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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, 28 October 2026

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PT WEIR
SPEAKER

NJ LAURIE
CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENT

AL TAGUADA
ACTING CHIEF REPORTER

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WEDNESDAY, 28 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 Maiwar, Apology

Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (2.01 pm): Mr Speaker, your statement at the beginning of yesterday's sitting addressed unparliamentary language in my contribution to the debate on the Queensland Protection Commission Bill and a subsequent social media post that discussed the use of the language that was deemed unparliamentary. While I do not resile from the sentiment I expressed in the House and may not agree with every aspect of yesterday's statement, I completely accept your authority as Speaker, and that of Deputy Speakers, to determine what language is unparliamentary.

The social media post was only intended to address the broader question of how members' use of language is constrained in this parliament and, as I have since communicated to you, Mr Speaker, and the member for Stretton, who was in the chair at the time, I did not intend to disrespect or reflect on the Speaker's ruling. I offer my unreserved apology for any unintended disrespect towards, or reflection on, the chair.

Comments by Member for Nanango, Withdrawal

Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (2.02 pm): Further to Mr Speaker's ruling yesterday, I withdraw.

Members of Parliament, Conduct

Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (2.02 pm): Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege. I acknowledge your statement made to the House yesterday and again in the media today. The responsibilities of all members are made clear in the standing orders. I wish to assure you and the House that all Labor members understand and take seriously those responsibilities.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Members Seeking the Call

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 29 September the member for Callide wrote to me alleging that the member for Logan had sought the call prior to the member for Nudgee concluding her contribution to the State Development and Public Works Organisation (Critical Minerals) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill on 26 August 2026. I reviewed the microphone logs and video footage from within the chamber. They are inconclusive as to any wrongdoing from the member for Logan. However, I draw members' attention to my ruling of 16 October 2025, at page 3155 of the *Record of Proceedings*, where I outlined the established procedure and rules relating to members seeking the call. There are some matters from that ruling that I would like to highlight.

First, it is at the complete discretion of the chair who has the call. Standing order 247(2) states that in situations where more than one member rises the Speaker shall call upon the member who, in their opinion, has risen first. If there is disagreement to the ruling of the Speaker, in accordance with standing order 247(3) a member may move that any member who has risen may now be heard. Second, while speaking lists are produced by whips, these are a guide only. Members must jump and seek the

call in accordance with standing orders. There will no doubt continue to be times when multiple members will seek the call at the same time. I ask that you respect the decision of whoever is in this chair and act in accordance with the rules of this House.

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Contravention of Parliament's Terms and Conditions of Broadcast

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 31 July 2026 the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training and the Leader of the House jointly wrote to me alleging that the member for Waterford had breached the broadcast terms and conditions during estimates hearings on 22 July 2026. The matter related to the tabling of a screenshot from the official broadcast. The screenshot had been magnified to show the papers on the minister's desk in the House. While I note that some other jurisdictions prohibit the digital altering of broadcast footage, that is not a feature of the Queensland parliament's broadcast terms and conditions.

Further, while footage cannot be used for satire or ridicule, I consider that the footage in this case was tabled during an estimates hearing for a legitimate purpose, related to a question to the minister. Therefore, I do not believe there has been a breach of the broadcast terms and conditions. I note that the terms and conditions were adopted by the House on 12 November 2015. Any amendments to those terms and conditions are a question for the House. 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 breach of the broadcast terms and conditions by the member for Waterford [2153].

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 31 July 2026, the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training and the Leader of the House jointly wrote to me alleging that the member for Waterford had breached the broadcast terms and conditions during estimates hearings on 22 July 2026.

The matter relates to documents tabled by the member for Waterford during the hearing which contained photos from the official broadcast that had been magnified to show papers on the Minister's desk in the House.

The Minister and the LOTH submitted that the use of the screenshots were as a political prop, rather than having any relevance to the estimates hearings. The Minister and LOTH further submitted that digitally enlarging the image resulted in a breach of the broadcast terms and conditions, specifically that broadcast footage:

- must only be used for the purposes of fair and accurate reports of proceedings;
- must not, in any circumstances, be used for satire or ridicule;
- reports of proceedings must provide a balanced presentation of differing views; and
- excerpts of proceedings are to be placed in context so as to avoid any misrepresentation.

They also noted that camera operators are prohibited from taking close-up shots of members papers or screens and therefore the same should go for members.

I sought further information from the member for Waterford about the allegation that has been made against her.

The member submitted that the tabling of the material was directly related to the question she was asking the Minister during estimates. She further submitted that none of the papers in the photos were legible and that the images did not reveal information that was not already on the broadcast itself. The member stated that the Deputy Speaker advised her not to use the material as a prop during the hearing, that she followed this advice and that at no stage did the Deputy Speaker rule that the material had been tabled improperly.

When reviewing this matter, I determined there were two distinct issues. The first was the tabling of the document, and the legitimacy of that tabling. That was a question for the Deputy Speaker at the time of the hearing, the material was tabled, and I will not be considering it further.

The second issue, and main issue for me to consider, was whether the material breached the broadcast terms and conditions. The member has submitted that she enlarged the official broadcast footage, but did not alter the image in any way.

In some other jurisdictions, digitally altering broadcast footage is a breach of the broadcast rules. For example, in the Commonwealth Parliament, 'broadcast material may not be digitally manipulated' and in the House of Commons and House of Lords, the rules specify 'You may not do any of the following: edit, alter, add to, distort, or digitally manipulate the material in any way …'. Such prohibitions are not a feature of Queensland's broadcast terms and conditions.

The Terms and Conditions were adopted by the House on 12 November 2015 and any amendments to those terms and conditions are a question for the House.

I also considered that in different circumstances the enlarged material could be used for ridicule, however in this instance it was tabled as part of estimates hearings and linked directly to a question related to stationary savings which was identified by the Treasurer as part of the Minister's responsibilities.

Therefore, I do not believe there has been a breach of the Broadcast Terms and Conditions and I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Members of Parliament, Conduct



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, in yesterday's statement I said—

Whilst conversations between members are not prohibited, conversations that are audible may disrupt debate, are not in order and may result in warnings.

It appears I need to be more explicit. It does not mean that members cannot speak to each other in the chamber. Conversations are often necessary for proceedings to be organised and business attended to—for example, whips talking to members about speaking lists, or ministers or shadow ministers speaking to the Leader of the House or Manager of Opposition Business about upcoming business. Nor does it matter if two members have quiet conversations about an issue. What it means is that members should not have conversations or cross-chamber banter that disrupt debate.

It is within the purview of the Speaker to remind members of audible conversation—that is, conversations that are interrupting the ability of the Speaker and others to hear the member on their feet—and either ask members to take the conversation outside or warn members if the noise persists. Speaker's warnings about audible conversations do need to be heeded.

PETITIONS

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

Logan and Southern Redlands, Public Transport

Mr de Brenni, from 916 petitioners, requesting the House to call on the Queensland Government to undertake and publicly release a comprehensive review of bus and train services in Logan and Southern Redlands communities [2147].

Boundary Road Level Crossing

Mr Russo, from 580 petitioners, requesting the House to request the Minister for Transport and Main Roads to honor the commitment to the community and proceed with the construction of the Boundary Road Level Crossing overpass without further delay [2148].

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

Coercive Practices

411 petitioners, requesting the House to establish a parliamentary inquiry into coercive and harmful practices within high-control groups [2149].

Hospitals, Parking Fees

21,386 petitioners, requesting the House to review hospital parking policies across Queensland, reverse recent parking fee increases for healthcare staff, and mandate free or heavily subsidised parking for all frontline public hospital employees [2150].

Bus Lanes, Traffic Management

782 petitioners, requesting the House to allow motorcycles to use Queensland Bus Lanes for safer traffic travel [2151].

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPER

The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

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

2152 Response from the Minister for Police and Emergency Services (Hon. Purdie), to an E-Petition (4584-26), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 265 petitioners, requesting the House to direct the Minister for Police to conduct an immediate operational review into POLAIR flight guidelines and noise impacts in residential Cairns

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Housing Supply

Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.08 pm): Our government is driven by the conviction that every Queenslander deserves a place to call home. Across the last decade, housing supply failed to keep pace with population growth. Productivity stalled, construction costs skyrocketed and the dream of home ownership slipped further and further out of reach. Queenslanders elected a government with a plan to build more homes, and this is exactly what we are delivering. To realise that vision, Queensland needs more housing supply. It is why we committed to deliver a million new homes statewide by 2044.

For the first time ever, Queensland has more than 52,500 homes under construction. The September data marks the fourth consecutive record quarter for construction activity in Queensland. We put an end to Best Practice Industry Conditions—the CFMEU tax—which were costing Queenslanders money and homes. The data shows that productivity is being restored, and we are making the most of it. We have rolled out the $2 billion Residential Activation Fund to deliver the essential infrastructure that unlocks housing. The fund has already unlocked over 174,000 homes statewide.

Our Land Activation Program is identifying and releasing underutilised government land for housing. Since February this year nine sites have been released to market, with the potential to fast-track almost 6,000 homes. We have also committed to delivering 53,500 social and community homes by 2044, including 10,000 homes on church and charity land. We are delivering. More than 4,600 social homes have been delivered, with more than 7,000 homes underway. More than 1,500 homes have been delivered on church and charity land. Members should compare both of those metrics to the 10 years before.

When we came to government, Queensland had the lowest rate of home ownership in the country. We want to go from last to first. We axed a tax to make it easier for first home buyers to purchase a new home. It is part of our nation-leading first home buyer package. They are practical measures to help Queenslanders into their first home while encouraging more homes to be built. We will keep working with industry, councils and communities to deliver the homes Queensland needs. We will keep restoring productivity. We will keep unlocking housing supply. After a decade of decline, this will be a decade of delivery in which Queensland will build again.

Housing Supply

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.11 pm): The Crisafulli government is clearing Labor's planning backlog, following a decade of decline where new housing approvals fell by a whopping 36 per cent.

Government members: Shame.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjections; shame on the Labor Party. Since becoming planning minister, I have approved 137 ministerial infrastructure designations. That includes 30 MIDs for social and affordable housing—26 new and four amendments—which is delivering 1,578 more places to call home, with 14 social and affordable MIDs currently under assessment which could deliver another 1,704 homes. Labor only approved 30 social and affordable homes per month under the MID process compared to the 69 approved per month under the LNP. We have more than doubled the social and affordable housing approvals in the MID process in two years.

The reforms to the SFD—the state facilitated development pathway—remove red tape, reduce development costs and boost supply. Since becoming minister, we have issued eight SFD approvals totalling 4,232 homes, 264 of which are affordable homes. In the first declaration through new SFD processes, 176 units in West End are to be added to that list. Despite the Labor Party initiating the SFD process but not approving any, we have done eight since I became the minister.

I have declared four new priority development areas to deliver 43,000 new homes over 25 years: Southern Thornlands, 8,000; Mount Peter, 18,500; North Harbour, 4,700; and Halls Creek, 12,000. We have also declared a PPDA for Port Hinchinbrook, where we are drilling, which will unlock homes.

Mr Crisafulli: Who were the previous planning ministers?

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the Premier. If I had time, Premier, which I do not, I would go through all of the former failed Labor planning ministers, who just sat on their hands. I do not understand it. They did not do anything. It is not rocket science. It is not hard, honourable members: you have to have a pen with blue or black ink and you have to get on with it.

A government member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: No, I do not like red pens. I am getting sidetracked. We have also fixed the Woolloongabba and Northshore Hamilton PDAs by removing red tape. We have updated the Bowen Hills PDA to increase heights up to 50 storeys. EDQ has also had a record year for DA approvals. Over 16,400 new homes were approved last financial year, but two years ago under Labor the number was only 4,500. In addition, 94 per cent of applications were approved in 30 business days. Under Labor, it was 36 per cent. There has also been a 29 per cent increase in development applications being lodged. We are generating more activity.

