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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, 14 October 2026

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WEDNESDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2026

The Legislative Assembly met at 2.00 pm.

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

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

PRIVILEGE

Comments by Member for Murrumba, Correction; Authentication of Comments

Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.01 pm): I rise on two matters of privilege. Yesterday during MPIs I said there were 820 children in the child safety system who were self-placing. To correct the record, the number of children self-placing is in fact 833. I apologise for inadvertently misleading the House.

Also, yesterday the police minister alleged I deliberately misled the House and asked me to authenticate my comments regarding domestic and family violence. For the benefit of the House, I table a media report from the *Courier-Mail* titled 'Minister claims DV rates dropping' which says—

Police minister Dan Purdie says there has been improvements to domestic and family violence after police claimed offending rates are falling.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 8 October 2026, titled 'Minister claims DV rates dropping' [2039].

Mr PURDIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, I am seeking your guidance. For the purpose of accuracy, I ask the member to read out the quotes that are listed in that story at the end which reflect exactly what I said.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, if you have an issue with what the member just said, you know what you can do. You can write to me.

Mr PURDIE: I am happy to write to you, Mr Speaker.

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 11 September 2026 the member for Bulimba wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services deliberately misled the House on 25 August 2026.

The member submitted that the minister had wrongly stated that the opposition had not asked a question about victims during the hearings. The member alleged that this was incorrect because she had asked a question about victim liaison officers. The minister advised in her submission that she had stated that the opposition had asked a question about victim liaison officers immediately after the allegedly misleading statement.

I consider the minister has made an adequate explanation. I also consider the matter to be trivial. 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 Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services and member for Currumbin [2040].

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 11 September 2026, the member for Bulimba wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services deliberately misled the House on 25 August 2026.

The matter relates to a statement by the Minister during debate on the Appropriation Bills.

Specifically, the Minister said:

The opposition asked 32 questions during the youth justice and victim support session of the estimates hearing and the government members asked nine. In those 32 questions Labor could not find room for a single question about victims of crime—not one. Not a single question was asked about victims of crime.

The member submitted that this was incorrect and provided evidence that she had asked a question about victim liaison officers during the estimates hearings. The member submitted that victim liaison officers had a critical role in supporting the wellbeing of victims and that in questioning their employment status, the member was asking a question about victims.

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

The Minister submitted that her contribution should be read as a whole because immediately following the alleged misleading statement, she stated *'The closest they got was when they tried to create a scare campaign around job cuts to youth justice victim officers in restorative justice.'*

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 submissions put forward. When reading the Minister's contribution in full, the fact that the member had raised the issue of victim liaison officers during the estimates hearing was referenced immediately after the alleged misleading statement.

I do not believe that a reasonable person could have been misled by the statement as it was clear from the Minister's contribution that the opposition did, in fact, raise the issue of victim liaison officers.

I consider the Minister has made an adequate explanation. I also consider the matter is trivial.

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

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

Mr SPEAKER: On 14 September 2026 the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training wrote to me alleging that the member for Cairns and the member for Sandgate misled the House on 25 August 2026. The statements concern funding of over 25 apprenticeships and fee-free TAFE placements.

The minister has not applied evidence to each element of the alleged contempt as required. Nor do I consider the statements reach the threshold of seriousness required under standing order 269(4). In any event, the statements are more accurately classified as criticism of government policies and funding arrangements rather than matters of privilege.

The matter is trivial; therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the members for Cairns and Sandgate [2041].

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 14 September 2026, the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training wrote to me alleging that the member for Cairns and member for Sandgate deliberately misled the House on 25 August 2026.

The matter relates to statements made by the members during debate on the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee Report relating to the 2026-27 Budget Estimates.

Specifically, the member for Cairns said:

'Electrical and plumbing apprenticeships are among the most popular pathways under the Free Construction Apprenticeships for Over 25s program. These are precisely the occupations Queensland needs, yet the program has effectively been cut for new commencements.

…

Why would any responsible government withdraw support for training electricians and plumbers when Queensland is simultaneously facing a housing crisis and an unprecedented construction pipeline…'

And the member for Sandgate said:

'It is only the federal Labor government that is investing in fee-free TAFE here in Queensland, because the Queensland government does not seem to believe that it will make a difference.'

The Minister submitted that both these statements were deliberately misleading. With respect to the member for Cairns, she stated that she had advised the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee during estimates hearings that the government had allocated $1.5m to continue free construction apprenticeships and the member for Cairns was present at that time. With respect to the member for Sandgate's statement, the Minister submitted that she had advised the committee that the state government already funds around 70% of fee-free TAFE placements.

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

The member for Cairns submitted that the use of the word 'effectively' was important and that he made his statement to convey the view of the opposition that the $1.5 million funding continuation is not nearly sufficient to support the number of workers needed. The member for Sandgate submitted that it is a matter of public record that there is a dispute between the state and federal government on fee-free TAFE funding and that there was no funding in the 2026-27 budget to deliver fee-free TAFE into 2027-28 under a new agreement.

Both members also submitted that the Minister did not follow correct process when writing to me because the elements of the contempt were not set out against available evidence.

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 refer to my ruling of 10 June 2025:

'Complaints must provide evidence to each element of the alleged contempt and the matter must be serious and should not be technical, trivial or vexatious. In this regard referrals should not be about matters of policy interpretation, semantics or puffery. In looking at whether a matter is serious, I consider matters such as: does the matter seriously impinge upon the rights and powers of the House, committee or members—for example, does the matter seriously misrepresent the record of the House or has the matter unfairly affected the reputation of a member? I ask all members not to send matters that are unworthy of referral.'

I do not consider that the Minister has applied evidence to each element of the alleged contempt as is required. But regardless, I do not consider these matters to reach the threshold of seriousness for referral to the Ethics Committee that SO 269(4) requires. Both statements are more accurately classified as criticism of government policies and funding arrangements rather than matters of privilege.

The matter is trivial.

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

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Thank Your Cleaner Day

Mr SPEAKER: Today is Thank Your Cleaner Day, a chance to recognise the dedicated cleaners who often work quietly behind the scenes to keep our workplace safe, clean and welcoming. At parliament our team carries the added responsibility of preserving our heritage building and furnishings, and we are grateful for the skill and care they bring to this work.

I was delighted to host the team for refreshments earlier today as a small token of our appreciation. It was a pleasure to meet the newest members of the team. I am confident that all members will join me in thanking the cleaners of the Queensland Parliamentary Service for their valuable contribution.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Visitors to Public Gallery

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery today by the Nambour 90 Probus Club.

PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper and e-petitions, lodged and sponsored by the honourable member indicated—

Pine Rivers Uniting Church

Hon. Miles, from 691 petitioners, requesting the House to request the Minister for Education to suspend the proposed acquisition of land from the Pine Rivers Uniting Church [2033] [2034].

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

Electric Vehicles

1,756 petitioners, requesting the House to reconsider the introduction of the proposed diesel buses and bring in electric buses instead; and consider a greater use of electric trains throughout the state and measures to encourage taxis and rideshare vehicles to transition to electric vehicles [2035].

Legislative Assembly, Petitions

689 petitioners, requesting the House to refer the operation of Queensland's system for petitioning the Legislative Assembly to the Committee of the Legislative Assembly, or another appropriate parliamentary committee, for review [2036].

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Primary Industries (Hon. Perrett)—

2037 Response from the Minister for Primary Industries (Hon. Perrett), to an E-Petition (4637-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 670 petitioners, requesting the House to review the regulation of commercial animal boarding facilities in Queensland and introduce mandatory licensing, minimum welfare standards, and transparent compliance reporting to ensure the welfare of boarded animals

Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Camm)—

2038 Response from the Acting Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Acting Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Bates), to an E-Petition (4507-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,927 petitioners, requesting the House to give self-funded retirees the same benefits as pensioners

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Small and Family Business

Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.07 pm): Small and family businesses are at the heart of Queensland's economy and the heart of our communities. A strong small business sector means more jobs, more opportunities and stronger communities. Queensland's small and family businesses employ more than one million Queenslanders. They represent the cafe that opens before sunrise, the tradie who takes on an apprentice, the family retailer who sponsors the local footy club and the tourism operator who welcomes visitors to our state. Behind every one of those businesses is someone who has backed themselves, worked hard and put their own money on the line. Our government recognises and respects that effort. It is in our DNA.

Right now small and family businesses are under siege. Changes concocted in Canberra will hit a business's bottom line. For a small business, another cost means less money available to hire an employee, replace equipment or expand their business. First there were changes to trusts. Many small and family businesses rely on them to manage their assets. We should not make it harder to invest, employ or pass a family enterprise to the next generation. Then came credit card surcharges. Small and family businesses will be left to the foot the bill and the ATO will not even take a credit card payment anymore. Changes to working holiday visas threaten the workforce that powers many of our farms, tourism operators and hospitality venues. These changes in particular will hit hard in regional Queensland. Our message to the federal government is straightforward: listen to the people who employ Australians, invest in their communities and carry the risk when costs rise.

At a state level, we do not have as many levers as the federal government, but we are doing everything we can with those we do have. We designed our Energy Roadmap around economics and engineering, not ideology. It has already delivered a reduction in power prices—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members on both sides!

Mr CRISAFULLI: There were double-digit power price rises from them; that is why they are upset. It has already delivered a reduction in power prices: a drop of up to eight per cent for businesses in the regions and up to 14 per cent for those in the south-east. That is long-term, structural change that is providing real relief and opportunity for our business owners and their staff.

We are delivering practical support through our Small and Family Business First Action Statement, backed by more than $100 million in investment. We are investing in upskilling staff with micro-credential courses, new technology and support for apprentice wages to help with the everyday challenges of running a business. Small business owners and their staff deserve governments that respect their contribution and give them the opportunity to succeed through their own effort. Our job is to create the conditions that help them do exactly that. We will always back ambition, because, when Queensland's small and family businesses succeed, Queensland succeeds.

Industrial Relations

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.10 pm): Queenslanders expect and deserve an industrial relations system that works for them, ensuring they feel safe at their workplace and are paid competitively, and that ensures we have productive workplaces. During a decade of decline, Labor manipulated industrial relations and workplace health and safety legislation to benefit their CFMEU mates, to protect fraudsters and to entrench a system that works against the interests of Queenslanders.

Queensland workers, employers and small and family business owners rely on the system working for them in the face of a federal Labor government which has plunged them into a diabolical cost-of-living crisis, and we acknowledge the many hardworking Queenslanders running small businesses who are drowning in red tape and hidden costs because of federal Labor's economic mismanagement. That is why earlier this year I announced the appointment of Mr Glenn Ferguson AM, a former president of the Law Council of Australia and Queensland Law Society, and Mr Gary Black, a former commissioner of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission, to conduct an independent review of both the Industrial Relations Act 2016 and the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003. On behalf of the Crisafulli government, I offer my sincerest thanks to Mr Ferguson and Mr Black for the work they have done, including the dozens of interviews conducted and submissions received. I am pleased to update the House that the review has now been completed. I table a copy of the review for the benefit of the House, as well as the government's response to the 104 recommendations.

Tabled paper: Industrial Relations and Workers' Compensation scheme review: Final report, September 2026 [2042].

Tabled paper: Queensland Government response to the 2026 Review of the Industrial Relations Act 2016 and Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003 [2043].

Importantly, out of the 104 recommendations, 75 have been accepted in full, a further 14 have been agreed to in principle, six have been noted and nine have not been accepted. I can advise the House that I will be introducing to parliament this evening legislation to progress the delivery of the government's legislative response to the independent review. These reforms accepted by the government for implementation will begin to shift the balance back in Queenslanders' favour, bringing us into line with other Australian jurisdictions, including the national government with the Fair Work Act, while protecting important rights and entitlements for Queensland workers.

We have agreed, for example, to introduce a robust 'fit and proper person' test for union officials seeking to gain lawful right-of-entry powers on worksites, drawing a line in the sand for the unacceptable and threatening behaviour that was allowed to run rampant on Queensland worksites under Labor.

Mr Crisafulli: It's hard to argue with that.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take your interjection, Premier. It is hard to argue with that, but the Labor Party will no doubt argue with it and oppose those reforms. I hear no interjections and no admissions.

We are determined to turn around the culture of violence and intimidation within the construction sector that has been laid bare by the commission of inquiry into the CFMEU and which has directly implicated former Labor ministers who are alleged to have turned a blind eye to threats of violence

against public servants, workers and their families. The member for McConnel is shaking her head like it does not exist. Poor behaviour by union representatives on worksites puts the safety of Queenslanders at risk, and we will not stand by and allow it to continue.

We are also determined to give Queensland workers more freedom when it comes to who represents them in industrial disputes and wage negotiations, introducing direct balloting as a part of enterprise bargaining and restoring the ability of parties to engage external legal representation in matters before the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. Queenslanders deserve the freedom of who represents them in these important matters that impact their lives, and the former Labor government took away those rights in 2022. That is why the government has accepted the recommendation to review the 2022 amendments that were moved by the member for McConnel as industrial relations minister to outlaw competition in the unions that were not funding the Labor Party. We look forward to the submissions during the parliamentary committee process with respect to freedom of association because the Liberal Party is the party of freedom.

The Crisafulli government is also ensuring industrial disputes and claims can be resolved in a timely matter, after the former Labor government designed the current system to favour protracted and disruptive industrial action that does not support workers and does not service Queenslanders. The reforms agreed to align Queensland with the national industrial relations system. As a state, we are open for business and realising a golden age of opportunity and delivery, and we need to ensure consistency, certainty and an industrial relations framework that is fit for purpose and drives an economy that supports jobs and increased productivity.

Further to that, we have agreed to empower the independent Industrial Relations Commission to make orders that deal with vexatious litigants and improve efficiencies in dealing with these matters, as well as clarify the status, conditions and qualifications for appointment for members of the Industrial Court. We are also further securing the integrity of our workers compensation scheme, agreeing to implement reforms which will improve consistency and transparency, guided by a new code of practice that will enhance the role of independent reviews and medical expertise, supporting better and fairer outcomes across the system.

We have acted for small and family businesses by freezing the average rate of premium increases for the past two years. In addition, in 2025-26 the regulator successfully prosecuted six workers for defrauding an insurer. All six were sentenced to a term of imprisonment and collectively were ordered to pay over $180,000 in fraudulently obtained funds. However, there is more to do. Without reform, it is estimated the average premium rate would increase by 26 per cent over the next five years, potentially resulting in Queensland employers, including the small and family businesses that are the backbone of our economy—even more so in rural and regional Queensland—paying an estimated $1.46 billion more in annual premiums in 2035 than in the current year.

These reforms reinforce the Crisafulli government's zero-tolerance approach to workers compensation fraud, increasing the maximum penalty for fraud from five to 10 years and the maximum penalty for providing false and misleading documents from one to two years. They also allow for a regulator appointed representative who reasonably believes fraud to have occurred to suspend access to lump sum compensation and stay pre-proceedings to common law damages claims while the matter is investigated. It provides a mechanism for the authorised representative to end the payment of a worker's entitlements in instances where they believe compensation is being or will be used to pay for the injury. These measures will ensure premiums paid by small and family businesses are protected from the pockets of fraudsters where there are reasonable grounds to determine they are rorting the system. The review also examined the significant growth in accepted psychological injury claims—

Ms Fentiman: Here we go.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. The shadow treasurer said, 'Here we go.' Importantly, for the shadow treasurer, who wants to be the treasurer of this state, I think a sustainable workers compensation scheme is pretty important. The review also examined the significant growth in accepted psychological injury claims, which over the past decade have increased by almost 268 per cent, including an increase of more than 76 per cent over the past five years alone. In fact, when the former industrial relations minister last moved amendments to workers compensation, she warned of the need to take action on psychological injuries, suffice it to say the scheme would not survive.

Our reforms will strengthen the required connection between employment and psychological injury by requiring employment to be the major significant contributing factor to the injury, bringing Queensland—

Ms Grace: Here we go. Back to the Campbell Newman days, Campbell Newman phase 2.

Mr Crisafulli: You should listen to this.

Mr BLEIJIE: Are you ready for this, shadow minister for IR—bringing Queensland into line with changes progressing in the Labor New South Wales government and the Labor Victorian government, improving the operation and integrity of the scheme. Through this review and the implementation of the recommendations, this government is demonstrating its determination to deliver a modern, productive and fair industrial relations and workers compensation scheme in line with the expectations of all Queenslanders. I anticipate that Labor and the union movement, who designed the current failed system, will try to mislead Queenslanders about the content of these changes. Queenslanders—

Ms Grace: It has not failed. Where's the failings?

Mr SPEAKER: Member for McConnel.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the member for McConnel. 'Where's the failings?', she asked. CFMEU! She still walks around with a blindfold on not knowing the CFMEU issues.

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

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

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. Queenslanders are used to these scare campaigns by the Labor Party—

Mr J Kelly interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Greenslopes.

Mr BLEIJIE: Queenslanders are used to these Labor scare campaigns—

Mr J Kelly interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Greenslopes is warned.

Mr BLEIJIE: Queenslanders are used to these Labor scare campaigns which have been proven time and again to be false. I want to be clear about what we are not doing. We are not accepting all recommendations made by the independent review. In doing so, the government is protecting a number of key entitlements for workers, including access to existing opportunities for flexible working arrangements, long service leave service provisions for casual workers, and access to unfair dismissal and wage increases during arbitration to name a few.

To be absolutely clear: these reforms will not remove a union's ability to properly represent their workers. These reforms will not remove collective enterprise bargaining. These reforms will not remove a worker's right to strike for fairer pay. These reforms will not remove access to existing opportunities for flexible work arrangements. These reforms will not remove the ability for a worker to decide whether or not to join a union and determine who advocates for them. These reforms will not remove the role of the independent Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. These reforms will not remove the ability for a casual worker to maintain their long service leave entitlements. These reforms will not remove access to unfair dismissal proceedings. Only the Crisafulli government is determined to reform a system left broken by Labor and give Queensland workers the freedom about their own destiny, which they deserve after a decade of decline.

I look forward to further detailing these amendments to the House this evening when I introduce the bill. These reforms are about fairness, productivity and resolving industrial relations issues in an efficient way that supports workers and provides essential services for Queenslanders. These reforms make it abundantly clear that as a government we back small and family businesses and workers right across the state, not the CFMEU.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for McConnel, you are warned.

Training and Skills

Hon. RM BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (2.23 pm): The Crisafulli LNP government is delivering new training facilities, backing businesses to hire apprentices and helping more Queenslanders complete their training. Under Labor, Queensland's construction industry faced a predicted peak shortage of 50,000 workers. This is the workforce needed to deliver the homes, the hospitals and the infrastructure for Queenslanders.

Labor failed to build a single new TAFE campus. We are getting on with delivering four new TAFE centres of excellence through our $201.1 million investment. It was a pleasure to join the members for Redcliffe and Pumicestone last month to turn the first sod on the new $60 million Petrie TAFE centre of excellence. Earlier this year I joined the members for Keppel and Rockhampton for the start of early works on the $61.1 million Rockhampton TAFE centre of excellence precinct. These projects are helping build the skilled workforce Queensland needs in the construction, manufacturing and marine industries.

In 2025-26 more than 13,300 Queenslanders completed their apprenticeships, the highest number on record. This government understands it is not just about how many students start an apprenticeship, traineeship or vocational training; it is about how many complete the training and become qualified. We are backing even more Queenslanders to take up a trade and earn a good living. Through TradieStart, a small business can receive up to $16,000 to take on their first apprentice while larger businesses hiring priority cohorts can access up to $14,000. We have also expanded the Small Business Apprenticeship Program to support another 2,000 construction apprentices. Together, these initiatives will support an additional 4,500 apprenticeships across Queensland.

For small builders, plumbers and electricians this support makes a real difference. Those opposite failed to build the workforce pipeline. We are rebuilding it. Through record apprenticeship completions, through stronger support for employers and through four new centres of excellence across Queensland, the Crisafulli LNP government is backing Queenslanders to get the skills today for the jobs of tomorrow.

Energy Roadmap

Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.25 pm): It has been one year since we released the Crisafulli government's plan to deliver affordable, reliable and sustainable power for Queenslanders. The Energy Roadmap outlines the path ahead. It strips out the ideology that the former Labor government was obsessed with pursuing and it puts the focus on economics and engineering—a plan to improve what we have while building what we need for the future, saving Queenslanders $1,035 compared to what they would have paid under the former Labor government. Queenslanders are already seeing the green shoots. Power prices in regional Queensland are down 6.9 per cent. For small and family businesses, power prices are down in the regions 8.1 per cent, and I have directed Ergon to pass those savings on in full. In the south-east AER's DMO shows a decrease of between 7.2 per cent and 10.7 per cent for households and between 10.4 per cent and 14 per cent for small and family businesses. We have demanded that retailers reflect those decreases in Queenslanders' power bills, and the Queensland Competition Authority is watching them closely.

To contrast this, in the first year after the former Labor government's Energy and Jobs Plan, power prices in regional Queensland went up 29 per cent. That is some contrast. It shows what is possible when there is no ideology built into energy plans, but our work is just beginning. The best way to back small and family businesses is to deliver structural reform to put downward pressure on prices. Our $1.8 billion Electricity Maintenance Guarantee is ensuring our state owned energy generators are properly maintained after the Labor government's decade of neglect. Under their Energy and Jobs Plan, Stanwell and Callide B would have been phased out last month—the youngest coal fleet in the country shut down prematurely. We are supporting new gas supply, just like the recently announced 400 megawatt Brigalow gas peaker. Who can forget the opposition leader's ideological obsession with hydrogen—tens of millions of dollars of the taxpayer dime—or the Pioneer-Burdekin hydro hoax—timeframes undeliverable, costs blown out to at least $36.8 billion, saddling Queensland households and businesses with higher power bills.

The Energy Roadmap is clear: economics and engineering over ideology, coal for longer, more gas and private sector investment into renewables, improving what we have while we build what we need for the future.

Water Prices

Hon. A LEAHY (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (2.28 pm): Water is a non-negotiable for small business across Queensland. Whether you run a cafe, a hair salon or a doctor's clinic, small businesses need affordable and reliable water, yet Labor presided over some of the highest water bills in the country and they squandered our state's water security. We know that when costs go up for businesses costs go up for

families, and the Crisafulli government is backing our small businesses. We are making it more affordable for them to do business. That is why in this year's budget we put a two-year freeze on bulk water prices in the south-east. I am pleased that Unitywater and Urban Utilities have passed on this freeze to their customers. This will help ease the cost-of-living pressures in South-East Queensland households and small businesses. Further, we have tasked the Queensland Competition Authority to undertake a price monitoring investigation into Urban Utilities and Unitywater to ensure they are operating prudently and efficiently—something that Labor never did in its decade of decline.

We have also not forgotten one of the great engines of small business found out on the land: the mum-and-dad farms and businesses growing Queensland's future. For them we have continued a 15 per cent irrigation pricing discount, because this helps genuine primary producers manage costs and invest in their future with confidence. We are also supporting the Water for Lockyer collaborative, investing in new water supply options to support families and small businesses in Queensland's salad bowl, as well as the Water for Warrill project. Let's not forget that we are unlocking water right across Queensland, helping regional small businesses access water that they need to grow and prosper. Whether you plough a field, pour a beer or prune a fruit tree, we are working hard to drive down water costs for small businesses across this great state.

Small and Family Business

Hon. DR LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (2.30 pm): Small and family businesses are the backbone of rural and regional Queensland. They are the businesses that employ locals, sponsor our sporting clubs, support community events and keep our regional economies moving. Under the Crisafulli government, they finally have a government that is unashamedly pro small business and unashamedly pro regional Queensland, unlike the Labor federal government. It is something those opposite will never understand because they have no leadership when it comes to delivering for regional Queensland. This government is backing them.

Let's take Micale Cabinets in Innisfail in Far North Queensland. Through our Transforming Queensland Manufacturing Grants Program, this local business has received almost $200,000 to invest in new manufacturing technology, boost productivity and expand its operations. That investment is expected to create eight new jobs and upskill another 14 workers. Eight jobs might not sound much to those opposite, but in a regional community eight jobs can make an enormous difference. That is eight more families with a reliable income; eight more households spending money at the local supermarket, butcher, bakery and service station; eight more families contributing to the economic and social fabric of their community—and that is before you consider the flow-on benefits to other local businesses. This is what regional development looks like. It is not always about billion dollar projects. Sometimes what is seemingly a relatively modest investment can deliver an extraordinary return for a small community. Micale Cabinets is one of 18 manufacturers supported through the first $12½ million round of the Transforming Queensland Manufacturing Grants Program, with 11 of those businesses based in regional Queensland. That is real investment, real jobs and real opportunities in the regions.

Our commitment goes beyond grants, though. Through my regional community forums, we are taking government directly to regional Queenslanders. I have already held forums in Roma, Emerald, Bowen, Bundaberg and Yeppoon, with Mundubbera up next. These forums give regional small business owners the opportunity to sit down with ministers—and I want to acknowledge the Minister for Small and Family Business today for his work in this space and his commitment to attend those regional forums—and senior government officials to raise their concerns and help shape the decisions affecting their livelihoods. We are giving regional small businesses a seat at the cabinet table, not leaving them waiting outside the door. If you are running a business in Emerald, Roma, Maryborough or Townsville, your voice deserves to be heard just as loudly as someone in Brisbane. After a decade of decline under Labor, we are replacing talk with action. We are cutting red tape, backing investment and listening to the people who know their communities best. When regional small businesses succeed, regional communities thrive. The Crisafulli government will continue backing the businesses, jobs and families that make rural and regional Queensland great.

Small and Family Business

Hon. FS SIMPSON (Maroochydore—LNP) (Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism) (2.33 pm): The Queensland government is delivering practical action to back the small

and family businesses of Queensland, including a growing sector of entrepreneurs in our Indigenous owned businesses. The month of October marks Indigenous Business Month, recognising the contribution Indigenous businesses make to our economy, our communities and our shared prosperity. Queensland has a strong story to tell with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses. The government, through procurement, is supporting small and family and local businesses, including Indigenous businesses, with procurement hitting a milestone of $814 million for goods and services, $279 million higher than the former government achieved. We are getting value for money, but we are also getting economic uplift.

This is also a story about economic development in the broader market. The expertise of our First Peoples' businesses is growing across our state with an ecosystem employing Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people at 12 times the rate of other businesses, with one in three of their employees being Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. That is why Indigenous Business Month 2026 is focusing on turning connections into opportunities and opportunities into outcomes.

This year's program is showcasing business excellence, strength and commercial connections and creates new supply chains and economic opportunities. Key events include Get Seen, Get Connected, Meet the Buyer on 21 October at South Bank; the Townsville Indigenous Business Month Expo on 21 October; Cairns Indigenous Small Business Connect on 22 October; and the First Nations Business Expo on 22 October in Mackay.

As the Deputy Premier said yesterday, on the Sunshine Coast we have the fantastic Beachtree Distilling Co., and we love to highlight its success. It is award-winning, with its gins and other products becoming known internationally, with a focus on Qantas first-class flights and lounges, and there are many other great businesses with great stories to tell. In contrast, Labor's fixation on symbolism over substance is on display with its failure to promote small and family businesses and economic development. We also see that federal Labor does not get it as it burdens businesses with more tax, red tape and uncertainty, and state Labor is just as bad.

Mr Crisafulli: Worse.

Ms SIMPSON: I take that interjection from the Premier: it is worse in that it just keeps on wanting to layer on costs, red tape and uncertainty for our small businesses. The Crisafulli LNP government understands and backs small and family businesses. Strong small businesses create stronger local economies and communities and prosperity for all Queenslanders.

Small and Family Business

Hon. SJ MINNIKIN (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (2.36 pm): The Crisafulli government is committed to putting small and family business first. They are the backbone of Queensland communities and our economy, and now more than ever we are standing up for small and family business because many are doing it tough on the back of federal Labor's failure to control inflation and four interest rate rises this year alone, with another rise being tipped in November. The Albanese Labor government's budget is hurting small and family business—no doubt—and, to add insult to injury, federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers has followed up with changes to trusts, credit card surcharge slugs and a temporary backflip on ATO credit card payments.

Unlike Labor, we are listening and we are delivering. Here is how. First up, we are tackling regulation and removing red tape. The Treasurer re-established the Productivity Commission—which those opposite abolished—and since the beginning of this year we have revoked BPIC. Minister O'Connor has reformed the QBCC reporting requirements, benefiting tens of thousands of small and family businesses across the construction industry. Working collaboratively, we have reduced the Queensland Procurement Policy from more than 700 pages to around 50. That is real red-tape reduction, not rhetoric. Minister Powell has simplified tourism approvals. As we know, more than 90 per cent of Queensland tourism businesses are in fact small and family businesses.

There is more. Minister Perrett is reducing red tape for food producers. Let's not forget the Attorney-General, who is reducing red tape for licensees. In addition to red-tape reduction, we have also delivered statewide electricity tariff and bulk water tariff relief for small and family businesses in South-East Queensland. We are giving fairer and easier access to government contracts. The Queensland Procurement Policy 2026 sets a target that at least 30 per cent of procurement by value is

sourced from Queensland small and family businesses. That is a target that those opposite never set. What a great opportunity awaits for small and family business, with more than $2½ billion in procurement underway to deliver the greatest sporting event on the planet.

We are also delivering targeted support that we know small and family businesses actually need. How do we know this? Unlike those opposite, we actually travel the state and listen firsthand to small and family businesses. This includes our free small business micro-credential courses that kick-off next week in Cairns and online, followed by a second round early next year in Ipswich. I spoke yesterday about the success of our landmark Secure Communities Partnership Program delivering safer and more secure small and family businesses for consumers and staff.

As we approach the two-year mark of the Crisafulli government, we will continue to do what we say we will do. The pace of delivery will continue. In the next few months we will be delivering on our promise to reduce payment times for eligible small and family businesses from 20 calendar days to five business days, with invoices under $10,000 to be paid immediately. Unlike those opposite, we understand small and family business and how important cash flow is. Successful applicants for our Regional Business Gateways Program will soon be announced. This will strengthen local supply chains, business-to-business collaboration and build resilience across regional Queensland for small and family business. Unlike those opposite, the Crisafulli government is committed to putting small and family businesses first because on this side of the chamber, as the Premier has said, this is truly part of our DNA. We are putting small and family business first.

School Infrastructure

Hon. JH LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (2.40 pm): I rise today to update the House on the Crisafulli government's commitment to building 22 new schools, including nine new special schools. Last week we marked the start of construction on the new primary school at Ripley Valley-White Rock. When the first stage is complete, the school will have places for up to 614 students, helping to meet the needs of this growing community.

