a wealthy country with extraordinary untapped renewable resources. We are the second largest exporter of coal in the world, though, and we have a responsibility to reduce global emissions.

Mr Dillon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Gregory!

Mr BERKMAN: All of this is why the High Court last week found that greenhouse gas emissions, whether they are released here or overseas, must be considered in fossil fuel approvals. It is global warming, not local warming. The atmosphere does not care where coal is burnt. Our coal industry is terrified of being held responsible. They have the LNP on an embarrassingly tight leash. Our Premier is so pathetically submissive and subservient to the industry that he has said he will legislate to override that ruling if necessary. Don't try to blame the buyer or pretend emissions burned overseas will spare us the consequences here. Take some responsibility and keep our coal in the ground.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Cook, I want to remind all members they must be in their allocated seats to interject.

Mareeba, Youth Crime

Mr KEMPTON (Cook—LNP) (9.30 pm): Mareeba is the largest town in my electorate and, even though it has continued to grow and prosper over the decades, the town has been gripped by a curse—youth crime. The 193 per cent increase in crime across Queensland in Labor's decade of decline did not spare Mareeba. There has been such an exponential increase in house break-ins, car thefts, property damage, car hijackings, serious and sexual assaults, violence and antisocial behaviour that people no longer feel safe in their homes, at their workplaces or in the streets. The community and the residents are often left feeling isolated as the media response is concentrated on the larger centres such as Cairns and Townsville.

Notwithstanding our tough Adult Crime, Adult Time laws, and more and better resourced police, Mareeba proved to be a tough nut to crack. I had a sense that Mareeba was going to take that bit extra to break the grip of youth crime. The introduction of the Breach Bail, Go to Jail legislation provided me with the perfect opportunity to bring Mareeba to the fore. I persuaded my colleague and chair of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee, Marty Hunt, to break the tradition and hold a committee hearing in Mareeba. We were not disappointed, with over 60 people attending. So it did not take much to convince the Premier to come to Mareeba and have a bite to eat with a dozen locals who were victims of crime or worked with offenders.

The Premier was moved by stories of horrific and ongoing trauma victims suffered at the hands of young criminals. Hubert, a 23-year-old Indigenous man, flipped the coin and spoke of his early years in and out of juvie for car theft and how with the support of mentors like Doug and Kelly and programs like Aggression Replacement Training he was able to turn his life around. I was amazed at how the victims in the room embraced this brave young man as he told stories of how he made good with the opportunities that were offered to him.

What was the message for the Premier to take away from Mareeba? The Crisafulli government's response to Labor's youth crime crisis of more and better resourced police, consequences for action, tougher laws, gold standard intervention, consequences for breach of bail and rehabilitation are all on track, and we are seeing victims of crime decreasing. The big takeaway was that the Premier promised to listen to Mareeba and assured them he will not stop until they get their town back.

The House adjourned at 9.33 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Asif, Bailey, Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Camm, Chiesa, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, de Brenni, Dick, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Field, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Grace, Hatcher, Head, Healy, Howard, Hunt, Hutton, James B, James T, Janetzki, Kelly G, Kelly J, Kempton, Kirkland, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, Nightingale, O'Connor, O'Shea, Pease, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richmond, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stoker, Vorster, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Young