Through the Land Activation Program, as mentioned by the honourable Premier, nine sites have been released to market, totalling 30 hectares, and are expected to deliver over 5,000 new homes: at Visy, 4,000 homes; in Banyo, 450 homes; and in Varsity Lakes, 270 homes. The opposition leader will love this one: in Mango Hill—he knows that site—this government is unlocking 117 homes. When the member for Murrumba, the local member, was the premier, he did not even unlock it. We are unlocking it for his constituents. We are happy to do it. He can thank me later. In Pimlico, 175—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: He interjected. Was that a thankyou for delivering homes in his electorate? I do not know. I missed it.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection; he is probably opposed to that one, too—delivering homes. Actually, I got a letter yesterday from a Labor Party member opposing more homes. I will get to that in question time.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I draw your attention to your statement to the House in respect of ministerial statements and your request that they be temperate in language and courteous to the House. I submit to you that this ministerial statement is inconsistent with your ruling.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Deputy Premier is taking interjections from those opposite. If they wanted to listen to what the Deputy Premier is saying without additional content, perhaps they would not interject on the ministerial statement.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, I ask you to continue with the issues in your portfolio, please.

Mr BLEIJIE: As I was saying, housing is a very important issue for Queensland and for the government. If the Manager of Opposition Business is worried about the tone of this ministerial statement, he should wait for question time. We have a few things ready for him.

We are delivering 175 homes in Pimlico, 55 homes in Wynnum West, 175 homes in Hervey Bay and six homes in Highgate Hill. For Turbot Street's housing and hotel opportunity, Labor's failed ground lease model would have cost $1.7 billion for just 750 dwellings—that is, $2.4 million per home. That is affordable housing under the former Labor government. Over 174,000 homes have been unlocked under our $2 billion Residential Activation Fund, and there is so much more to come in housing with the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning. We are dredging. We are drilling. We are building, baby.

Home Ownership

Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.16 pm): The great Australian dream of home ownership should not be out of reach for Queenslanders. It is about more than bricks and mortar; it is about security, stability and opportunity. It is about having a place to raise a family, to build a future and to call your own. As Queensland's first Minister for Home Ownership, I am determined to see more Queenslanders realise that dream.

When the Crisafulli government came to office two years ago, Queensland faced a housing crisis. After a decade of Labor government, Queensland had fallen to the bottom of the national home ownership ladder. Too many young Queenslanders were wondering whether they would ever be able to afford a home of their own. We are determined to help change that.

Two years on, we are delivering practical reforms to make home ownership more achievable. By June this year, more than 3,500 Queenslanders had already benefited, saving more than $66 million through the abolition of stamp duty for first home buyers purchasing new homes. That $66 million is staying in the pockets of Queensland's first home buyers. That is why we introduced Boost to Buy—to help eligible Queenslanders overcome one of the biggest barriers to home ownership: saving a deposit. It is why we extended the boosted first home owner grant and removed restrictions preventing first home buyers from renting out a room.

We are pulling every lever available to help Queenslanders get the keys to their own home. At the same time, Jim Chalmers is making it harder. I have repeatedly warned that uncertainty surrounding his policy changes is weighing on the Queensland economy and making it harder for Queenslanders to buy a home. Last month I revealed that Treasury's forecast shows that transfer duty is expected to be $1 billion lower than previously projected. Jim Chalmers needs to understand that uncertainty in Canberra has real consequences for Queensland families who are trying to achieve the dream of home ownership. The latest quarterly results show that Stockland's residential sales fell 29 per cent, and Mirvac has reported a 30 per cent drop in new-home sales. While Chalmers and the federal government are working against home ownership, we are working for it.

We know that helping Queenslanders buy a home is only part of the equation, because we must build more homes, as the Deputy Premier has already touched on. It is why our $2 billion Residential Activation Fund is supporting infrastructure to unlock an additional 174,000 new homes. The latest figures show that there is a record 52,500 homes under construction in Queensland. That is the fourth consecutive record quarter.

The number of homes under construction has increased by more than 35 per cent in two years and is an important indicator of a growing housing pipeline, although we know that there is more work to do to turn that pipeline into completed homes. It is progress, but we know that the job is far from finished. Our ambition is simple: more Queenslanders with the keys to their own homes, more families with the security of a place to call their own and more young Queenslanders with the confidence that the great Australian dream is still within reach.

Skills and Training

Hon. RM BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (2.19 pm): Queensland was built by tradies. Without them, homes do not get built. Labor promised more homes—they just forgot who was going to build them. Perhaps they were too busy backing the CFMEU to back apprentices. The member for Murrumba stood by while union thuggery, violence and corruption took hold on Queensland worksites.

Those opposite ran scare campaigns about TAFE, so they should explain why they did not build a single new greenfield TAFE campus during their decade in office. In fact, the last new greenfield TAFE site commenced in 2010—16 years ago. Is it any wonder we inherited a skills shortage and a housing shortage? The Crisafulli LNP government is fixing Labor's mess. We are backing tradies and getting Queenslanders on the tools.

Last week I joined the Premier and the member for Caloundra as early works started on the new TAFE Centre of Excellence at Caloundra.

Mr Crisafulli: Greenfield.

Ms BATES: Yes, a greenfield site: I take the interjection from the Premier. It will train the tradies the Sunshine Coast needs, close to home and close to a job. This centre of excellence would not have happened without the member for Caloundra and the LNP who fought for her community after years of Labor neglect. Caloundra joins Petrie and Rockhampton, with three new TAFE centres now under construction. This is part of the biggest expansion of TAFE Queensland's physical footprint in decades, and it is moving quickly from commitment to construction. Labor's scare campaign looks pretty silly against the work happening on those sites. This is the difference between promises and delivery.

New facilities are only part of that job. Upon coming to government, we saved 336 positions at TAFE Queensland—positions that were due to end under those opposite. This is despite sustained workforce demand and critical skills gaps across the industries Queensland relies on including construction, engineering, advanced manufacturing and the maritime sector. We are also helping businesses take on apprentices and backing Queenslanders to finish their training. More than 13,300 Queenslanders finished their apprenticeships in 2025-26—a record result delivered by the Crisafulli LNP government.

Through TradieStart and the expanded Small Business Apprenticeship Program we are supporting 4,500 more construction apprenticeships. It is helping small businesses to put on their first apprentice. It is helping cover wages while apprentices are away at training. We are backing the tradies and businesses prepared to give Queenslanders their start.

Yesterday we heard the member for Cairns ignore the facts. He ignored better workforce projections, skyrocketing construction apprenticeship commencements and more than 2,500 free construction enrolments. Why? Because it did not suit Labor's story. We have made a huge dent in Labor's skills shortage, and we will keep going. Queenslanders know who was in charge when this skills shortage took hold. Time's up for the Leader of the Opposition. He does not have the skills and neither does his team. The Crisafulli government backs Queensland tradies.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Just yesterday you made it very clear to the House about the unsuitability of inflammatory language and personal attacks.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you for your point of order. I have stated that I do not want personal attacks during ministerial statements. Obviously you can talk largely about any area in your portfolio. If you can limit personal attacks, that would be helpful.

Ms BATES: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Crisafulli government backs Queensland tradies. We back the businesses that employ them, we back the teachers who train them and we back TAFE. We will continue delivering the TAFE facilities and skilled workforce that Queensland needs.

Housing Supply

Hon. ST O'CONNOR (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (2.24 pm): Two years ago Queenslanders voted for a fresh start. They voted to turn around Labor's housing crisis and get Queensland building again. Two years on we are delivering more homes and we are delivering more support for vulnerable Queenslanders. It is all part of our 20-year housing plan A Place to Call Home.

We inherited a housing system in crisis; a skyrocketing social housing waitlist—up by around 80 per cent over Labor's decade of decline; housing lot approvals were down 29 per cent; BPICs, the CFMEU tax, that meant everything cost more and took longer to build in our state; and an annual average of just 509 social homes added statewide under the former Labor government. Turning that around takes sustained investment and new ways of doing things. That is the work we have been doing, and the results are beginning to show—four consecutive record quarters of housing construction. Our housing construction pipeline has grown by 35.6 per cent over the last two years—the strongest growth of any state in the nation.

Over 4,900 social and community homes have already been delivered towards our 2044 target of 53,500 homes. We have a pipeline of more than 7,000 additional social and affordable homes under contract or construction for delivery across Queensland. Around 70 per cent of that pipeline is being delivered with community housing providers.

While we are building momentum, the Labor opposition continues to make claims that simply do not match with the facts. Labor claims that we have cut homelessness funding, but in fact we increased it by $590 million in our first budget and a further $450 million in this year's budget. If you compare our first two budgets with Labor's last two budgets, homelessness funding has increased by nearly 50 per cent under the Crisafulli LNP government.

Labor claim that we are selling social homes, despite the fact that during their decade in office Labor sold 1,960 social homes—the overwhelming majority of which were sold by the member for Springwood. Since coming to government, the Crisafulli government has sold just 31 social homes, with most of those homes being sold to our own tenants whom we congratulate on achieving the dream of home ownership.

Labor claim that we have cut funding for Indigenous housing, but this year's budget is $83.6 million more for new homes, new infrastructure, new upgrades and maintenance in First Nations communities compared to Labor's last budget. That is an increase of 36 per cent under the Crisafulli LNP government.

Labor claim that we have cut affordable housing. In their entire last term of government, Labor delivered just 100 affordable homes, whereas since the election we have already delivered 1,041 affordable homes across Queensland. That is 10 times more than Labor's entire last term total delivered in just our first two years. We have more than 2,000 additional affordable homes under construction or contracted for delivery across Queensland.

These comparisons matter. Queenslanders deserve an honest account of what is being funded, what is being built and what is being delivered. We are building the pipeline needed to make up for Labor's decade of decline when it comes to housing, but we know that the job is far from finished. Too many Queenslanders are still waiting for a place to call home. Too many families are still under housing pressure. That is why we will keep driving delivery. Two years ago Queenslanders voted for change, and two years on we have turned the tide—but there is more hard work to do, and Queenslanders do not want to go back.

Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism



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) (2.28 pm): The Crisafulli government is focused on delivering real outcomes for Queenslanders. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders, we are delivering tangible outcomes that communities have been asking for. As my colleague the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth shared yesterday, over the final five years of the former Labor government, just 74 new homes were delivered in Indigenous communities. We have already delivered 80 homes in Indigenous communities. That is more than Labor in half the time. We have another 436 homes underway in Indigenous communities. In July we launched the brand new Palm Island Rent-to-Buy Home Ownership Scheme.

We know that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders are building strong futures, businesses and communities. In 2025-26, more than $814 million was spent on Queensland government procurements across 619 Indigenous owned businesses, delivering value for taxpayers as well as economic uplift. October is Indigenous Business Month. We are helping with connections to opportunities and helping turn those opportunities into outcomes across the state. Our remote Indigenous communities are benefiting from $110 million in Closing the Gap priority fund projects that are delivering practical, tangible improvements such as clean drinking water, which was not funded by the former Labor government. Community leaders identified the projects they wanted action on, and we are delivering.

In multiculturalism, we are focused on bringing people together and championing shared values and futures by investing in building stronger, connected communities.

For women, we promised Queensland's first Women's Economic Security Strategy and we delivered it. We believe that women deserve real opportunities, real financial independence and the freedom to make the choices that are right for their lives and families. We have backed more than 2,100 women through our Women's Career Grants, and more than 3,000 women have benefited from financial literacy and business skills through our Empowering Queensland Women grants. That is what delivering for women looks like: practical support, real opportunities and tangible outcomes.