I am also pleased to confirm the names of five new schools to open in Logan and Ipswich for the start of the 2027 school year. They are: Berrinba Special School in Logan Central; Corymbia Reserve State High School in Logan Reserve; Leichhardt Special School in Ipswich West; Ridgeview Special School in Logan Reserve; and Woogaroo Creek Special School in Springfield-Redbank. That is more than $600 million in new education infrastructure across Logan and Ipswich, including four new special schools for students with disability and higher support needs. Also, opening in 2028 is the new special school at Coomera-Pimpama which will support up to 162 students with specialist facilities and purpose-built learning spaces giving more families access to the support they need closer to home.

Together, these schools will help meet the needs of growing communities and give local families access to quality education closer to home. These schools are more than bricks and mortar. They mean more choice for families, specialised support closer to home and more opportunities for Queensland students, and they are needed. Enrolments in Queensland special schools have increased by 47 per cent since 2019, yet for years those opposite failed to properly plan for that growth. Labor stopped building special schools. They left behind overcrowded schools, an infrastructure backlog and growing pressure on families seeking specialist support for their children. That is the decade of decline we inherited. In fact, members opposite are opposing schools that will remove pressure on their own special schools. Yes, I am looking at the member for Pine Rivers.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: This is a ministerial statement. We do not need quarrelling across the chamber.

Mr LANGBROEK: The Crisafulli government is taking a different approach. We are delivering nine new special schools across Queensland, ensuring more students with disability and higher support needs have greater choice to access specialised learning environments closer to home. These schools form part of the 22 new schools the Crisafulli government is delivering across Queensland. We are backing that up with a record $23.1 billion investment in education to give Queensland students the facilities and support they need to catch up, keep up and stay in school. Labor had a decade to plan for Queensland's growing communities. They failed. The Crisafulli government is getting on with delivering the schools Queensland families need and the opportunities Queensland students deserve.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance

Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.44 pm): I give notice that I will move—

That this House:

1. notes the Premier said that data centres will 'drive power prices down', despite experts saying they will increase power prices by 14 per cent;
2. notes media reporting that the member for Callide has not properly consulted with his community in relation to the Western Downs data centre;

Mr Head interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Callide, you are warned. You know we hear these motions in silence. You are warned.

Mr MILES: And—

3. notes the Premier said that ambulance ramping figures 'are the best', despite ramping increasing nearly four per cent on the month before, the highest month-on-month increase since the LNP came to office;
4. notes the Treasurer said he did not want a credit rating downgrade on his watch—then had a credit rating downgrade on his watch;

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, we are hearing the motion. Member, continue please.

Mr MILES: And—

5. notes media reports the police minister claimed DV rates were dropping, despite advocates saying 'the police data doesn't show the real picture of soaring demand';
6. condemns the Premier and his LNP ministers for two years of spin, secrets and self-promotion.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I remind members that Wednesday afternoon is not a good time to get on the warning list. We have a long way to go before we get to the dinner break.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 3.46 pm.

Child Safety System

Mr MILES (2.46 pm): My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. Yesterday the minister did not give a figure for how many of the 91 children who died were waiting for an assessment by her department. For the benefit of the minister, 27 of the 91 had an investigation or assessment in the past 12 months. Of those 27 investigations or assessments, can the minister advise how many did not commence within that timeframe?

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In relation to the question as asked by the Leader of the Opposition, I would bring to your attention the length of the preamble and ask you to consider that matter.

Mr SPEAKER: That is a fair point. I would urge you to keep your questions much more concise, please.

Ms CAMM: For the benefit of the House, the data that the opposition leader is referring to is data that is released by the QFCC as part of the Child Death Review Board's deliberations. While this data is very important, it is not wholesome and complete. That data feeds into the Child Death Review Board report, which is currently being considered. It gets to the depths of the reforms. This report may speak to system failures or trends occurring in Queensland, which I spoke of in this House yesterday. Alongside this—and the child and family commissioner verified this—there has been an increase in comorbidities, other serious diseases and suicide. The cohort with those is growing. As is the case every year, we will take the Child Death Review Board report very seriously. We will interrogate that report and that data. That is very important.

The opposition leader speaks about the deaths of children. Last night, I was in the House and heard the member for Bulimba speak about the deaths of children. We made a commitment to Queenslanders that we will drive down resi-care numbers, that we will improve numbers in foster and kinship care and that we will deliver the commission of inquiry reforms.

We will not let Queenslanders forget what happened under the watch of those opposite. I will never forget Darcey-Helen and Chloe-Ann Conley, who died after significant traumatic failings under the watch of the member for Bulimba as minister—the 1,065 days that that member failed in her duty as a child safety minister. Nor will we ever forget the name Mason Jett Lee—under the member for Waterford's watch, one of the worst system failings of child safety in this state's history. We will be held accountable for the system that we will reform, but when will the Leader of the Opposition take accountability for four failed ministers who sat over here, one who is no longer in this House, and for their failings? I know that the shadow minister is very passionate, but what is quite incredible to me is that, while she will stand up with passion, the Leader of the Opposition will not stand up with the same conviction and take ownership of the system that he broke.

(Time expired)

Child Safety System

Mr MILES: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. Sixteen of the children known to the child protection system who died had an open intake event. Can the minister confirm how many of those 16 intake events were delayed as a result of the Unify backlog?

Ms CAMM: The member has referenced the Unify system that was designed and developed by not one but multiple Labor ministers. Frankly, that will be the legacy of the member for Jordan as minister for child safety.

Ms Mullen: I didn't turn it on. You turned it on.

Ms CAMM: I will take the interjection. She did not turn it on, but she sure knew about it.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no call to be yelling and pointing across the chamber. Members for Pine Rivers and Jordan, you are both warned.

Ms CAMM: The member for Jordan may not have turned it on, but she was the minister—for a whole 314 days. During that time she failed to conduct a census into missing children, which this government did in its first year. She failed to deliver any change or reform to the residential care system. Yesterday we updated Queenslanders that we had stabilised the residential care system. She sits next to the former minister who instigated the Unify system—certainly developed and designed under that minister—along with myriad other failures.

A government member: Without asking any questions.

Ms CAMM: I take the interjection from the honourable member. They do not ask any questions.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was around 16 deaths and intake events. I ask the minister to return to those details.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I will decide whether a point of order is valid or not. You have a point of order?

Dr ROWAN: I do. In relation to the point of order from the Manager of Opposition Business, the Unify system was referenced in the question as specifically asked to the Minister for Child Safety. She is not only responding to that element of the question; she has taken a number of interjections and she is also providing context with respect to the question as asked. I would submit to you she is being entirely relevant.

Mr SPEAKER: There were two parts to the question. There was the child deaths and there was also Unify. Minister, while you are speaking to those aspects I find you are being relevant.

Ms CAMM: Those opposite want to ask questions and to cherrypick and spin the elements of data that suit a narrative that all of a sudden the Leader of the Opposition cares about child safety. The commission of inquiry uncovered that not only did five ministers, one who does not sit in this House—

and when one looks at his record it is pretty much non-existent; we cannot even find a media statement from former minister Crawford. We welcome the now member for Barron River to the House. The Leader of the Opposition, along with multiple colleagues, wants to cherrypick that they care about a system that they will not take accountability for breaking.

Mr Bleijie: And apologise for.

Ms CAMM: I take the interjection from the Deputy Premier. They will not apologise to those families, to those individuals. While the Leader of the Opposition wants to try to present to Queenslanders this facade that all of a sudden he cares about a child safety system that he left in ruin under his watch as the former premier—

Mrs Nightingale interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Inala, you are also warned.

(Time expired)

Small and Family Business

Mr VORSTER: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering on the promises made to small and family businesses and their staff at the 2024 election, and is the Premier aware of any approaches that failed to listen to these Queenslanders?

Mr CRISAFULLI: The answer to the honourable member's question is: by doing what we said we would do for small and family business. I want to acknowledge the honourable member's advocacy on a number of fronts. At the moment he is leading a really good grassroots campaign for a community and business precinct in Burleigh. It is a great campaign he has run. I understand the need for safety in that area for those businesses.

I said that we were keeping our promises. I remember standing in Bundaberg and speaking about the need for a program to allow small and family business to invest in security to help them, and a precinct, and we delivered on that. I think about the Productivity Commission and the red-tape review done in that space. I think of electronic licensing for cabbies, tradies, builders and contractors. I think about power prices going up under those opposite by 29.9 per cent and coming down—up to double-digit amounts—under us because of the Energy Roadmap. I think about water prices and the runaway train under those opposite and this minister who said no, and he froze it. Great work! Great focus! I think about WorkCover premiums for small and family business. Despite the pressure on that system, we have been able to do that.

There is more reform to come. I think about a Procurement Policy where red tape has been reduced. We are doing it because we are the only level of government at the moment that is giving small and family business a break. I think about the pressures they are under. I think about the commentary. When I see the attack on trusts, I think to myself, 'These are not people who are trying to circumvent the law; they are just setting up a structure so that they might have something to pass on to the next generation.' Then when I see the ATO go after them, when I see the ATO say, 'You cannot pay your fee by credit card,' and when I see an attack on working holiday visas, this side will stand up.

I want to make an observation. The Leader of the Opposition's troubles—and I have heard it again this morning—are not my focus. No-one over there, because of the chaos and crisis—not one of them—has said a thing about the pressures small and family business is under because of those changes. I will cop the 'hunger games' that are going on—the constant feeding frenzy, the background briefing against him, the undermining, the leaking. All of that is okay, but do your job. Stand shoulder to shoulder with us and back them in because they are under siege. All you have to do is ring your mates in Canberra. Have a go. While you are at it, stick up for stronger laws. They are under siege. We are the only side that is doing something about it. You sit there like a rotting corpse. Have a go. Stand up. Instead of worrying about your internal machinations, have a crack for small and family business.

Mr SPEAKER: I remind all ministers: direct your comments through the chair, please.

Child Safety System

Mr DICK: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Of the 91 children known to Child Safety who died last financial year, how many were living in residential care?

Ms CAMM: I thank the member for the question. As I outlined to the House and to Queenslanders yesterday, we have stabilised residential care. It is so very important that we have stabilised residential care because, under those opposite, over 3,000 children were in residential care. I see them rolling their eyes, which shows how much they care about children in the child safety system. We stabilised that system and we are focused on family-based care and increasing the number of foster and kinship carers because we believe that is the best standard and the best placed care for children in the child safety system. This morning, I had the opportunity to meet with those who do foster care screening and who work alongside and interface with Blue Card Services. That is so very important because we are fast-tracking and are going to recruit as many foster and kinship carers as possible in this state. In two years, we have doubled what the previous government could do in four years in residential care.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This was a very specific question seeking a precise number. My point of order is on relevance under the standing orders.

Mr SPEAKER: The question was around residential care but there was also an element regarding numbers. Minister, you have one minute and 47 seconds in which to respond.

Ms CAMM: When we refer to some of the trends and some of the work of the Family and Child Commission, we know the tragedy that is occurring around youth suicide, drug use and complexity of needs. Children in residential care are at a greater risk because they do not have loved ones or carers in their lives. That is why we are unashamedly recruiting and increasing the number of foster and kinship carers in Queensland and we are treating them with respect, which is so very important. That is in contrast to the record of the member for Bulimba, for example.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This was a specific and precise question, without preamble, seeking a specific number from the minister. My point of order is on relevance around the number of children in residential care who died in the last financial year.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister is being responsive in relation to residential care. She is providing some context. I know there are other elements to the question and I am sure that in her remaining time she will come to those, but she is being relevant to the question as asked.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, it was a very specific question. I am not privy to whether the minister has that data to hand. Minister, you have one minute left to respond to the question.

Ms CAMM: I am referring to the stabilisation of residential care. The question was around children dying because of the risks associated with residential care.

An opposition member interjected.

Ms CAMM: I take that interjection. That is why we are moving children out of residential and into family-based care. If only the member for Bulimba considered—

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

Ms CAMM:—the impact of young people committing suicide. I know they do not want to hear it.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! We have a point of order.

Mr de BRENNI: My point of order is on relevance. We want to hear an answer to that question, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have 35 seconds left to respond.

Ms CAMM: I know they do not want to hear the answer. I will table this article for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 8 November 2022, titled 'Failed by the system: child safety slammed after boy took own life' [2044].

I am sure the member for Bulimba remembers EJ—the 14-year-old who might still be alive today had Child Safety, under her watch, not failed that young person—who committed suicide. They come into the House and they want to know about child deaths, but they do not want to reflect upon the child deaths and the failings under their watch, including that of the member for Bulimba.

(Time expired)

Industrial Relations

Miss DOOLAN: 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 ensuring Queensland's industrial relations system is working for Queenslanders, and is he aware of any examples of workplace conflicts?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the member for Pumicestone for the question. Yes, we are reforming the industrial relations system, as I have set out in the House. Importantly, and what the member for Pumicestone will be interested in, we are introducing a fit and proper person test for the union movement. I saw what the member for Pumicestone was subjected to during the election campaign by Labor's militant union movement and the former member for Pumicestone, who now works for the opposition leader. So disgraced was the former member for Pumicestone that she is employed by the opposition leader. That tells you all you need to know about the opposition leader. I have to mention the motion he moved earlier. What a jello salad! The motion he moved earlier is as chaotic as his leadership.

Talking of conflicts in the workplace, at the moment the biggest conflicts are happening on the opposition benches with the opposition leader. Just when we thought it could not get any worse for the opposition leader, it did about two hours ago because another Labor member of parliament has leaked to the media.

Mr Crisafulli: Not again!

Mr BLEIJIE: I take that interjection from the Premier. Yes, Mr Premier: again! As if the last month were not bad enough, it has happened again this morning. They are not even smart enough to just say 'a Labor source'. When Labor MPs leak to me, at least I call them 'Labor sources'. Even I do not give them away. However, they are not smart enough to say to the media, 'a Labor source'; they actually say, 'a Labor caucus MP'. This morning in the *Brisbane Times* one Labor MP is quoted as having said that the big-ticket Labor conference announcement that the member for Gaven would recontest the seat she has represented for nine years has 'ruffled a lot of feathers'. At the Labor convention, their big policy announcement was that the member for Gaven was going to continue representing the people she has been elected to represent and has represented for nine years. Wow!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I do not know which side was the noisiest but I could not hear the Deputy Premier.

Mr BLEIJIE: The *Brisbane Times* article goes on to say—

... fears valuable resources will be focused on keeping Scanlon in Parliament rather than winning back seats or fighting to retain marginal electorates. Some in the caucus say this is evidence the leadership team is sleepwalking to defeat in 2028 ...

They are like zombies. It is a zombie leadership run by a zombie opposition leader who has not accepted the election defeat. As Labor MPs said in the *Australian*, he needs to 'read the room'. I say the Leader of the Opposition needs to follow the advice not of the LNP but of his shadow cabinet and his backbench, follow the advice of the election result, read the room and just go because Queenslanders did not like him and obviously the Labor caucus does not like him, otherwise they would not be leaking against him.

(Time expired)

Child Safety System

Mrs NIGHTINGALE: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Just one in 10 children had their 72-hour priority assessment commenced within the statutory timeframe. Will the minister commit to improving priority assessment response times for the thousands of children currently waiting?

Ms CAMM: I thank the member for the question. I have also updated with regard to notifications: one, the demand on the system; and, two, priority notifications of 24 hours are almost at 90 per cent. Just as we triage and assess risk, we will always move to the high priority, unlike those opposite. For the member's benefit, those opposite were going to sack over 90 workers. When we first came into office we saved those jobs and we have increased the frontline FTEs to around 130. Therefore, will those opposite apologise? Will the former minister and member for Waterford apologise?

Ms Bates: Worst child safety minister ever!

Ms CAMM: I take that interjection: 'worst child safety minister ever'. Thank you, Minister Bates, who acted on my behalf—and did an incredible job, might I say. She was welcomed by my staff right across South-East Queensland. They enjoyed her engagement and consultation—more than they ever had from the member for Waterford. Will the member for Waterford apologise for her contribution to the unbelievable failings of the broken child safety system?

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. For the benefit of the House, I know that the minister has addressed 24-hour assessments, but the question was—

Mr Mander: What's the point of order?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I will hear the point of order. What is the point of order?

Mr de BRENNI: The question was specifically around 72-hour assessments and whether she would commit to improving those. The further commentary is not relevant to the question that we have asked.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118. The minister is being relevant. She has answered that and now she is providing additional information and context to elements of the question as asked, so she has responded directly to the question as asked.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister still has one minute and 53 seconds. She did talk about the priority notification times earlier. It might not be exactly what you were looking for, but the minister was talking about those issues.

Ms CAMM: They can check *Hansard*. I talked about the extra staff we are putting on to meet the demand. Will former minister Fentiman, the member for Waterford, stand up and apologise to Queenslanders for her contribution to the broken child safety system we inherited? Will she apologise for the failings while she was at Splendour in the Grass? Tiahleigh Palmer: will she apologise to Queensland for that? Will former minister Farmer apologise for her contribution? In just one child safety office, 40 children were allocated to officers no longer working there. Their record beggars belief.

The department decided to reunite a child with a verbally and physically abusive mother who was smoking bongs. I have all of the media articles and I am happy to table them. I mention the body that washed up at Surfers Paradise Beach on schoolies week after Child Safety repeatedly ignored police calls for help regarding a homeless family. That happened under the member for Bulimba. It continues. If the Leader of the Opposition wants to demonstrate leadership in child safety—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. None of those matters are related to 72-hour priority assessments. That was the specific nature of the question.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a further point of order. As I said in my previous point of order, the minister answered that element of the question at the beginning of her contribution and now she has provided other information around that. I refer to your previous ruling.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister has 35 seconds to round out her answer.

Ms CAMM: The Leader of the Opposition wants to cherrypick data, but he does not want to apologise or hold his former ministers to account. Given his leadership instability at the moment—four failed former child safety ministers still sit on his front bench. They have never apologised to Queenslanders or taken ownership—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question asked the minister to commit to improving 72-hour priority assessment times.

Mr Bleijie: She did!

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr de BRENNI: I take the interjection from the Deputy Premier. He understands the rules about points of order being heard in silence. I reiterate my point of order: relevance.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In relation to the Manager of Opposition Business's continued reference to relevance, which I would say is now becoming vexatious and not in compliance with the standing order process, given your rulings, I would say that it is becoming disorderly in relation to constantly rising on those matters with respect to previous rulings that you have already made in relation to the response by the minister.

Mr SPEAKER: This is turning into not question time but debates on points of order. Minister, you have 12 seconds to finish your response.

Ms CAMM: If the Leader of the Opposition cares so much about child safety, he will front up and apologise to Queenslanders for the broken system that he left our government to fix.

Workplace Safety

Mr BENNETT: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering safety at workplaces across Queensland, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any workplaces that have been considered unsafe?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the member for Burnett for the question. He is a man from the construction industry who knows all too well about safety. He knows when people, particularly bosses, are unsafe in their environment. I would say that the most unsafe workplace in Queensland at the moment is level 9 of the Annexe, which is the opposition leader's office. I think that is the most fragile working environment anyone would be in at the moment. I feel the pressure that he has sustained from attacks from his own Labor caucus: from his frontbench, his backbench—everybody, including Labor sources. I might point out to the honourable member for Burnett that there was another comment in the *Australian*—a Labor leak from his frontbench and backbench—which states—

"His main speech that he got up and gave at the party conference dinner was not about taking the fight up to the government but about how wonderful our future leader, Meaghan Scanlon, is and how she is going to stand and defend her seat. That was his big-ticket item," a source said.

Even he agrees that they need a new leader, because he put it on the platform at his Labor conference speech. I have never seen an opposition leader endorse a new leader from outside the leadership team at a conference when it all should be about the Leader of the Opposition!

Mr Mander: Did he say that about Waterford?

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. He did not say it about the member for Waterford, he did not say it about the member for Woodridge and he certainly did not say it about the members for Springwood or McConnel.

Government members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take all of those wonderful interjections, colleagues.

It gets worse for the opposition leader. He has a lack of renewal in the shadow cabinet. Again, Labor MPs told the *Australian*—

Many figures across the party are also frustrated by the lack of renewal post-election. Miles retained Dick as his deputy and transplanted the majority of his former cabinet on to the opposition frontbench. Of his 18-member opposition shadow cabinet, 14 were ministers in government. While some have changed portfolios, one party source said, it's just moving the deck chairs of the Titanic."

He had no plans when he was in the premiership—other than Stevo's servos, which were state owned service stations, and Stevo's sangas. I remember the Stevo soggy Sunday sangas, the Stevo's servos and the communist policies that he tried to take to the election. His own team is not buying it now. There are quotes from Labor sources in the media that if it is not the member for Murrumba as opposition leader then they do not know who it is, because there is no-one in opposition good enough to do it. The *Australian* article goes on—

A senior Right faction source said: 'After 2012 We started from scratch and had those policy discussions...

Now all they have is 'some Jeremy Corbyn-esque thing that is great for everyone in the party but will leave us with zero chance of winning any votes'. Another Labor source said, 'The scary thing is: we can all see it. We know what needs to happen. Steven has to make the decision. He should do the right thing by the party.' I absolutely agree with the Labor Party leaks. He should go because he is not up to the job.

(Time expired)

Child Safety, Data Reporting

Ms McMILLAN: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. The 2024 Children in Care Census reports on exposure to domestic violence, the number of placements and the percentage of children self-harming. Can the minister advise when this important Children in Care data will be published for 2025?

Ms CAMM: I thank the member for the question. I appreciate the member quoting the 2024 data. If I could quote the 2023 data or the 2022 data or the 2021 data or the 2020 data or the 2019 data or the 2018 data or the 2017 data I would, but I cannot reflect upon that data, nor can I see if there is a trend in that data because those opposite never did the census and there is no data. So—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms CAMM: I take the interjection from the Attorney-General. Our government, the Crisafulli government, released the 2024 census data about children self-placing. Why did we do that? We wanted to know where the kids in care were. We wanted to know whether or not they were in their placement.

Those opposite do not want to take accountability. The fact that they even asked the question—they will not even concede they did nothing, or maybe that is how the shadow minister is trying to redeem herself. She wants to distance herself from those who had something to do with it—the four failed child safety ministers, the members for Bulimba, Waterford, Nudgee and Jordan. I recognise that the shadow minister is not one of those four failed ministers. Maybe she wants to concede. Maybe that is a dixer to me because we were the ones who did that initial child census. It is important data.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister just said that it is important data. The question was about when it would be released for 2025. My point of order is on relevance.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you heard the question.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. When the Manager of Opposition Business rose, he did not reference what his point of order was in relation to. I imagine it was relevance.

Mr SPEAKER: I assume it was relevance.

Ms CAMM: We conducted that census before we received the report from the commission of inquiry, which the former Labor government still will not take responsibility for. The Leader of the Opposition will not take any accountability. They will not concede they had anything to do with the child safety system. As evidenced by the question asked by the shadow minister, it is like nothing ever happened before 2024. It is unbelievable that they will not take any accountability, that they will not concede. It is a little bit like the Leader of the Opposition's leadership, or lack thereof.

A government member interjected.

Ms CAMM: I take that interjection; there is no leadership over there. The opposition have come in and demanded data and information on initiatives that our government has led in the interest of protecting children. There are four former ministers over there. Why did they never once ask where the missing kids were? Where were the children? Were they self-harming? Why will they not come out and show some leadership and accountability? Instead, they sit there in silence with their heads down, not taking any accountability for the system they broke.

(Time expired)

Small and Family Business, Energy

Ms DOOLEY: My question is to the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering the energy settings needed to help small businesses and their staff thrive in Queensland, and is the Treasurer aware of any approaches that have run out of energy?

Mr JANETZKI: I thank the honourable member. I hear what she did at the end there, and I will come to that shortly. We are one year on from the Energy Roadmap and we have been really clear that we are backing in small and family businesses through structural cost-of-living relief. We have delivered that through the Energy Roadmap. In the first year of their Energy and Jobs Plan, we saw increases in the regions of more than 29 per cent. In our first year, they went down 8.1 per cent in the regions for small and family businesses.

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Lytton, you are warned.

Mr JANETZKI: In South-East Queensland, small and family businesses had a 10.4 to 14 per cent power price decrease. That is how we are delivering coal for longer, more gas and private sector investment into renewables to ensure we are delivering for small and family businesses. The very DNA of our party is to stand every single day we are in office to help them. That is in sharp contrast to Canberra.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: I am coming to that. Jim Chalmers attacks business structures of small and family businesses; we provide lower power prices. If Jim Chalmers wants anyone to clean up their mess, he should go back to the drawing board because Queensland is not about to clean up Jim Chalmers's mess just because he does not know what he is doing.

I also want to make a comment about running out of energy. Queenslanders knew that the Leader of the Opposition had run out of energy at the election in 2024. They knew that he had run out of energy then. He did not concede the election. He did not concede he had run out of energy. We knew that. He knew that. It is not just us who are saying that he has run out of energy; it is senior union officials. They are now saying that he is running out of energy.

Do you know what? It is not just that he is running out of energy; he was going to run Queensland out of energy. He was going to run small and family businesses out of energy. We know that Pioneer-Burdekin would have cost $36.8 billion. He was going to run Queensland out of energy because that was never going to be deliverable. He was going to run Queensland out of energy because he had a hydrogen pipedream that he was putting tens of millions of dollars into.

In all his time he could never find a way to say anything positive about the gas industry. He was going to run Queensland out of gas. He was running our coal generators down because he could not ever speak about coal in this state. The first energy generators for coal were going to run out in Queensland last month. It would have meant lost jobs. He would have turned them off and jobs would have been lost across rural and regional Queensland. We know that, no matter what he has done, he has run out of energy, and he was running Queensland out of energy, too.

(Time expired)

Child Safety System

Mr POWER: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. How many children have been taken out of resi-care and placed with families only to return to resi-care since the minister issued her directive?

Ms CAMM: I thank the member for the question. We have gone about our residential care reform, and this is something that Queenslanders will hold our government to account to and something that we—

Ms McMillan: We are.

Ms CAMM: I take that interjection; 'We are'—it would have been interesting if they had taken accountability for the residential care system that they had broken prior to our entering government. We have made a commitment to the increases in family-based care, and I was pleased to update the House about it yesterday. We have increased carer families in Queensland 6.9 per cent. Under those opposite, residential care numbers went up and up, and I table that for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Children in residential care' [2045].

That is since 2017. We have had an upward trend every quarter. I am still trying to work out whether they are ideologically opposed to foster and kinship care or whether they were lazy and thought they would palm the kids off to residential care providers. 'We won't have checks and balances. There will be no licensing. We'll pay half a million a year, maybe $1 million a year.' Under those opposite, sixty-seven per cent of girls in residential care were subject to sexual abuse. Under those opposite, residential care providers were unlicensed and profited off children—millions of dollars in shareholder returns. They created a market not too dissimilar to the disaster the NDIS has turned out to be with shonkies and crooks. It is exactly the same. That is the record of the former Labor government.

We will calmly and methodically—as we have done—move children into family-based care where it is appropriate to do so. I do not apologise that a loving family, a foster carer or a kinship carer is better for children under five than a youth worker who clocks off at 5 pm when another one clocks on. We gave the direction to move those children out, but the four failed child safety ministers over there sat and let the numbers grow. Babies were being picked up by different youth workers every single day, and we wonder why children are traumatised and broken by the system that we inherited from those opposite. We will be accountable for our numbers. We will drive down residential care, increase foster and kinship care and be open and transparent with Queenslanders.

(Time expired)

Small and Family Business

Mr LEE: My question is to the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training. How is the Crisafulli LNP government's responsible budget management reducing costs for small businesses and their staff, and is the minister aware of any approaches where a high price is being paid for poor management?

Ms BATES: I thank the member for Hervey Bay for his question. Whether you are running a local cafe, working on the tools or breaking into new export markets, cost-of-living pressures add to the costs that small businesses face to keep the doors open and staff in work. Business owners must manage their finances responsibly, as do their staff with their personal finances at home. While those opposite could not figure it out, governments actually need to do the same thing.

Thankfully, the Crisafulli government is restoring respect for Queensland taxpayers' money. We have delivered no new or increased taxes—just as we promised. That is quite a change from the approach of the member for Woodridge and a very stark contrast to the Albanese Labor government and Queensland Labor's own Jim Chalmers, who not only broke their word by increasing taxes but cannot seem to find a small business that they do not want to run a knife through.

Perhaps federal Labor took their lead from the poor judgement and delusional policies championed by the member for Murrumba. It is no surprise that those opposite have lost faith in the Leader of the Opposition. 'Sleepwalking', 'flatlined', 'a dead man walking'—harsh words from your supposed friends!

Mr Bleijie: Woodridge said it.

Ms BATES: The member for Woodridge is a leaker! I think one of the saddest things I read about all of this was in the *Australian*. It stated—

Critics in the Labor caucus and shadow cabinet are yet to raise their concerns about Mr Miles' leadership with him directly, instead hoping he will 'read the room' and go of his own accord.

The members opposite might need to be a bit more direct—although, really, what could be more direct than on 26 October 2024, when 3.1 million Queenslanders voted, with the overwhelming result that the member for Murrumba was not wanted? If he could not read the room and concede then, I imagine he probably cannot read the room either when the other 35 of you lot decide you do not want him. I would suggest that the only thing sadder than expecting the Leader of the Opposition to stand down was this interesting line, also from the *Australian*—

I hate to say this—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms BATES: You will want to hear this—

but I think the only person in there who has any zhoosh in his belly is Cameron Dick; he wants to take the fight up but he doesn't have the numbers in the caucus.

I do not think hearing 'Cameron Dick' and 'zhoosh' in the same sentence is something anyone had on their 2026 bingo card. If the member for Woodridge is an answer for anything, small businesses should be afraid to ask the question—not to mention our international trade partners. It is just more chaos and crisis from Labor.

(Time expired)

Rural Firefighting, Volunteers

Mr KNUTH: My question without notice is to the Premier. With rural fire brigades struggling to attract and retain volunteers, why is the government still forcing rural firefighters, who already undergo criminal history checks, to obtain blue cards? Will the Premier scrap this unnecessary red tape before more volunteers walk away and regional communities are left defenceless during the fire season?

Mr CRISAFULLI: First, I thank the honourable member for the question and for his interest in rural fireys. Indeed, members on this side of the House, I know, have expressed a great degree of gratitude for what has been a really busy start to the fire season. As the honourable member is aware, in Silver Valley, which is west of Ravenshoe, there has been a really large fire. I spoke to the member about that yesterday. He has already been on the phone and spoken to those at the coalface. There is still an active 'stay informed' warning, although they have done some back-burning through the night and have made really good progress. I ask the member to convey my personal thanks to them on that. Thanks very much.

Members, before I get to the substance of the question—and it is a good question—what happened with the blue card system under those opposite was an unmitigated mess. It was a mess, and I will tell you why. It made it really complicated for good, honest people who wanted to do the right thing and really easy for pedos. The Hon. Attorney-General is mopping it up. Right now, the worst of the worst was operating in plain sight and they did nothing about it. The system allowed him to flourish. That has to be said.