The former Labor government shut maternity services; we are reopening them. They had a backlog of more than 600 rape kits for DNA testing and we cleared them so that women could get justice. We are dealing with the CFMEU, which has not apologised for the abuse of women and threats of rape against family members of workers. We are holding the CFMEU to account. We are listening to Queenslanders. We are backing our communities and we are delivering practical, tangible results.

Redland City Council, Mayoral By-Election



Hon. A LEAHY (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (2.31 pm): I am advised that Mayor Jos Mitchell has today tendered her resignation as mayor of Redland City Council to the chief executive officer of council. I wish her well in her recovery and in her future endeavours.

The resignation of a mayor in the middle of a local government term triggers a process set out in section 164 of the Local Government Act. The section notes that if the office becomes vacant during the beginning or the middle of a local government's term the office must be filled through a by-election. I understand that the Redland City Council will now begin liaising with the Electoral Commission of Queensland to set a by-election date. I advise members that section 24 of the Local Government Electoral Act governs the dates of by-elections. It requires the by-election to be held on a day fixed by the returning officer. This day must be within two months after the vacancy happens, which means by 28 December 2026. I appreciate that the Redlands community will not want to be at the polls around Christmas time, so we will work with the Electoral Commission of Queensland to determine an appropriate date to ensure the Redlands community can have their say.

A key priority throughout this process is to ensure the residents of the Redlands community have a local government that works for them. I would encourage anyone considering standing for election as mayor to understand the commitment to the community that such a role entails. Local government is the level closest to the community. It is therefore important that ratepayers have a council that offers stability for the Redlands community. This ensures that the services Redlanders rely on each day can be delivered efficiently and effectively. Our government, as it has with other council by-elections, stands ready to play a role in these processes to ensure the community of Redlands is able to decide their local government representation.

Small and Family Business

Hon. SJ MINNIKIN (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (2.33 pm): The LNP is the party committed to putting small and family businesses first. We are the party that understands that small and family businesses are indeed the backbone of Queensland communities and our economy. We are the party backing Queensland's small and family businesses. They have shown remarkable resilience over the past six months, facing wave after wave of attacks from the federal Treasurer and the Prime Minister. Federal Labor has failed to control inflation, leading to four interest rate rises this year alone, with another potential hike next week. Federal Labor broke the faith by changing the capital gains tax arrangements and the taxation of discretionary trusts to the detriment of small and family businesses. Federal Labor has followed up with payday super imposts and credit card surcharge slugs that even their own ATO were not prepared to wear.

I am prepared to stand up and call out federal Labor's ideological attacks on Queensland's small and family businesses. The Premier and colleagues on this side are prepared to stand up and call out federal Labor's anti small business policies. What we do not see are the federal Treasurer's mates in this House standing up for small and family businesses in this state. Red tape, according to Business Chamber Queensland's Efficient Regulation Report, doubled under Labor in just two years. I read some commentary this morning regarding the Business Council of Australia's *Regulation rumble* report.

In response to red tape, the Crisafulli government has: refocused the Queensland Small Business Commissioner; re-established the Productivity Commission, which Labor abolished; revoked BPIC, which was hurting subcontractors; delivered a new Queensland Procurement Policy, reducing 700 pages to 50; reformed QBCC reporting requirements; delivered an ICT procurement pilot, reducing three contracts to one; overhauled state facilitated developments, boosting supply; simplified tourism approvals; reduced red tape for food producers; and modernised payment methods for Queensland hotels and clubs. And the Deputy Premier is delivering WorkCover reforms to save small and family businesses $1.46 billion a year by 2035.

There is great news for tradies in the state. For the first time, mobile businesses will be eligible for grants to protect work vehicles, trailers, tools and equipment from theft under our landmark Secure Communities Partnership Program. It is part of the Crisafulli government's commitment to restore safety where you live following a decade of decline under the former Labor government. For tradies, food vendors and other on-the-go businesses, a vehicle, trailer or mobile set-up is the hub of their business. When you hear from tradies, as I did recently on the Gold Coast, like Steve and Regan, who recently had his ute and tools stolen, you understand just how important this is.

We are also supporting existing businesses, including lessees and landowners of industrial estates, shopping strips and local business precincts that support small and family businesses. The results speak for themselves, with the most recent Pulse survey of business conditions June report showing Queensland continuing to track above the national average when it comes to small and family business confidence. As we approach the next two years, we will continue to do what we say we will do and the pace of delivery will continue. We are backing Queensland's small and family businesses.

Health System

Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (2.37 pm): Yesterday I updated the House on the unprecedented demand currently being experienced in our health system, including the highest number of ambulance triple 0 calls in one day—5,000 on Monday—and the highest number of ED presentations, more than 211,000 in August. Those presentations are getting more complex and acute, with more than 46,000 triaged as category 1 or 2. All the while, Queensland is ground zero for stranded Australians taking up much needed acute hospital beds waiting for appropriate Commonwealth government support—at the last census, 1,437 people, or 11.4 per cent of all available beds here in Queensland.

There is more work to be done to reverse Labor's decade of decline, but we are getting on with the job of building more hospital beds under our Hospital Rescue Plan. The Crisafulli government is backing our front line. We are investing $1.6 billion in the Queensland Ambulance Service this year. That means an additional 225 paramedics and 200 new and replacement ambulance vehicles—a sharp contrast to the flatlined funding under Labor. We are also responding right now to meet the unprecedented demand we are experiencing this week with the deployment of a surge workforce of more than 150 additional QAS staff across the south-east.

Queensland Health is well equipped to tackle the challenges of a large and growing public health system thanks to the investments we are making and will continue to make. Just this morning there was a system disruption to the integrated electronic Medical Record system that affected some staff across the state. With immediate action taken across the system, I am advised the ieMR disruption lasted for about two hours, with all clinical services remaining open, all users back online and no harm or delays to patient care having been reported. The Open Hospitals website, which we established and got up to speed at a time when those opposite said it could not be done, was also affected during this period but has since been fixed. I am advised the problem arose from a vendor firewall problem, but this is being investigated.

Despite the disruption, I am pleased to advise that the rollout of the ieMR at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital is progressing well. We all remember the Leader of the Opposition prohibiting upgrades to its IT systems during sitting weeks because he did not want bad news. Well, surgical, maternity and cardiology went live over the last two weeks, with the rollout continuing across the emergency department, medical services and oncology. Patients tell me that they are shocked to learn that Queensland's largest hospital has been paper based all this time—yet another reminder of the opposition's failings.

The facts are simple. Queensland Health does face growing demand, but Labor failed to build the hospital beds and hire the workers to meet those challenges. The Crisafulli government is healing Labor's health crisis and delivering easier access to Queenslanders no matter where they live.

Commission of Inquiry into the Child Safety System

Hon. AJ STOKER (Oodgeroo—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (2.40 pm): Today, the Crisafulli government has provided a three-month update on its delivery of the implementation of the recommendations of the Queensland Commission of Inquiry into the Child Safety System. Commissioner Anastassiou recommended that several recommendations be implemented within three months of the delivery of the commission of inquiry as part of the blueprint to take the system from pressure to purpose. This government has accepted or accepted in principle 48 of the commissioner's 52 recommendations, backing it with a $200 million commitment.

Recommendation 6 was that all placement and casework decisions must be taken in the best interests of the child. Mr Speaker, you might think that is obvious but, as the commission of inquiry demonstrated, under a decade of those opposite it simply was not happening. Describing the placement instability, escalation and disengagement that characterised the system under Labor, the commissioner said at page 96 of Companion report 1 that it reflects—

> ... patterned responses in a system operating under sustained pressure, where early instability is not addressed, where placements are mismatched or unsupported, and where decision-making becomes dominated by crisis management.

The steps ordered for recommendation 6 have occurred. We have strengthened decision-making practices and service delivery processes, uplifted workforce capability and implemented new oversight mechanisms. We have done that by updating the care arrangements practice kit, expanding the youth co-responder pilot and improving the Unify system with the establishment of the Child Safety Service Centre.

In recommendation 34, the commissioner prescribed a pre-qualification framework for resi care providers. This is designed to address a practice that blew out under Labor of bringing in providers that were ad hoc, unlicensed and expensive and without proper oversight. This recommendation has been implemented. It is designed to take residential placement contracting out of crisis mode and into a careful, considered and methodical mode.

Recommendation 41 said that within three months of the commission of inquiry the department should expand the terms of reference for reviews of incidents causing serious injury or death to members of the community where that incident materially involved a child in care. The department has

implemented this by developing a new case practice review model, enhancing community safety by ensuring these reviews inform a child's case planning, and providing support for the department to continually improve its processes.

Recommendations 47 and 51 sought ministerial level accountability for the broad child protection system, with an independent implementation and reform assurance function. This too has been delivered. Recommendation 52 was for the report to be responded to within two months, which has occurred and implementation is now underway.

Recommendation 42 relates to the use of hotels and motels as emergency accommodation. It provides that there must be very limited circumstances in which this is used. In response, the department has: established a new authorisation framework to strengthen senior level oversight and accountability; clarified the criteria for use so that it is last resort, short-term and in the most exceptional circumstances only; and improved early screening so the needs of children are more often met before crisis point. Although the technical tasks that the commissioner set for the implementation of recommendation 42 are complete, my concern for this matter runs so deep that I have actually decided not to close off the recommendation but rather to keep it open so that the effectiveness of these changes in practice can be observed and closely monitored. Speaker, I hope you see that as a reflection of my determination to get this right.

We are pressing on to implement the next tranche of recommendations in the timeline the commissioner set. Achieving the deep change that is required to take the system from pressure to purpose will take ongoing effort to ensure the culture of every person who makes decisions in this space is oriented to that most important of objectives: the best interests of our most vulnerable children.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Cost of Living; Labor Party, Commitments

Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.45 pm): I give notice that I will move—

That this House notes:

1. that rents have increased by 8.7 per cent in Cairns, 6.1 per cent in Brisbane and it is now more expensive to rent on the Gold Coast than in Sydney;
2. reports that the rapid expansion of AI data centres would put household energy bills up by $370 a year;
3. an extra $1 billion will be spent on the LNP's credit rating downgrade interest receipt instead of infrastructure and frontline services;
4. fuel prices have increased by more than five cents a litre 2,100 times in one month;
5. only Labor is standing up for workers' rights;
6. Labor has committed to make rego free for construction trade apprentices and their supervisors to build an army of tradies;
7. Labor has committed to modernise the social housing waitlist threshold;
8. Labor has committed to extending the build-to-rent tax cut indefinitely where affordable homes are included;
9. Labor has committed to pay interest on rental bonds and introduce a portable rental bond scheme;
10. Labor has committed to doubling funding for First Nations and multicultural community events;
11. Labor has committed to $10 million to support the community services sector in addressing food insecurity; and
12. Labor has committed to establishing an independent Queensland community safety statistics bureau.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time today will conclude at 3.47 pm.

Queensland Health, Contracts

Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.47 pm): My question is to the Minister for Health. I table a copy of the Queensland Health contract disclosure log. Can the minister advise what the $200,000 consultancy contract between North Co Pty Ltd and the office of his director-general was for?

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'ODG Contract Disclosure 2025-26' [2154].

Mr NICHOLLS: Firstly, I would like to see the piece of paper because we know that it takes some time to check and validate the claims made. Secondly, I would invite the Leader of the Opposition, if he has any concerns in relation to contracts, to have regard to his own record in respect of that particular issue. We know the profligacy of those opposite when it came to contracts—whether it was contracts to deliver bail house services, and we remember the complete disaster that was; whether it was the contract to KPMG to look at the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme, a contract where they spent $700,000, if memory serves me and I stand to be corrected; whether it was the contract—

Mr Crisafulli: Barbagallo.

Mr NICHOLLS: Yes, the contract with the former premier's chief of staff in relation to the delivery of services relating to cruise ships—

Mr Crisafulli: The fat dog app.

Mr NICHOLLS: Yes, there was the contract for the fat dog app as well. I take that interjection from the Premier as well.

Mr Crisafulli: Anacta.

Mr NICHOLLS: Yes, indeed; remember Anacta? In fact, that contract was so lucrative they could afford to take up two desks in 1 William Street, if memory serves me correctly. Good old Evan; he used to be here but he did not have the guts—he did not have the intestinal fortitude to come back again.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Withdraw that.

Mr NICHOLLS: I withdraw and replace that word. Good old Evan did not have the intestinal fortitude to come back after 2012, but he went on to write his own cheque—or to have it written for him by the Palaszczuk and Miles Labor governments for a period of 10 years.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The minister was provided with a document. I am not sure if he has looked at it. The question was in relation to the contract with North Co Pty Ltd.

Mr SPEAKER: Did you get a copy of that, Minister?

Mr NICHOLLS: I did receive a copy of that. I had a look at it and, unlike those opposite, I do not need assistance in reading it. I can read the printed word in 10 Pitch. It does not have to be in crayon or on a chalkboard. I am able to—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Crisafulli: Wellcamp.

Mr NICHOLLS: There is one contract I did forget—how could I, Premier; thank you for the interjection—the Wellcamp contract. We remember that one, that genius of construction. I remember the Wellcamp contract.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. Can the minister respond to the question?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I ask you to come back to the question, please. You have 57 seconds remaining.

Mr NICHOLLS: I remember the Wellcamp contract and the tens of millions of dollars—a contract entered into without a competitive tender, a contract entered into for a facility which, if memory serves me correctly, was never used. I can say with respect to Wellcamp that the Crisafulli government is again saving the day. We are using it as we power on with the development of the new Toowoomba Hospital. It is finally being used by the Crisafulli government as we deliver our Hospital Rescue Plan, and the Treasurer is very grateful for that.

I understand that this is a matter that exercises the Leader of the Opposition. The contract was in relation, as I read it, to a high-performance work program. I understand that the director-general, with his executive leadership team, undertook a training and upskilling program and this funding was part of that. It included a full day—

(Time expired)

Queensland Health

Mr MILES: I table a leaked Queensland Health ELT meeting template. Can the minister confirm that—

Mr SPEAKER: Who are you directing this question to? Could you start again, please?

Mr MILES: My question is to the Minister for Health. I table a leaked Queensland Health ELT meeting template.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Executive Leadership Team: Boldly Changing the Narrative' [2155].

Can the minister confirm that the $200,000 high-performance work program he has just outlined to the House resulted in the new slogan: boldly changing the narrative?

Mr NICHOLLS: It is better than having an entire ministerial office sitting at a keyboard tapping 'yes' on a survey they set up themselves to change the name of the Lady Cilento hospital to the Queensland Children's Hospital. That was the sum total of the member for Murrumba's contribution to Queensland Health for the dastardly time he was there—other than also stopping the upgrade of the ieMR and IT systems during parliamentary sitting weeks, a story that was pushed to him by, I think, Channel 9 at the time via leaked emails. The head of corporate services was saying, 'The minister doesn't want any bad news in sitting weeks, so no more IT upgrades.' No wonder there were no upgrades to IT for the 10 years they were in government. It was all bad news under them.

As for changing the narrative, there is only one person who wants to change the narrative in this place, and that is the member for Murrumba. He is on borrowed time and they all know it. They are all sitting there. What we know from the reports in the media and the *Australian* only two weeks ago is that, when it comes to boldness, those over there are running like chickens. That is all there is to it. They have no courage, no intestinal fortitude. The report was they do not—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you ran out of time last time when you started to address the question. I would encourage you not to run out of time again. Could you address the question?

Mr NICHOLLS: At no stage have those opposite shown any of the gumption that is needed to do what they all know needs to be done, because time is up. The Leader of the Opposition did not accept the decision in October 2024 and he does not accept it now. According to his little spray in the *Courier-Mail*, he still does not accept it and wants to go on to 2028. As the Deputy Premier said, let's see what happens in 2028. He has no new plan. He only has a scare campaign. He is going down the same failed pathway he went down before.

I encourage the leadership of Queensland Health to develop their skills. Unlike those opposite, who take every opportunity to knock, to criticise and to talk down the efforts of everyone, I encourage and want to see the next generation of leaders in Queensland Health. We want to support them and give them the services they need.

Housing

Mr LEE: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering a place to call home for more Queenslanders, and why is it important to call 'time's up' on approaches that failed from the decade of decline?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the honourable member for the question. Whilst he obviously refers to the state, I have to acknowledge the work that is happening in Hervey Bay, particularly around housing and home ownership. I know that the Deputy Premier has made many visits, but I make the observation that 16,800 homes have been unlocked through RAF alone for the Fraser Coast. The Land Activation Program was announced the other day with 175 homes on unused TAFE land. The honourable member talks about comparing and contrasting that with what went by, and housing is front and centre of that. I saw the pressures Queenslanders were under. Those opposite called the Housing Summit nearly four years ago to the day. All that resulted in was a deal that was put in the bank from a mate and it never could come to fruition.

I want to make an observation about what we heard before the election and what we have heard afterwards. In that, Queenslanders can see the priorities. I want to reflect that the Leader of the Opposition led what I would have thought would be the most undermining scare campaign, the most desperate election campaign we have seen, and Queenslanders saw through it. I want to go through a few facts and I want to start with health workers. Honourable members heard what they said: there are over 10,000 extra. I want to talk about hospital infrastructure and services. We have those hospitals going; extra beds are on the way. I want to talk about the homelessness funding they spoke about. Think about the way the housing minister is moving the needle.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Waterford, I will not warn you again.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Want to hear about 50-cent fares? There was not a cent put in by those opposite but now it is locked in. I want to talk about what they said about public servants. Do honourable members remember that? As of today, the last budget showed 8,693 extra public servants in this state; 99.6 per cent are on the front line. I want to hear about the toll on the Story Bridge. There was one scare campaign that the Leader of the Opposition knew to be untrue and has proven to be untrue—and he is doing it again—and that is regarding termination of pregnancy. I have to say to the Leader of the Opposition that it takes a very low person to do that on an issue like this. I am going to say to the—

Mr MILES: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask that he withdraw.

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

Mr CRISAFULLI: I withdraw. As we reach the halfway point in the term and I get to unpack my vision for the state and the way we are dealing with the crises and the way that we want to bring on infrastructure, the Leader of the Opposition says that his only trick for the next election is to run a scare campaign that he knows is wrong and will fail badly.

Mr MILES: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Premier is referencing a report that has since been corrected. I take personal offence and I ask that he withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I withdraw. I see what the Leader of the Opposition says online. I have read it and it is grubby and it is wrong, and the Leader of the Opposition knows it is wrong. I say to the Leader of the Opposition: if you have any ounce of decency about you, admit that what you did two years ago was a scare campaign. It did not work. We have not changed it. We will not change it. You are out of your depth and it is time to go.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, there was an unparliamentary term used.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you.

Queensland Health

Mr BAILEY: My question is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister confirm if his department adopted the slogan 'boldly changing the narrative' before or after hospital and health services had their initial growth funding offers rescinded?

Mr NICHOLLS: Welcome, member for Miller, back to the chamber! Yesterday we were hoping that the member for Greenslopes might be stepping up and if he could not do it maybe the member for South Brisbane would be stepping up, but it seems that you found your way back and we welcome you back to the chamber to ask that question, so I thank the member for his question. Changing the narrative: I know that is the focus of the questions that have been raised here and I am glad to be asked by the member for Miller, because I happen to have to hand here a headline from Stephanie Bennett, the state political reporter at the *Courier-Mail* at the time, dated 13 February 2024—'Changing the narrative: hospital performance data hidden'.

Mr SPEAKER: We are not—

Mr NICHOLLS: I table that document for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail* online, dated 13 February 2024, titled 'Changing the narrative: Hospital performance data hidden' [2156].

Who was the author of changing the narrative in order for historical data to be hidden? Can any of my colleagues guess? Could anyone guess—changing the narrative? Well—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister.

Mr NICHOLLS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Well, it is no guess. Look, it was not the member for Miller, okay? We know that the member for Miller just cuts things out of media reports because they were not the topic of the day, even though it was a billion-dollar overspend. That is the member for Miller. So, no, it was someone much bolder than that—someone much bolder at the time who wanted

to change the narrative around hospital data and remove historical comparisons when establishing a new performance website. Well, I must say that it will not surprise too many people, but the story gives it away: there is a photograph of former health minister Shannon Fentiman.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Waterford, you are warned. Minister, you have half a minute—30 seconds—to come back to the question.

Mr NICHOLLS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I do want to, from the bottom of my heart, thank the member for Miller for the question. In all the machinations of Labor Party factions and manoeuvring, I cannot—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In the time left, could the minister answer the question?

Mr SPEAKER: Relevance?

Mr de BRENNI: Yes, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have 14 seconds left to respond to the question.

Mr NICHOLLS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. When it comes to changing the narrative, it is all on those over there who wanted to change documents to be more transparent by removing transparency. What a failed and hopeless mob they are.

Housing Supply

Mrs YOUNG: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. How is the Crisafulli LNP government bolstering new housing builds across Queensland and why is it important to call 'time's up' on approaches that failed from the decade of decline?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the member for Redlands for the question. As my assistant minister, she is delivering housing across the state with the Crisafulli government, including the Southern Thornlands PDA, which sat there for many years for the Labor Party to declare. We declared it and it is going to deliver thousands and thousands of homes in that beautiful part of Queensland. The member asked about the alternatives and what holds up housing, and what did that in the decade of decline under the Labor Party was leadership. Because those opposite had no leadership, that is why houses were not delivered and that is why blocks of land were not released. They had no leadership and they could not make decisions, and that is the crux of what we inherited, and we inherited a big housing crisis from the former Labor government.

The responsibility of the housing crisis in the Labor Party rested with the leadership team at the time, whom unfortunately is the same leadership team it has in opposition. That is why when those opposite run around the state with their little red document—the housing platform and program they have now—it is the same rubbish we saw during the decade of decline. The leader is under so much pressure from his deputy leader, the member for Woodridge, and yesterday we saw his self-help book.

Those opposite went to the LGAQ conference and held their shadow cabinet, and because there is so much chaos in the shadow cabinet he had to have this self-help book, which he said yesterday to the Premier and me, 'It was a gift from a friend.' Well, I would ask the friend who gave him the self-help book for leadership to stand up. Some members said to me yesterday, 'Surely he wasn't reading that yellow book about leadership ambitions on the plane in public.' Well, that is absolutely true, and we have photographic evidence of that. Not only—and I refer to page 8 of the actual book and table a photo—did the Deputy Leader of the Opposition read the book in public; he underlined some paragraphs, of which I have a photograph because we zoomed in on the particular paragraphs. I table a copy of that for the record of the House.

Tabled paper: Photograph depicting page of a book [2157].

This is the underlined passage in the leadership book which talks about people. It says here, underlined by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition—

However, all power is based on perception. If you think you've got it, then you've got it. If you think you don't have it, even if you have it, then you don't have it.

This is the best—

In short, you have more power if you believe you have the power.

That is what the Deputy Leader of the Opposition underlined. We believe him. Who in the Labor Party—which friend—gave him this self-help book? It goes on further, and this is the advice I want to give. It says—

Be patient. Remain calm but keep alert for the favourable moment to act. As a general rule, patience pays.

I wonder if he is just waiting in the wings to launch war on the opposition leader because we know and he knows—the Deputy Leader of the Opposition knows—time's up for the member for Murrumba. Time's up for the Leader of the Opposition.