I say to the honourable member: in terms of the statistics, since 1 September there have been over 2,500 individual fires and the response has been in the order of nearly 10,000 individuals in fire trucks. A large chunk of them are volunteers—people the member has referred to. I say to the honourable member, firstly, that we absolutely want to make sure that when people are volunteering in the community—and the Minister for Volunteers is working on a strategy to get more people—we can streamline the process. We really do. Likewise, we also have an obligation to protect kids. We have to do that. I have seen the result of what happens when you do not. Some improvements that we have made to the process include better communication—for example, when renewals come up in that space—and I want to thank the minister for that. Also, they need some assistance with that, and we have teams now that are actively trying to assist.

The nub of the member's question is about how can we make sure people are not discouraged from joining because of the threshold that is put in place. We will continue to work on that and streamline and improve the process, but it cannot come second to safety. We would not forgive ourselves collectively as a parliament if we did that. We cannot go back to what we saw happen under those opposite.

The work of the Attorney in reforming the blue card system, in my mind, has been one of the great legacy plays of the Attorney, and there are many. It is one of the great legacy plays to make kids safer and to improve the system. I say to the honourable member that we will keep on working. I want to sincerely thank you for your interest in what is a—

Ms BOYD: Mr Speaker—

Mr CRISAFULLI:—really valuable service for the state.

Mr SPEAKER: I call the member for Pine Rivers for the next question.

Mr STEVENS: Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, I got ahead of myself. You have come up on my screen.

Mr STEVENS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There were six seconds left of the Premier's speech when the member for Pine Rivers called. That is totally inappropriate and against the standing orders. I called 'Mr Speaker'.

Ms BOYD: Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: Hold on one second.

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

Mr SPEAKER: I will deal with this one first, or is it on the same point of order?

Mr de BRENNI: It is in relation to this point of order. Mr Speaker, it is my understanding that the Premier had concluded his answer and then sat down, at which time the member for Pine Rivers rose.

Mr SPEAKER: We had this discussion this morning at our Speakers meeting because this is a continuing trend we are seeing. I am going to give the member for Mermaid Beach the call because the other call was too early. Member for Mermaid Beach, you have the call.

Small and Family Business

Mr STEVENS: My question is to the Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Stop. Start again.

Mr STEVENS: My question is to the Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business. How is the Crisafulli LNP government providing certainty for small and family businesses and their staff in Queensland, and is the minister aware of any ventures that face an uncertain future?

Mr MINNIKIN: At the outset I want to thank the member for the question. The member for Mermaid Beach actually gets small business. After the performance we have seen in this chamber today, Mr Speaker, would you seriously let any of those opposite run any small and family business? They cannot even conduct themselves in the chamber. To answer the question, here is what we are doing. We are giving small and family businesses what those opposite are not capable of: certainty. Part and parcel of that was that, within six months of coming into this role, I asked my department, based on feedback, to produce an action statement: the Small and Family Business First Action Statement. That has been our template, and I table that.

Tabled paper: Queensland Government: Report titled 'Small and Family Business First Action Statement' [2046].

This is what we have been using to measure ourselves against. In fact, this is a phenomenon those opposite are not familiar with. We have produced a document to provide certainty and against which we will be measured—KPIs. They have absolutely no idea about the way the real world works. I can tell members that there is a venture that is very much at risk. There is someone else who also needs to be very wary of the future of the Leader of the Opposition, and that is the shadow minister for this portfolio.

The member for Lytton, the shadow minister for this portfolio, has not asked me one question in 580 days. My colleagues think she is a backbencher, but she is not. I can say one thing: I do not think she is leaking against the opposition leader. Do you know why, Mr Speaker? Because if he goes, she is surely gone. She is baked; she is cooked.

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

Mr MINNIKIN: I withdraw. On the other venture after that, maybe I might need to reassess my assessment. One thing is for sure, and that is the vultures are well and truly circling. One thing I have learned about this place is that there are no secrets. We see who is speaking with whom. We do not need clippings from the fourth estate, but, for what it is worth, while I am on my feet I will quote a couple. On 12 October the *Australian* said that the Labor caucus and shadow cabinet are 'hoping people read the room' and that he will 'go of his own accord'. The problem is that the Leader of the Opposition has never been able to take the pulse or read the room. No wonder they are leaking like sieves. The simple fact of the matter is he did not concede on election night. They have failed to be a credible opposition. I have to tell you right now, Mr Speaker, that I believe killing season is coming in November.

(Time expired)

Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety, Survey

Ms BOYD: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. Can the minister confirm if she received the results of the Unify staff sentiment survey undertaken in July this year?

Ms CAMM: I thank the member for the question. I receive a number of briefings around the Unify remediation plan and the engagement that occurs right across the front line. As I outlined earlier, I was down at statewide operations in the city today meeting with staff who coordinate services statewide and deal with and engage with all of our child safety service centres and as well, obviously, utilise Unify.

I reflect upon a time in this House when there was a survey conducted by the union that was never presented to me by the union, although I think maybe it was presented to the shadow minister or some of her colleagues over there. I cannot work out who is aligned with which union. Since the CFMEU inquiry I think they are trying to work whom they need to align with.

Mr Bleijie: They don't even know who is aligned with whom.

Ms CAMM: That is true. I take that interjection. I think they are all trying to work out who they should align themselves with in the leadership.

Mr Bleijie: Not the member for Murrumba.

Ms CAMM: Not the member for Murrumba, I would agree. We have done a lot of work to remediate and move forward with the Unify system. We have engaged and consulted with the front line. They were able to have input into the system and the way we have reformed the system. That has been of great value—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was around whether or not the minister received the July survey.

Mr SPEAKER: As I heard it, the minister was speaking to Unify right now.

Ms CAMM: I find it so interesting that when it comes to detailed questions around child safety there are in fact four former child safety ministers over there.

A government member: Failed!

Ms CAMM: I take the interjection; four failed child safety ministers over there. They understand in depth: (1) the Unify system because they all touched it in some way, shape or form; and (2) the front line. They understand critical incidents and child death review reports. Those opposite want to try to demonstrate to Queensland that all of a sudden they are standing up for the child safety system and that the Leader of the Opposition all of a sudden cares about kids in care. What did he do when he was premier? When did he ever do a press conference around child safety? Did he ever apologise for any of the tragic deaths or the failings under their watch? Did he make any of his ministers come out and apologise?

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am demonstrating restraint in these points of order, but the minister has not answered whether or not she received the results of the survey.

Mr SPEAKER: As I heard it, the minister talked about the survey a number of times in her contribution so there is no point of order. Minister, you have 14 seconds left.

Ms CAMM: They may not like the answer, but I have given the answer. The Leader of the Opposition should stand up and make his former ministers stand up and apologise to Queenslanders and then maybe we will take him seriously.

(Time expired)

Small Business

Mr CRANDON: 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 certainty for regional and rural small businesses and their staff, and is the minister aware of any examples where long-term viability is being threatened.

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

Mr LAST: I acknowledge the leadership of the member for Coomera when it comes to small business. I was down in his patch a couple of weeks ago. We were doing the rounds at Lightwave Yachts, Symtech and Struddys—he even wheeled me into Yatala Pies. He is a firm believer and supporter of those small businesses down there, but none more so than the Minister for Small and Family Business himself, who was up in my patch a couple of weeks ago in the Burdekin doing the street walk, calling in and saying g'day to small business owners up there. Didn't they appreciate that!

Two things are certain: (1) this side of the House supports small and family businesses right across this state; and (2) the Leader of the Opposition is a dead man walking. He needs to read the tea-leaves because come the end of the year it is going to be the end of the road for the Leader of the Opposition. Read the tea-leaves; get up and walk the plank. When you look behind you, at the other end of the plank there will be the members for Waterford, Gaven and Woodridge all waving goodbye.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

QUEENSLAND PROTECTION COMMISSION BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 13 October (see p. 3159), on motion of Mrs Frecklington—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Ms HATCHER (Caloundra—LNP) (3.47 pm), continuing: As I rise to resume my contribution to this debate from last night, I will start by once again pointing out that, when a system has information about a potential threat to a child but fails to connect the dots, that is a fundamental failing of the system.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Members, there is too much noise in the chamber. If you are leaving, please do so quietly. If you want to have a conversation, do it quietly or take it outside, please.

Ms HATCHER: When we are talking about the safety of children, the consequences of that failure can be devastating. Today, I rise in strong support of the Queensland Protection Commission Bill 2026. Firstly, I acknowledge the minister, the team, the departmental staff, the secretariat and my fellow committee members for all of their work on this bill.

This legislation represents a fundamental change in how Queensland approaches the protection of children and vulnerable people. It is about accountability and coordination. Most importantly, it is about preventing harm before it occurs. Protecting children should never depend on whether two government departments happen to communicate with each other. I am proud to be part of the Crisafulli LNP government that has made child safety a priority. This system is completely broken. This is what happens when paying lip-service is more important than outcomes.

I had the honour of meeting with a very special group of people last week at the Baringa Community Centre. This is a group of truly inspirational angels. They are grandparents raising grandchildren, and their insight about child protection is something everyone should hear. One woman shared her story across the past 10 years of navigating multiple departments and systems with varying degrees of rights attached, none of which appeared to be in the protection of the child. What was abundantly clear is that a system that has prioritised certain agendas has failed to pick up on red flags and patterns of behaviour. If a child changes environments and within a relatively short space of time shows poor school attendance, behavioural issues and poorer health outcomes, any reasonable person would see this as cause for alarm. However, if agencies are not sharing this then very real risks are potentially present. What is best and safe for children should be at the heart of everything.

The findings of the *In plain sight* report should make every member of this House uncomfortable. The report examined the systemic failures that allowed convicted child sex offender Ashley Paul Griffith to continue offending against children. He committed 307 offences against 69 children. Behind that number are children whose lives were changed by the actions of one offender and by a system that failed to identify and stop him sooner. The review identified up to five missed opportunities where a reportable conduct scheme could have helped identify Griffith and prevent further harm. We cannot say with certainty what would have happened if every one of those opportunities had been acted upon, but we can say this: the system should have been better equipped to recognise the danger.

The *In plain sight* report itself identified Queensland's prolonged implementation and comparatively late adoption of a reportable conduct scheme. There comes a point where we have to stop talking about priorities and start delivering them. A priority without action is just a statement of intent, and statements of intent do not protect children. The Crisafulli government has acted. Queensland's Reportable Conduct Scheme commenced, and this bill takes the next critical step by bringing our key child safeguarding functions together. The failures identified in the *In plain sight* report were not simply the mistakes of individual people doing difficult jobs; they were systemic failures of communication, coordination and oversight. This is why we need systemic reform, and that is what this legislation seeks to deliver.

This bill establishes the Queensland Protection Commission. For the first time, Queensland will have a centralised body bringing together several of the state's most important safeguarding functions. These include the Reportable Conduct Scheme, the Child Safe Standards, the working with children checks and disability worker screening. Previously, these functions have operated across different parts of government. While each has an important role, separating these responsibilities can create barriers to the sharing of information. An organisation may hold information about concerning behaviour, a screening process might identify another piece of relevant information, and a separate regulatory body might hold additional intelligence, but individually those pieces might not reveal the full extent of risk. Together, they could tell a very different story.

This bill will also lay the foundation for a future intelligence hub allowing safeguarding intelligence to be better coordinated and emerging risks to be recognised earlier. This is not creating another government body for the sake of creating another government body. It is about ensuring the right information reaches the right people at the right time so action can be taken and, ultimately, children can be protected. The best child protection intervention is the one that prevents a child from being harmed in the first place.

As a member of the Education, Arts and Communities Committee, I had the opportunity to consider this legislation through the committee process. The committee received many submissions. What struck me was the strong recognition that Queensland needs a better, more coordinated approach to safeguarding. The Principal Commissioner of the Queensland Family and Child Commission, Luke Twyford, acknowledged the inadequacy of Queensland's existing architecture for protecting children

from sexual abuse. He described this bill as a bold transformation in how Queensland seeks to protect children and vulnerable people. We also heard from Hetty Johnston AM, who made an important point about the need for bipartisan support. Her message was simple: the protection of children must not become a casualty of politics.

There will always be differences of opinion in the parliament. There should be robust debate about legislation, accountability and the exercise of government power, but surely we can agree that protecting children is a responsibility shared by every member of this House. The committee recommended that this bill be passed, and I am pleased that the opposition has indicated its support. The commission will be established as a statutory authority with independent statutory decision-making responsibilities. There will be administrative and financial accountability arrangements, as there are for other statutory bodies in Queensland. These are serious responsibilities. Decisions made by this commission will affect organisations, individuals and, most importantly, the safety of vulnerable people.

Another important part of this legislation is strengthening Queensland's working with children check system. Queensland is moving to implement nationally agreed reforms designed to strengthen screening and improve the identification of people who may pose a risk to children. The bill also supports access to nationally coordinated criminal history information and future participation in continuous monitoring arrangements. Our systems need to be capable of responding to changes: new information, changing circumstances and risks that emerge. A blue card should never be regarded as a substitute for ongoing vigilance; it is part of a broader system of safeguards.

I also want to acknowledge the significance of this legislation for the organisations and families in communities like Caloundra. Every day, parents entrust their children to schools, childcare centres, sporting clubs and community organisations. They do that with a basic expectation—that the adults responsible for their children will take that responsibility seriously and that the systems behind those organisations will work to keep their children safe.

Most people working with children are dedicated, responsible people who care deeply about the young people entrusted to their care. This legislation supports those people, too, as it provides a stronger framework for identifying concerns, reporting conduct and responding appropriately to risk. It reinforces the principle that protecting children is not the responsibility of just one person or organisation; it is a shared responsibility by all of us, supported by systems that actually work. That is something Queensland families have every right to expect.

Ms PUGH (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (3.57 pm): I rise to speak to the Queensland Protection Commission Bill introduced by the Attorney-General on Wednesday, 26 August. The bill responds to the *In plain sight* report conducted by the Child Death Review Board which was tabled in parliament late last year. The report made 28 recommendations on child safeguarding reform, including improvement of leadership and institutional practice, strengthening intelligence gathering, reforming the criminal justice system and improving responses and support for victim-survivors. Many of us in this place attended the National Survivors' Day event at Parliament House yesterday, and I know that nobody who attended that event could fail to be moved by the stories that were shared by survivors. Those stories laid bare the impact their experiences had on them and continue to have on them to this day.

I want to take a moment, as the member for Caloundra did, to reflect on the request from stakeholders to elevate this issue to one of bipartisanship. I think it is important that we respect that request. As outlined in the opposition's statement of reservation, we want to make it very clear at the outset that we support the bill. That does not mean we will not reflect on the very valid concerns raised by stakeholders throughout the committee process about where the bill could be improved.

If this House is to be united in its bipartisanship and commitment to safeguarding our children and the most vulnerable in our society, then it is incumbent on any good opposition to elevate those concerns here so we can have the best possible chance of protecting Queensland children by listening to and reflecting the voices of stakeholders and those with lived experience in the final legislation that we pass. The purpose of the bill is to establish the role of the Queensland Protection Commissioner, who will deliver coordinated child and vulnerable person safeguarding and child protection oversight functions in Queensland. It replaces the current Family and Child Commission and establishes a new statutory authority, the Queensland Protection Commission—Queensland's first dedicated child safeguarding entity, tasked with supporting the work of the Queensland Protection Commissioner.

As a member of the committee, it was clear that stakeholders support the intent of the legislation and many offered constructive suggestions. Some of the suggestions and concerns they raised relate to the changes regarding the removal of the commissioner. Under the current Family and Child

Commission Act, the commissioner can only be removed on stated grounds including misconduct, incapacity or neglect. This legislation proposes a change that would allow the minister to recommend the removal of the commissioner or deputy commissioner for any reason or for none. Many stakeholders raised concerns in the hearing that this may be a threat to the independence of the commissioner, who is intended to be separate from, and will at times need to be critical of, the government of the day in order to effectively discharge their duty to keep Queensland children safe. There will be times when the commissioner may have to share uncomfortable truths and the commissioner and Queenslanders should feel confident that doing so would not put their employment at risk. They should always be free to give frank and fearless advice that protects Queensland kids.

I note the feedback from the Crime and Corruption Commission in their submission stating—

The CCC acknowledges a removal provision is not entirely out-of-step with other mechanisms across the statute book, however, the Committee may wish to review this having regard to the intended independence of the QPC.

When a watchdog tasked with preventing crime and corruption provides this feedback it is incumbent on the committee and on this parliament to reflect carefully on this advice. The Queensland Sexual Assault Network raised similar concerns during the public hearing, noting—

Independence builds that community trust and maintains integrity, and I think the commissioner needs to be able to give frank and impartial advice without fear of consequence, so I think having defined grounds for removal is really important.

In line with stakeholder feedback, the opposition is calling for the government to amend this so that a commissioner can only be removed for a stated reason, as is currently the case. The current Family and Child Commission Act 2014 outlines that at least one person recommended by the minister to be appointed as a commissioner must be a Torres Strait Islander or Aboriginal person. Stakeholders also raised concerns about the removal of a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's commissioner. Under the new legislation, the bill only requires that one of the two deputy protection commissioners, which is arguably a downgrade, be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background or have similarly demonstrated ability or experience working with First Nations children. To be crystal clear, under the new legislation there is no requirement for the commissioner or deputy commissioner role to be filled by a First Nations person, as I understand it. Ability or experience will be considered sufficient and many stakeholders do not agree with this.

I was moved during committee hearings to hear the feedback and testimony from a number of stakeholders including Kelly Jebb, the Chief Executive Officer of PeakCare Queensland. In the public hearing Kelly made the observation—

We know that First Nations children are over-represented in the child protection system and need and deserve a strong, independent voice to speak on their behalf and create spaces for them to share their own voice. I have given a lot of consideration to whether a great depth of experience working with First Nations people and children would be adequate. I am a non-Indigenous woman raising an Aboriginal boy, and I have more Aboriginal aunts, cousins, nieces and nephews than I can count. I am someone who has listened deeply to elders for a long time. Even with all of my experience I should not, or could not, be the First Nations commissioner and speak to what it means to be a First Nations person in this country nor give advice on First Nations ways of being, of caring, of learning. 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.

Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak similarly expressed concerns, stating in their submission—

QATSICPP does not support professional experience or cultural capability being used as an alternative to identified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership. Cultural capability should be expected across the QPC; it should not replace a separate guarantee of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership at Commissioner level.

I think this feedback from a range of stakeholders is absolutely clear on this matter and I certainly urge all members of parliament to consider it carefully when they are making their final decision on this part of the legislation. I think it is really important and I particularly want to thank Ms Jebb for sharing her personal experience not in her role as the CEO but as the mother of, as she says, an Aboriginal boy. It was really great to get that depth of feedback.

I want to take this opportunity, of course, to thank all of the stakeholders who came before the committee and shared their experience, which is so varied. We have a number of bills before our committee right now. We are seeing the same stakeholders a number of times and every single time they come before us they come with expertise and it is appreciated. I do especially want to thank the Family and Child Commissioner, Mr Luke Twyford, for his ongoing work. Many of us in this place will have had the privilege of meeting Mr Twyford, whether at an event with Parliament House when he has come before the committee or at one of our community events, as I did last year. His commitment to his role is evident and it is wonderful to see.

As I said at the outset, the opposition supports the bill; we support the intent of the bill. We do urge the government to listen to the clear stakeholder feedback on these critical issues so that the final legislation does what it is intended to do. It is intended to protect Queensland children and vulnerable people. The best way we can do that in this place is by coming together, putting politics aside and listening to the experts, and the experts have been clear.

Miss DOOLAN (Pumicestone—LNP) (4.07 pm): I rise today in strong support of the Queensland Protection Commission Bill 2026. Of all the legislation that comes before this House, I believe this is among the most important we will ever debate because when we talk about protecting children, we are not simply talking about government policy, administrative arrangements or regulatory frameworks; we are talking about the most fundamental responsibility we have as a society: to keep our children safe. They are our future teachers, nurses, doctors, police officers, business owners and community leaders. They are the next generation of Queenslanders who will shape the communities we love and the state we are privileged to call home. Before they can become any of those things, they deserve something far more important: they deserve a childhood. They deserve a childhood where they can learn, play, grow and dream; a childhood where they feel safe in their homes, in their schools, in their sporting clubs and in the organisations entrusted with their care; and, above all, a childhood free from abuse, exploitation and harm. The responsibility to protect that childhood belongs to every single person here.

As a member of the Education, Arts and Communities Committee, I had the privilege of participating in the examination of this bill and I want to begin by sincerely thanking my fellow committee members from both sides of the House for their contributions throughout the process. I also want to acknowledge the committee secretariat for their professionalism, diligence and hard work in supporting our examination of this important legislation. The work of parliamentary committees is not always visible to the broader community but it is an essential part of ensuring the legislation we pass has been properly scrutinised and considered.

I also extend my appreciation to the organisations, advocates, experts and members of the community who took the time to provide submissions and evidence to the inquiry. We received many submissions and on 9 October our committee tabled its report recommending that the bill be passed. What struck me throughout the process was the shared recognition of just how important these reforms are. There were different perspectives on the details and legitimate questions about how the new commission should operate, but there was a common understanding that Queensland's child safeguarding system must be stronger and that the failures of the past cannot be allowed to continue.

It is impossible to speak about this legislation without acknowledging the circumstances that brought us here. The *In plain sight* report exposed serious and deeply concerning failures in the systems designed to protect Queensland children from sexual abuse—failures in communication, failures in oversight, failures to recognise warning signs and failures to act when action could have prevented further harm. One of the most devastating examples was the offending of Ashley Paul Griffith—69 children, 307 offences. Behind those numbers are children whose lives were forever changed, children whose trust was betrayed and families who had every reason to believe that the institutions caring for their children would keep them safe.

The *In plain sight* report identified up to five missed opportunities where Griffith could have been identified and stopped sooner had Queensland had a reportable conduct scheme—five opportunities. I want members of this House to consider what those missed opportunities represent, because when we speak about 'missed opportunities' in child protection we are not talking about a delayed project or an admin inconvenience. We are talking about opportunities to prevent children from being harmed, opportunities to intervene, opportunities to protect innocence—opportunities that, once lost, can never be returned. That is why this legislation matters.

In 2017 the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse recommended the introduction of a reportable conduct scheme, yet Queensland experienced prolonged delays in implementing that recommendation. For years the warning signs were there and the need for reform was understood, but the necessary protections were not put in place. While governments debated frameworks and responsibilities, vulnerable children continued to face risks. I do not believe that child protection should ever become a political football, but we must be prepared to acknowledge where systems have failed, because accountability is essential to ensuring those failures are never repeated. We owe the children who suffered more than our sympathy; we owe them change, and that is exactly what the Queensland Protection Commission Bill seeks to deliver.

This bill establishes the Queensland Protection Commission from 1 February 2027. For the first time Queensland will have a centralised safeguarding entity bringing critical child and vulnerable person protection functions together under one roof. The commission will bring together the working with children check scheme, disability worker screening, Child Safe Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme. It will also lay the foundation for a new intelligence hub designed to improve the way agencies identify, share and respond to emerging risks. That might sound technical, but the principle behind it is incredibly simple. When one part of the system identifies a risk to a child, that information should not be trapped where another part of the system cannot see it. A warning raised in one organisation should not disappear into an admin silo. A concern about someone's conduct should not be overlooked simply because another agency holds a different piece of information, and a child should never be put at risk because government agencies could not communicate effectively with one another.

The *In plain sight* report found that fragmented oversight and siloed information contributed to missed opportunities to identify risks earlier. This bill responds directly to those findings. By bringing these safeguarding functions together, we are creating a system better equipped to recognise patterns, connect information and act before risks escalate, and that is the change in thinking that we need. For too long, child protection systems have too often been reactive—responding after a complaint, responding after an incident, responding after a child has already suffered harm. Of course those responses remain critical, but the standard we should aspire to should be much higher. We should be identifying the risks before harm occurs, not simply responding after a child's life has been changed forever.

Another critical component of this legislation is the strengthening of Queensland's working with children checks. We know that the blue card system plays an essential role in protecting children in our schools, sporting clubs, childcare centres and community organisations. Every week in my own electorate of Pumicestone I see the incredible work undertaken by volunteers, teachers, coaches and community organisations. These are people who give their time and energy to help young Queenslanders grow and succeed, and parents put enormous trust in them. When a parent drops their child off at football training, a dance class, a school camp or an after-school program, they should have the confidence in the safeguards surrounding the people responsible for their children. That confidence must be earned through strong and effective systems. This bill strengthens the offences considered under Queensland's working with children check framework, including expanding automatic disqualification and serious offence categories. It also supports greater national consistency and improved access to criminal history information.

Queensland will be the first jurisdiction to legislate key nationally agreed working with children check reforms, and I believe these changes reflect a principle every member of this House can appreciate: the right of a child to be safe must come before the privilege of an adult working with a child. Our safeguarding system must be rigorous, responsive and capable of recognising serious risks, because a blue card must be more than a piece of plastic; it must be part of a system that parents can trust.

I also want to speak about the evidence our committee heard during its examination. We heard from people who have dedicated their lives and careers to advocating for the protection of children—people who understand the consequences when systems fail and the importance of getting those reforms right. One of those people was Hetty Johnston AM, who has spent decades advocating for children and survivors of abuse. Her contribution to the inquiry was very powerful. She called for bipartisan support and reminded us that the protection of children should transcend political divisions, and we agree with her. There are many matters that will come before this House where members will fundamentally disagree—that is the nature of our democracy—but surely the safety of children is one area on which we should be able to find some common ground, because child abuse does not discriminate according to political affiliation and no child should have to wait for a change of government, a change of priorities or another inquiry before the systems meant to protect them are strengthened. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr RICHMOND (Stafford—ALP) (4.15 pm): The protection of our children is one of the most solemn duties that members in this place hold. We must do all we can to ensure Queensland kids have the best start to their life so that they can reach their potential and help make our state the best place it can be. The latest child safety performance data shows that at present too many children are being let down. That is why Labor is going to put our shoulder to the wheel and help the Crisafulli government fix its child safety crisis, and that is why we will be supporting this bill.

The concept of the Queensland Protection Commission is sound. If implemented properly, it should assist in the early identification of threats to the wellbeing of children, preventing serious harm from occurring. The Queensland Protection Commission will bring together key safeguarding and oversight functions, helping prevent information and activity from being trapped in separate agencies. If that helps keep human scum like Ashley Paul Griffith accountable then we are all for it. In effect, it builds on the work of the Queensland Family and Child Commission but also adds substantial new responsibilities.

This new agency will be headed by a Protection Commissioner. The powers granted to, and the responsibilities imposed upon, the new commissioner are vast and significant. The commissioner will oversee the Reportable Conduct Scheme and the Child Safe Standards, administer the working with children check and disability worker screening schemes, and provide systemic oversight of child protection services. The role also includes promotion, advocacy, education and information sharing to identify threats to children, young people and other vulnerable people. In carrying out these duties, the commissioner will have the power to do anything necessary or convenient to perform their functions. The scale of the power and of the responsibility being given to the Protection Commissioner is why the opposition holds such grave concerns about the erosion of safeguards for independence. Indeed, it seems to me that key elements of this bill are more focused on protecting the political interests of the LNP than on the best interests of vulnerable Queensland children.

The new commission will replace the Queensland Family and Child Commission. Under section 15 of the Family and Child Commission Act, the minister can recommend a commissioner's removal only if satisfied the commissioner has been guilty of misconduct, is incapable of performing their duties or has neglected or incompetently performed those duties. In contrast, clause 17 of this bill allows the Attorney-General to recommend that the Governor in Council remove the Protection Commissioner for any reason or none at all. This is a legislative sword of Damocles hanging over the head of the Protection Commissioner, ready to drop at any time—an implicit threat: do what the government says or else. Let us be clear on what this could mean. A Protection Commissioner could issue public statements critical of the government for, say, sitting on politically damaging child safety data instead of releasing it promptly, or—completely hypothetically—the Protection Commissioner could question a government that says that it wants to reduce the number of children in residential care but then oversees an increase of 34 per cent.

Under the provisions of the bill, it seems the Attorney could use this as a basis for deciding to recommend that the Protection Commissioner be removed from their position without having to say so. The government will say that, of course, it would never use that power to punish criticism. In that case, it is incumbent upon the government to explain why this extraordinary dismissal power is necessary. Consider the protections applying to the CCC chair, the Public Guardian, the Integrity Commissioner, the Human Rights Commissioner, the Victims' Commissioner, the Information Commissioner, the Auditor-General and the Ombudsman. Their legislation specifies grounds for removal, parliamentary safeguards or both. None of the legislation enabling those positions gives the minister the same express power to recommend removal for any reason or none.

The Attorney points out my error with respect to the operation of section 10 of the Forensic Science Queensland Act—I note the member for Mackay's presence in the chamber—and notes that the amended provision hands the Attorney a similar level of discretion in terminating the FSQ director's position. She correctly observes that I was reviewing a previous iteration of the act. It is worth noting that the expanded power to terminate the position of the FSQ director is one that she was handed by the LNP, meaning that the precedent that she references to justify handing herself this expanded power is a precedent that she herself created. It is very similar to what the member for Warrego did in quoting herself when she refused to answer a question on the safety of vulnerable children. Well done, Angus; great job!

The explanatory notes say that the power is intended to address leadership or operational issues and maintain public confidence. Why are the existing grounds of misconduct, incapacity and neglect or incompetent performance of duties insufficient to deal with these concerns? The government has not made a convincing case for removing these safeguards. What I see here is a government which is obsessed with control, with perception and with protecting its political interests rather than the interests of Queenslanders—a government that cares more about how things look than how they actually are. I would encourage all of those members opposite—who often talk about the safety of our community—to actually act on those words.

A Protection Commissioner who can critique the government, who can hold it to account, identify systemic failings and drive change will help make Queensland kids safer, which is why the amendments being moved by the shadow minister are so important. They would give the incoming Protection Commissioner the confidence that they are protected from the arbitrary and capricious decisions of a government more focused on protecting itself than protecting Queensland children. By supporting these good faith amendments, those opposite can make this a reality.

You do not have to take our word for the importance of the Protection Commissioner's actual and perceived independence. The committee evidence shows a widespread concern about the breadth of the removal power and its implications for independence. The concern that I have about the government's focus on control and perception extends to the timing of the Protection Commissioner's annual report. This report gives parliament and the Queensland public an opportunity to scrutinise the progress that is being made in protecting vulnerable kids. The report must disclose ministerial directions and the response taken, disclose the number of reports requested and provided to the minister under the safeguarding and screening laws, and account for the commissioner's work on Child Safe Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme, including compliance and trends. Departmental officials confirmed that this bill could see the first annual report tabled in parliament after the 2028 election.