(Time expired)

Queensland Health

Ms ENOCH: My question is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister advise why Queensland Government Consulting Services was not used to deliver his department's new slogan?

Mr NICHOLLS: Talk about an ability to pivot. I think to change the question would be a better thing than being able to change the narrative. We have identified that the 'changing the narrative' idea is certainly something those opposite embraced when it came to hospital data. When it came to hospital data, that is what they wanted to do. They wanted to change the narrative around hospital data and remove historical comparison when establishing a new performance website. That is what those opposite sought to do—to remove historical data when they established the website.

Not only did they seek to remove historical data; they actually just stopped reporting it on a monthly basis. They only put it in on a quarterly basis. They wanted to round it out and roll it up because they were afraid of the data. We know that is the case because the numbers went south each and every year under those opposite. It always got worse. Hospital ramping went up to 45.5 per cent, if memory serves me correctly. Your numbers, which you reported, were the worst quarterly numbers ever, in Queensland's history. The elective surgery numbers blew out to 66,600. We have reduced that by 10 per cent through our Surgery Connect fund, and we are reducing the ramping rate. There is more to do, and we acknowledge that every day.

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

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you heard the question. I ask you to come back to the question. You have just over one minute left.

Mr NICHOLLS: When it comes to spending money on consultants, I have already highlighted the expenditure that was wasted by those opposite. In fact, in Queensland Health this year we have reduced consultancy spending across the board. Queensland Health was the first Queensland government agency to engage Queensland Government Consulting Services. We used them to deliver and to validate on our elective surgery waitlist program, including making sure we were getting value for money out of our partnerships with the private sector as we went about reducing the elective surgery waitlist. That is what we used them for. We were the first to use them and we signed up to them. When it comes to visiting health services for Queenslanders the Crisafulli government is delivering, whether it is our Hospital Rescue Plan, 10,000 extra workers or fixing elective surgery.

Productivity

Mr JAMES: 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 increasing productivity on worksites across Queensland, and why is it important to call 'time's up' on approaches that failed from the decade of decline?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the member for Mulgrave for that great question. Productivity is returning. Look at the number of cranes on the skyline across the state at the moment. Cranes are operating on Saturdays. Cranes are operating when there is more than a three-millimetre puddle. We have workers back onsite. Not only that, but the best thing is that we have safe worksites, where people are not abused by the CFMEU, which was protected by the former Labor government in the decade of decline, as the member for Mulgrave said.

Again, it gets down to leadership. I see in the paper today that the member for Murrumba, the opposition leader, in response to speculation about his colleagues speaking out against him—which is quite unheard of—says simply, 'I think you've got to remind yourself that this kind of speculation is not unusual for Oppositions, it's pretty much par for the course.' I do not think so. I have been here 18 years and I cannot remember a shadow cabinet deliberately leaking against the opposition leader like they

have, but he is just trying to convince his own colleagues it just happens. Does he go into his caucus room and say, 'I encourage you to leak against me. It's just par for the course'? Is it in the policy platform of the Labor Party? I do not know; we have not seen the policy platform of the Labor Party, so who knows? Here is what we do know: the opposition leader speaks with forked tongue. The hypocrisy of the opposition leader—

Mr MILES: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask that he withdraw.

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

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. We put a planning framework in place to give communities a say on renewable energy projects. One that has hit the media recently is a project approved in 2020 and already built: the Wambo Wind Farm. We have been writing to local members in the community. I did see the opposition leader on the news the other night and, believe it or not, he said that he would encourage the government to take the concerns of the farmers into account. I had to do some research after I saw the news because I thought, 'Those wind farms do not look like they have been built in the last two years.' Then I found a press release. He has put his head down; he already knows where I am going. The press release states, 'Miles government to deliver major wind farm project in the south west'. I table a photo of Mick de Brenni turning the sod on the wind farm—the very project the Labor Party approved.

Tabled paper: Photograph depicting a project [2158].

He is trying to con the farmers that it is something to do with the LNP government. That is why I say that the opposition leader cannot be trusted. He cannot be trusted.

Mr MILES: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask that he withdraw.

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

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. Farmers take offence at the Labor Party. Farmers take offence at the deliberate mistruths, the deliberate scare campaigns—

Mr MILES: Mr Speaker, I take personal offence and I ask that he withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I said 'the Labor Party'; I never referenced the member.

Mr SPEAKER: Yes, I did not hear the member's name. Minister, you have four seconds left.

Mr BLEIJIE: Here is what I will say to the member for Murrumba: time's up. I know it. Your colleagues know it. They want you gone.

(Time expired)

Ambulance Service

Ms MULLEN: My question is to the Minister for Health. When the minister was briefed on the 5,000 calls made to triple 0 on Monday, did he ask how many of those were from Queenslanders—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Stop. We will hear questions in silence. I could not hear the question. I doubt that the minister did. Could you start again, please?

Ms MULLEN: My question is to the Minister for Health. When the minister was briefed on the 5,000 calls made to triple 0 on Monday, did he ask how many of those were from Queenslanders calling back for a second, third or fourth time to check if an ambulance was coming?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for Jordan for her question. It is the first sensible question I have received from the opposition in a long time. It is a fair question—no doubt about it—because repeat calls are a significant burden on the system. The QAS attempts to establish those who call a second and a third time. They are, understandably, people who are worried or concerned about a call they have made previously. Sometimes they can be call-backs saying that the condition has got worse and upgrading the system. All of those calls are triaged. They go through the call takers who are at Kedron, Rockhampton, the northern Gold Coast and Cairns. They then go through the clinical hub, which is an investment we have made that has doubled the size of the clinical hub at Kedron, to see—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: He just has no grace whatsoever, has he?

Mr SPEAKER: The minister is being directly responsive to the question. The member for Jordan asked the question. I am sure she wants to hear the answer.

Mr NICHOLLS: You treat the question responsibly, you acknowledge the question, you provide the information—

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: And there you have it: the member for Miller.

The QAS do identify the number of call-backs. Every call the QAS receives is important. I want to thank the QAS and the call takers. I am sure many members in this House have had the opportunity to sit and listen to the calls that they take from people in distress. In fact, in Cairns I was there while a first-year trainee paramedic was giving instructions to someone regarding resuscitation because someone had just had a heart attack right in front of them. The ambulance was on its way, and the first-year trainee was keeping that person alive over the phone. It was a fantastic effort to save the life of someone who had been fishing.

I get the total number of calls made. That was the number I updated the House on yesterday, which was a record number of calls. It is a record number of calls in total. Every day there are call-backs from people, and every day the hub calls back to check on people so they are appropriately triaged. Sometimes their triage goes up—they become more urgent—and sometimes it goes down. It depends on the clinical assessment. It is really important that we rely on the trained professionals in the hub—the doctors, the advanced care paramedics, the nurses and the physiotherapists—to make that call. I say to everyone: call triple 0. Yes, the system is under pressure. Yes, your call will be answered. You will get a call back, and there are often repeat call-backs to address those issues.

Home Ownership

Mr KRAUSE: My question is to the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership. How is the Crisafulli LNP government encouraging greater home ownership across Queensland, and why is it important to call 'time's up' on approaches that have failed from a decade of decline?

Mr JANETZKI: I thank the honourable member for the question. It is an important question as we work to take home ownership rates from the bottom of the ladder in Australia to the very top. I can report to the member for Scenic Rim that of the 3½ thousand people who have benefited from us abolishing stamp duty for first home buyers purchasing a new home, there are 99 in the Scenic Rim. There are 99 families who have benefited. That is 99 not out, can I say, member for Scenic Rim; I know you love your cricket. There is a lot more to come as we help a lot more members of the community in the Scenic Rim live out their dream of home ownership.

This afternoon we have heard of the other things that we have been doing. Whether it be abolishing taxes, implementing the rent out a room scheme, fully funding the first home owner grants, investing more into the Residential Activation Fund, investing $5.7 billion into more than 7,000 community and social homes or investing $83 million into rental assistance for vulnerable households, we are pulling every lever to improve home ownership.

The member for Scenic Rim asked me are there any alternative approaches where time is up. Let me say that there are a number of different approaches where time's up. The first one for me is time's up on those opposite's failure—whether it be the 29 or 36 per cent home and lot approval decreases, whether it be a $2 billion fund that did not deliver one single home or whether, for instance, it be a renters tax that the member for Woodridge was so keen on and he wants to bring back. We know he wants to bring it back. We also know that the time is up on scare campaigns, as the Premier has already said. We saw reported in the *Courier-Mail* this morning that the Leader of the Opposition was unrepentant for the scare campaign—the disgusting and dishonest scare campaign—that they launched during the last election campaign.

Mr MILES: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Treasurer is aware I have clarified this matter. I take personal offence and I ask that he withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence.

Mr JANETZKI: I withdraw. I refer to the Labor Party's disgusting campaign that they launched and the Leader of the Opposition led. That is the truth. Time's up for scare campaigns. When it comes to home ownership, time's up for a lack of productivity. Time's up for a lack of productivity in Queensland. When we brought the Productivity Commission bill into this House those opposite voted against productivity. In my mind, a vote against productivity given the home ownership challenge that

we face is a vote for the CFMEU. That is what it is. They vote against productivity because deep down it is a vote for the CFMEU. Time's up for their scare campaigns, time's up for their policy vacuum and their backing in the CFMEU and time's up for the Leader of the Opposition.

(Time expired)

Ambulance Service

Mr SMITH: My question is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister please advise if it is the government's position that office chairs are suitable stretchers for people who have called an ambulance?

Mr NICHOLLS: One would have hoped that there would have been some degree of maturity on the other side in relation to this. It is the same juvenile, university-style political sort of question that we have become so used to. We had one decent question from the member for Jordan and here we are back to an incomprehensible question from the member for Bundaberg. The member for Bundaberg, as I am constantly reminded, presided over—as I pull out my trusty Labor's hospital failures folder—the Bundaberg Hospital. What were the failures there that the member for Bundaberg failed to do anything about? They were a billion dollar cost blowout and a delay of more than 18 months. He sanctioned it—if he did not sanction it he at least knew about it—to operate over two sites, one of which would flood, at a cost of an additional $200 million per year.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Stop the quarrelling across the chamber.

Mr NICHOLLS: They did not adequately consider maintenance costs, failed to consider flooding risks at the old site, had no plan for roads, potable water, sewerage, stormwater, electrical supply—who would have thought a hospital would need an electrical supply?—and telecommunications.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was about ambulance stretchers.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you heard the question.

Mr NICHOLLS: That is the record of the member for Bundaberg. Not once did he stand up and apologise to the people of Bundaberg for that failure—a failure that we are fixing up. We have entered into a contract with CPB, we are delivering more beds, we are putting it all on one site and we are fully funding it. That is what we are delivering for the people of Bundaberg. I will be very happy to go up there when we see even more activity and when the piling rigs which are currently onsite are replaced by construction rigs.

I updated the House earlier about the extra investment we are making into the Queensland Ambulance Service after those opposite left it bereft of funding: more ambulances, more staff, a surge capacity that we have been able to fulfil in the last week as demand has been unprecedented. It was a puerile question with no care for people's health. Of course ambulances are fitted with stretchers, other than the LandCruisers that go on four-wheel drive expeditions, which have been ambulances under those opposite and are still ambulances under this government because they deliver services in rural, regional and remote communities.

Housing Supply

Mr MOLHOEK: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering more housing options for Queenslanders, and why is it important to call 'time's up' on approaches that failed from the decade of decline?

Mr O'CONNOR: I thank the member for Southport—my neighbouring MP—for the question. I get grilled on housing more by the member for Southport than any other member in this place, including the opposition, because of his passionate advocacy to see more Queenslanders have a place to call home. I am very pleased to update the member about the many housing options that the Crisafulli government is delivering right across Queensland and, in particular, in our city, the Gold Coast. The Residential Activation Fund in particular has unlocked 174,000 lots across our state, including 18,900 on the Gold Coast, through a $146 million investment towards sewage and water treatment projects. As our deputy mayor, Mark Hammel, said at that announcement—the second-most important bromance to the deputy's bromance with the mayor of Logan—this is the most significant amount of state funding the Gold Coast has received for critical city owned infrastructure in decades. This is on top of the more than 7,000 social and affordable homes we have underway.

The member asked me about failed approaches. As I frequently outline in this House, the Labor Party left us with a social housing system in crisis, a waitlist that grew by around 80 per cent because an average of just 509 homes a year were delivered across Queensland. We are removing barriers, we are unlocking land, we are getting more homes built, but with those opposite the failed approaches continued. It appears that the Labor Party know it.

Yesterday in this chamber there was one thing that Labor Party members mentioned more than anything else and that was the *Courier-Mail*'s DemosAU poll. They were only talking about a little teeny tiny part of that poll, but they talked about that poll more than anything else. We just heard about the Leader of the Opposition ignoring farmers. This is one farmer he may not want to ignore. The member for Bulimba gave a lengthy contribution on the DemosAU poll. The member for Ipswich, the member for Stretton, the member for Ipswich West, the member for Logan and the member for Macalister all mentioned that poll at length. In fact, yesterday one member mentioned that poll twice in two separate speeches in this House. Who could that have been?

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr O'CONNOR: Treasurer, you have got it in one! The member for Gaven mentioned that DemosAU poll twice. She is probably just upset she was not one of the leadership options in the poll.

Mr Crisafulli: That is high stakes.

Mr O'CONNOR: That is high stakes, Premier. I take that interjection. While those opposite reflect on the numbers, while they deal with their internal chaos in their caucus, we are getting on with the job of delivering for Queenslanders. Time's up for the Leader of the Opposition and those opposite know it.

(Time expired)

Rural and Regional Queensland, Protected Areas

Mr KNUTH: My question without notice is to the Minister for the Environment and Tourism. The government has announced the acquisition of almost one million acres of prime North Queensland cattle country for national parks, threatening productive grazing land and regional jobs. Can the minister explain why the government is prioritising international conservation targets over food security, productive cattle country and regional livelihoods?

Mr POWELL: I can answer the member for Hill's question quite simply: we are not. The member for Hill will have noticed that in the acquisitions that were recently announced there is a different approach. The different approach comes in a number of different forms. For starters, compare what we are doing with what those opposite did. They went into regions and purchased entire properties. In this instance, we have purchased portions of properties with the highest environmental value, ensuring that the productive element of those properties can very much continue. In fact, my good friend and colleague the Minister for Primary Industries is doing everything he can to assist those primary producers to achieve better targets and more production.

Also unlike those opposite, we are working to ensure that when we do purchase property that will become part of the protected area estate we manage it. In their decade of decline, they did not add a lot to the protected area estate and they certainly did not do anything to manage it.

A government member: What about the rangers?

Mr POWELL: I will get to the rangers in a minute. First and foremost, if you purchase these properties and turn them into protected area estate then you have a responsibility to be a good neighbour. If your property is next to productive properties, you need to be a good neighbour. What does that look like? It means that pests and weeds are addressed and it means that there is proper fire management. That will not happen if you do not back those who work on the ground to actually do that.

I commend the member for Bonney for the announcement he made in the lead-up to the 2024 election around 'better neighbours, more rangers'. There are 150 more rangers, with 120 Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service rangers and 30 Indigenous land and sea rangers. I can tell the House that 53 of those are already working on the ground, 40 of them have a specific fire management task and all of them have special responsibility around pests and weeds. As a result, in the last two years—contrast this with what those opposite did—record fire management goals have been achieved across the protected area estate, just short of one million hectares in each instance. That is one million hectares of fire treatment across our 13 million hectares of protected area estate.

I come back to the specific question of the member for Hill. I thank Mayor Ernie Camp, who said that protecting the natural asset was welcomed. He is concerned about the loss of ratepayer dollars, particularly with the management of roads. I assure him that, in the same way we have worked with the RAPAD mayors, we will work with him to ensure that we not only protect the area but provide tourism opportunities as well.

Skills and Training

Ms MARR: My question is to the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering more training opportunities for the construction sector, and why is it important to call 'time's up' on approaches that failed from the decade of decline?

Ms BATES: I thank the member for Thuringowa for her question. I congratulate her and look forward to working with her in her new role as my assistant minister. Unlike those opposite, the member knows that to get things built you need tradies. Those opposite left Queensland with a predicted peak shortfall of 50,000 construction workers. That is enough to fill an empty Suncorp Stadium. Under the Crisafulli LNP government, Queensland has recorded its highest ever apprenticeship completion rate and more qualified tradies are getting on the tools. Through our new TradieStart apprentice incentive and expanded Small Business Apprenticeship Program, we are supporting Queensland businesses to take on an additional 4½ thousand construction apprentices. This includes incentives for businesses to hire apprentices over 21 and those from priority cohorts such as women and veterans.

In contrast, we have the member for Murrumba, who tries to pretend that he was just an innocent bystander—just a helpless puppet premier with his strings being pulled by 'Daddy Blocker'. Whether or not he was a union puppet, he was the deputy premier of Queensland and he was the premier of Queensland. Those opposite ran scare campaigns about TAFE cuts, yet they left 336 TAFE staff on the cusp of losing their jobs. They did not open one new TAFE campus in their decade of decline. The member for Murrumba had the power to act and he did not. Instead, he left Queensland with a crime crisis, a health crisis, a housing crisis, a cost-of-living crisis and a skills crisis. Crime rates skyrocketed, housing affordability spiralled, and hospital waiting lists and ambulance ramping exploded.

Queensland needed more builders, but there were no builders amongst those opposite to make the decision. Sadly, the only tools those opposite mastered are those of the union way: bullying, pressure, intimidation and political manoeuvring. We have 'Mr Zhoosh' over there, the master of the glass jaw.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, use correct titles.

Ms BATES: The member for Woodridge thinks he can dish it out but he has a glass jaw—especially if there is a woman attached to it—and he certainly cannot take it. We have the fraud and the phoney and the failure in Queensland's worst child safety minister as well as Queensland's worst health minister, a two-for-one special.

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

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

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr DICK: On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I take personal offence at the words used by the honourable minister and ask her to withdraw.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, Deputy Premier! Minister, the member has taken personal offence. I ask that you withdraw and be careful of some of your language. You were bordering on being unparliamentary.

Ms BATES: I withdraw.

Mr DICK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the words used by the Deputy Premier by way of interjection. They are personally offensive to me. I ask him to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am seeking clarification from the honourable member. Was it when I said to apologise to Minister Bates for what he said about her two weeks ago? Is that what it was?

Mr DICK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That point of order is entirely frivolous. It is not a point of order. It offends the standing orders. Withdrawals are to be completely unconditional and immediate.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken offence. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have 21 seconds. Be careful with your language, please.

Ms BATES: Rounding out Labor's best and brightest is the member for Murrumba. Was it his idea to run a deceitful scare campaign on termination of pregnancy? Was it his genius that led Labor's 2024 candidate in Mudgeeraba to bring a termination-of-pregnancy corflute to the entrance of the Mudgeeraba State Special School? That was utterly disgraceful. It is clear that time's up for the Leader of the Opposition. He needs to go.

(Time expired)

Health System

Mr WHITING: My question is to the Minister for Health. Was the minister briefed on the circumstances that led to Deception Bay local Nicole Wilson spending two weeks in intensive care after being driven to the hospital by a neighbour?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for Murrumba for his question. The member for Murrumba will be pleased to know—

Mr Whiting: Bancroft.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The question was about a patient in hospital. Minister, you have the call.

Mr NICHOLLS: I do withdraw if I have offended anyone on that side for misnaming them from one to the other. I am aware of the story. I saw the story in the *Courier-Mail*, and I sought advice on that story, as I always do when I see those things—I am concerned to know what they are—and I am advised the patient had a significant medical history, including a worsening of her condition for two days at home prior to contacting the Queensland Ambulance Service. In fact, the clinical notes, as I am advised, report that her mother had requested she go to the hospital but the patient had refused to do so at the time of the worsening of her circumstance. She called triple 0 at 3.31 am and was advised that an ambulance was not immediately available. A call-back was initiated by—

Mr DICK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The health minister is clearly revealing personal details about the health condition of a patient who was in the care of Queensland Health. Those words are unparliamentary and should be struck from *Hansard*.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to the point of order as raised by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. The health minister is well aware of his obligations, responsibilities and legislative elements which are under his control. He is being responsive to the question as asked and is being mindful of his obligations. I would submit to you that he is being responsive to the question as asked.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister is responding to the question as asked, and I am sure the minister has been around long enough to know whether that information is private or not.

Mr NICHOLLS: I am very conscious of my obligations. I know that the details have already been provided by the patient themselves in the *Courier-Mail* story—the timeframe and details are already there. I think it is appropriate that where the patient themselves discloses the details to the public, as the member would know, confidentiality is lost. That is the story. Let me say that, upon calling triple 0 at 3.31 am, the patient was advised an ambulance was not available. A call-back was made at 3.48 am and there was no change in the patient's presentation or incident priority.

The people in the hub make the categorisation. The independent experts—the doctors, nurses and the acute paramedics—do it. A call was made to the patient at 3.48 am. After 45 minutes, the patient notified the QAS that a neighbour was taking her to Redcliffe Hospital. This is not unusual. It often occurs that people decide to self-transport to hospital. That is what happens. It happens under this administration. It happened under the prior administration.

At the Redcliffe Hospital, the patient received extensive support from the intensive care unit, infectious diseases, cardiology and social work staff. Since then, she has also been contacted by the Queensland Ambulance Service, Metro North region, and has had discussions.

The system worked as it is meant to do—that is, a call is made and a triage decision is made by a clinician at the hub. A call-back was made. In fact, I am advised that there were five different calls made by the hub. A final call was made at 4.32 am which established further contact with that patient who provided additional information of feeling unwell. Then on arrival at hospital, the patient was triaged and provided all necessary services.

Rural and Regional Queensland, Local Government

Mr DILLON: My question is to the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers. How is the Crisafulli LNP government working with local government to deliver for Queensland, and why is it important to call 'time's up' on approaches that failed from the decade of decline?

Ms LEAHY: I thank the member for Gregory for the question. As a former mayor, he knows how important it is for the state to work hand in hand with our local governments. That is why we have signed the Equal Partners in Government Agreement, the Rural and Remote Councils Compact and also the Indigenous accord. We have also made the Works for Queensland program a permanent funding program. We have passed the empowering council's bill to remove the unnecessary red tape, ensuring our mayors are empowered to be a voice for their communities and so that our councils can get on with the business of serving their ratepayers. We are also making sure that our Indigenous communities have access to clean drinking water.

There is more work to do. I am pleased the member for Gregory was able to join us at the LGAQ Annual Conference in Cairns where we announced our response to the depreciation taskforce. Depreciation may not be a topic that grabs the headlines but it certainly does get the attention of councils because councils' financial sustainability matters to our government. That is why the reforms we are pursuing are important. Ultimately, they will give councils a chance to make better informed infrastructure investment decisions for the benefit of their communities. It is long overdue because during Labor's decade of decline they did not address depreciation. We have called time on Labor's inaction in the local government sector.

Talking of calling time, the Leader of the Opposition should take note. His standing with his colleagues has depreciated massively and, like a bad asset, his colleagues have written him off. It is clear that his time is up and he certainly, at the LGAQ conference, was not on the waters; he definitely went into the red at that event. It was evident how uncomfortable his colleagues were while he talked through the LGAQ domestic violence prevention awards. That is very disappointing and very unfortunate, and I think that is very disrespectful as well, particularly given how important those awards were to those particular CEOs and mayors who were receiving them. It is very disrespectful. There is one thing for sure: time is up for the Leader of the Opposition.