The government may dismiss this concern as conspiratorial muckraking that would rely on an extreme degree of coordination between the Attorney and the Queensland Protection Commissioner, but, given the extraordinary level of control and power that the Attorney holds over the Protection Commissioner's position, such coordination cannot be ruled out. In my view, this combination creates a serious accountability risk. Queenslanders care deeply about the wellbeing of our state's kids. We deserve to know what is being done in their name. They deserve to know how the new Protection Commission is performing before they cast their vote at the next state election. That is why the opposition is moving additional transparency amendments to ensure we can let the sunlight in. We will establish a new parliamentary committee to provide continuous oversight of the commission, require ministerial directions to be published within 30 days and ensure the commission's annual report is tabled by 30 September 2028. I encourage all government members to support these amendments to let the sunlight in.

I will briefly touch on one last aspect of the bill, which is the mean-spirited amendment that removes the dedicated position of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander commissioner. The government has not made a convincing case for abandoning a guaranteed First Nations representative. The existing law already requires every commissioner to be appropriately qualified. For a government that is so quick to take umbrage at accusations of 'Project Invisibility', removing this guarantee does little to answer the criticism being levelled at them. This is a government obsessed with control and deadset against transparency.

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) (4.25 pm): The Crisafulli government made a commitment to Queenslanders that we would keep them safe. There is no more historic or critical week for Queenslanders, families and their children than this week when it comes to the protection of children and what the Queensland Protection Commission Bill 2026 aims to do.

The Queensland Protection Commission Bill is a nation-leading reform that will provide some of the strongest safeguarding legislation in the country. It delivers the key recommendations from the Queensland Child Death Review Board's *In plain sight*: *review into system responses to child sexual abuse* report. I want to take this opportunity to thank very sincerely the Child Death Review Board for their work, as well as the leadership of Luke Twyford, the Queensland Family and Child Commissioner. In all of my interactions with the commissioner—both in opposition and in government—he has always been professional. He demonstrates his passion for the protection of children in this state and conducts himself in a way that is aligned with what Queenslanders expect from a commissioner in upholding the standards that we expect in this important work.

I also want to thank the committee for their work, as well as the long-term advocates, whom many in the House have spoken about, including Hetty Johnston, the Morcombes and others who are prominent across our communities. They play a role in educating all of us and Queenslanders more broadly on why we need to protect our children. We have seen a prevalence of child sexual abuse and child exploitation material and there has been a growth in the last several years. It is why the vital provisions contained in this bill around the establishment of the new Queensland Protection

Commission as the centralised safeguarding entity that is contemporary, responsive and proactive to the changing landscape are required. It means co-locating the Reportable Conduct Scheme, the Child Safe Standards and the working with children checks under one roof.

In opposition, I spoke, along with the then shadow attorney-general, in this House in the dying days of the former Labor government and called out the former Labor government which, year after year, failed to implement the Reportable Conduct Scheme.

Mr Nicholls: Every estimates.

Ms CAMM: Every estimates; I take that interjection from the health minister. Year after year, we sat in estimates and asked every attorney-general and every child safety minister what they were doing about reportable conduct—having been a recommendation of the 2017 disability royal commission. That is the record of the previous Labor government. We have wasted no time in prioritising the safety of children.

This bill will facilitate laying the foundation for the nation-leading intelligence hub to improve information sharing, identify emerging risks and ensure support earlier and that agencies are able to respond more effectively to concerns about child safety, particularly with regard to vulnerable cohorts. Perpetrators operate to infiltrate systems across my portfolios. We know they not only operate across Child Safety but also operate across disability services.

The Queensland Protection Commission will be the state's first dedicated child and vulnerable person safeguarding agency, commencing 1 February 2027. It was a key recommendation of the *In plain sight* review undertaken by the Child Death Review Board. It examined how government systems identify, respond to and prevent sexual abuse. Using convicted paedophile Ashley Paul Griffith's offending as a case study, the review examined system-level failures and gaps across our child safeguarding framework. I cannot imagine how harrowing it was to observe and hear about all of those cases. The *In plain sight* report exposed the serious failures in Queensland's child safety system under the former Labor government. It found that the model had failed to stop child sex offender Ashley Paul Griffith and in doing so failed victims. There were up to five missed opportunities where Griffith could have, and should have, been identified and stopped sooner if Queensland had a reportable conduct scheme.

Despite multiple commitments by the then Labor government to a reportable conduct scheme, they failed in making it a priority. In contrast, the Crisafulli government has fast-tracked the commencement of this scheme. It commenced on 1 July this year. I was pleased to work with the Attorney-General to bring forward all of the elements of a reportable conduct scheme. It was a massive feat, working with the QFCC, to bring all of that work forward.

In under two years the Crisafulli government has responded to the *In plain sight* review and also the child safety commission of inquiry. While I have heard many of those opposite wanting to speak about the latest quarterly child safety data, they failed to make any contribution to the findings of the child safety commission of inquiry. The opportunity for the new commission to have oversight of the child safety system in Queensland and the continuation of the important work that the Child Death Review Board does I believe will only strengthen child safety systems and oversight roles. Both the review and the commission of inquiry uncovered serious multiple failures by the former Labor government.

As a government, you cannot fix what you do not measure and the Crisafulli government has done both. It is undertaking vital reform to keep children and young people safe. While we know there is further reform required, I think we have demonstrated to Queenslanders with this bill, with the sex offender register in Daniel's Law, as well as with the implementation now of the commission of inquiry, that we are prepared to do what it takes to protect Queensland children. Parents and carers can be assured that the protection of children is a key priority, and this new commission to be established to strengthen the child safeguarding system and improve oversight services where data sharing is the cornerstone is critical in our efforts.

I do not often speak on other ministers' bills, but given I hold the disability portfolio I wanted to explain what this bill means to those Queensland families and those families right across my electorate of Mackay and the Whitsundays. The pervasive nature of child sexual abuse has grown across our community and, sadly, across Queensland and the nation. This bill aims to identify risk, identify patterns of behaviour and identify where this behaviour sits within systems, whether that be childcare centres, community organisations, sporting clubs, schools or after-school activities that many children frequent. We want to assure parents that when they are dropping their children off to these activities they are

leaving them in the safest hands possible. The only way we can ensure this and to mitigate risk is by bringing forward this bill. It is also very important because the criminal threshold that needs to be met when it comes to sexual abuse is high and there are barriers for children and people with a disability to go to the full extent. Being able to identify this material early and identify where these patterns of behaviour are will be the best form of prevention. That is critical for vulnerable cohorts in our community.

I acknowledge the work of the committee as well as the work of the departments. This cuts across many government agencies that will work together in the establishment of the intelligence hub. I acknowledge the work of my department in particular and those who operate in the working with children checks area who do the interface work with Blue Card as well as screening. We have a lot of work underway at the moment in relation to recruitment of foster and kinship carers. We are undertaking one of the largest campaigns of recruitment. The pressure on that workforce has been significant, and I acknowledge that and the way they have worked with Blue Card and also with the QFCC in relation to the Reportable Conduct Scheme. I also acknowledge the work of the Attorney-General and the leadership of the Crisafulli government in delivering this bill and protecting children.

Hon. DE FARMER (Bulimba—ALP) (4.34 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Queensland Protection Commission Bill 2026. As has already been foreshadowed, the Labor opposition will be supporting this bill. We all want to ensure that everything possible is being done to provide the protection that Queensland children fundamentally rely on us for. Of course, we always value the advice of experts.

The Queensland Protection Commission is to be established to deliver coordinated child and vulnerable persons safeguarding and child protection oversight functions. The creation of the commission is a direct response to the recommendations made by the child safety commission of inquiry and by the *In plain sight* report conducted by the Child Death Review Board. From the outset I would like to thank the commissioner of the child safety commission of inquiry and his team for their painstaking work in bringing the recommendations to government. I have personally heard from a number of stakeholders how grateful they were for the many conversations they had with the commissioner outside of the hearings as he sought to understand the complexities of the child protection environment and how disgraceful it is that this government shortened that inquiry so that the commissioner's work had to be curtailed so he could not have the time he felt he needed—announcing, as the government did in February of this year, that the commission would be wound up in May.

In what was probably a very courageous move from the commissioner, his reaction to the government's announcement was reported by the *Cairns Post* on 16 February this year. That article stated—

> The commissioner in charge of Queensland's child safety inquiry has warned the government's decision to rush his report by six months means he will not be able to tackle all of the issues in depth.

That is so unfortunate, because we know how complex this issue is and how unfair it was not to give him the time that he felt he needed. The government did not seem to have the same need to rush another commission of inquiry that was going on at the same time. They did not seem to feel the need to finalise that one anytime soon.

Addressing the challenges of the child safety system is not easy—not in Queensland, not anywhere—but if you do not have data to track what is working and what is not working, if you do not have data to at least show you where the kids in care actually are and the status of those children, then it is impossible to do the right thing by those children. We had already suspected that the child safety system had deteriorated rapidly under the Crisafulli LNP government. The government was just not giving anyone the data to prove that. In the *Courier-Mail* of August this year the Queensland Family and Child Commission Principal Commissioner, Luke Twyford, said—and I hope this has not killed his chances of getting the top job in the commission if that is what he wants, on top of the chair of the committee yesterday in his speech so inappropriately saying he hopes he gets the job—that he now has no idea how the child safety system is operating due to a lack of visible data or survey results. He said—

> I don't know if placement stability has improved or decreased in the two years, and I don't know how often children are moving from place to place, and the reasons why and which children.
>
> It's been one of the least transparent systems I've encountered and whilst I've worked in other jurisdictions, if Queensland is to be a good parent to these children, then we need to know how their life is going and what their needs are.

After the release—finally—of the child safety data this week, it is clear why the government has been putting off publishing it: the data is terrible. It is absolutely terrible.

Ms CAMM: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order as previously raised: relevance to the long title of the bill. We have had two full question times on child safety data in which the member was able to ask lots of questions about that. I ask that you draw her back to the long title of the bill, which is the Queensland Protection Commission, not the operational data of Child Safety.

Mr POWER: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Page 16 of the explanatory notes talks about the functions of the commissioner. As part of its oversight of the child protection system, the commission must—

- analyse and evaluate, at a systemic level, policies and practices ...

and further—

- exchange information under the Act and other Acts that is relevant to the proactive identification of, and protection from, threats to the safety and wellbeing of children ...

This is all about the commissioner and their role in taking the data we have, sharing it and protecting children.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Thank you, members. For the benefit of the House, the debate must be relevant to the principles of the bill. However, you can also bring up the issue of data as a way of providing context, although the items referred to should not form someone's entire speech. The member on her feet has been providing context and making everything that she has said relevant. I ask the member to carry on.

Ms FARMER: I was going to go to that point. We already know how dodgy they are about providing data. The LNP has never met a set of figures they did not want to either hide or fudge. If we did not already know how they try to avoid providing data, we need only look at the carry-on during last night's debate when the member for Gaven was on her feet. They spoke with high dudgeon about how she had the temerity to talk about data and its importance. My goodness, what a carry-on! What is the Shakespeare quote about people who protest too much? That is what they were doing!

That was so silly because even a cursory glance at the explanatory notes and the bill itself show that data is central to the functions of the commission. For instance, section 7(1) (d) of the bill states that the functions of the commissioner include—

To analyse and evaluate, at a systemic level, policies and practices relevant to the child protection system and the performance of relevant agencies in delivering services

I am not sure how you would analyse and evaluate without data. It is entirely relevant to highlight the current state of child and vulnerable persons safeguarding and child protection in Queensland, which is also outlined in section 3(1)(a) as the main purpose of the bill. Of course, the government must have data to track how they are going and to help determine where resources must be optimised—that is government 101—but this lot? They just want to hide it or fudge it if they cannot hide it in case anyone sees how they are actually doing.

This week, with the release of the data, we have truly seen the crisis in which the Queensland child safety system is now operating. It is going to be this commission's job to try to sort out their mess. With 4,877 children in need of protection and response times to assess children in most urgent need declining, including less than 10 per cent of those needing priority protection within 72 hours being seen in time, and despite the minister telling us all about the 'exciting' news she had to deliver about residential care, the data reveals that the number of children in residential care remains at record highs under this government, having increased by 34 per cent in the past year. From the way the minister was talking earlier, one would not even know that those figures were in the data that she sent us the other day.

There are many other terrible statistics, and I referred to a number of those in my adjournment speech last night, which clearly really upset the minister, but I want to cover a couple of other matters raised in the bill. On the issue of the First Nations deputy commissioner, 'Project Invisibility' is a thing. This bill confirms it by removing the only statutory requirement for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander commissioner at a time when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children remain profoundly over-represented in both child protection and youth justice, instead allowing for one of the deputy commissioners to—maybe or maybe not—be Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. The Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak told the committee that they do not support professional experience or cultural capability being used as an alternative to identified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership.

On the matter of independence, the government has spoken consistently of the independence of this new commission and that independence is vital to ensuring it can operate as it needs to protect the best interests of children in Queensland. The current QFCC is an independent model and it has worked. The proposed commission will not be an independent statutory body. Its staffing and finances will be controlled by a departmental chief executive. Its core oversight functions will remain subject to ministerial direction. Its commissioner may be removed without cause. How likely will it be that the commissioner would be game to challenge the government under those circumstances? For instance, under the proposed system I bet the commissioner would not be game to criticise the government in the way that the QFCC commissioner has recently criticised this government about data. The QFCC has been rightly able to criticise the government for failures or issues in the system that it deems necessary to bring to the attention of Queenslanders and their government, and that function needs to remain. Several submitters argued that the decision to give control of the commission's budget to the department and the government that it is meant to oversee or criticise creates further risk to its operations and brings further into question the commission's independence.

The opposition has flagged amendments on all of these issues. We have flagged a number of other issues through various speakers. This is a really important body that needs to be independent. It needs to hold the government to account. Queensland children are relying on this government to do the right thing and I beg them to do so.



Mrs POOLE (Mundingburra—LNP) (4.46 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Queensland Protection Commission Bill. Firstly, I thank the Attorney-General for bringing this legislation forward. I also thank the chair and the members of the Education, Arts and Communities Committee for their examination of the bill. First and foremost, I acknowledge the victim-survivors and the families whose experiences must remain at the centre of this body of work.

I note that the previous speaker talked about data. You can have all the data you like but, nine years ago, the former Labor government had the opportunity to introduce this legislation and they failed to do so. Because of that, they failed the children of Queensland. The bill that we have introduced has the protection of our children at its core. As the member for Mundingburra, a former police officer who spent 28 years serving the Townsville community and, most importantly, as a mum, protecting children is deeply personal to me and it should be deeply personal to every single person in this chamber regardless of the side they sit on.

Our children rely on us to recognise danger, to listen to them and to act. This reinforces the responsibility that we carry as adults when a child's safety is at risk. For families in Mundingburra, that responsibility extends to every place where a child learns, plays or receives care. When parents drop their children at child care, send them to school or take them to weekend sport, they place enormous trust in the people and the systems around them. This bill strengthens the safeguards behind that trust. It responds to the *In plain sight* review, it establishes the Queensland Protection Commission from 1 February 2027 and it brings key safeguarding functions together under one roof. The findings of the *In plain sight* review demanded action. Ashley Paul Griffith committed 307 offences against 69 children. Behind those numbers are children whose trust was betrayed and families that now live with the consequences every single day. The review identified up to five missed opportunities when he could have been identified and he should have been stopped sooner if Queensland had had a reportable conduct scheme. Those missed opportunities represent a devastating failure to protect our children in Queensland.

Let's go back nine years to 2017. In 2017, the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse recommended a reportable conduct scheme. What happened? In 2017, under the former Labor government, they failed to introduce a reportable conduct scheme and they failed to protect Queensland children. In 2018, former Labor premier Annastacia Palaszczuk said, 'The establishment of a reportable conduct scheme is a priority for Queensland.' What happened then?

Mrs Gerber: Did they do it?

Mrs POOLE: I take that interjection. For the second time, did they do it? Despite it being a priority for Queensland, in 2018 the former Labor government failed to introduce a reportable conduct scheme and again failed to protect the children of Queensland. In 2020, the member for Nudgee said, 'A Queensland reportable conduct scheme will be our key focus over the coming year.' Then what happened? For the third time, despite that statement—'A reportable conduct scheme will be our key focus over the coming year'—the former Labor government again failed to introduce a reportable conduct scheme. Again, for the third time, they failed to protect our Queensland children. Labor had the opportunity time and time again—in 2017, 2018 and 2020—and still failed to deliver timely protection that Queensland children deserved.

It is our government that has taken the necessary action to protect the children of Queensland. Those were not the only times the former Labor government failed to protect the children of Queensland. In 2019, the LNP proposed a child sex offender public register and the then Labor government voted against it—again voted against keeping our Queensland kids safe. But in 2025, it was our government, the Crisafulli government, which introduced Queensland's first child sex offender register—Daniel's Law—to keep our Queensland kids safe. Again, it is our government, the Crisafulli government, which has fast-tracked the commencement of the Reportable Conduct Scheme. This bill takes the next step by bringing safeguarding schemes together and improving the way risk information is shared. As Principal Commissioner Luke Twyford told the committee—

> Queensland's existing architecture for protecting children from sexual abuse has been inadequate. That is not simply my opinion; it is what *In plain sight* found.

He said the bill 'represents a bold transformation in the way Queensland seeks to protect its children and other vulnerable people'.

The new commission will bring together working with children checks, disability worker screening, the Reportable Conduct Scheme and Child Safe Standards, but it also lays the foundation for the future intelligence hub that was recognised by the *In plain sight* review, and the purpose is to identify emerging risks earlier and help agencies respond before further harm can occur. The relevant information must reach the people who can use it to protect a child. The bill requires guidelines for information sharing between the commission's regulatory functions, supporting clear and accountable practices while protecting privacy.

For people in the Mundingburra electorate, that is what the practical expectation means. It is straightforward. If there is information indicating a risk to their child, the safeguarding system should be capable of connecting it and acting on it. In Mundingburra, our teachers, our childcare workers, our coaches and our volunteers make an enormous contribution to our children's lives, and they deserve a safeguarding framework that supports their work and takes concerns seriously. In all my years engrained in the Townsville community, I have seen how much sport can give a young person. It can give them confidence, friendships and belonging. Our children should be able to enjoy those opportunities safely, and parents should know that the adults entrusted with their children are subject to strong safeguards. As an ambassador for the Daniel Morcombe Foundation for over 16 years, I am pleased that the foundation was wholly supportive of this bill.

When the commission was announced, the shadow attorney-general said, 'The devil will be in the detail,' and, 'We want to make sure the work that has been undertaken as part of this review is considered carefully and implemented in the way that those who did this review anticipated.' Careful scrutiny is appropriate, and so is acknowledging the failures that made these reforms necessary. I welcome the opposition's stated support for the bill, but I have to say: why did they not do this when they were in government in 2017, 2018 and 2020 when they recognised that it was a priority?

Mrs Gerber: They could have stopped Ashley Paul Griffith.

Mrs POOLE: I take that interjection. They had the opportunity to protect those 69 young children and their families who are now living with the devastation created—

Mrs GERBER: Only one.

Mrs POOLE:—by one man. The children growing up in the Mundingburra electorate deserve adults who listen, organisations that take responsibility and a system that acts on the warning signs. This bill provides stronger screening, coordinated safeguarding and a foundation for earlier intervention. The Crisafulli government is delivering these reforms because children's safety cannot wait one moment longer. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (4.56 pm): I rise for my contribution on the Queensland Protection Commission Bill. I cannot start anywhere other than to first acknowledge the staggering hypocrisy of this government on issues like this. Let's start by considering the Wacol Youth Remand Centre, described by the Inspector of Detention Services as unsuitable to accommodate children for extended periods, yet between April 2025 and March 2026 over 100 stays were for between two and three weeks, and eight children were detained there for more than 30 days. Conditions are so bad that children are self-harming to try to expedite their transfer. The government continues to subject vulnerable children to strip searches in state custody, a type of state sanctioned sexual assault. Children continue to be exposed to repeated lockdowns in youth detention—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance in relation to the long title of the bill. The matters are available for debate by the member at any other section, but they are not relevant to this discussion in relation to the establishment of the Protection Commission and its functions.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): I will get some advice. The member has only just started his speech. As I mentioned before, members are entitled to provide context to their submission. However, it should not form part of the entire speech. Member for Maiwar, I will remind you to remain relevant but ask you to continue your contribution.

Mr BERKMAN: Of course. Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Children are continually exposed to repeated lockdowns in youth detention—that is, being held for periods of 24 hours or more in their rooms with no access to fresh air and physical activity. We continue to hold children for weeks in police watch houses, as the previous government did. This government equally will willingly send children out into remote locations to do free farm work under the guise of their Circuit Breaker Sentencing or bail. This government likes to speak about—

Mrs KIRKLAND: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. This is straying from the long title of the bill. I would ask for relevance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maiwar, it would assist the House if, as you are providing your contribution, you can bring the context back to the long title of the bill.

Mr BERKMAN: Certainly, Deputy Speaker. The entire context for this bill is this government's attempt to address what they routinely describe as the monsters in our community, but they do not bat an eyelid at their own monstrous policies and the impact they are having on children in Queensland. All children deserve to be cared for and safe, and that should not be a controversial statement. It is important to acknowledge the framing that underpins this bill, as I dive into the substance of it again, which was done incredibly well in the submission from Sisters Inside. Their submission states—

When legislation begins from the idea that risk sits mainly in families, workers or communities, the policy response becomes surveillance, notification, exclusion and removal. The conduct of institutions recedes from view. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, this reproduces a colonial pattern in which the State presents itself as protector while its own interventions fracture kinship, culture and connection to Country.

Mr Vorster: Nonsense.

Mr BERKMAN: The member for Burleigh can call it nonsense if he likes. These are submissions from experts who work with children and with incarcerated people. The changes in the bill, we know, come in the wake of the QFCC's review into system responses to child sexual abuse, with a particular focus on early childhood care and education, police services and the blue card system. As we have come to expect from them, the QFCC's submission on the bill succinctly framed the issue, too. It said—

In Plain Sight confronted a fundamental misconception about child sexual abuse: that it is an uncommon event perpetrated by a small number of easily identifiable offenders. The evidence clearly demonstrated the opposite. Child sexual abuse is widespread, frequently hidden, and occurs across families, communities, organisations and online environments. The Review found that child sexual abuse is occurring at far higher rates, in more common places, and to children closer to us than the community generally expects or accepts.

The pervasive nature of child sexual abuse, as described by the QFCC, requires a massive shift in culture. I would suggest that a government that is comfortable treating children as appallingly as this government does within the youth justice system is simply not equipped to respond to other harms to children within the community. Put simply, if it does not see children as inherently deserving of care, protection and safety in all settings, how can we have confidence in it?

In this bill, the creation of the new Protection Commission comes alongside the dissolution of the Queensland Family and Child Commission. The QFCC has historically carried out extraordinary work and vitally important reviews into the outcome of government policies. It has been critical of this government and the previous government's attitudes towards children in the youth justice system. It has offered especially important critiques into the use of police watch houses to hold children for extended periods. I have to take a moment to express my deep gratitude to Commissioner Twyford and, of course, former commissioner Lewis for all of the work they have done over the years. It has been an extraordinary privilege to work with them in my committee roles over the years. I think all Queenslanders owe them a debt of gratitude for the work they have done.

The operation of the Child Death Review Board will continue within the new Protection Commission. There is nothing inherently problematic about the formation of an entity whose functions include: oversight of the child protection system; promoting and advocating for the safety and wellbeing of children; informing and educating the community about services available to strengthen and support families; and analysing policies and practices relevant to the child protection system.

As many submitters to this bill, including the CCC, have indicated, there are serious concerns about the independence of the newly formed Protection Commission. This bill provides that the commissioner will be subject to the direction of the minister of the day in relation to most of their functions. The minister will be able to set a statement of expectations in relation to the commissioner's carrying out of activities to improve children's safety and wellbeing. As many others have mentioned, and as we are becoming used to with this government, the commissioner can be removed from their role for any reason or no reason. The government has form on this. We have now seen the government give itself unconstrained power to remove members of the hospital and health service boards, members of the board of the South Bank Corporation, the CEO of the Queensland Pharmacy Business Ownership Council and the CEO of Health and Wellbeing Queensland. The independent commission for resources safety and health was changed to RSHQ, where the CEO and board members can be removed whenever the government pleases and for any reason or no reason at all. Ministerial direction powers are a huge problem. The CCC said that these powers are—

> ... significant and should be accompanied by appropriate transparency measures. While reporting on ministerial directions in an annual report provides some transparency, there could be a considerable delay (up to 15 months) between the making of a Ministerial direction and the direction being made public.

This lays bare for us the little regard this government has for genuine transparency and accountability and for the independence of such important statutory office holders, as we have in this bill.

Mrs Frecklington: I explained it in my introduction speech.

Mr BERKMAN: The Attorney-General says that she has explained it. How do you explain away giving the minister the power to recommend that the Governor in Council or the cabinet say, 'No, you're gone'? The commission criticised the government. They took the government on over its own shoddy policies and the impact that they were having on children's wellbeing and now they are gone, out the door. We have seen the QFCC conduct itself in a terribly respectful way while offering frank and direct criticism of the government. Let's note that commissioner Lewis's role has not been replaced. There is currently no Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's commissioner. I dread to think how that is going to impinge on the independence of the role.

The new Protection Commission has retained some, but not all, of the QFCC's functions. For example, it is no longer explicitly tasked with youth justice oversight. While its new functions could technically encompass this, it will be subject to ministerial direction. The QFCC's independence has been fiercely protected previously, but there are notable differences in this proposal. Before, the commissioner could not be removed unless misconduct was demonstrated, they were incapable or they neglected their duties. It was a statutory body, unlike this new one, and at least one commissioner had to be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person. This new Protection Commission will only require the appointment of a deputy commissioner who has experience working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, which entrenches attitudes of paternalism rather than self-determination. We have all seen what project invisibility looks like day to day under this racist LNP government. It sets up processes for information sharing—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have two points of order. Firstly, that was unparliamentary language. Secondly, I take personal offence and ask the member to withdraw.

Mr BERKMAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Standing order 234 makes no provision for a member to take personal offence unless they are referred to directly. I referred to the government. If the Attorney-General wants to pull me up—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member. I understand.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask that he withdraw. He just named me.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will get some advice. Member, in terms of assisting the House moving forward, I would ask that you withdraw the unparliamentary language. Also, the member has taken personal offence and asked that you withdraw.

Mr BERKMAN: On that point of order: could I have some clarity around what unparliamentary language has been identified?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will do the first one—personal offence. There is no clarification needed, so I ask that you withdraw that first.

Mr BERKMAN: I withdraw the comments made in relation to the point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I ask that you withdraw the unparliamentary language.

Mr BERKMAN: I withdraw the unparliamentary language. I take the opportunity to reiterate that this is a racist government implementing racist policies. If they want to deny it, let's see the policy change so they are not discriminating against First Nations Queenslanders.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. There is a precedent that that term is unparliamentary. I ask that you withdraw.

Mr BERKMAN: I withdraw.

Mr KEMPTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The last five minutes of this delivery has had no relevance to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr BERKMAN: If the government does not want to be called out, if it does not want its policies described as they really are, I suggest it engages in a little bit of self-reflection and put in place policies that genuinely respect First Nations Australians rather than criminalising them and seeing them overincarcerated.

(Time expired)

Mr VORSTER (Burleigh—LNP) (5.11 pm): It gives me some pause to stand and speak on this bill, a bill which deals with sensitive and deep issues—issues that would certainly keep frontline workers up at night and, I am sure, weigh heavily on the minds of ministers. It is important work but it is work that often happens in the background and quietly. It is difficult, sensitive work, yet we have found a moment in the life of this parliament to shine a light on that work and to say loudly and clearly, and put on the public record, that more needs to be done to look after our most vulnerable Queenslanders.

Reform of the child protection system is not only important administrative work but also a moral obligation, because the children who are ultimately placed in the care and the supervision of the state depend on the state. As a parliament, it is incumbent on us to make sure that the systems are in place, that there is genuine accountability and transparency and that there is resourcing to make sure that these stewards of the state are looked after, are healed, are made whole and have every possibility of becoming fulfilled, happy and productive Queenslanders. Reforming this system is not only about meeting that moral obligation but also about ensuring Queensland can fulfil its potential. It is important work.

During the course of this debate we have had some very worthwhile contributions from this side. At times, those on the other side have tiptoed to the precipice of accountability. They do not quite get there. I know it is difficult for them because their party does not permit them to break ranks, even though they might feel as though it is the right thing to do. I want those members opposite who feel as though they need to apologise but cannot to know that I hear them and I see them.

Somebody by whom I will not be lectured is the member for Maiwar, whose contribution had more twists and turns than the Inner City Bypass and ultimately ended nowhere. His contribution seemed to emphasise the rights of offenders rather than the victims of Labor's failed child protection system because in his world view—

Mr Berkman interjected.

Mr VORSTER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I am not taking that interjection.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Order, members!

Mr Berkman interjected.

Mr VORSTER: Mr Deputy Speaker, on a point of order, I take personal offence at the comments by the member for Maiwar, and I would put it to you that the terms used by the member were also very unparliamentary. If he cannot find his way to withdraw those comments, he should possibly withdraw from the chamber.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member. I do not need your assistance. The member has asked you to withdraw.

Mr BERKMAN: I withdraw.

Mr VORSTER: It gives me an opportunity to restart my line of thinking, and that is to say that the member for Maiwar seems to be fixated on offenders rather than on the victims—the victims of Labor's decade of decline. I can say 'victims' because—

Mr Berkman: Locking people up makes them reoffend more frequently and they offend worse.

Mr VORSTER: Mr Deputy Speaker, on a point of order, I am not talking the interjections by the member for Maiwar and I feel as though his conduct is certainly straying on disorderly.

Mr BERKMAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Burleigh has been directly addressing me in his contribution to the House, so I would suggest that if he does not want any contributions in his direction he should not send them this way.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, you have the call. Carry on.

Mr VORSTER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I will continue to rely on your protection as those vulnerable Queenslanders relied on the protection of the former Labor government but were failed. I want to put on the record yet again just how bad that failure was. The former Labor government was confronted by and had full knowledge of a landmark report that looked at institutional failures in child sex offences. When confronted by all that was laid bare, the then government seemed to suggest that they would take some responsibility and do something about it.

Then premier Annastacia Palaszczuk in 2018 said, 'The establishment of a reportable conduct scheme is a priority for Queensland.' I put it to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, that the media release and the audio grabs were the priority for the Queensland government but the children were not. We know that they were not a priority for the former Labor government because no such scheme was established. To add insult to injury, in 2020, two years later, the member for Nudgee stated, 'A Queensland reportable conduct scheme will be our key focus over the coming year.' Yet again the rhetoric did not match the delivery, because those opposite are incapable of delivery even when to deliver would look after the most vulnerable stewards of the state.