Ambulance Service

Ms McMAHON: My question is to the Minister for Health. In 2023, Premier Crisafulli said that ambulances not arriving is a result of a government that 'can't run the health system'. Can the minister advise whether this remains the policy position of the Crisafulli government?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have one minute.

Mr NICHOLLS: One thing I can say is that the government has changed, the system is changing, ambulance ramping is down, elective surgeries are down, there are 10,000 more employees in the service and there is a fully funded Hospital Rescue Plan delivering 2,600 beds across the state including, for the member's benefit, new hospital beds going in at Logan, at QEII and at Ipswich. The member will be happy to know that since we got rid of the minister and the Labor Party's CFMEU BPIC taxes, we are now ahead of schedule. Not only are we ahead of schedule; we are getting close to opening some of those hospitals. Those opposite cannot bear it because what they failed to fund, what they failed to plan for and what they failed to deliver is being delivered by the Crisafulli government. Our Hospital Rescue Plan is working, our health services plan is working and our workforce is getting bigger—there are more people working for us. They cannot bear it over there because we are doing what they could not: delivering easier access to health services closer to home.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

CRIMINAL CODE (NON-FATAL STRANGULATION) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction



Hon. MAJ SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (3.47 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Criminal Code, the Evidence Act 1977, the Justices Act 1886, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a

statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Criminal Code (Non-fatal Strangulation) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 [2159].

Tabled paper: Criminal Code (Non-fatal Strangulation) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes [2160].

Tabled paper: Criminal Code (Non-fatal Strangulation) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights [2161].

This bill has one clear purpose: to strengthen the provisions around strangulation, particularly in a domestic setting, as recommended by the Queensland Law Reform Commission in their report, *Education, accountability and support: improving Queensland's response to non-fatal strangulation*.

One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10—that is how quickly someone can lose consciousness; within seconds. Within a minute, they can be dead. Along the way, they can seize, they can lose control of their body and their brain can be starved of oxygen. Some will not feel the damage for days, weeks or even years—a stroke, a brain injury. Up to half will have no visible injury at all—no bruise, no scratch, nothing to see—but the damage has been done. That is non-fatal strangulation, and that is why I am on my feet today.

It is timely that we are having this conversation today because this month is Sexual Violence Awareness Month. Today we acknowledge victim-survivors, their trauma and the work they have done to bring about reform. Just because we have made a change does not mean that progress should stop. It is why our former Labor government asked the Queensland Law Reform Commission to examine the offence of choking, suffocation or strangulation in a domestic setting. That referral was made in September 2024 by the former Labor government. Why? It was because the Audit Office found that about half of all non-fatal strangulation charges in Queensland do not end in a conviction—half. That is not an outcome we on this side are prepared to accept—not after victim-survivors have found the courage to speak up.

Domestic, family and sexual violence is a scourge on our society. It has no place in modern Queensland. DV takes many forms, and for too long it has lived in the shadows, behind closed doors, in silence and in fear. Of all of those forms, few are as dangerous or as misunderstood as strangulation. The *Not now, not ever* taskforce found strangulation to be a key predictor of domestic homicide. Put simply, when a woman has been strangled by her partner, her risk of being killed goes up.

In 2024, researchers from the University of Melbourne and the University of Queensland surveyed more than 4,700 Australians aged 18 to 35. They found that more than half had been strangled during sex—more than half. Fifty-seven per cent had been strangled. Fifty-one per cent had strangled someone else. For close to a third of them, the first time it happened was when they were between the ages of 19 and 21. These are young people in their formative years, maybe even in their first relationships, who are seeing the normalisation of sexual strangulation through pornography, in movies or on social media. When they were asked where they first learned about it, most said it was through pornography.

That same report found that many of the people doing this had no idea how quickly someone could be hurt. Remember those seconds I just counted—it takes just 10 seconds to be rendered unconscious and just over a minute to be killed. In their submission to the commission on proposed reforms, the Domestic Violence Action Centre stated that in the 2023-24 financial year 50 per cent of victim-survivors contacting their service had experienced non-fatal strangulation. A key finding of the commission was that there was an over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people among those who reported experiencing non-fatal strangulation.

It is pretty clear how easily this can turn from sexual experimentation to violence. When a perpetrator puts their hands around someone's neck, they are sending a message: they can end their life in seconds, and they want them to know it. We only have to look at recent reports of domestic, family and sexual violence involving strangulation to understand why this bill is so important and so urgent that it cannot sit on the Attorney-General's desk for another day.

We only need to look at the surge in calls for help to domestic and family violence support services following those media reports to know how prevalent this violence is in our community. Sadly, in August a 16-year-old girl in Sydney died after a suspected strangulation during sex—16. Her death has sparked an important national conversation. That demand and those reports show us the work to stamp out domestic, family and sexual violence is clearly not done. They tell us that this parliament cannot stand still. This bill starts the work with the recommendations made by the commission.

This bill builds on more than a decade of work in this state: work that started with *Not now, not ever*, work championed by the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce and work that Labor and those on this side of the House are incredibly proud of. The recommendations from the commission were clear, and so too are the objectives of this bill.

The commission made 18 recommendations. This bill legislates the ones that we can from this side of the House. It seeks to strengthen section 315A of the Criminal Code in line with recommendation 2 by expanding the relationships covered by the non-fatal strangulation offence to include those in a relationship involving coercion, control or domination. Coercion and control do not only happen between married couples or de facto partners. The law should protect anyone living under someone else's control.

The bill also makes it an offence to unlawfully engage in conduct capable of restricting a person's respiration or blood circulation. It is important to recognise that when examining 'conduct capable', the commission provided examples of what that could include such as applying pressure to the person's neck, covering their nose or mouth or obstructing or interfering with a person's respiratory system or accessory systems of respiration. These examples or acts have a realistic possibility of restricting a person's respiration or blood circulation.

The bill also removes 'without consent' within the offence and instead applies a defence of consent under the affirmative consent model. The affirmative consent model is founded in free and voluntary agreement—something the Labor is incredibly proud to have introduced. Recommendation 3 has been adopted in this bill to reflect the aggravating factor, which carries a maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment if a person completely or partially restricts the other person's respiration and/or blood circulation.

Similarly, the bill adopts recommendation 4, which provides a defence for the offence where the conduct is part of a socially acceptable function or activity, like in a sporting event, or is reasonable in the circumstances. Defences, including provocation and prevention of repetition of insult and domestic discipline, have been removed as they related to section 315A, as recommended by the commission.

The commission found that strangulation without consent during sex is not usually charged as sexual assault on its own. Too often it appears only as a fact in another offence. In line with recommendation 6, the bill ensures that conduct is recognised for what it is.

In expanding section 315A and in line with recommendation 7, the bill also deals with violent offences more broadly. Our current definition of 'bodily harm' does not capture the seriousness of strangulation where there is no visible injury. This is why the bill expands how grievous bodily harm applies to strangulation in sexual and violent offending. The changes recommended to section 315 and section 315A are reflected in sentencing provisions.

Similar to prior reforms in the domestic and family violence space, the commission also recommended improvements to decision-making in our courts. In line with recommendation 14, judges will give jury directions in matters involving non-fatal strangulation consistent with other domestic violence offences. The commission was blunt about why this matters. Jurors can hold misconceptions about strangulation and its effects—that is, if there is no mark there was no harm. Too often these cases are won and lost on whether a victim is believed, not on whether the elements of the offence are proved. Jury directions will help ensure verdicts rest on the evidence and on the facts, not on myths.

Further, as the commission explored, for victim-survivors every month of waiting is another month of reliving what happened to them. The bill creates a pathway for faster sentencing in the Magistrates Court where an accused pleads guilty. I want to be very clear about this section: dealing with a matter in the Magistrates Court rather than a higher court does not downgrade the seriousness of the offence. It is about getting victim-survivors to justice sooner and reducing the risk that the process itself retraumatises them.

Victim-survivors have already waited more than 390 days for action. The substance of this bill came from a report handed to the Attorney-General last September. We have to ask: what has this government been doing? Why will they not act? Their consideration of these matters has coincided with cuts and reappropriation of funding to domestic and family violence services. It sends the completely wrong message. Today, enough is enough.

Victim-survivors have now waited 393 days for action. The substance of this bill came from a report handed to the Attorney-General, as I said, on 30 September last year. It sat on her desk for more than four months before it was even tabled in this House. Since then, not one of its recommendations has been acted on or legislated. Why will they not act? Their consideration of these matters has coincided, as I said, with cuts and reappropriation of funding. It sends the wrong message.

This bill is a first step. What about the rest? That is a question for those opposite. We, as the Labor opposition team, have sought to implement the recommendations that we can with a private member's bill. Many of the outstanding recommendations require appropriation and policy direction from the government that is supposed to be in power. Strangulation health centres so victim-survivors get proper care and evidence is collected properly; mandatory training for police, prosecutors, judges, paramedics and doctors; victim advocates to walk people through the system; better data so we actually know how big the problem is—none of that can be done from opposition. All of it can be done by government tomorrow if it wanted to.

We need investment, action and reform. The first, and the most important, element though is education. That is something that we on this side cannot legislate. As the commission explained—

> We noted that criminalising such conduct may play an educative role by raising awareness about its dangers. However, we agree with the stakeholders who considered that, in addition to changes to the criminal law, there needs to be public education about strangulation and its risks, particularly for children and young people.

It was so important that it was their first recommendation. I think the Red Rose Foundation summed it up best when they said—

> Many victim-survivors are unaware of the potentially life threatening consequences of strangulation, even when there are no visible injuries. Increasing awareness will help the community recognise non-fatal strangulation as a serious assault and a key risk factor for future severe violence or homicide.

The Queensland Sexual Assault Network in its submission also highlighted—

> In young people, victims-survivors are presenting in circumstance where they may have been subject to strangulation multiple times a week and where losing consciousness is perceived as normal.
>
> …
>
> Young people as young as 9 or 10 years old are engaging in strangulation of their peers or when they are in peer relationships.
>
> ...
>
> The normalisation of strangulation in young relationships and more broadly in the community ... is incredibly common and increasingly normalised through its prevalence in pornography.

Let me be clear: strangulation is not safe. This is a warning sign to Queensland, to lawmakers, that something must be done. Universally, it is upheld that these laws must be accompanied by a comprehensive public education campaign that is tailored to the cohorts and communities that regularly experience this violence—just as Labor did with coercive control, just as Labor did with affirmative consent. Education is key not only to inform but also as a tool for early intervention and prevention.

The commission expressly called for a comprehensive public awareness and education campaign to be implemented prior to the commencement of this bill passing. It is why today the Queensland Labor opposition calls on the government to immediately fund and implement a campaign to highlight the risks of strangulation and the ongoing harm it can cause, because a law nobody knows about protects nobody. Frankly, the government seems to have found tens of millions of dollars to advertise itself but cannot seem to find the money to put into important education campaigns that could save young people's lives.

Strangulation is not a lesser form of violence because it can leave no mark. It is one of the clearest warnings we have that a life is in danger. Our laws must treat it that way, our courts must understand it, and victim-survivors must be believed and protected. That is why this bill will increase protections for victim-survivors of non-fatal strangulation in a domestic setting, strengthen the legislative framework for non-fatal strangulation and better reflect the seriousness of conduct involving strangulation.

I started today by counting to 10. That is all it takes for someone to be unconscious. In just over a minute, they can be gone. Victim-survivors have now waited 393 days for this government to act on strangulation and nearly 11 months on provocation. They have done their part. They have told their stories. They have relived the worst moments of their lives so the commission could get this right. One of them put it better than I could: 'I want us to matter, not wait until we are dead before something changes.'