It has taken the election of the LNP Crisafulli government to finally deliver on a reportable conduct scheme and to finally deliver measures like Daniel's Law to begin healing the crisis. I am so very proud to rise as a member of a government in firm support of not only the work of our Attorney-General and Minister for Child Safety but also the work of every single member of our team who are doing what those opposite failed to do, and that is to speak up for vulnerable people in our communities—members of our communities who were victims of a mismanaged and neglected system left behind by those opposite.

If I could point to one case which explains the reprehensible nature of the false hope that was dished out by the Labor government, it would be to look at Ashley Paul Griffith. What we now know is that if those opposite acted on the recommendations of that inquiry then on no fewer than five occasions that monster may have been stopped.

He may have been stopped if those opposite simply did the thing they committed to do. Because they did not, they allowed a monster, a predator, to roam free and prowl through Queensland. They are wholly and solely responsible because they knew and they did nothing. Our government does not hold out false hope. When we say we will establish Queensland's first child sex offender register, we will do it. We did it! When we say that we will look after vulnerable young Queenslanders, we will do it. With the passage of this bill we will get it done because there are monsters out there and we are not prepared to give them any quarter.

One of the features of this bill I am very enthused about is how it will break down the information silos that have allowed these predators to escape. As a software developer, you are taught that there is security in obscurity. The system those opposite left behind allowed predators to exist in obscurity because agencies, departments and law enforcement were not able to share information freely and effectively. They created digital shadows that prowlers, predators and paedophiles could lurk inside. But no longer. By establishing proper information-sharing protocols and systems we will close in on these predators. It is very important reform.

Mr McDonald: Ministers should talk to each other.

Mr VORSTER: I take the interjection from the member for Lockyer. If ministers can talk to each other, if their departments can talk to one another, things can get solved. Those opposite are incapable of doing that because they all hate each other. Labor left, Labor right—the member for Cooper cannot even decide whether she wants to stay in the caucus. If those opposite cannot agree on their leader,

they cannot agree on their agenda. They will be incapable of getting anything done not only in opposition but also, as we have learned, in government because they had 10 years to do it and they did nothing. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms HOWARD (Ipswich—ALP) (5.22 pm): I rise to contribute to this debate on the Queensland Protection Commission Bill 2026. The bill establishes the Queensland Protection Commission, a body that will deliver coordinated safeguarding for children and vulnerable persons along with oversight of the child protection system. As we have heard, the Labor opposition believes that all Queensland children deserve to be protected, and that is why we will be supporting the Queensland Protection Commission Bill. However, we share concerns raised by many stakeholders and submitters to the committee that several provisions call into question the Queensland Protection Commission's integrity, independence and intended role.

The creation of the commission is a direct response to the recommendations of the child safety commission of inquiry and the *In plain sight* review report conducted by the Child Death Review Board. The *In plain sight* report made 28 recommendations for child safeguarding reform. They include improving leadership and institutional practice and improving the response and support provided to victim-survivors. They also include strengthening intelligence gathering and reforming the criminal justice system. Those 28 recommendations are both necessary and overdue. There can be no doubt that Queensland's child safety system is in crisis. The latest data from June 2026 showed at least 4,496 children were in need of protection—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I ask the member to speak to the long title of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Member, at this point there is no point of order. I remind you of our previous comments about relevance.

Ms HOWARD: Just over 90 per cent of cases requiring priority assessment within 72 hours were not commenced within that timeframe.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. You have just given a direction in relation to relevance. The data that she is talking about is in relation to the child safety system and I ask that she go back to the long title of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: For your benefit, there was a previous point of order along the same lines. Simply mentioning the word 'data' or 'data that has been released this week' is not irrelevant. You can use it to provide context but it cannot form your entire speech. The member is providing context. I find that was relevant and I ask the member to continue.

Ms HOWARD: The residential care crisis continues to get worse. Under the Crisafulli government the number of children in residential care has risen by 33 per cent. Even more alarming, the number of children under five in residential care has risen 58 per cent. These are our youngest and most vulnerable Queenslanders and they are being placed in residential care at a growing rate. The number of children harmed in residential care continues to climb. Tragically, 91 children known to Child Safety died in the last financial year, an increase of almost 60 per cent.

Sadly, some of these children are from our own communities. A 17-year-old girl tragically died in an Ipswich residential care home just last month. She was moved to two different residential care homes in the final week of her life under the direction of the child safety department, allegedly against the advice of youth workers. Just over a year before a 15-year-old Indigenous boy died in an Ipswich residential care home. These were young, vulnerable people in the care of the state and they were failed. The Crisafulli government's ineptitude and inaction is resulting in a system that is spiralling into crisis and putting kids' lives at risk.

For almost two years this new Queensland government has presided over the Unify IT debacle and a shocking Unify assessment backlog where almost 80 per cent of assessments had not commenced as of 30 June 2026. We have heard of reports of children having to sleep in child safety offices. There have been significant delays in the release of vital child safety data. Important surveys—

Mr KRAUSE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I have been listening to the member's contribution which is not relevant to the bill. I do not see any sign of it coming back to the bill. I ask that you direct the member to come back to the long title of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, do you have a point of order?

Mr POWER: I want to contribute to that. On page 16 of the explanatory notes, establishment and functions of the commissioner, it sets out to 'provide oversight'. Specifically, point 4 states to 'analyse and evaluate, at a systemic level'. In my opinion, the member is bringing forward information that reveals some systemic problems that the Information Commissioner will be engaging with.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, as I mentioned before, everything you have said is relevant in terms of providing context, but you do have to bring your comments back to the long title of the bill.

Ms HOWARD: I believe it is entirely relevant to highlight the current state of children and vulnerable people and safeguarding children's rights. It is relevant to the bill. Important surveys on the experience of children in the system have been axed. The *Courier-Mail* recently reported that a law firm representing child safety whistleblowers is 'investigating potential systemic failures by the Queensland government relating to the removal and placement of children in care across the state'. The Crisafulli government's litany of failures is putting Queensland children at risk of harm or worse, death.

The Labor opposition will be supporting this bill, as I said, but we do have serious reservations about provisions that undermine the independence of the Queensland Protection Commission. There is ample opportunity to strengthen this bill. Our amendments will ensure the commission can operate independently in the best interests of Queensland's children and not in the interests of the minister of the day.

Under this bill, the Queensland Protection Commission will have vastly reduced independence compared with the Queensland Family and Child Commission it replaces. The Queensland Family and Child Commission has always been free to speak out. It can criticise the government of the day, it can name the failures in the system and it can bring those failures to the attention of all Queenslanders. Under this bill, the new Queensland Protection Commission will not be a statutory body and will instead sit within the Department of Justice and report to the chief executive. The new commissioner will not have control over their own budget. Instead, the commission's budget and resources will be left to the whim of the director-general. How can a body be truly independent when the department it is meant to hold to account holds the purse strings? Make no mistake: this will be a watered-down commission, one that the minister will keep on a leash.

Debate, on motion of Ms Howard, adjourned.

Mr SPEAKER: Before we go to the private member's motion, I remind the members for Greenslopes, McConnel, Callide, Jordan, Pine Rivers, Inala and Lytton that they are on the warning list.

MOTION

Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance

Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.30 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. notes the Premier said that data centres will 'drive power prices down', despite experts saying they will increase power prices by 14 per cent;
2. notes media reporting that the member for Callide has not properly consulted with his community in relation to the Western Downs data centre;
3. notes the Premier said that ambulance ramping figures 'are the best', despite ramping increasing nearly four per cent on the month before, the highest month-on-month increase since the LNP came to office;
4. notes the Treasurer said he did not want a credit rating downgrade on his watch—then had a credit rating downgrade on his watch;
5. notes media reports the police minister claimed DV rates were dropping, despite advocates saying 'the police data doesn't show the real picture of soaring demand';
6. condemns the Premier and his LNP ministers for two year of spin, secrets and self-promotion.

The gap between what government members say and the facts just keeps getting greater. They say one thing when another thing is true, often another completely different thing. This week they tried to spin the child safety data and say that it had stabilised—the minister even said she was excited about it—but the truth was something completely different: 91 children had died, which was a 60 per cent increase, and 90 per cent of children at risk of harm were waiting longer than three days for Child Safety to do anything about it. Today we tried to ask the minister more simple questions—like how many of those children who had died were waiting to be assessed. What we got from the minister was more spin and blame. We even provided the answer to her. The answer was 27, but all we got from the minister was more spin, even when the number was provided to her.

Last week the Premier tried to spin the health data. He said it was the best it had ever been, when ramping was almost as bad as the record level delivered by this health minister. That was the fact, but the Premier said it was the best ever. Tell that to the 42 per cent of patients ramped in August. Tell them it is the best ever. Tell it to the ambos sitting on the ramp. Lost minutes have gone from 13.4 minutes to 17.2 minutes, and the Premier tries to tell those paramedics it is the best ever. Some ambos say they only get to do two jobs per shift because they are spending so much time waiting at the ramp. Premier, tell that to patients like Patrick Gemzik, who only got sicker waiting on the ramp. Tell that to the tens of thousands of extra patients waiting to see a specialist, because for them it is not the best ever.

This week we had the police minister having to spin his way out of his own spinning. First of all, he tried to say that DV was getting better, using manipulated statistics, and then he came in here and told me he did not say that it was better. He disputed that, and when we showed him his quotes he still disputed he had said that. The fact is that service providers say they are busier than ever, women keep dying and they have a minister relying on dodgy data to make false claims.

We have a Treasurer who said that he did not want to see a ratings downgrade on his watch and then we did see a ratings downgrade on his watch. Then he said it was inevitable, even though Standard & Poor's did not think it was inevitable in September 2024 when they confirmed the rating with a stable outlook. He then changed his tune and said it did not matter anymore and it was not going to change the bond yields, but independent modelling says it will actually cost us an extra billion dollars. Treasurer, you kind of have to choose. Which is it? Was it inevitable, or did you try to stop it? Does it not matter, or will it cost us an extra billion dollars?

The biggest spin we have seen is their claims around these massive AI data centres. The Premier is the only person in the world who seems to think that a data centre that uses the energy equivalent of 1.5 million homes without new energy will somehow not push up energy costs for households, small businesses and existing industries. Queenslanders deserve better than being lied to.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: I will ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language, please.

Mr MILES: I withdraw. They deserve better than a government that says one thing when the complete opposite is actually true. They deserve better than a government that says something has stabilised when it is much worse. They deserve better than a government that says it is the best ever when it is nothing like the best ever.

Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (5.35 pm): I move the following amendment—

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

'1. notes the reduction in power prices for residential homes and small and family business under the LNP Crisafulli government, after the former government oversaw consecutive increases to power prices, including a 29.9 per cent regional increase in a single year;

2. notes ambulance ramping tripled from 15 per cent to 45 per cent under the previous Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government and has fallen under the LNP Crisafulli government;

3. notes total state debt is now forecast to reach $216.5 billion at the end of the forward estimates in 2029-30, while Labor's debt trajectory for the same year would have been $290 billion and would have irreparably damaged Queensland's credit rating; and

4. condemns the Leader of the Opposition and the leadership of his party for two years of mistruths and scare campaigns, which have resulted in three findings of contempt of parliament and dozens of apologies for misleading the House.'

Mr Speaker, can you imagine how difficult it must have been for the Leader of the Opposition to get up and speak tonight when you consider what those around him think of him? One of the people around the Leader of the Opposition in here tonight has said this about him: 'I have got no idea what our argument to be re-elected is.' They have got no idea what their argument is to be re-elected. One of the people around the Leader of the Opposition said, 'We are just bouncing around.' If there was anything that could prove the bouncing around and the opposition leader's lack of energy, it is his contribution tonight. He has shown how he is out of energy and bereft of a vision for Queensland's future.

It is like the Liz Truss wet lettuce test for the Leader of the Opposition now. How long will the Leader of the Opposition survive? We know that after one year of the Energy Roadmap we are delivering lower power prices. Across regional and urban Queensland, power prices are seven to 14 per cent lower. Right across the state, there are lower power prices. After the first year of their Energy and Jobs Plan we saw a 29 per cent increase in energy prices in regional Queensland alone. In the year since our Energy Roadmap was released we have seen the strongest reliability from coal generators

in the last five years in Queensland. We have the biggest renewable pipeline of large-scale wind and solar projects in the country, at 3.4 gigawatts. We are seeing more new gas generation coming on, including a 400-megawatt project at Brigalow, with a Central Queensland gas tender underway as well.

Another one of my favourite quotes from a Labor source in relation to the Leader of the Opposition is: 'Being a social media influencer is no substitute for doing the hard policy work that's required.' That is a Labor source commenting on the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr Mickelberg: It sounds like Cameron Dick.

Mr JANETZKI: It does sound like the member for Woodridge. Can you imagine how difficult it must be for the Leader of the Opposition? Those opposite are not just gossiping to each other but talking to journalists, talking to the *Australian*. Can you imagine the poor Leader of the Opposition? What hard policy work is being undertaken by the Leader of the Opposition? We know he is strong on mistruths and scare campaigns, but what about policy? Let's go to some of the policy ideas. What does he stand for?

In opposition, let them confirm once and for all will they increase coal royalties again? Will they go back to Pioneer-Burdekin, $36.8 billion? Will they tip in tens of millions of dollars to the Leader of the Opposition's bestie, 'Twiggy'? Is the outback on the agenda? Will they be bringing that kind of investment back, because he is out of energy and Queensland will be out of energy under that problem too. Will they continue to increase debt with Pioneer-Burdekin? Will they continue with their 'clown show' budgets? Will they wind back the Crisafulli government's permanent 50-cent fares? Will they wind that back? Will they defund Play on! Sports Vouchers which they never funded in their budget? It is time for them to confirm: will they axe the patients tax?

Scare campaigns, mistruths and TikTok trends do not cut it. They do not cut it. He is out of energy and soon he will be out of office.

Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.40 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition and to oppose that pathetic attempt at an amendment moved by the member for Toowoomba South. Priorities matter in government and it is clear the top three priorities of the LNP are spin, secrecy and self-promotion. This is a government that has more spin than Odd Mob had at the Fortitude Musical Hall on the weekend, a government more secretive than the member for Mackay when asked about his weekend attending Cherish Life rallies and a government that takes its lesson in self-promotion from Donald Trump. Just ask the Premier and his new bestie, JD Vance.

While they cannot put the letters LNP on every building in Queensland, they are a government obsessed with how things look, not how things are. They are very happy to cover the state in LNP blue advertising telling Queenslanders just how great they think they are. While Queenslanders are fed up to the back teeth with the endless LNP self-promotion, endless LNP blame game and LNP blue advertising, it seems the Liberal National Party room cannot get enough of that LNP blue cordial. We know the Premier certainly cannot get enough of it. Just last week the Premier claimed that ambulance ramping was the best in five years when the data was worse than just one month ago. As the *Courier-Mail* pointed out, the Premier's comparison omitted to mention that the numbers for this August were worse than in July. In fact, August was 'the worst average wait times in the government's term so far'. Whether it is crime data or ambulance ramping, this Premier is more obsessed with spin, not substance and he simply cannot be trusted.

So it is with complete and utter scepticism that Queenslanders approach the Premier's brand new promise that the mega data centres to be built in this state will bring down household power prices. 'No new stadiums' anyone? Up on the Western Downs Anthropic's proposed data centre could use up to a quarter of Queensland's energy generation. Experts are warning that in Queensland energy prices could rise by 14 per cent by 2035 due to the construction of new data centres. It is clear that the Premier and his LNP MPs are tone deaf to the concern of Queenslanders on this issue. That was abundantly clear when the member for Callide tried to sing the praises of data centres in his community. I say to the member for Callide: that dog ain't hunting.

The member of Callide's woeful performance in riling up every Queenslander living west of the great divide was only trumped by the member for Mudgeeraba's performance in question time today. Seriously, I have heard six-year-olds reading out Little Golden Books more persuasively and powerfully than the member for Mudgeeraba today—

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, you are going to get your turn soon.

Mr DICK:—and didn't the member for Callide get absolutely slammed on social media for his efforts? Speaking of spin and secrets, maybe the Assistant Minister for Regional Development should reach out to the secretive special commissioner for regional development. Maybe Andrew Cripps should provide some insight—that is if the member for Callide can actually find him. If he does, the member for Callide could also locate the special commissioner's work plan that still has not been published six months after he took office and after he started being paid the $200,000 in taxpayer funded salary to do nobody really knows what. How is that for transparency? That is just more secrecy and spin from the LNP.

In case we needed another reminder of the LNP's spin machine running on the red line at 7,000 RPM, that reminder was the state's bumbling Treasurer trying to dodge the blame for taking Queensland's credit rating backwards for the first time in 17 years. I can tell honourable members who is not buying that. It is S&P Global. While the Premier and the Treasurer have been desperate to blame the former Labor government for the downgrade, as the *Australian* reported, the rhetoric of the LNP is 'rhetoric that could be undermined by the ratings agency's assessment' as it was always going to be. I table the most recent research note that puts Queensland's budget performance at the lowest level, five—lower even than Victoria.

Tabled paper: Document, dated 6 October 2026, titled 'Australian States: Stalled Consolidations Are Straining Credit Profiles' [2047].

This is why transparency matters—transparency that the Premier promised but never delivers. Whether it is crime numbers, health data or the state's financial figures, Queenslanders are absolutely sick of the LNP's spin, secrecy and self-promotion.

Hon. RM BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (5.45 pm): I rise to support the amendment—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms BATES:—and it is great to know that I get under the skin of the member for Waterford, the member for Woodridge and the member for Murrumba. All they can do is talk about me, but I have plenty to say about that lot. The member for Murrumba wants to lecture Queenslanders about good government. He was a health minister, an environment minister, a deputy premier and a premier. He had his chance—and some would say it was the greatest chance. Instead, Queenslanders lived with the consequences.

Under Labor, regional power prices jumped nearly 30 per cent in one year. Imagine opening that bill while trying to keep a family business afloat. Under the Crisafulli LNP government, regulated regional prices have fallen by up to 6.9 per cent for households and 8.1 per cent for small businesses. Labor made keeping the lights on more expensive, but we are delivering relief. Then there is health. Labor took ambulance ramping from 15 per cent to 45 per cent. They tripled it. Patients waited, paramedics were tied up and families about worried whether someone they loved would get treatment in time or die in their driveway. Under the Crisafulli LNP government the June quarter rate fell to 35.5 per cent.

When it comes to the member for Murrumba, I think the quote in the *Australian* from a senior Labor left faction source summed it up, 'He is just not up to the job.' Queenslanders worked it out two years ago. His colleagues, unfortunately, are still catching up. Remember Labor's last budget? The member for Woodridge declared, 'In Queensland, we are getting it right.' They forecast debt of around $172 billion by 2027-28 and the first Treasury review after the election put the figure at $217.8 billion, a $45.8 billion deterioration in the forecast. So much for getting it right! A $45.8 billion deterioration is a brutal verdict on Labor's financial mismanagement. The member for Woodridge stood here selling Queensland a story about how well everything was going and after the election Treasury's review exposed how far those figures had shifted, and the member for Murrumba backed him all the way. The current budget forecasts debt of $216.5 billion in 2029-30, which is $73.5 billion lower than Labor's projected trajectory of $290 billion. Queenslanders should never have been expected to carry the cost of that mismanagement. The *Courier-Mail* reported a Labor source saying, 'Being a social media influencer', as the Treasurer just said, 'is no substitute for doing the hard policy work that's required'. Exactly, you cannot pay an electricity bill with a TikTok video.

Faced with their record, Labor offers scare campaigns and misleading claims and this amendment records three contempt findings and dozens of apologies. The member for Murrumba, the Leader of the Opposition, was found in contempt for deliberately misleading parliament. In fact, today he had to rise to correct the record after misleading the House yesterday. This is the leadership those opposite defend, and what is their argument for another chance? This is the same Labor team asking Queenslanders to trust them again. It is the same clowns, the same people who sat around the cabinet

table while power bills climbed, patients waited and spending ran out of control. They all had a voice, they all had a vote and now they want to pretend that they were just spectators. Those opposite cannot demand accountability from everyone else while not accepting any themselves. Queenslanders changed the government because they wanted things to change and every improvement we deliver makes Labor's excuses harder to sell.

Mr Healy interjected.

Ms BATES: This just about sums it up: the *Australian* quoted a Labor—

Mr SPEAKER: I have room on this list for your name, member for Cairns.

Ms BATES: The *Australian* quoted a Labor frontbencher saying, 'I've got no idea what our argument to be re-elected is.' What a doozy, because neither do Queenslanders. The member for Murrumba would not concede on election night and he will not concede now that Queenslanders were right to throw him out. He will not accept his record, he will not learn from it and his own colleagues cannot explain why anyone should give him another chance.

Queenslanders deserve lower costs, better services and respect for their money. The member for Murrumba wants to be judged on what he says today rather than what he did when he had the power to act, but leadership means making decisions and accepting responsibility. When the bills arrived, Queenslanders had to find the money. When the ambulances were queued, patients had to wait. When Labor made commitments it had not properly planned, someone else had to find a way to deliver them. What exactly would those opposite do differently? They have the same leader backed by the same former ministers defending the same record. Queenslanders deserve better. They deserve a government prepared to do the work and answer for the results, and this is what we are delivering. I support the amendment.

Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (5.50 pm): What another passionate speech by the member for Mudgeeraba, reading her speech for the first time again. Before I get to the contribution of the Treasurer, I was really hoping to get up and say that the finance minister is just as responsible for the downgrade we have seen, but in fact, because she is so ineffectual and all she is doing is trying to save some money on highlighters, I do not think that statement is factual—just like pretty much everything that is coming from the mouth of the Premier and all of the ministers on the other side of the House. All we have seen for two years is spin, fudged numbers, blame and self-promotion. You cannot drive down a road without seeing a billboard or watch a show without seeing an ad. You cannot even go to the toilet without seeing an LNP blue ad about the new government delivering. Queenslanders have had enough. I do not know about others, but so many Queenslanders are saying to me, 'I'm so sick of those ads and they don't tell us anything.' Maybe if those opposite had focused on reining in their spending and not the huge spend on blue ads they would not have seen a credit rating downgrade.

I was so hoping that the member for Callide would be part of the debate tonight. I was all ready to hear his arguments about how great this big data centre was going to be and reinforce the Premier's facts that power bills will somehow go down when, as the Leader of the Opposition has quite rightly said, he is the only one in the world who believes that, because we all know that power prices are going to go up. We now come to the Treasurer. He said when he was in opposition—

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

Clearly the hoping and the wishing and the saying so out loud just was not enough, because S&P took a very different view. This is the first downgrade in 17 years and it happened on this Treasurer's watch. It also happened on this finance minister's watch, but she has never actually met with the credit ratings agencies so I am not sure we can really blame her. For months the Treasurer was warned by economists and he was warned by us in this chamber and yet, instead of presenting a credible plan for Queensland's finances, he has spent his time blaming absolutely everyone else. Now it is Queenslanders left paying a billion dollars extra. That is money that could be spent on nurses in our local hospitals, on fixing our roads. That money should be spent in local communities. Instead, because of this Treasurer's failings, we are spending a billion dollars extra in interest repayments.

What is his response? It is more finger-pointing. He has tried to blame us so many times, but in fact the *Australian* had an interesting article on this. It clearly went through the statements made by S&P and it clearly says that S&P itself has undermined this Treasurer trying to blame the former Labor government, because the decision rests firmly with him and Premier David Crisafulli. I know that the Premier hates the fact that when we left office we had a stable outlook, because he does not like facts. This Premier does not like facts. It is harder to spin when newspapers and ratings agencies themselves point out the real facts. I table that article for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Article from *The Australian* online, dated 7 October 2026, titled 'S&P Global warns of 'sharp deterioration in Queensland finances as state interest bill soar' [2048].

I also want to talk about something that I think is even more disturbing, and that is this government's obsession with managing the headlines. We have had the tone-deaf police minister boasting about falling domestic and family violence figures. Tell that to the women and children who are every day going to domestic and family violence services, which are being inundated, and this government has not lifted the wages for those workers. This government has not provided those services with a funding uplift when they desperately need it. The New South Wales government has done it, but this government has not. For this tone-deaf police minister to say, 'Don't worry. Nothing to see here. Domestic and family violence rates are down,' is so shocking to those hardworking frontline domestic and family violence services.

Ms Howard interjected.

Ms FENTIMAN: It is completely out of touch; I take that interjection from the member for Ipswich.

(Time expired)



Hon. AJ STOKER (Oodgeroo—LNP) (5.55 pm): I rise to oppose the motion and to support the amendment that is before the chamber. The Crisafulli government is backing Queensland's energy security into the future with our Energy Roadmap because Queensland is open for business, but I have to give those opposite some credit for this at least: they have a whole lot of front! Fancy putting forward a motion about power prices when in the year after Labor's Energy and Jobs Plan power prices rose by 19 per cent. Fancy shamelessly showing up here complaining about power prices when under their plan Queensland's youngest-in-the-nation coal generation fleet would have been shut down this very month. All the ideology in the world would not have helped the families who would have lost their jobs and income. They would have closed down the very generators that have helped to deliver, under our Energy Roadmap, the first reductions in wholesale power prices for households and businesses in a decade. In Labor's last year in office the price of electricity was up 19 per cent, but we have it down by seven per cent to 10 per cent for households in the south-east and 10 per cent to 14 per cent for small businesses, and in the regions it is down too. With the youngest coal generation fleet in the nation, those opposite would have sacrificed it at the altar of Greens preferences.

Fancy complaining about our Energy Roadmap when Labor's grand plan was the Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro hoax. What was the hoax? When it first put it on the radar in 2018, Labor said it would cost $5.9 billion. You might think that is a lot of dough—I certainly do—but hold on to your hat, because by 2023 it was estimated at $12 billion—billion with a 'B'. However, even that did not tell the full story, because by the time this government was elected the costs those opposite were telling us were $36.77 billion, and in the window between 2018 and 2024—six years—not a thing had been built. Such a hoax! I wish I could say it is just a Halloween horror story, but this was the kind of waste, ill-discipline and incompetence served day in and day out under the government of those opposite. Queenslanders deserve better, and at last they are getting it under the Crisafulli LNP government. As Queensland begins to drive major investment attraction opportunities, unlike the stagnation we saw under those opposite, data centres are an important element of that. As the Premier has said about the Anthropic AI deal for Western Queensland, it is a massive show of confidence in this state. Newsflash for those opposite: investment is what delivery looks like.

Those opposite also have a remarkable case of selective memory when it comes to ambulance ramping. They want to lecture this government about a single month's increase, but they conveniently forget that under Labor Queensland had the worst ambulance ramping in the nation. In my own electorate, Redland Hospital recorded a staggering 72.7 per cent ramping during Labor's decade of decline—almost three in four ambulances ramped at a time. It is a whole lot better now and the trend is our friend. The numbers are consistently heading into the 30s and the job is on its way to done—not achieved by any means because there is still plenty to do, but it is trending a whole lot better, wildly better than what we had under those opposite.

The Leader of the Opposition has some form, though, in misleading the parliament. Four times already this term he has had to apologise for doing so. Maybe he is offering that to the team as a game plan—22 times those opposite have had to apologise for misleading this place and, with it, the people of Queensland. He loves a good scare campaign. Does anyone here remember the ones we had during the election campaign—public servants, 50-cent fares, health workers, TAFE cuts? None of them true, of course.

In this instance, he is sailing close to the edge again with his comments on the subject of domestic and family violence. Maybe he did not take the time to listen to or read the minister's words as they were reported in full. If he did, he would know there was a really important point he had to make; that

is, it is far better to address domestic and family violence ahead of the triple 0 call. It is much better to answer the calls to the DVConnect hotline, for instance—those opposite were not good at making that happen—or with one of the many early intervention services we have invested in, than it is to send a police car and an ambulance at a time of crisis. We are acting, and we will continue to take action on this unacceptable behaviour.

Sometimes you learn more from how a message is communicated than from the words themselves. This motion tells a plenty big story. It is a hodgepodge of disconnected thought bubbles—no strategy, no plan. He has lost the confidence of his own.

(Time expired)

Mr McCALLUM (Bundamba—ALP) (6.00 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. I will start with the contribution of the Treasurer. He has got some gall bringing up the issue of policies when the policy of the LNP is making Queenslanders pay more for interest rates thanks to his credit downgrade. It is an absolute shame. Then, of course, we had the member for Mudgeeraba with that stinging attack that gave everyone a chance in the chamber to check their emails. It was a brilliant cure for insomnia. It is always a great pleasure to follow the member for Oodgeroo who said that Queensland is open for business. It certainly is under this mob. It is open for Anthropic. It is open for OpenAI when it comes to the large data centres that this government wants to build in Queensland.

Queensland is the only state to reject the national agreement for data centres to have their own clean energy. The fact is: this government has absolutely no policies and no plans for data centres. Every other state and territory does, but not Queensland. A little birdie has told me that the government is actually scrambling to get some policies and a framework together. Well, it is too late. The horse has bolted. When it comes to data centres, it is an absolute free-for-all under the LNP in Queensland.

Communities like mine are the ones that are suffering. We have a data centre planned for Swanbank and there has been absolutely no community consultation. In terms of environmental impacts and energy impacts, there is no community consultation under the Crisafulli LNP government. I quote a letter I received from their LNP mate the mayor of Ipswich. It reads—

It is important to note, however, that matters such as water use and energy consumption will not be assessed by council.

Why? Because that is a state responsibility. Then, there is Dave's big data centre, the Western Downs data centre, that the Premier has been spruiking. He went off to the US on his big trade mission to roll out the red carpet to these multiglobal companies. He says one thing when he is here in Queensland—he says he will stick up for communities and ensure they get a say—but then he goes over to the US and rolls out the red carpet. There is a level of duplicity, and I think Queenslanders deserve better.

This data centre in the Western Downs is absolutely enormous. It will be over 70 hectares and will use up to a quarter of Queensland's power supply. Is there a plan under this government for any of the energy use? Is there a plan for the use of the water? We asked the water minister a question about this in question time and there was absolutely no response and no details. The member for Callide has copped an absolute pasting from his own community for trying to back in a new data centre. Here is just a sample of some of the feedback that he has received. Tanya Jukes stated—

None of this is ok. No matter the spin you put on it.

Nathan Allen stated—

This is nothing but a paid advertisement, you're a sell out.

And Norma Farrant stated—

So why no consultation or transparency about where this was going to be built.

I look forward to his stirring defence of the spin and his failure to consult with his community.

This is government is absolutely obsessed with promoting itself. We have seen the Premier's promise when it comes to power prices going down because of data centres. I would like to table a power bill that now has the LNP's blue branding on it, Delivering for Queensland—a government retailer.

Tabled paper: Extract from document, undated, containing a blue Queensland Government banner [2049].

Mr SPEAKER: No props.

Mr McCALLUM: This is new territory even for the LNP. It is not just on billboards and bathrooms, it is now on electricity bills. I think I know why they are trying to back in data centres so strongly. It is because they need a lot of power to power the artificial intelligence that sits on the government benches—every single one of them. That is artificial intelligence.

(Time expired)

Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (6.06 pm): It is two years under a Crisafulli government that is delivering on what it said it would deliver; that is, attacking the four fundamental issues that were left to us by a failing and flailing Labor government. Whether it was the crime crisis, the health crisis, the cost-of-living crisis or the housing crisis, we are getting on delivering for Queensland what those over there so abjectly failed to do.

The most disappointing part about this is, after two years we know nothing more about what Labor's plans are. We have no idea what they are talking about in terms of policy and nor do Queenslanders. All we have seen for the last two years is a bunch of sorry faced former ministers who have never known the toil of opposition walking around missing their ministerial cars, missing the drivers and missing the advisers who did all the hard work for them. That is obvious. It was only the advisers who kept their head above water.

Today we have seen an audition from the member for Woodridge who always auditions. He has always been doing it, members. Since 2009 he has been standing in front of the mirror. This is the audition from the member for Woodridge who wants the top job but does not have the guts or the gumption to go for it.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Clayfield, I would ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language.

Mr NICHOLLS: I withdraw. He does not have the intestinal fortitude. He does not have the bottle. He is all fizz and no flavour—that is the member for Woodridge. You only have to read the media to see this. Critics in the Labor caucus and shadow cabinet are yet to raise their concerns about Mr Miles's leadership with him directly. They are instead hoping he will read the room and go of his own accord. That tells you everything you need to know about the Labor Party MPs in this place. They are afraid to raise their concerns with the leader, and they are sitting there hoping and praying he will go of his own accord. Just like they are sitting there with no policies, no plans, no action and no effort—hoping and praying that the government will change of its own accord. I have news for them: it is hard work. They have to work a lot harder and they have to do more.

We heard the member for Woodridge make claims about openness and transparency, but we remember when he was attorney-general that there were claims of over $645 million in outstanding SPER fees, and what was found by the Integrity Commissioner in relation to that matter. He blamed all the public servants but never took responsibility himself for the cover-up. We remember how he misled the House as education minister and IR minister and the subsequent findings of the Ethics Committee. We remember how, upon coming to office in 2015, he changed. 'Mr Openness and Transparency' put a lock on his ministerial office door so his own staff could not get in to see what he was doing. That is openness and transparency, Cameron Dick style.

Then we have the member for Waterford, possibly the most silent shadow treasurer this House has ever seen.

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Bundaberg, this is the last time I will warn you.

Mr NICHOLLS: She made the promise to reduce ramping to 28 per cent within 12 months. Where did it go to? The highest quarterly figure in Queensland's history! The elective surgery list was at 66,000. Under her watch, each year in Queensland hundreds of mums gave birth on the side of the road. Why is it any surprise that the member for Murrumba took no action against her? She is a member of his own faction and he is afraid of doing anything that might set her up to take a run. We understand from leaks within the party that she no longer wants the job, as opposed to 'Mr Zoomph' over there—

Mr SPEAKER: Use correct titles, please.

Mr NICHOLLS:—the member for Woodridge, who was described as having the zoomph. To use the old Monty Python line, he wouldn't zoomph if you put 10,000 volts through him. That is his problem. This is a failing opposition with a failed opposition leader—a failed former premier who cannot accept and has never accepted that he lost at the election. He did not concede the election and he is not conceding now, and his own team are too afraid to take him on.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Jordan, the member for Cairns and the member for Logan are both on the list.

Ms MULLEN (Jordan—ALP) (6.11 pm): The member for Clayfield—all fizz but with a bitter aftertaste. I rise to support the motion by the Leader of the Opposition. You could not make this stuff up. Hang on, yes, you can when you are the LNP government. A little fudging of figures here, plenty of spin there and you have the recipe for one of the least truthful but possibly most delusional governments in Australia. Yesterday we had the Premier and his self-congratulatory story about the woman who came up to him at the Sri Lanka Day and patted him on the head and said, 'You are such a conviction politician.' For all the faux earnestness pouring out of this Premier, we all know the cunning underbelly peddling in fiction. On this side of the House we will challenge this fiction disguised as fact, because when you expose it Queenslanders get it. They see through the mistruths—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in terms of unparliamentary language. 'Cunning underbelly', I would suggest to you, is very unparliamentary.

Mr SPEAKER: I will admit that in amongst all the hurly-burly I did not catch whether that was personally directed or not, but I would encourage members to raise the tone a little. We do not need to get into name-calling.

Ms MULLEN: They see through the mistruths and misrepresented figures. They see the spin—the slick, insincere slogans practised over and over again—and they do not like it.

Earlier this week, the Premier claimed that ambulance ramping figures are at their best level in five years. 'The last round of figures are the best in five years,' he gleefully told Queenslanders. This is despite them being worse than they were just one month ago. He made this most bold claim hoping no-one would check what data he was actually talking about. Why would you not compare it to last month's data when you can compare it to five years ago!

Here is the truth: the latest performance data shows that, on average, ambulances are losing 17.2 minutes on top of their long waits to get back on the road and to other patients—the highest this has been since the LNP took power in October 2024. The August figure was significantly worse than the 13.4 lost minutes recorded in July and the 14 lost minutes recorded in August 2025. It also shows that 42 per cent of patients who arrive at the state's 26 largest public hospital emergency departments are waiting longer than 30 minutes to be transferred out of the care of paramedics. Ambulance ramping was up in August, compared to the 38.7 per cent of patients who waited longer than 30 minutes in July. I will be fair to the Minister for Health: it was an improvement from August 2025, when 46.5 per cent of patients were ramped—the worst ramping in history, and all under this LNP government.

The clearest indicator is that ambulance crews are waiting longer to get back on the road, with long-wait queues outside emergency departments barely shifting over the last two years. We know this because our ambos are telling us and patients are sending us the photos. It is all great, according to the Premier, though he could only muster a lukewarm 'really good job' to defend his health minister. Even the education minister could muster 'superb' about the beleaguered child safety minister—though you could see he really regretted that after he thought about it for a while.

Conditions in Queensland Health are likely to worsen—if that is possible—under this LNP government that has delayed the build of new beds that would provide some relief to our emergency departments, and it still has not delivered a workforce plan to deliver the staffing our hospitals need. You cannot fix ramping while not delivering growth funding to our hospitals, not having a workforce plan and not building the new beds that are needed.

Of course, with the first credit downgrade in Queensland in 19 years—the one that the Treasurer said was not going to happen on his watch—there is grave concern about future health budgets in our state. This is the same Queensland Treasurer who admitted that S&P Global warned him of a credit downgrade for well over a year and, in fact, on no fewer than three occasions. He tried to blame the federal government, though, interestingly, other states were able to maintain their credit ratings under the same federal government. We now have the same credit rating as the Deputy Premier's favourite communist state: Victoria.

Let us get back to our slick Premier, who struggles to suppress his need for spin and slick lines—the same person who promised lower debt, lower taxes and no cuts but could not explain how that would add up; the person who promised $7 billion in savings on consultants, which we are never going to see. It is why S&P's words in 2025 were so telling. They said that they were going through that midyear fiscal update because they really did not know what was real and what was politics. We know that it is all politics with this LNP government and very little is actually real.

Mr CHIESA (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (6.16 pm): I rise to oppose the motion of the opposition leader and support the Treasurer's amendment. Since entering this parliament I have learned one thing about the Leader of the Opposition and the opposition: they are absolutely desperate to rewrite history. They want Queenslanders to forget 10 years of a Labor government—forget the excuses, forget the failures, forget the communities left behind and forget the decade of decline—but Queenslanders have long memories, and so do I.

Before I entered this place I led Regional Development Australia Townsville and North West Queensland. I sat with businesses, councils and communities and tried to unlock investment and create jobs. I saw firsthand what happened when the Labor government made decisions in Brisbane and ignored the realities of regional Queensland. Too often I saw them come to Townsville and North-West Queensland. They would swan in, pose for a photo, put out a media release and get out again, more interested in the photo opportunity than the regional opportunity.

Take construction, where they imposed the Best Practice Industry Conditions. They sided with their mates in the CFMEU and it cost Queenslanders billions in costs and lost productivity. At a time when families were desperate for housing, Labor made building more expensive and more time-consuming. They have no credibility talking on housing.

Take the Bruce Highway, the lifeline of North Queensland, where they rolled over and accepted the Commonwealth's 50-50 funding split. They backed out of 80-20. It was disgraceful. It took the Crisafulli government just two months to secure its restoration and a $9 billion safety package. This is what happens when government stands up for regional Queensland. The consequences of Labor's record were not confined to construction sites and highways. A Labor MP dismissed concerns about youth crime as a media beat-up. The Leader of the Opposition, while premier, accused television media of being addicted to CCTV. Tell that to victims. Those opposite left behind a broken child safety system in need of urgent reform, hospitals under enormous pressure, unfunded expansion plans and ambulance ramping going up from 15 to 40 per cent.

What about domestic and family violence? In October 2024, DVConnect's Womensline answered just 41.9 per cent of calls. Think about that. When women were reaching out in crisis, so many calls went unanswered. Since intervention under this government, the service has reported a response rate of over 80 per cent, which is almost double. That represents real people, real women, real families and real consequences.

Queenslanders deserve action, not excuses. We are acting. We are strengthening youth justice laws. We are funding hospital expansion plans. Regional household electricity bills are falling by around seven per cent this year, after Labor presided over an increase of 29 per cent in one single year.

Let us talk about Labor's debt trajectory. Had they continued in government, the debt would have headed towards $290 billion, which is nearly $75 billion more than the path we are on today. That is an extraordinary financial burden that Queenslanders would have faced if those opposite remained in government. Despite that, the Leader of the Opposition comes in here to lecture us about credibility.

The Leader of the Opposition is the king of the scare campaign. He warned Queenslanders that 50-cent fares were under threat; we made them permanent. He warned of sweeping Public Service cuts; we committed to no forced redundancies. He warned that vital infrastructure would be slashed; we secured the Bruce Highway funding deal that Labor failed to secure. This very House found the Leader of the Opposition to be in contempt for deliberately misleading the parliament and he had to apologise to the House. It is little wonder that, according to media reports, senior Labor figures are questioning his leadership. One was even reported as saying that they absolutely cannot win with him as leader.

Here is what those opposite do not understand: the Queensland public has already delivered its verdict. In October 2024 they voted Labor out. The opposition leader failed to concede. Thirteen months later the people of Hinchinbrook delivered their verdict when Labor received just 8.4 per cent of the primary vote. People remember the decade of decline. I remember when the opposition leader and those in the shadow cabinet came up to North Queensland on a hot November day. I reckon that, even if they had been handing out cold XXXX Golds, people would not have taken a Labor how-to-vote card. That is how on the nose they were. I reckon the Leader of the Opposition is going to feel the heat in November. Then came the Stafford by-election when he turned a once-safe Labor seat into a marginal one. Former ministers who made the decisions now sit opposite and pretend they had nothing to do with them. They can rewrite their talking points and they can rewrite their media releases but they cannot rewrite what Queenslanders lived through. Queenslanders need leadership, not scare campaigns; actions, not excuses. That is why I support the amendment.

(Time expired)

Hon. MAJ SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (6.22 pm): I know that the member for Callide was supposed to be the answer to the LNP's problem with young people but, meaning no disrespect to the member for Callide, he is not someone I look to for social media advice. However, recently I did look at his social media page, and didn't he get some feedback! In fact, I think it was the most amount of traction he has had in a while. Vee Hart said—

Honest question

Are you getting some form of compensation to support this?

That was in reference to an AI data centre in his electorate. It is interesting that, as soon as they lift the ban on developer donations, all of a sudden they are really big supporters of AI data centres in regional Queensland.

What we are seeing in America should concern people. There are places in America where communities are being told to ration their drinking water, yet we have a water minister who may have an AI data centre in her own electorate but could not tell parliament how much water that AI data centre was going to use. We have a Deputy Premier who is obsessed with being seen as 'Temu Trump' and a Premier who goes to America and sucks up to people such as JD Vance.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language.

Ms SCANLON: I am sorry, Speaker. I withdraw. One data centre in the Western Downs could use as much power as 1.5 million homes, which is a quarter of the state's power. I do not know how the Premier or anyone on that side could look at anyone with a straight face and say that that is not going to drive up power prices. Literally every state in the country agreed that AI data centres need to demonstrate that they are going to deliver new clean energy, except for Queensland. We got a hall pass. The Premier went to Canberra and said, 'We actually want these big billionaire tech giants to be able use our coal and gas, feed into our power system and compete with consumers.' That is basically the decision that they have made, but they will not say how much it is going to cost Queenslanders. What I find incredibly ironic about all of this is that those opposite were so outraged when I used my planning powers to approve affordable housing, but now they are okay with using planning powers to override local governments when it comes to AI data centres, when it comes to luxury housing and when it comes to resource companies, all of which can now donate to the Liberal National Party.

The spin on data centres is bad but, frankly, the spin on domestic violence is just shameful. This is Sexual Violence Awareness Month. In recent weeks we have learned of some horrific high-profile cases but they are just the ones that make the news. There are so many other women whose names we never hear. Clearly, the system is failing them. In Queensland, about half of all nonfatal strangulation charges do not end in a conviction—half. Strangulation is one of the strongest predictors that a woman will be killed, yet half of those charges go nowhere. We have a police minister who had not read the commission of inquiry report and we have two reports from the Queensland Law Reform Commission, one of which deals with nonfatal strangulation, yet we have heard nothing from this government. They have been sitting on that report for months and there is not even a government response.

Today, the Deputy Premier came into this House with a response to the WorkCover report. He said that he is going to introduce legislation. Clearly, women being choked and killed are not a priority for this government. That demonstrates the priorities of those opposite. Women are being choked and children are at risk of harm, but they do not matter. That shows the priorities of those opposite. I move the following amendment to the amendment—

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

1. calls on the Premier and the member for Callide to tell the people of Western Downs how much their power prices will decrease by when the new Western Downs data centre is opened;
2. calls on the Premier to apologise for saying ambulance ramping figures 'are the best', despite Queensland Health data directly contradicting his statement;
3. calls on the Treasurer to apologise for failing to prevent his credit rating downgrade; and
4. condemns the Premier for failing to hold his government accountable for their constant mistakes.

I repeat that there have been constant mistakes, such as the ones we heard about this morning. In this state, 91 children known to the department of child safety have died, yet we have a child safety minister who tries to blame everyone but herself. It is about time those opposite took responsibility. They have been in government for two years and people are sick of the spin.

Hon. BA MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (6.27 pm): What a laundry list of Labor leadership aspirants, all clamouring for the attention of the backbench. Woodridge, Waterford and Gaven are all jostling for attention.

Mr Bailey: You're certainly no leadership aspirant.

Mr MICKELBERG: Member for Miller, thanks for coming to the game, mate. I will get to you. We know that you are not a leadership aspirant because no-one would vote for you. No-one would vote for the over-run overlord. His foolish record—

Mr SPEAKER: We will use correct titles.

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

Mr SPEAKER: That is what I said. Member for Buderim, use correct titles, please.

Mr MICKELBERG: I am sorry, Mr Speaker, but I thought it was his name. The Leader of the Opposition did not concede the election and he will not concede now that his time is up. The reality is that those opposite know that the Leader of the Opposition's time is up but the Leader of the Opposition wants to hold on. He wants to hang on. He has not learned anything. He did not hear the message in 2024. Those opposite do not have the courage to listen to Queenslanders and stand up to this weak Leader of the Opposition.

Those opposite criticise data centres but, from the contributions I have heard tonight, it looks as though they are writing half of their speeches. I refer to the valedictory speech of the current Leader of the Opposition. It was a rambling and incoherent response, such as we so often hear from the Leader of the Opposition, that was devoid of policy and devoid of any values. We heard about Stevo's servos at the election, but we have heard nothing of substance since. We know that they spent more on advertising 50-cent fares than they did on making them permanent. Our government made 50-cent fares permanent under an LNP initiative that is delivering for Queenslanders, and those opposite cannot stomach it. They are so bereft of ideas and capability that all they can do is snipe and carry on.

Let's turn to the member for Woodridge—the oracle of Woodridge, that font of financial knowledge and capability. What do we get from him? We get ad hominem attacks from a bloke whose clown-show budget—

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: I am more than happy with an ad hominem attack, by the way, member for Woodridge. His clown-show budget laid the foundation for the credit rating downgrade that Queenslanders now experience. It was the member for Woodridge's budget that got us to this point. Under the member for Woodridge, total state debt would have been $73.5 billion higher in 2029-30 than it will be under an LNP government. That is their record—$73.5 billion more debt than it will be under an LNP government.

Let's turn to the member for Waterford, another leadership aspirant. We know that she cannot get it. She has had a crack already. The member for Miller backed her that time. That did not work out very well for him; he got shuffled down to the backbench—where he should be, I might add. What is her record? She wanted to talk about data. She wanted to talk about numbers and data, so I thought, 'What is the member for Waterford's record when it comes to data?' I think she might have been the one who said she needed to wash the data, to clean the data. Her ambulance ramping record might have been the worst on record, at 46.9 per cent in February 2024. It was 46.9 per cent! That is the member for Waterford's record.

I thought that it was a very interesting intervention to table a document from the *Australian*. The article states—

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

This was from a Labor frontbencher. I thought, 'Who could that be?' We know that the *Australian* is the member for Waterford's journal of choice. I suspect it may have been her or one of her lackeys.

We know that they are bereft of ideas. I could go on. I want to get to the member for Gaven, though, because we know that she is there, quietly angling in the background. She wanted to talk about power prices. I thought, 'Let's have a look at their record. What is their record when it comes to power prices in regional Queensland?' Their record is a 29 per cent increase in power prices in regional Queensland in a single year. What has happened in the last year under this government? Power prices are going down. Those opposite tabled a power bill, but rather than talk about the numbers in there they spoke about the colour. That tells you everything about their policy platform and their capability.

With an underwhelming front bench stacked with failed former ministers, is it any wonder there is no consensus candidate for the position of Leader of the Opposition? They will continue to drift because they have not learned anything. This is the same old Labor that did not listen in 2024. They continue under a weak leader, incapable of delivering for Queenslanders. Our government will continue to deliver for all Queenslanders.

(Time expired)

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

AYES, 33:

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.

NOES, 52:

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

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Ms Scanlon) negatived.

Division: Question put—That the amendment 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, 33:

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.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Amendment agreed to.

Division: Question put—That the motion, as amended, 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, 33:

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.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House:

1. notes the reduction in power prices for residential homes and small and family business under the LNP Crisafulli government, after the former government oversaw consecutive increases to power prices, including a 29.9 per cent regional increase in a single year;

2. notes ambulance ramping tripled from 15 per cent to 45 per cent under the previous Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government and has fallen under the LNP Crisafulli government;

3. notes total state debt is now forecast to reach $216.5 billion at the end of the forward estimates in 2029-30, while Labor's debt trajectory for the same year would have been $290 billion and would have irreparably damaged Queensland's credit rating; and

4. condemns the Leader of the Opposition and the leadership of his party for two years of mistruths and scare campaigns, which have resulted in three findings of contempt of parliament and dozens of apologies for misleading the House.

Sitting suspended from 6.41 pm to 7.40 pm.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Message from Acting Governor

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (7.40 pm): I present a message from the Acting Governor.

MESSAGE

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT 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 to amend the *Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021*, the *Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 1991*, the *Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 2020*, the *Contract Cleaning Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 2005*, the *Industrial Relations Act 2016*, the *Planning and Environment Court Act 2016*, the *Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003* and the *Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Regulation 2025* for particular purposes

ACTING GOVERNOR

Date: 14 October 2026

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): The message from the Acting Governor recommends the Industrial Relations and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Message, dated 14 October 2026, from the Acting Governor, recommending the Industrial Relations and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 [2050].

Introduction

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (7.40 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021, the Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 1991, the Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 2020, the Contract Cleaning Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 2005, the Industrial Relations Act 2016, the Planning and Environment Court Act 2016, the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003 and the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Regulation 2025 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Industrial Relations and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 [2051].

Tabled paper: Industrial Relations and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes [2052].

Tabled paper: Industrial Relations and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights [2053].

I have presented a bill for an act to amend the Industrial Relations Act 2016, the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003 as well as the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021 and the Planning and Environment Court Act 2016. I have tabled the bill and the explanatory notes and nominated the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee to consider the bill, and I wish them all the very best when they consider the bill.

I am pleased to introduce the Industrial Relations and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 into parliament today. The bill delivers on the Crisafulli government's commitment to deliver a fairer industrial relations landscape that supports workers, protects small and family businesses and addresses union violence and misconduct—such as what Queenslanders have seen time and again by the CFMEU—while also helping ensure timely outcomes and a fairer deal for taxpayers, employers and workers.

The changes we are making today are yet further proof of our commitment to small and family businesses—the backbone of our economy and, more particularly, our regional and remote economies. We are backing small and family businesses that have faced significant cost pressures under the federal Labor government, which started with the federal budget full of new taxes and complicated tax changes and continued, most recently, with the ATO credit card payment and surcharge debacle. The changes also ensure workers have fair conditions and workplace protections, while making sure injured workers receive the support they need to recover and return to work.

This bill gives effect to legislative recommendations arising from the independent 2026 industrial relations and workers compensation scheme review. The government commissioned this independent review to ensure Queensland's industrial relations and workers compensation frameworks remain contemporary, balanced and fit for purpose and continue to deliver for workers, employers and Queensland taxpayers.

While the former Labor government turned a blind eye to mounting concerns, small and family businesses, workers and taxpayers were left to pay the price. Delayed industrial outcomes and protracted bargaining have delayed projects, disrupted essential services and impacted productivity. Queenslanders cannot afford an industrial relations system where warnings go unheeded, violence—predominantly by the CFMEU—and misconduct go unchallenged and support for workers is delayed or denied. It is clear the IR system we have in Queensland was designed by Labor with an ideological obsession to put the interests of militant unions first before hardworking workers.

It is timely to review these acts in response to emerging workplace and workers compensation scheme trends, to support productivity and a fair, balanced and sustainable workers compensation scheme and to honour the Crisafulli government's commitment to ensuring the Queensland government is an employer of choice, with a clear focus on respecting taxpayers' money.

The independent review considered whether the Industrial Relations Act adequately supports workers and productivity, protects freedom of association and provides a fair and efficient framework for bargaining and wage setting. It also examined the operation of registered industrial organisations, including the need for their officials and employees to act transparently, lawfully and in a way that supports productive and harmonious workplaces.

The review considered measures to ensure Queensland workers have adequate protections, fair employment conditions and competitive pay, alongside the operation of good-faith bargaining, the state wage case and public sector wages policy. This is particularly relevant in light of the Queensland Productivity Commission's building and construction sector inquiry recommendations and evidence before the Commission of Inquiry into the CFMEU and Misconduct in the Construction Industry. In that regard, the bill is further proof that, while Labor enabled the CFMEU for a decade in their own political self-interest, the LNP is backing our construction industry, restoring safety and the rule of law and putting an end to the violence, bullying, intimidation and misogyny.

For workers compensation, the review examined emerging pressures on Queensland's scheme, including the growth in psychological injury claims, the effectiveness of measures to prevent and prosecute fraud and whether self-insurance arrangements remain fit for purpose. It also considered the scheme's compliance, enforcement and regulatory arrangements as well as reforms in other Australian jurisdictions.

Importantly, the review considered how to maintain a fair, sustainable and financially sustainable scheme that provides confidence for injured workers, employers and taxpayers more broadly. Any consideration of changes to common-law damages under the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003 were excluded from the scope of the review. Overall, this independent review is a government assurance exercise: checking that policy settings remain appropriate, addressing emerging risks and ensuring the system delivers for workers, employers and taxpayers.

This report satisfies section 584A of the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act, which requires the Minister for Industrial Relations to ensure a review of the operation of the scheme is completed at least once in every five years, with the report tabled in this House. The review was conducted by independent reviewers Mr Glenn Ferguson AM, past president of the Law Council of Australia, the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific and the Queensland Law Society, and Mr Gary Black, a former commissioner in the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. Both reviewers brought extensive expertise to the review, and I sincerely thank them for their thorough and considered work and the way in which they engaged with those stakeholders who submitted to their review.

The reviewers received written submissions from 97 stakeholders, representing employers, unions, workers, insurers and other key interest groups. They also held 56 meetings during June and July 2026. The government has carefully considered the findings and recommendations and has taken a balanced approach to reform.

The reviewers recommended the Industrial Relations Act be amended to empower the QIRC to make orders to deal with vexatious litigants, which draw the resources of the commission away from dealing with legitimate applications made by Queensland workers and other parties. We have accepted this recommendation.

We have accepted the recommendation that the act be amended to clarify that the vice president or a deputy president of the industrial court is a judge of the industrial court, which would align Queensland with other jurisdictions around the country. We have accepted the recommendation to review the structure and resourcing of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission to deliver operational efficiency and increased productivity.

We have not accepted every recommendation. The review recommended that we amend flexible work arrangements, but, with the government's commitment to being an employer of choice and ensuring workers have adequate protections and fair conditions, we will not be making any changes to the current opportunity that exists for workers. The review also recommended putting an income threshold for unfair dismissal claims for employees on an industrial instrument, but it is not the government's position to exclude these workers from unfair dismissal protections based on how much money they earn.

It also proposed that casual employees have amendments made to the continuation of their long service leave. This would have directly targeted female workers who are, in reality, long-term casual employees with an employer and have caring or other responsibilities. We have not accepted this recommendation.

The review also recommended removing the right for workers to receive an interim pay rise during arbitration, which has not been accepted. The review also recommended removing collective bargaining from wage negotiations, or limiting award increases. Both of those recommendations have not been accepted, with this government also keeping the ability for workers to continue their right to take protected industrial action. Instead, we have focused on practical changes that improve the operation of the system while maintaining appropriate protections for Queensland workers.

To be clear, as I said this afternoon in the House, these reforms will not remove a union's ability to properly represent their workers; these reforms will not remove collective enterprise bargaining; these reforms will not remove a worker's right to strike for fairer pay; these reforms will not remove access to existing opportunities for flexible work arrangements; these reforms will not remove the ability for a worker to decide whether to join or not join a union and determine who advocates for them; these reforms will not remove the role of the independent Queensland Industrial Relations Commission; these reforms will not remove the ability for a casual worker to maintain their long service leave entitlements; and these reforms will not remove access to unfair dismissal proceedings.

It is on that note that I note with caution that I have already seen this evening the Queensland Council of Unions launch a campaign against these laws—before the laws have even been introduced, which shows the Queensland Council of Unions are not interested in reading the laws, the response to the review. They are simply interested in politics for political purposes. I have seen the campaign they have launched tonight and it is just wrong. The Queensland Council of Unions have started their campaign tonight and they are misleading frontline workers. That is why it is important that we have proper debate about this legislation—proper debate about what these laws are and what these laws are not. It just shows, with the Queensland Council of Unions already launching a website this afternoon, before the legislation is even introduced, that they are not interested in having proper industrial relations debate or reform. They are simply interested in putting politics before people.

Earlier today I tabled the independent review report and our government's response. Any reasonable person would read the government's response and see that we have taken practical, not ideological, action. The Crisafulli government is committed to a workers compensation scheme that strikes a balance between providing appropriate benefits for injured workers and ensuring the costs incurred by employers are affordable.

Small and family businesses are already being squeezed by taxes, fees and cost pressures coming from the federal Labor government in Canberra. The last thing they need is unnecessary increases in workers compensation premiums or the cost of fraudulent claims. That is why the Crisafulli government has frozen WorkCover average premiums for the second year in a row, providing certainty for Queensland small and family businesses while maintaining support for injured workers. This is in contrast to the approach of the former government, where the average premium rate increased by almost 12 per cent in the last three years of their term.

Amendments in this bill continue our commitment to scheme sustainability. Our position is straightforward. When a Queenslander is injured at work, they deserve the treatment, rehabilitation and financial support through compensation to recover and return to work, where possible, as soon as possible. At the same time, fraudulent claims will not be tolerated. The Crisafulli government is taking a zero-tolerance stance on fraudulent workers compensation claims and is strengthening the tools available to identify, investigate and prosecute those who seek to rort the system.

In 2025-26, the Workers' Compensation Regulator successfully prosecuted six workers for defrauding an insurer. All were sentenced to a term of imprisonment, with three serving time in custody. Collectively, they were also ordered to repay over $180,000 in fraudulently obtained funds to insurers. Two employers were also successfully prosecuted and collectively fined $98,500 for providing false information to WorkCover. A total of nine defendants were successfully prosecuted for fraud, attempted fraud and/or false information offences. These outcomes demonstrate that fraudulent conduct has serious consequences. We established a fraud taskforce to strengthen fraud prevention and detection, ensure suspected fraud is reported quickly, coordinate investigations and equip staff to identify and stop fraudulent claims before they impose further costs on businesses and taxpayers.

The bill increases the maximum penalties for fraud from five years to 10 years, and the maximum penalty for providing false and misleading documents from one year to two years. It also enables the regulator to elect to take these offences on indictment, reflecting the seriousness of fraudulent conduct and strengthening the framework for enforcement. The bill will allow regulator-appointed authorised persons who reasonably believe that fraud has occurred to suspend access to lump sum compensation and stay pre-proceedings to common-law damages claims while the matter is being investigated.

Where an authorised person reasonably believes fraud has occurred and believes that compensation is being, or will continue to be, paid for the injury, the bill provides a mechanism to end the worker's entitlement to compensation. These measures will help prevent public money from continuing to be paid where there are reasonable grounds to believe a claim is fraudulent.

The bill also introduces requirements for injured workers receiving compensation to regularly declare whether they have returned to work or engaged in a calling. Failing to notify the insurer within the prescribed timeframe, without a reasonable excuse, will be an offence. Insurers may also suspend compensation until the worker provides this declaration. This is a sensible measure to ensure the information used to administer claims remains accurate and that compensation is paid in accordance with the worker's actual circumstances.

The bill further strengthens the investigation and prosecution of offences under the scheme, including where misconduct is not identified until sometime after it occurs. These reforms will improve the ability to detect and address fraudulent conduct, protect the scheme's financial integrity and reduce the burden placed on employers who do the right thing.

The bill also addresses the continuing growth in primary and secondary psychological injury claims. Over the past decade, the number of accepted psychological injury claims has increased by almost 268 per cent, including an increase of more than 76 per cent over the past five years alone. Psychological injuries now represent a growing share of accepted claims and account for a disproportionate share of scheme costs.

At a time when small and family businesses are being smashed by the Albanese government and after a lack of action by the former Labor state government, the reforms will help save these businesses up to $1.46 billion over 10 years in increased premiums that they would have been slugged if the Crisafulli government did not take action. What is more, independent modelling from actuarial experts has shown that if nothing changed WorkCover premiums would skyrocket by 26 per cent in the next five years, decimating small and family businesses and costing local jobs. If change is not made soon, the workers compensation scheme will be at risk.

These claims are among the most complex claims managed by the scheme, often taking substantially longer to determine than physical injury claims and being more likely to be disputed. This reflects the unique challenges involved in determining the relationship between employment and psychological injury, particularly where a range of work and non-work related factors may contribute.

The Crisafulli government recognises the importance of supporting workers experiencing work related psychological injuries. At the same time, the scheme must have clear and consistent rules that allow claims to be assessed fairly and efficiently. The bill strengthens the required connection between employment and psychological injury by requiring employment to be the 'major significant' contributing factor to the injury, rather than just as it is now. This recognises the complex and multifactorial nature of psychological injuries, supports more consistent decision-making and helps protect the long-term sustainability of the workers compensation scheme, in line with similar changes progressed in Victoria and New South Wales. In fact, I will quote from the independent report, dated September 2026, on page 122 of 221. It states—

An analysis of other Australian jurisdictions shows that Queensland's current statutory test also sits at the more permissive end of definitions of psychological injury.

The increasing incidence and cost of psychological claims have prompted other Australian jurisdictions to strengthen eligibility requirements in recent years and reinforce the need for change. Victoria introduced reforms in 2024 requiring psychological injuries to predominantly arise out of employment, excluding certain stress and burnout claims arising from ordinary workplace pressures. NSW has similarly restricted compensability for primary psychological injuries to specified workplace events and applies a main contributing factor test to disease injuries (the category into which most psychological injury claims fall) and a substantial contributing factor test to personal injuries. These definitions reflect a deliberate policy choice to impose a stronger employment nexus for psychological claims because of their multifactorial nature. It is however recognised that the scope of these changes also take into account broader considerations of the sustainability of the NSW and Victorian schemes at the time which varied significantly from the current strength of the Queensland scheme.

When the scare campaign from the unions, QCU and Labor starts, it is important to note for the record that New South Wales is, the last time I checked, a Labor government and Victoria is a Labor government, and both have introduced similar provisions to the ones we are introducing in our scheme tonight.

As I said, the bill will provide greater clarity and certainty around the meaning and application of the reasonable management action exclusion for psychological injury claims in alignment with current case law. These changes are intended to improve operation of the scheme, provide greater clarity for workers and employers and ensure the system remains sustainable so that support continues to be available to those who need it.

The bill will also make the process for assessing a degree of permanent impairment for workers with psychological injuries easier and faster. It aligns the process for psychological injuries with that already applying to physical injuries, reducing unnecessary delays and providing workers with access to established review pathways where there is disagreement about the level of impairment. This is about ensuring injured workers have a clear and timely process for having their circumstances assessed without unnecessary administrative barriers.

Other key workers compensation amendments will: strengthen the regulator's compliance and enforcement tools by ensuring compliance notices can effectively address systemic noncompliance by insurers and introducing enforceable undertakings as a regulatory tool for insurers; share obligations consistently across all insurers in the scheme; extend the maximum self-insurance licence renewal period from four years to five years for demonstrated very high-performing self-insurers; promote consistency, accountability and effective enforcement across the scheme by requiring that prosecutions for offences under the scheme are commenced, managed and conducted exclusively by the regulator; support greater quality, independence and consistency in medical examinations and assessments across the scheme by establishing a centralised register of independent medical examiners and assessors to be managed by the regulator; support the integrity of the scheme by allowing insurers to review a worker's ongoing entitlement to compensation and end compensation where they have material information that was not reasonably known or available to the insurer at the time of allowing the claim; remove unnecessary red tape for self-insurers and employers by removing the requirement for rehabilitation and return-to-work coordinators and persons performing self-insurer functions to be based in Queensland; support timely resolution of disputes and the efficient operation of review and appeal processes across the scheme by updating the timeframes for lodging a review application to 20 business days and for lodging an appeal to 30 business days; streamline appeal pathways by transferring workers compensation appeals to the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission, supporting a more consistent and efficient appeals framework by leveraging the expertise of a specialist tribunal in workplace and employment related matters; and allow prospective employers, with a worker's written consent, to obtain a high-level summary of the worker's claims history from the regulator that, together with self-disclosure by the prospective worker, will assist workplace risk management.

Workers' privacy is safeguarded by requiring the worker's consent, limiting the information in the summary and restricting the disclosure or use of the information to limited lawful purposes. The injury, illness or reason for the previous claim will not be disclosed. This reform ensures employers know if someone is injured and on a claim.

It will reduce the administrative burden on employers by removing the requirement to provide an information statement to workers on commencement of employment, noting that workers continue to have access to information about their rights and entitlements through other established channels when that information is most useful to them. These reforms will strengthen oversight, improve the administration of claims and reduce unnecessary red tape while maintaining appropriate protection for injured workers.

WorkCover Queensland Chair Chloe Kopilovic said—

We support the recommendations and their focus on protecting the ongoing strength and sustainability of the scheme, whilst also strengthening the management and administration of the scheme to ensure fairness for workers and employers in Queensland.

We now look forward to working with the Government and the Regulator to implement these important reforms for all Queenslanders.

Master Builders Queensland CEO Michael Hopkins this afternoon said—

By its nature, construction is physical work and these reforms strike an important balance by supporting injured workers, strengthening fraud prevention and return-to-work outcomes as well as ensuring builders can also afford to keep building their businesses.

Housing Industry Association Queensland executive director Michael Roberts said—

A sustainable workers' compensation scheme is critical for the residential construction sector, and reforms that address claim pressures and fraud will help avoid unnecessary cost increases for builders and tradies.

Queensland Hotels Association CEO Bernie Hogan said—

Hospitality venues are facing significant cost pressures and working with a fit-for-purpose workers' compensation scheme is essential to protect our staff as well as supporting investment across the industry with more affordable insurance.

Clubs Queensland CEO Kelly Egan said—

Providing greater clarity around psychological injury claims and reasonable management action will help employers manage their workplaces fairly while ensuring support remains available for workers who genuinely need it, and creates a more efficient and timely claims process to ensure Queensland workers get back to work sooner.

Australian Industry Group Queensland head Michelle Farquhar said—

It is important that there are reforms to address growing and unsustainable pressure on the workers' compensation scheme. Sensible and balanced action must be taken to help provide the certainty employers need to invest, grow and create employment opportunities.

The Crisafulli government will continue to pursue a scheme that delivers for Queenslanders—one that provides appropriate treatment and rehabilitation for injured workers, holds fraudulent claimants accountable and gives employers greater certainty about the costs of doing business. Freezing the average WorkCover premium rate for the second year in a row is part of that commitment. These legislative changes will help protect the scheme's sustainability so it can continue supporting workers and employers well into the future.

With respect to the Industrial Relations Act 2016, the objective of this review was to assess whether the act remains effective, fit for purpose and capable of responding to emerging workplace issues. The review identified recurring concerns around wage-setting mechanisms under the IR Act, the efficiency of collective bargaining and the need to balance freedom of association with the rule of law and appropriate regulation of registered unions.

The Crisafulli government is committed to respecting Queensland taxpayers' money and driving government to work for Queenslanders. We are delivering on this, ensuring the Queensland industrial relations system delivers fair outcomes for workers, certainty for employers and value for taxpayers. Queensland workers should have consistent workplace rights regardless of who they work for, and bargaining should deliver fair outcomes without unnecessary delays or disruption.

As a government we are unashamedly open for business, deliberately positioning Queensland to capitalise on a golden age of opportunity, attracting more investment, supporting new jobs and backing small and family businesses, which are the backbone of our economy, particularly in regional and rural Queensland.

Alignment to the national workplace relations system—introduced by Julia Gillard under the Fair Work legislation—ensures a consistent, fit for purpose and modern framework that focuses on economic growth and productivity. This is unlike the approach we saw from the former Labor government, which weaponised industrial relations for their CFMEU mates, who were literally out of control, and we have seen that during every hearing week after week in witness testimony. Public servants, former public servants, workers and other witnesses have been telling their stories about the culture of violence, bullying, fear, intimidation and misogyny that was flamed like an out-of-control bushfire by senior Labor leaders over the last decade of decline.

Amendments in this bill strengthen our commitment. The changes in this bill further strengthen the Crisafulli government's zero-tolerance approach to bullying, fear and intimidation in Queensland workplaces. As industrial relations minister, I will not be bullied by the CFMEU. They will not tell me or

this government what to do, what not to do or what to legislate. We have ended the CFMEU's stronghold on the regulator through legislative change, and we have begun exposing allegations of CFMEU and alleged ministerial wrongdoing through the landmark commission of inquiry into the CFMEU.

Upon coming into office, we immediately hung up the 'bat phone', which was the CFMEU's direct line into the Office of Industrial Relations. I sacked militant CFMEU official Kurt Pauls, who was hand-picked by the member for McConnel for the Work Health and Safety Board despite allegations being aired of his abuse towards OIR staff. We repealed Labor's CFMEU-enabling laws, including its information-sharing and right-of-entry laws that gave the CFMEU immediate access to worksites. We repealed Labor's BPICs, otherwise known as the CFMEU tax, which Treasury estimated would have a net economic cost of $17.1 billion over 2024-2030. The Queensland Productivity Commission reported that under Labor a nine per cent decline in construction productivity since 2018 resulted in 77,000 fewer homes being constructed across the state. Is it any wonder Queensland is in a housing crisis we inherited from the former Labor government. We reintroduced 24-hour right-of-entry laws on construction sites, under workplace health and safety legislation, preventing safety being used as an industrial disputation weapon, predominantly by the CFMEU. And Helen Burgess is no longer employed by the Queensland government.

Queensland's industrial relations jurisdiction covers an estimated 383,000 workers out of approximately 3.04 million employed people in the state. The remaining estimated 2.66 million workers are covered by the Fair Work Act 2009. Queensland referred its private sector industrial relations jurisdiction to the national system in 2010. The state system now principally covers public sector employees, local government employees and P&C workers. It is appropriate that Queensland's IR framework reflects the national system where possible, providing greater consistency in workplace rights and obligations while reducing unnecessary regulatory burden for employers.

The bill, therefore, makes targeted changes to bring Queensland's IR framework into closer alignment with the Fair Work system—like what we see in Victoria. Damian Long from the Civil Contractors Federation Queensland said this afternoon—

Aligning Queensland's industrial relations laws with national standards and strengthening expectations around lawful conduct will provide greater confidence and certainty for businesses delivering the infrastructure projects our state relies on.

These changes will help deliver a more consistent and efficient system while preserving the state's existing wage-setting mechanisms. The Crisafulli government will continue to support the current State Wage Case and bargaining arrangements. Our focus is on fixing the parts of the frameworks that allow negotiations to become unnecessarily protracted, delaying wage outcomes for workers and creating uncertainty for employers and the community.

We are also going to look at greater transparency and accountability for registered unions/organisations. The government has a clear expectation that registered industrial organisations and their officials must act lawfully, transparently and in the interests of the workers they represent. Damning evidence emerging from the Commission of Inquiry into the CFMEU and Misconduct in the Construction Industry has reinforced the importance of strong safeguards against misconduct and the misuse of industrial powers. Currently, the IR Act does not include whistleblower protections for employee organisation members seeking to report official misconduct or wrongdoing. No-one should be scared about doing the right thing. The bill introduces whistleblower protections for members of employee organisations who report unlawful or improper conduct. These protections are modelled on those in the Fair Work jurisdiction and are designed to support people who come forward with information, including witnesses who may otherwise fear reprisal. There will be serious consequences for those who retaliate against whistleblowers, including the possibility of imprisonment.

The bill also confirms that registered organisations may represent only individuals who are members or eligible to become members of their organisation. This ensures union officials appropriately exercise their statutory rights in the relevant workplaces and within the scope of the workers they are entitled to represent. It protects workers' freedom to choose their representatives and helps prevent the misuse of industrial rights that contribute to ongoing violent conflicts, threats and intimidation on Queensland job sites, including against other union members. Violence in any setting is not going to be tolerated by the Liberal National Party government.

The bill will also require the publication of union rules and financial reports to be lodged with the commission, bringing Queensland's requirements into closer alignment with what is already required of unions under the Fair Work jurisdiction. Greater transparency around financial expenditure will strengthen accountability and help ensure registered organisations operate in a manner that commands the confidence of their members and of Queenslanders.

The bill introduces a robust fit-and-proper person test for union officials seeking to exercise lawful right-of-entry powers. This ensures union officials who are removed or terminated for serious misconduct—and there are many—or who continue to breach industrial laws are not able to gain right-of-entry powers anywhere in Queensland without appropriate scrutiny. This test will require them to act lawfully and in their members' best interests and help prevent repeated bad behaviour that can put worker safety and productivity at risk. The bill also strengthens requirements for entry to inspect time and wage records, aligning them with the Fair Work jurisdiction. Right-of-entry powers are important, but they must be exercised for their proper purpose, not to instil fear and intimidation. These changes will help prevent their misuse on Queensland worksites.

The Crisafulli government believes bargaining should deliver fair outcomes for workers in a reasonable timeframe. Workers deserve timely wage outcomes, particularly during a cost-of-living crisis that was caused by those opposite during their decade of decline and by their federal colleagues in Canberra. Equally, Queenslanders deserve certainty about the delivery of essential public services. Queensland taxpayers deserve to know funded infrastructure projects will be delivered on time and within budget. Red Union Group Managing Director Jack McGuire said—

Workers deserve a system which protects their rights and enables them to organise for better pay & conditions. But successive Labor Governments have attacked their right to freedom of association, which is fundamental to our democracy. These reforms go a long way to restoring workers' rights.

Master Electricians Australia CEO Kate Raymond said—

Small businesses need confidence that workplace laws are fair, practical and consistent, and these reforms will help improve certainty for Queensland sparkies.

Labor's bargaining framework too often allowed negotiations to become protracted, creating uncertainty rather than facilitating fair and timely agreements for workers. This bill addresses these shortcomings while preserving workers' rights and maintaining appropriate safeguards.

Under the bill, where an application is made to the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission to certify a negotiated agreement, the agreement may be put to employee ballot without requiring in-principle agreement from every union party. Instead, under the new measure, the agreement must have the support of at least one union party before proceeding to a ballot. I know there are many unions that will love that provision in this bill because they want their workers to get a pay rise as soon as possible but other unions are stopping the progression of that pay rise for political purposes. This is to prevent situations we have seen in the past where one or two minority unions hold up a bargain and the workers collectively represented, when there have been cases where other unions have agreed. That does not support the workers involved; nor does it support prompt resolution and good faith bargaining.

This change brings Queensland closer to the national framework and allows employees to have their say where negotiations have stalled, rather than allowing the process to be held over indefinitely. It does not remove the right of employees to decide whether to support an agreement. It creates a more efficient pathway for workers to express their views and if they support the offer for it to be accepted in a much more timely manner.

The bill also aligns notice requirements for protected industrial action with the national Fair Work jurisdiction by requiring at least three working days notice. This gives employers, bargaining parties and service providers time to prepare for potential disruption and to take reasonable steps to minimise impacts of the industrial action on Queenslanders.

The bill also aligns the consequences for industrial action with the national framework, including deductions of pay arising from protected industrial action. Where an employer reduces pay, including to zero, because of a partial work ban or restricted duties, notice must be provided. These changes provide greater clarity for employees and employers while supporting the continuity of critical and essential public services.

The bill further clarifies the matters the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission must consider when arbitrating a negotiated agreement. These provisions align more closely with the national system and recognise the state government's dual role as both an employer and a provider of critical and essential public services. The aim is to ensure arbitration decisions properly consider the interests of workers, the requirements of employers and the broader public interest.

The Crisafulli government believes workers should have genuine freedom in how they are represented. This bill restores the ability of parties to engage external legal representation in matters before the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission, empowering the independent industrial umpire and those who appear before it. The current restrictions, introduced by those opposite in 2022,

limit workers' access to external legal representation, compared to the federal Fair Work jurisdiction. Removing these restrictions will allow workers and other parties to choose representation that best meets their needs, whether that be a private lawyer, a lawyer acting for the employee's union or a lawyer acting for another association. This reform supports freedom and fairness for workers that did not exist under the Labor government and the effective operation of the commission.

The state wage case is the annual process by which a full bench of the commission reviews the Queensland minimum wage and rates of pay and allowances contained in the modern awards. The review found that, for at least the last 12 years, the outcomes of the state wage case have mirrored those of the Fair Work Commission's annual wage review. The Crisafulli government believes the process should be efficient, avoid unnecessary duplication and deliver timely outcomes for workers and employers. The bill proposes that where there is no objection from an interested party, the full bench of the commission should adopt the outcome of the Fair Work Commission's annual wage review without the need for additional evidence, submissions or a hearing. If a party objects, the commission will hear the matter de novo. This approach will reduce red tape and unnecessary administrative costs while preserving the ability for interested parties to seek a separate consideration of the matter when required. It is a practical reform that recognises the established alignment between the two processes and ensures resources are used effectively.

Other key amendments to the IR Act will: provide the Minister for Industrial Relations with the right, consistent with the national framework under the Fair Work legislation, to terminate protected industrial action in certain circumstances to ensure continuity of public sector service delivery and protect the public interest; empower the independent commission to make orders to deal with vexatious litigants and improve efficiencies in relation to these matters; and clarify the status, conditions and qualifications for appointment for members of the Industrial Court.

As a government, we will ensure Queensland workers have adequate protections and fair conditions in their employment while safe at their workplace and are paid competitively. While the former Labor government turned a blind eye to mounting concerns, small and family businesses, workers and taxpayers were left to pay the ultimate price. Delayed industrial outcomes and protracted bargaining can delay projects, disrupt essential services, impact productivity and stop pay rises going into the pockets of hardworking Queensland public servants. Queensland cannot afford an industrial relations system where warnings go unheeded, violence and misconduct goes unchallenged and support for workers is delayed or denied.

The government has accepted recommendation 12 of the review, which states that the government review the operation of the amendments made by the Industrial Relations and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2022 to the treatment of incorporated entities with an industrial purpose. This is very important because this is where the Labor Party moved amendments in 2022 that denied freedom of association. It denied teachers, nurses and other public servants the freedom to associate with a union, an association or an industrial association of their choosing. Why were those laws introduced in 2022? It was because groups like—

Mr J Kelly interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): The member for Greenslopes will cease his interjections.

Mr BLEIJIE: It is never surprising that the first ones to interject on this are the union movement members themselves. Here they go protecting the same thing they have protected time and again, because they are denying they are part of a political party—

Mr J Kelly interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Greenslopes has been warned. I warn you now under the standing orders.

Mr BLEIJIE: Members of the Labor Party will keep denying Queensland public servants the ability of freedom of association. Why? It is because what was happening before 2022 was the red unions were taking members from the traditional union movement—

Ms Dooley: That's right—12,000, Minister.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection—and representing and advocating for those members who were not making donations to the Labor Party. Then, of course, in came the industrial relations minister in 2022 with amendments to virtually outlaw other organisations, incorporated organisations and associations like the red unions because they were taking members—actually they were not even taking members. Public servants were leaving those other unions of their own volition and going to other incorporated associations, but the Labor Party could not stand by and let that happen. They did not want people to leave the traditional unions that had been protecting the Labor Party for so many years.

I can happily say on behalf of LNP government members in the chamber that we believe in freedom of association. Do members know what we also believe in? We believe in competition amongst the union movement. During the six-week committee process we are going to encourage Queenslanders to have their say on those 2022 amendments. I very much look forward, as we are reviewing these 2022 amendments, as per the review recommendation over the next six weeks—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bundaberg and whoever he is quarrelling with on the other side of the chamber will cease—

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I don't need your assistance, member for Bundaberg. You will cease your quarrelling and that is it.

Mr BLEIJIE: In accepting this recommendation, we encourage feedback from stakeholders as part of the parliamentary committee process on this recommendation to inform the government's position on this issue and in response to the committee's report to the House as part of the second reading debate on the bill. Depending on the feedback received during the committee process, the government may proceed to amend the bill during consideration in detail to enshrine freedom of association and competition amongst the union movement in the great state of Queensland. Members opposite probably never would have thought they would hear that coming out of my mouth. We want more Queenslanders to be members of the unions, but unions or associations of their choice, not legislated as to who or what they must join and where they pay into it. It should be Queenslanders deciding—their freedom of association. We are empowering the Public Service to do that through our review over the next six weeks.

The Crisafulli government is also strengthening protections for Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service employees who preform firefighting duties by extending presumptive firefighter coverage for post-traumatic stress disorder and prescribed cancers to these workers. This recognises that Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service workers undertake firefighting duties that are substantially similar to those performed by Queensland Fire Department firefighters currently covered by the presumptive provisions. This will close the existing gap and provide greater consistency in access to workers' compensation for those undertaking these important, and often lifesaving, duties. We recognise the risks faced by Queensland's firefighters and are committed to ensuring workers who perform these duties have appropriate pathways to compensation when they suffer eligible injuries. The forgotten firies will not be forgotten any longer under the Crisafulli government as they were under the Labor government. The irony is that I was the shadow industrial relations minister who first introduced a private member's bill to have presumptive legislation for firefighters which the then Labor government copied. It was an LNP idea and we are still reforming in this space.

Outside of review matters, the bill also includes other minor amendments. The minor amendments to the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021 will address operational matters that relate to certain venues defined in the act. The amendments also facilitate a boundary realignment for the Gabba Arena project site, required to enable timely commencement of works—watch this space; there are great things coming.

The bill also amends the Planning and Environment Court Act 2016 to introduce a new role of judge administrator, reflecting provisions for a similar role already established in the District Court under the District Court of Queensland Act 1967. This amendment recognises the importance of timely and robust technical decisions on planning and development in Queensland, driving the need for a judge administrator role to assist with Planning and Environment Court administrative processes and general oversight, facilitating more efficient administration and improved transparency of its governance structure. This change is being progressed upon request of the Chief Judge of the District Court, and I thank him for his concerns in relation to that matter.

These important reforms back small and family businesses to keep driving forward our state's economy, particularly in rural and regional Queensland. The government is delivering a fairer industrial relations system that supports workers, protects small and family businesses, and addresses union violence and misconduct, helping ensure timely outcomes and a fairer deal for taxpayers, employers and workers.

As a government, we will ensure Queensland workers have adequate protections and fair conditions in their employment while safe at their workplace and are paid competitively. Delayed industrial disputes and protracted bargaining can delay projects, disrupt essential services and impact productivity. Queenslanders cannot afford an industrial relations system where warnings go unheeded,

violence and misconduct goes unchallenged, and support for workers is delayed or denied as it was under a decade of decline under the Labor government. Many of the changes align our system with our national workplace relations framework under Julia Gillard's Fair Work legislation. What is good for Queensland workers who work in the private sector is good for all.

The former Labor government's bargaining framework favoured protracted industrial disputation, not fair outcomes for workers, and it was those workers who were denied a fair day's pay or Queenslanders who had essential services disrupted who ultimately paid the price of not having a fit for proper purpose industrial relations system. At the same time, the government is committed to being an employer of choice and ensuring that all workers, including our public servants, continue to be paid fairly and have fair employment conditions. Importantly, this means that a number of recommendations were not accepted as they were not consistent with our policy objectives. The recommendations not accepted relate to proposed changes involving enterprise bargaining, temporary absence dismissal protections, flexible work request arrangements, high-income unfair dismissal thresholds, interim arbitration, wage increases and changes to primary wage-setting mechanisms. We have not accepted those recommendations. We are empowering the independent industrial umpire, the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission, to resolve industrial disputes and bargaining outcomes more promptly, providing greater certainty for workers and the Queensland community more broadly.

There will no doubt be a lot of scare campaigns raised by those opposite and others about this bill, but they cannot deny the facts. When it comes to workers compensation, we are backing small and family businesses across Queensland while also cracking down on fraudulent claims and streamlining assessment of work related injuries to help injured workers get the treatment and compensation they need to get back on their feet and to work. In relation to industrial relations, the bill ensures national consistency, treating all Queensland workers the same while protecting important rights and entitlements of public sector and local government workers, empowering the industrial umpire and boosting economic productivity.

I want to thank all of the hardworking public servants who work in the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and across the Queensland public sector more broadly for their commitment and dedication to Queensland—from the police officers, nurses, teachers and firies to the white-collar workers and other critical frontline workers. These workers who support and deliver the essential services provided across Queensland are relied upon each day by Queenslanders. I want to acknowledge the tens of thousands of council workers who work so very hard every day in delivering the critical local government services that Queenslanders rely on across 77 local government areas covering our entire state.

I started my contribution and introduction of this bill highlighting the scare campaign that is about to unfold by the Queensland Council of Unions. For those members who were not in the House when I started my contribution, I notified the House that the Queensland Council of Unions has already launched a website this afternoon—that is, it launched a campaign before the legislation was even introduced—which just shows—

Opposition members interjected.

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

Mr BLEIJIE:—that the Queensland Council of Unions is not interested in reading the legislation in a reasonable and fair manner. The Crisafulli government has taken a very reasonable and fair approach to this review. We have not accepted elements of the review because we believe in collective bargaining and we want to keep collective bargaining in the framework. We have not accepted the changes with respect to the review and casual work, but we have accepted a lot of the recommendations which will make it fit for purpose and efficient, and we fundamentally believe that public servants will receive their pay increases in a more timely, efficient way and it will be in their pockets straightaway.

Ms Grace: How?

Mr BLEIJIE: The shadow minister for industrial relations asks how. I suspect a bargaining that goes for one month instead of two years of protracted bargaining and puts money in hardworking public servants' bank accounts and pockets is how, and that is how we are going to do it. It is undeniably a fact—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members. Member for McConnel, your interjections are not being taken. Please continue, Deputy Premier.

Mr BLEIJIE: It is an undeniable fact that over the last 10 years the industrial relations legislation that the former Labor government introduced into this parliament favoured one union in Queensland, and that was the CFMEU. We have seen—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: We have seen—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, this is the third time I have asked for order. Members, no more arguing across the chamber. You know the standing orders. Deputy Premier, please resume.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I would love for the opposition to read the legislation before embarking on the QCU scare campaign that it has launched this afternoon, because even a reasonable member of the Labor Party caucus—

Government members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I am appealing to any reasonable member of the Labor caucus to read how we have gone through this review, looked at it in a calm way and come up with recommendations we believe will protect workers, be beneficial for workers and also have a sustainable workers compensation scheme. If the scheme is not changed and it increases the trajectory as it is and costs businesses another $1.4 billion over the next 10 years, the scheme is unsustainable. If you do not have businesses paying into the scheme, there is no scheme, because workers compensation is not a taxpayer or Queensland government scheme; it is a scheme funded by employers. If employers are not funding the scheme, there is no scheme. If there are injuries and there is no money in the scheme, no-one gets paid and there is no return to work and the workers are worse off, and that has been very hard for the Labor Party to understand because it has only been focused on the CFMEU.

As I have said, I have seen that the Queensland Council of Unions has launched a scare campaign this afternoon. It is putting fear into frontline workers using a scare campaign in terms of the video I have seen. It is just an untrue and dishonest campaign against this legislation. It ought to have read the legislation before it launched a campaign, but I suspect it has a bunch of scare campaigns lined up between now and the next election, as it has been doing for the last two years. However, I would also appeal to reasonable unions in Queensland to look at the legislation. We are more than happy to brief them. In fact, we have a big briefing with a big union tomorrow morning, and I thank the union for that, because it wants to understand the changes and the reforms.

I also thank the committee that is about to review this under the stewardship of the member for Lockyer and his fellow LNP committee members, the members for Cook and Mulgrave. This is a big bill and it is technical, but it is vitally important. That is why the committee has six weeks to look at the legislation. More particularly, we are asking Queenslanders to have a say with respect to the recommendation on the 2022 amendments, because those amendments, designed by the former Labor Party, were absolutely anti freedom of association. They were basically there to outlaw the Red Union movement in this state. We believe that is unfair. We believe that it should have a right to be at the table, and that is why we want Queenslanders to have a say during this committee process. I know the committee process will look at it efficiently, deliberately and with workers in mind.

When we talk about workers being at the forefront of this reform, it is not only about safety and productivity on the worksite. I am particularly proud, as the Minister for Industrial Relations, to keep bringing legislation into this parliament that finally sorts the allegations of abuse, misogyny, fear and corruption of the CFMEU. We did not tolerate it in opposition. We did not tolerate it for 10 years. We opposed the reform introduced by the former Labor government that continually protected the actions of the CFMEU and continually protected those employed, like Helen Burgess, in the Office of Industrial Relations. Allegations have come out in the CFMEU inquiry that not only was she dating a CFMEU official but also that CFMEU official then got a job in the Office of Industrial Relations. This is the stuff that was overseen by the former Labor government. We are not tolerating it anymore and we will put the Public Service ahead of that sort of behaviour every day of the week. You cannot but be moved by the testimony from public servants like the former—

Ms Grace: Absolute rubbish!

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection—'absolute rubbish'. The former deputy—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! Deputy Premier, resume your seat. Member for McConnel, I have cautioned you against further interjections. The next time will be a warning.

Mr BLEIJIE: Former deputy director-general Amanda Yeates gave testimony at the CFMEU inquiry that she walked into a room and then the union official from the CFMEU said, 'You're a woman. Get me a glass of water.' Allegedly, former minister Mark Bailey was in the very same room and witnessed it all, did not say that that was inappropriate and did not condemn the union official for saying it but then said, 'Just do what the union wants. Keep them happy.' How can anyone interject that it is rubbish? This is the seriousness of what was happening with our Public Service.

A building was stormed by the CFMEU. A security guard was bowled over. A front door was smashed and where was the Minister for Transport and Main Roads at the time? He was up in his office. He was forewarned of the impending storming of the TMR building so he chose not to go to the meeting so he was kept safe in the tower of power. That is what was happening in the industrial relations system overseen by the Labor Party.

Well, no longer! We are putting workers first. We are putting small and family businesses first. We are putting women on construction sites first. We are putting female public servants first. We are putting those who gave testimony against the CFMEU and former Labor ministers first because God knows they were not given a voice and they were not listened to under the former Labor government. This industrial relations bill and workers compensation bill will undo many of the wrongs by the Labor government after their decade of decline. It puts efficiency, productivity and safety back in the hands of workers. It means workers are well paid and productivity is restored to this great state of Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (8.40 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

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, 32:

ALP, 32—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, de Brenni, Dick, 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.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee

Mr SPEAKER: In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee.

QUEENSLAND PROTECTION COMMISSION BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 3208, on motion of Mrs Frecklington—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Ms HOWARD (Ipswich—ALP) (8.46 pm), continuing: There is the extraordinary provision that allows the minister of the day to remove the commissioner or the deputy commissioner for any reason or for no reason at all. Currently, the Queensland Family and Child Commissioner can only be removed on stated grounds: misconduct, incapacity or neglect. That is a safeguard this bill throws away.

Almost every submitter to the bill's inquiry raised concerns about this particular provision. They called it a backward step. They warned that it calls into question the independence of a body that is meant to stand apart from government and, when necessary, to be critical of it. The Queensland Human Rights Commission, the Crime and Corruption Commission, the Queensland Law Society, PeakCare, the Queensland Sexual Assault Network, the Youth Advocacy Centre and the Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service have all recommended that this provision be reviewed or removed. First Nations children are over-represented in Queensland's child protection system, yet the Crisafulli government has made the retrograde step of repealing the requirement that at least one commissioner be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person. In its place, this bill requires only that at least one deputy commissioner be either an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person, or a person with demonstrated ability or experience working with First Nations children. That is not a guarantee. It does not require the role to be filled by a First Nations person at all. A guarantee has now become a 'nice to have'. Our amendment will ensure at least one deputy commissioner must be a First Nations person.

Some submitters raised concerns about the provision in the bill giving the minister power to direct the commissioner. The ministerial direction powers in this bill largely mirror those in the current Family and Child Commission Act 2014. There is one new carve out, though. The minister cannot direct the commissioner on activities to improve the safety and wellbeing of children or on sharing information to identify and protect children from threats to their safety. That is a sensible and practical change that we welcome, but we also accept the proposal of several submitters, including the Crime and Corruption Commission, that any ministerial direction be tabled in this parliament. That delivers transparency and accountability for the government and the commission alike. If a direction is proper the minister has nothing to fear.

Queenslanders deserve to know what is happening in the child safety system. They deserve to know how this new commission is working and they deserve to know it before they cast their next vote. The child safety system under the Crisafulli government has lurched from one crisis to another, with no end in sight. Each new report of a child safety failure is a stark reminder that this government is failing some of Queensland's most vulnerable children, including those known to Child Safety and those in the care of the state. As I said, the opposition will support this bill but our amendments will go further. They will make the Queensland Protection Commission a truly independent statutory body—one that is stronger in protecting children and able to do its work without fear or favour.



Ms DOOLEY (Redcliffe—LNP) (8.50 pm): I rise today in strong support of the Queensland Protection Commission Bill 2026. This is a bill about something that should unite every member of this House: the safety, dignity and wellbeing of our children and the protection of vulnerable Queenslanders. As the member for Redcliffe, a mum of four and a grandma of two, this legislation is very close to my heart. When I think about child safety, I think about our children and grandchildren, about Redcliffe and Queensland families who entrust their children to schools, sporting clubs, childcare centres, youth groups, community organisations and other institutions, and about the responsibility we all share to make sure those places are safe. Every parent hopes that when they say goodbye to a child at a childcare centre, at the school gate or at a sports training session that child will be safe. Grandparents want the next generation to grow up protected, supported and able to flourish. Those expectations are not unreasonable. They are the minimum our community should and does demand. The Queensland Protection Commission Bill responds to those concerns that have been outlined in the Queensland Child Death Review Board's *In plain sight* report, which examined system responses to child sexual abuse. That report identified weaknesses in Queensland's safeguarding arrangements including fragmented oversight, information held in separate organisational silos and missed opportunities to identify risks earlier.

This legislation addresses the fact that agencies hold different pieces of information but do not bring them together. Warning signs can be missed. A child's safety must never depend on whether one organisation happens to know what another organisation already knows. Safeguarding must be coordinated, proactive and focused on the child, not constrained by administrative boundaries. The report's findings are deeply confronting. The material before the House records that the systems failed to stop child sex offender Ashley Paul Griffith and that there were up to five missed opportunities where he could and should have been identified and stopped sooner if a reportable conduct scheme had been in place. Griffith committed 307 offences against 69 children. Behind those figures are children whose lives were harmed and families who deserved better. We cannot change what those children experienced, but we have a responsibility to learn from the failures of the past, act on the recommendations and build a system that is better equipped to recognise danger and respond before harm occurs. That is the purpose of this bill.

The bill establishes the Queensland Protection Commission, intended to become Queensland's first centralised child and vulnerable persons safeguarding entity. It brings key safeguarding functions together: the Reportable Conduct Scheme, Child Safe Standards, working with children checks, commonly known as blue cards, and disability worker screening. Bringing these functions under one entity is not simply an organisational reshuffle; it is intended to reduce barriers to information sharing, improve coordination and make it easier for relevant risks to be identified. It also lays the foundation for a future intelligence hub to help identify emerging threats earlier and support agencies to respond more effectively.

For children in Redcliffe, the importance of this is very tangible and practical. Our community, like every other electorate, includes families who rely on schools, early childhood services, sporting organisations, cultural groups, disability services and other community organisations. Parents need confidence that the adults entrusted with children are appropriately screened, that organisations take their safeguarding responsibilities seriously and that concerns are not lost between agencies. No law can promise that harm will never occur. However, a stronger, more coordinated system can help reduce the chance that known warning signs are overlooked, that serious concerns go unreported or that a person who presents an unacceptable risk is able to continue accessing children. This will be prevented. The bill also implements nationally agreed reforms to Queensland's working with children check scheme. According to the bill, this will make Queensland the first jurisdiction to put key national reforms into legislation.

The changes strengthen how serious offences are treated. They update offences that automatically disqualify a person from holding a blue card and expand the serious offences that must be considered. The examples include child related grievous bodily harm, female genital mutilation of a child, failing to report child sexual abuse, distributing intimate images of a child, and certain offences causing death or serious harm. The bill also enables participation in a national continuous monitoring system and improves access to nationally coordinated criminal history checks. This matters because risk does not always remain static after a person first receives a clearance. Screening arrangements need to keep pace with new information and contemporary offending so that concerns can be considered more quickly. These reforms are not about treating every person with suspicion; they are about ensuring that when there is serious information relevant to a person's suitability to work with children the system has the tools to assess it properly and act where necessary.

Thank you to the Education, Arts and Communities Committee, which tabled its report earlier this month and recommended that the bill be passed. The committee received 33 submissions. The Principal Commissioner of the Queensland Family and Child Commission, Hetty Johnston AM and the Daniel Morcombe Foundation were among those who supported the bill. Other submitters were generally supportive. I also want to commend the Crisafulli government for passing Daniel's Law, which supports the Morcombes, who have fought for these changes for 21 years. As a first-term member in this House, I want to say that when Daniel's Law was passed I cried to think that passionate parent advocates like Denise and Bruce Morcombe could fight for 21 years and those on the opposite side did not listen to their cries for change. I am proud to be a part of the LNP Crisafulli government that is making child safety top of the agenda.

The committee process is important because it has allowed the legislation to be examined and concerns to be considered. I believe the House should give that recommendation serious weight and support the bill's central objective of improving child safeguarding. The committee also heard evidence from Luke Twyford, the Principal Commissioner of the Queensland Family and Child Commission. He said—

> Queensland's existing architecture for protecting children from sexual abuse has been inadequate. That is not simply my opinion; it is what *In plain sight* found.

He also described the bill as one that represents a bold transformation in the way Queensland seeks to protect its children and other vulnerable people. Those words are significant. They recognise both the scale of the problem identified and the opportunity this legislation provides to improve the way Queensland protects children. The committee also records the call from child safety advocate Hetty Johnston AM for bipartisan support. She said—

> It does not matter who is in government, we have to get this done.

She urged members not to allow politics to interfere with the protection of children. I agree with that principle. Children's safety should never be treated as a partisan possession. It is a shared responsibility and a public duty.

The bill also provides for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation in the commission's leadership. At least one of the two deputy commissioners must be an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander person. The bill maintains requirements to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander interests are appropriately represented. I commend the bill to the House and thank the minister for her bold leadership.

Debate, on motion of Ms Dooley, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the House do now adjourn.

Lytton Electorate, Infrastructure

Ms PEASE (Lytton—ALP) (9.00 pm): On Friday, I was incredibly proud to attend the official opening of the wonderful new facilities at Manly State School—another outstanding legacy of the former Labor government's big build. This was a Labor project. I congratulate the entire school community for their tireless advocacy and support, and acknowledge St Paul's parish for their generosity, all of which helped transform this school. I was privileged to work alongside three successive principals to deliver the project. It took a lot of conversations to get this big build done. I got it for my community and I am so incredibly proud to have delivered it for my community.

Conspicuously absent on Friday was the education minister. Instead of attending, he sent a ring-in local councillor as his stand-in to officially open the new building. It is another Labor project and another missing minister. We saw the same thing with Labor's big build at Lindum station. The government could not even manage a proper community opening but somehow managed to organise a plaque, tucked away on platform 1, in the outgoing Queensland Rail CEO's name.

It is becoming clear to my community that the bayside is the forgotten corner of Queensland under this LNP government. Almost two years in, where is the government's infrastructure agenda? Where are their projects? Where is their vision? They are still cutting ribbons on Labor's achievements because they have precious little of their own to show. It is not just infrastructure; their legislative agenda is beginning to run dry. Just look at the parliamentary committees: how many government bills are actually before them at the moment? Not many. Only two years in and the vine is already withering.

The LNP's consistent agenda appears to be cutting the Public Service by stealth, quietly allowing staff contracts to expire and simply not renewing them. That certainly is the staff feedback that I hear from within the department of the minister for small business.

Meanwhile, my bayside community continues to grow. Thousands more residents are expected in the next few years thanks to the LNP Lord Mayor and his yes people yet where is the state government's infrastructure planning? Where are the transport improvements and further expansions to health services to support the growth? There is zero, zilch, nothing. That is what this LNP government will continue to deliver: nothing.

Gold Coast, Road Infrastructure

Hon. JH LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (9.04 pm): I rise tonight to highlight a longstanding road safety concern affecting thousands of Gold Coast motorists and families who travel along Bermuda Street and through the busy Markeri Street intersection. As a local Gold Coast member I know this stretch of road well, where the Surfers Paradise electorate meets the Mermaid Beach electorate, and I understand the frustration of residents who have waited years for improvements as this intersection has become plagued by traffic congestion, lengthy delays and road safety risks. These concerns are certainly not new, because as far back as 2017 the Department of Transport and Main Roads identified that the intersection was operating beyond capacity during peak periods, with right-turn queues extending into through-traffic lanes.

Back in 2017, the department's business case identified an urgent need for improvements, with detailed designs completed in February 2019, including plans to extend the dual right-turn lanes on Bermuda Street, but the former Labor government allowed this much needed upgrade to languish for years. I table a copy of that business case.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Business case Bermuda Street—Markeri Street Intersection Upgrade R10/R001/900' [2054].

I refer to an article of 11 July 2022 from *ABC Gold Coast*, which reported on a serious collision involving a police vehicle and a four-wheel drive at the intersection, with three police officers and another motorist taken to Gold Coast University Hospital, with emergency crews requiring hydraulic rescue equipment to free two officers from the police vehicle. I table a copy of that article.

Tabled paper: Article from *ABC Gold Coast*, dated 11 July 2022, titled 'Police taken to hospital after crash on the Gold Coast' [2055].

I want to acknowledge City of Gold Coast Councillor Dan Doran, who has been a determined advocate for improvements to this intersection and who has recently written to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads highlighting the longstanding concerns of his community and calling for renewed consideration of the proposed upgrade. I table a copy of his letter.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 29 September 2026, from Councillor Dan Doran, City of Gold Coast, to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Hon. Brent Mickelberg, regarding the Bermuda Street–Markeri Street Intersection Upgrade, Clear Island Waters [2056].

The Crisafulli government's investment in 1.3 kilometres of safety fencing along Bermuda Street to address dangerous illegal U-turns is an important initiative demonstrating our commitment to practical road safety improvements. I table a copy of the announcement 'Delivering for Queensland along the Southport-Burleigh Road (Bermuda Street)'.

Tabled paper: Document, dated July 2026, titled 'Southport-Burleigh Road (Bermuda Street)' [2057].

As the Gold Coast continues to grow, our road infrastructure must keep pace with the needs of our communities. I welcome the opportunity to work with my colleague the Hon. Brent Mickelberg, Minister for Transport and Main Roads, and local representatives to examine the existing business case and consider the next steps towards delivering this important intersection upgrade.

Whilst the former Labor government failed to deliver this long-overdue upgrade, the Crisafulli government is getting on with the job of delivering for Queensland. We hear from those opposite that they are not particularly appreciative of the things we do in their schools and the projects we see on the Gold Coast that were ignored under those opposite. We will deliver for them and we will deliver for the rest of Queensland as well—unlike those opposite, who cut us out of the picture for 10 years.

Ipswich West Electorate, Infrastructure

Ms BOURNE (Ipswich West—ALP) (9.07 pm): Communities in Ipswich West are set to grow like never before. Ipswich City Council has recently released its draft Western Growth Corridor Structure Plan, which plans for up to 20,000 new homes across Rosewood, Walloon and Thagoona. These communities are small towns with a population of around 10,000 people, expected to grow to almost 59,000 by 2041. That is an enormous amount of growth, and these people will need more than just homes. They will need roads that can manage the traffic, health services they can rely on in an emergency and schools to teach their children. While council is planning for this growth, all we hear from the Crisafulli government is crickets. There are no new major infrastructure projects committed to support the Western Growth Corridor, whether that be schools, health services or road upgrades. The very communities being asked to shoulder this growth are getting little support.

We are still waiting for the government to commit to even a construction plan for the Amberley Interchange, which carries some 20,000 vehicles a day, despite the federal government putting $200 million on the table. We are still waiting for a fix to the intersection of Haigslea-Amberley Road and Schultzs Road at the Warrego Highway, where there have been 66 crashes in less than a decade. People have been seriously injured there and others have lost their lives. Last weekend, a young couple who use this intersection to take their children to school and are terrified each time they cross asked how many deaths, near misses and accidents have to happen before the government does something. In Walloon, we are still waiting for a plan to fix the roundabout outside Walloon State School. We are already seeing hundreds of homes built around it and, with thousands more planned, the problem is only going to get worse.

These roads are already under pressure and we cannot wait for 10,000, 20,000 or 40,000 people to arrive before we start fixing these problems. The government says it is planning for the future, yet wherever we look all we see are cuts, delays and services that cannot keep up. We see it every day on the news: our hospitals are falling behind, our child safety system is failing kids, our domestic and family violence supports are facing constant cuts, and our roads are getting even more congested. Yes, there is a common thread here: a government that is failing to plan ahead and leaving growing communities to pay the price. We cannot afford another Crisafulli credit rating downgrade that puts these critical projects further out of reach. That is why I am calling on the Crisafulli government to step up and commit to the infrastructure the Western Growth Corridor needs before the families arrive, not years after.

Chadwick, Mr G

Mrs KIRKLAND (Rockhampton—LNP) (9.09 pm): Tonight I rise to recognise and celebrate an extraordinary sporting achievement by a remarkable member of our Central Queensland and Rockhampton community. Just last week Glen Chadwick claimed the world—

Government members interjected.

Mrs KIRKLAND: Members will want to hear this. Last week he claimed the Gravel World Championships title. This is no ordinary accomplishment. Glen has spent a lifetime competing at the highest levels of international cycling. He represented New Zealand at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games in the road race and has raced professionally across Europe and the United States. Despite competing on the world stage, Glen has always had a strong connection to our region. Many locals will remember his incredible feat in 2019 when he climbed Rockhampton's Mount Archer 18 times in a single day, spending more than 10 hours in the saddle and conquering 8,848 metres of elevation—the equivalent of scaling Mount Everest—on a bike.

Glen's success is another chapter in Rockhampton's proud cycling history. We are the home of champions. We have produced Olympic legend Anna Meares OAM; Kerrie Meares, Commonwealth Games gold medallist; David Nicholas OAM, Paralympic gold medallist; and, of course, as you have all said, Kenrick Tucker, two-time Commonwealth Games champion and consecutive Olympian at the Moscow and Los Angeles games. His achievements helped put Rockhampton cycling on the map.

As we look ahead to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Rockhampton's role as a host city presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity. The games will showcase not only our rowing and canoeing facilities and our region but also the people who inspire future generations through all sports.

Athletes like Glen Chadwick demonstrate that world-class sporting success is not confined to capital cities. It can be built in regional Queensland through determination, resilience and community support. His achievement sends a powerful message to young cyclists, young athletes and young people across Central Queensland: with hard work and belief, the path from Rockhampton can lead all the way to the world stage.

As we prepare to welcome the world in 2032, let's all celebrate the champions who have paved the way and continue to inspire us. On behalf of the people of Rockhampton and Central Queensland, I congratulate Glen Chadwick on his world championship victory and thank him for being such an outstanding ambassador for our region.

Mansfield Electorate

Ms McMILLAN (Mansfield—ALP) (9.12 pm): Almost two years ago the Crisafulli LNP government promised Queenslanders a fresh start: better services and stronger communities. Two years on, Mansfield residents are entitled to ask, 'Where are the results?' Budget estimates revealed almost $49 million in taxpayer-funded advertising in one financial year, including more than $5 million promoting 'Delivering for Queensland', $1.45 million advertising housing initiatives and $1.41 million promoting their hospital plan. There is apparently no shortage of money for publicity, but they cannot replace health care with television advertisements, build homes with billboards or fix dangerous intersections with glossy brochures.

Let us look at what the government is delivering in my Mansfield electorate. The Mount Gravatt nurse-led walk-in clinic previously operated until 10 pm. Under this government, it now closes at 6 pm. That is four hours of accessible health care lost every day. More than 1,500 Queenslanders petitioned to have those hours restored, yet families are still waiting.

On road safety, the former Labor government committed $2.5 million towards improvements at the Ham Road and Broadwater Road intersection near Mansfield High, alongside a reported matching council commitment. Parents and students need safe roads, a construction timetable and answers about the promised funding, not another announcement. Mackenzie residents are demanding action on traffic noise along Mount Gravatt-Capalaba Road, while others want stronger measures against dangerous hooning. These are genuine community concerns, not photo opportunities.

On housing, the former Labor government delivered a 32-unit social housing development in my electorate. I ask the housing minister: how many additional social and affordable homes have been completed in Mansfield since October 2024? Zero. If the government can spend $1.45 million advertising housing initiatives, it should tell residents what actually is being built.

Our sporting clubs deserve better, too. Families face reports of football registration fees increasing by up to $60 per player. Clubs like the Mount Gravatt Hawks rely on volunteers and families are already struggling with rising costs. Community sport should bring children together, not become another financial burden.

Mansfield residents deserve a government that listens and delivers. They deserve accessible health care, safe roads, affordable housing and thriving community clubs, not endless announcements while essential needs go unmet. As the member for Mansfield, I will hold this government accountable for its commitments and the services our community has lost and continues to lose.

(Time expired)

Gold Coast Youth Foyer

Mr MOLHOEK (Southport—LNP) (9.16 pm): Back in 2013 a Gold Coast woman, Ruth Knight, handed me a brochure from a conference she had attended in the UK. It was about a concept called 'youth foyers'. It sparked what has now been more than a decade of advocacy to bring youth foyers to Queensland. Vulnerable young people on the Gold Coast and across Queensland need to have more than just a roof over their heads. They need to have a safe place to call home and the opportunity to study, find employment and build a future for themselves.

Recently I had the absolute pleasure of celebrating the fifth birthday of the Gold Coast Youth Foyer with my colleague the member for Bonney and Minister for Housing and Minister for Youth, the Hon. Sam O'Connor. What a wonderful milestone! Two current residents, Eva and Bailey, did a fantastic job as our masters of ceremonies, demonstrating the confidence and leadership that youth foyers help young people develop. We also heard from graduates who spoke passionately about the incredible difference the youth foyer team had made in their lives.

Young people who once felt lost and alone spoke about finding a family, a sense of belonging and the confidence to take on the world. What struck me most was hearing how that sense of family does not end when they leave. The friendships and connections they have made and the support of their youth foyer family continue long after they have moved into independent living.

I have seen that impact firsthand. Recently I joined two remarkable young women—Alkira and Layla—also from the Gold Coast Youth Foyer at the Australian Homelessness Conference in Darwin. Both spoke eloquently at the conference about their experiences of how the youth foyer had changed their lives. The three of us also presented at a preconference round table arranged by Liz Cameron Smith from the Foyer Foundation of Australia. Alkira now works as a youth worker and program manager, working with young people west of Dalby, giving back to her community, while Layla has set her sights on becoming a police officer so that she can do the same. I could not be more proud of them.

To Matt Slavin, Maria Leebeek and the dedicated staff, supporters and community partners of the Gold Coast Youth Foyer, I say congratulations on five wonderful years of work. Foyers offer young people hope through their program of advantage thinking. Young people are encouraged to grow and realise their talents and potential. Foyers are transforming lives: 80 per cent of residents exit into education and employment, 80 per cent exit into safe, stable accommodation, and almost 90 per cent exit believing they can reach their goals. Foyers are effective. More than 40 per cent of people living in foyers have experienced out-of-home care, residential care and foster care.

(Time expired)

Domestic Violence Action Centre

Ms HOWARD (Ipswich—ALP) (9.19 pm): Thirty years ago the Domestic Violence Action Centre, better known as DVAC, began in Ipswich with a small group of nine practitioners. Today it supports greater Ipswich, Toowoomba and regional communities. On Saturday night I was privileged to join DVAC at their 30th anniversary fundraising gala. I was invited to speak on the night about the impact DVAC has had on our community and the support they have provided to thousands of victim-survivors over the last 30 years. As I said in my speech on Saturday night, I wish we did not need to celebrate 30 years of DVAC. I wish that organisations like DVAC had worked themselves out of existence. To mark the 30th anniversary DVAC released their 2025-26 impact report, and the statistics in that report paint a grim picture. Last financial year DVAC supported 9,216 clients. It also supported 9,452 children, who are victim-survivors in their own right. Let me tell you quickly about one of them.

Katie came to DVAC pregnant, having left her partner, who had strangled her and threatened to kill her and her unborn child. She was terrified about how she would stay safe through the pregnancy. She was also afraid Child Safety would not return her three-year-old because of vexatious reports from the man who abused her. He tried to kill her and then he used the system against her. A DVAC specialist helped her get a stronger protection order. Breach charges were laid and she was supported to meet with Child Safety. Her baby stayed in her care. Katie said she felt safe; she said she felt heard. DVAC's promise to every person who walks through its door is simple: we will respect you, we will believe you and we will help you feel comfortable.

What is the Crisafulli LNP government's promise? In the middle of a domestic violence and child safety crisis this government has cut funding to both. Domestic and family violence funding is down almost $40 million this year. The budget papers show $379.2 million allocated last year and only $356.5 million spent. The director-general confirmed at estimates that another $10.56 million was moved out of domestic and family violence services into other parts of the department. What of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce's 355 recommendations? Most were due this year. The independent watchdog has been abolished and the final report on outstanding recommendations was delivered to the minister in June 2026. Since then it has been sitting on a shelf while questions remain about which recommendations have been implemented, which have been shelved and which have simply been ticked off without any oversight or accountability. What are the Premier and Minister Camm trying to hide? Women and children are losing their lives. They deserve better than a government that lacks accountability. In the meantime, thank goodness for DVAC. They keep showing up for as long as it is needed. Congratulations to DVAC on their 30th anniversary. Thank you for the important work you do.

Redcliffe Electorate

Ms DOOLEY (Redcliffe—LNP) (9.22 pm): Phins up! How good are the Dolphins! Congratulations to our mighty Dolphins on making it to the NRL semifinals in just their fourth year in the competition. Congratulations to coach Kristian Woolf, his incredible leadership team and all of the players and fans for cheering on our Dolphins. As a proud foundation member—No. 264—it has been amazing to see our meteoric rise and 2026 success. Congratulations also to the Redcliffe Dolphins who won the 2026 QRL Hostplus Cup premiership—you are amazing too.

Redcliffe is where heaven meets earth, a peninsula with incredible community spirit, local businesses that work hard every day to deliver for our community, residents who want to feel safe while enjoying our local parks, spaces, beaches and visitors who want to enjoy all that Redcliffe has to offer. That is why I am fighting for a dedicated business and community precinct to ensure our residents, business owners and visitors are kept safe. The Crisafulli government has passed new laws to strengthen police powers that were weakened under a decade of Labor decline and to protect Redcliffe businesses from crime, antisocial behaviour and drug related offending. Thank you to everyone who has already signed my petition calling for the Redcliffe CBD to be named as a designated business and community precinct so public safety and order can be restored to that area.

I also want to acknowledge our Moreton police district for their great work tackling dangerous driving and hooning through Taskforce Yankee Tread. September data reports the following through this operation: 81 people have been charged on 265 offences; 18 traffic infringement notices have been issued; seven vehicles have been seized with false, stolen or altered plates; and 12 vehicles have been immobilised for repeat offences. These are tangible enforcement results showing that our local police are targeting organisers and repeat offenders, disrupting dangerous activity.

Thank you to our local police for the tireless work they do and to residents who report dangerous behaviour and provide useful information. I encourage people to continue reporting hooning through our official hooning hotline so our police and council can deploy resources based on the evidence and data they receive. We are delivering a place to call home in Redcliffe. In just two years, the Crisafulli LNP government has delivered over 1,256 homes, compared to 503 under Labor. I will always fight to make Redcliffe a great place to live.

(Time expired)

Domestic and Family Violence, Financial Abuse

Ms BUSH (Cooper—ALP) (9.25 pm): No-one should be forced to remain in a violent relationship because they are so afraid of the financial consequences of separating or they are not resourced to take on a protracted custody battle. For most women experiencing domestic and family violence, the

violence does not end once the relationship does. These perpetrators continue to intimidate and harass their victims. They weaponise systems, use technology to menace and abuse, deliberately withhold finances to increase a woman's vulnerability and harness the Family Court to break women down.

One of those women is Jane, a constituent of mine who was left in financial ruin after the collapse of her husband's business. I have changed Jane's name for her protection. Jane lent around $200,000 to her husband at the time so he could purchase tools for his business. Jane did all the right things. She had a loan agreement drafted and was a secured creditor over the tools. Despite this, when the business went into insolvency her ex-husband simply said he no longer had the tools. The liquidator did not challenge that assertion, the company was wound up, the ATO was paid and Jane did not get one cent returned to her. Jane did nothing wrong. She lent money to a business that was then profitable and she sought the necessary fiduciary protections, but they were not enough. It is clear that the federal and state financial regulatory systems are not doing enough to protect victim-survivors from significant financial abuse following separation.

Over the past 12 months, Jane and I have been working directly with ASIC and we have been making representations to the federal government for reform. I welcome the announcement today from the federal government in response to the parliamentary joint committee inquiry into financial abuse that reform is coming. Legislation will be introduced to ensure that perpetrators of financial abuse who use the tax and social security systems to create debts as a form of coercive control will be held liable. The government have flagged they will stop coerced directorships, including providing protections for victim-survivors pressured into company directorships and associated liabilities. They will also prevent perpetrators of family and domestic violence from receiving the victim's superannuation death benefits.

A consultation paper is now out. I encourage all victim-survivors who have experienced issues relating to the creation of debt, who have been coerced into becoming a director of a company or who have been short-changed through an insolvency process to please engage in this reform process. Today I had the privilege of calling Jane and sharing this news with her. Jane is a woman in her 50s. She is a single parent, she has a disability and she will struggle financially to ever rebuild from this. It is Jane's hope that her experience will protect other women from this abuse. I put on record my congratulations to her for this important first step and thank and congratulate the federal Labor government.

Before I sit down, can I say that the continued yawning in this place when speakers are on their feet talking about issues is absolutely disrespectful.

Government members interjected.

Ms BUSH: And it is the member for Burleigh.

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): I will address this. Please take your seat. I draw the attention of members to standing order 251, which states—

When a member is speaking, no other member may converse or make any noise or disturbance to interrupt that member—

For those people who may be making such a noise, please be aware that you are breaching a standing order, in my opinion, and that will be noted.

Mr VORSTER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I was named by the member for Cooper, who intimated that I, in fact, yawned during her speech. I did not because I was not paying attention to her speech.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is that a point of order? What is the point of order?

Mr VORSTER: It is a point of order because I take personal offence and I ask that she withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member takes personal offence. Member, for the smooth operation of the House—

Ms BUSH: Of course, the irony! Yes, of course I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, just withdraw.

Ms BUSH: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Once again, I bring members' attention to standing order 251 if we have to go to this in the future.

Domestic Violence Prevention, Funding; Wind Farms

Mr LISTER (Southern Downs—LNP) (9.29 pm): I am going to speak about a matter in my electorate, but I cannot do so without responding to what I heard earlier from the member for Ipswich. She certainly does not speak for my electorate and I notice that the minister is in the House. I want to thank Minister Camm for coming up with a million dollars to enable Willow Tree 37 in my electorate to operate four days a week. They had been cut loose by the former Labor government; they were cut loose by the funding arrangements previously when Protea Place decided to pack up and take everything to Toowoomba. The women in my electorate of Southern Downs who are escaping domestic violence and who need case management services and emergency assistance can thank Minister Camm and the Crisafulli government for what they have done to restore that very much needed service in my electorate. I condemn the Labor Party for the politicisation of this particular matter.

I will now turn to the matter of wind farms. Since I last discussed wind farms in the House a few months ago, I have had another community meeting, this time at Cecil Plains, to hear angry complaints from locals about the Cattle Creek wind farm, which is proposed in that neck of the woods to the west of Cecil Plains. They feel that the applications for approval of that development do not necessarily reflect what was discussed with them and do not take into account all of the impacts that they perceive it may have.

I have spoken with the proponent of that particular wind farm, RWE, and I made it clear to them that my position is the same as it has been for years. On every occasion I have identified a proponent who wishes to pursue a wind farm in my electorate I have made clear that they have to get past me first. Unless the community genuinely accepts the proposal I will be telling the Deputy Premier, 'Please don't approve it.' We have seen this already, and I acknowledge my very good honourable friend the member for Mirani, Glen Kelly. He has worked hard to oppose a wind farm which his community opposed. I thank the Crisafulli government and the Deputy Premier, Jarrod Bleijie, for calling that in.

I put on notice all wind farm proponents that the same can happen to them if they do not achieve genuine community acceptance. That means more than just a community benefit agreement that might provide a few benefits for the local area, good though that may be. The people who are directly impacted—the landowners and the people who neighbour those projects—have to be convinced. I have to say that the days of Labor governments in Brisbane rubberstamping wind farm proposals to which my communities object are over; they are gone. We now have full impact assessment. I say to the people in those communities that I have their back. Unless they tell me that they want this wind farm to proceed, they feel they have been treated fairly and they have been compensated for the effects, I will be doing all I can to stop it.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

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, Katter, 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