Now it is our turn. I want to thank the Queensland Law Reform Commission for its careful consideration and thorough work. I particularly want to acknowledge and thank victim-survivors who have shared their experiences with the commission often at great personal cost. I thank the frontline workers, advocates, police and legal professionals who contributed to this review.

This should not be a partisan issue. I urge every member of this House, and the government, to support this bill. This is the first step of an important conversation. Let's give this the swift and careful consideration it deserves through the committee process. Victim-survivors have waited long enough. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. MAJ SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (4.05 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee

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

MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (4.05 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity be allowed to immediately move a motion without notice with the following time limits to apply to the debate of the motion—

- 3 minutes for each member;
- total time before question put—60 minutes.

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

AYES, 50:

LNP, 50—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Chiesa, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Hatcher, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

NOES, 35:

ALP, 34—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richmond, Russo, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Pairs: Camm, Butcher; Lister, Ryan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Call for Production of Documents

Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (4.11 pm): I move—

That this House calls on the Leader of Opposition to publicly release the Queensland Labor State Platform 2026, which is binding for members of the Labor Party caucus, by 9:30 am on Thursday, 29 October 2026.

It is obvious why Queenslanders deserve to know what this opposition is even about. We know that we have had the 2025 Labor platform. Half of them come in here and pretend they do not stand by some of the things that are in here, but we know different. The Leader of the Opposition is obviously constantly battling for relevance but none of us know what his platform is. None of us has a clue. We know that the Labor Party always talks with forked tongue. We know that they want to raise the age of criminal responsibility because the last people they ever think about are victims of crime.

Mr Speaker, you may wonder why we would want the Queensland platform because, weirdly, I would never give credit to Albanese, the Prime Minister of this country, and Chalmers. We know why the cost of living has gone through the roof—thanks, Albo; thanks, Chalmers. The cost of electricity has

gone through the roof—thanks, Bowen. At least with the federal Labor Party you can click on a link and you can see what they stand for. They stand for quite a lot of things that we do not. What does the Leader of the Opposition and the Queensland Labor Party stand for? It is important because their platform binds every single one of them. Raise the age of criminal responsibility: that is their platform.

Ms Dooley: Ripped that off someone in this chamber.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection. The 2025 policy was written and authorised by the member for Stretton.

Mr RICHMOND: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As the member for Stafford, I take personal offence.

Mr SPEAKER: It is probably more using correct titles, but the member has taken personal offence.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. It was written and authorised by the member for Stretton when—Stafford! Again, I apologise.

Mr RICHMOND: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As the member for Stafford, I take personal offence.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I not only withdraw but I apologise as well. I found an article that talks about where the CFMEU even walked out of the Labor Party conference. It is hilarious. What is it that the opposition is now bound to after the 2026 election? It would be really interesting to know where they stand—

(Time expired)

Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (4.14 pm): I rise to speak against the motion moved by the Attorney-General. The shadow attorney-general has just introduced to this parliament a very important private member's bill about a very important topic. I am struck by the fact that for 394 days this Attorney-General could not be bothered to do anything about it.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Speaker, I rise to two points of order. Firstly, there is now a private member's bill before the House and I would suggest that the Leader of the Opposition knows full well he should not be debating the topic of that. My second point of order is that I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr MILES: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As the first law officer of the state, the Attorney should know that the standing order in relation to the anticipation of debate does not apply in these circumstances. To her second point of order, I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: I am going to take a bit of advice on the other matter. The advice I have received is that it is nine months before the bill will be debated so there is some discretion to the member on his feet, but you need to be relevant to the motion that was moved.

Mr MILES: I do intend to be relevant to the motion as moved. For nearly 400 days the Attorney could not do anything about a Queensland Law Reform Commission report with very serious recommendations to keep women safe, yet after 394 days of letting Queensland women down she finds time to come into this chamber—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence with the exact comment that the Leader of the Opposition has just withdrawn. I know it is tough, but I ask him to withdraw.

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

Mr MILES: I withdraw. After nearly 400 days she does have time to come in here and bring on this motion and waste an hour of this chamber's time on what is clearly just a political stunt. There was one thing the Attorney said that struck me. She said that I, as the Leader of the Opposition, must be struggling for relevance. I do not feel like I am struggling for relevance at all. Instead of delivering for Queensland and talking about their portfolios, all that every single one of those ministers has done this week is come in here and attack me, including the Attorney in moving this motion.

I welcome the government's interest and the Attorney's interest in our party platform. It is being fully reviewed between now and the 2027 conference, and it is the platform endorsed at the 2027 conference that will form the basis of the commitments we will make to Queenslanders in 2028. That is the process that has been very clearly outlined at our conferences to all of our delegates and reported in the media, if the Attorney could have found time to read that. I suggest she get to her substantive job of keeping women safe.

(Time expired)

Ms JAMES (Barron River—LNP) (4.19 pm): The people of Far North Queensland know exactly what happens when governments get crime policy wrong. Labor weakened the laws and crime grew out of control. We have seen businesses targeted, families impacted, victims ignored and communities left demanding action. It is really important that the people of Far North Queensland—all of Queensland, in fact—know that there is a significant difference between the Labor Party and the LNP, especially when it comes to crime.

Let's take a trip down memory lane, shall we. This is what happened under Labor: victims of crime increased by 293 per cent; there was a 98 per cent increase in youth offences; 96 per cent of youth offenders released from detention reoffended within 12 months; and crime soared higher than ever before. The question today is: how did we get here and does the Queensland Labor State Platform 2026 contain policies that will weaken laws in Queensland if they are re-elected in 2028? Queenslanders deserve to see this document for themselves. Over the past decade, Labor has weakened so many laws, and over the last two years our side of politics has strengthened them.

There are several clear policy differences between Labor's approach to youth crime and crime and the approach of the Crisafulli government. The first one I would like to address is detention for serious young offenders. Labor made detention a last resort, whereas the Crisafulli government removed detention as a last resort so courts can impose detention where appropriate. Does their new policy document commit to rewinding our tough new laws?

When it comes to bail and repeat offending, Labor removed breach of bail as a standalone youth offence. The Crisafulli government is passing Breach Bail, Go to Jail, including a new offence and mandatory minimum 12-month imprisonment for qualifying serious offending while on bail. Does Labor's policy document actually commit to repealing these tougher laws if we push them through this week? Labor opposed Adult Crime, Adult Time laws, whereas we expanded them and we now have 47 youth crime offences with adult level penalties. Does Labor intend to wind back the tougher laws we have put in place?

When it comes to the criminal age of responsibility, Labor has supported raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 14, whereas we will not raise that age. We will keep those ages as they are because we believe that children who commit serious crimes must be held accountable under the law. There are children younger than 10 years of age who are already committing crimes across Queensland. Labor need to be clear. Will they keep the age at 10 or are they going to raise it to 14?

Our focus is on serious consequences for serious offending, stronger tools to protect the community, and intervention that aims to put victims first. We have delivered on so many new laws. We must know where Labor stand on these. Are they going to continue to weaken laws in Queensland? Queenslanders must be hesitant to ever vote for them again.

Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (4.22 pm): Mr Speaker, I can tell you and every member of this House and every Queenslander that I am happy to defend Labor values every single day of the week. We are a party that stands for working Queenslanders, unlike the LNP who stands for big business, big interests, big money and big donors. That is what our party represents and that is what is enshrined in our platform.

I want to respond directly to what the member for Barron River said. If the member for Barron River wants to talk about crime, then the member for Barron River should read the transcript of the parliamentary committee when it was in Townsville to see what Ms Cullen said about crime under the LNP. I want to respond directly to what the member for Barron River said. This is what Ms Cullen said—

My name is Lynette Cullen. Just bear with me. I am pretty nervous. In January this year—

That is this year, under the LNP. If you want to bring crime into the debate, we will talk about crime every day of the week. Ms Cullen said—

In January this year at 8.35 in the morning I opened up my garage door to go out.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Woodridge, there is a bill before the House. I also ask you to speak through the chair.

Mr DICK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Ms Cullen had a knife held to her throat in her home under the LNP. We are not going to be lectured to by this government—

Mrs POOLE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe the matter that the member is talking about is sub judice as it is currently before the court.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, can you assure me that this matter is not sub judice and is not before the court?

Mr DICK: Mr Speaker, I will move on to talk about crime in this state.

Mr SPEAKER: I ask you to tread carefully.

Mr DICK: I will talk about crime in this state because the LNP have brought it into the House this afternoon. We are not going to be lectured to by these people about how Queensland should be kept safe. This parliament is spending one hour on this motion, when every member of the government said during the Hinchinbrook by-election that crime was the most important thing and it should be debated. Now we are wasting an hour after that absolute puerility in question time when you abused this House, you abused the processes, you abused all of it. The LNP abused all of it and now they are wasting another hour on a pathetic stunt. I say to the members opposite: you need to get strategy away—

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I ask you to not use the word 'you' and to talk through the chair, please.

Mr DICK: I say to members of the LNP that they need to get strategy away from the Deputy Premier and get it back on to things that matter for Queenslanders. That is what matters to this state: crime, health care, cost of living—

Ms Scanlon: Housing.

Mr DICK:—housing and not to forget congestion, which is growing in this state and this government does nothing. We oppose this motion for what it is: a blatant waste of parliament's time and political pointscoring at its worst. It represents everything that the LNP stands for, which is nothing in respect of Queenslanders.

(Time expired)

Hon. DG PURDIE (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (4.26 pm): I am happy to be following the member for Woodridge, who just tried to imply that this is a political stunt, but there is nothing more important than this at this moment this week in parliament.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr PURDIE: Yes, that is exactly right.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I ask you to speak through the chair, please.

Mr PURDIE: Queenslanders need to know where the Labor Party stand on this. The Leader of the Opposition's speech came off the back of the member for Gaven's private member's bill, and I will not pre-empt that debate. This is a serious issue. Off the back of the *Not now, not ever* report that the LNP commissioned when I was a police officer, we know that a woman who is strangled by her partner is seven times more likely to be killed. We need to know whether their current policy document is the same as the last one, which says at 8.76—

Labor will repeal legislation which fetters judicial discretion by imposing mandatory minimum sentences for criminal offences.

They spoke about being tough on crime and they spoke about being tough on perpetrators who strangle their partners. Do you know what has a mandatory sentence in Queensland? Murder. It is mandatory life for murder and they do not support it. Their policy document from last year says to repeal it. Queenslanders need to know whether that is their current position. Will they repeal that? They cannot come in here and talk tough about keeping women safe—which was the line the Leader of the Opposition finished his contribution on—if you are going to repeal mandatory life for murder. There are two others reasons, and I will not pre-empt the Breach Bail, Go to Jail bill we are debating now which has a mandatory component. Last night, the member for Woodridge said that we cannot be tough on crime if we are soft on guns.

Ms Asif interjected.

Mr J Kelly interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Sandgate and member for Greenslopes.

Mr PURDIE: Is this policy position, which is binding, why those opposite, including the member for Woodridge, voted against our drive-by shooting offence on three occasions in this House? It potentially has a maximum penalty of 20 years, with a mandatory minimum of seven years.

Ms Asif interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Sandgate is warned.

Mr PURDIE: The member for Woodridge talked tough last night about guns and about crime, but on three occasions he voted against the toughest gun laws—

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Stop. Member for Woodridge, you have had your say. Cease your interjections.

Mr PURDIE: This is not a stunt. The people of Queensland and the people of this parliament need to know. In this year's policy document, which is binding, do the Labor Party still intend to repeal any mandatory sentencing in Queensland—for drive-by shooting offences, for breaching bail and going to jail or for murder in a domestic setting—off the back of the member for Gaven's private member's bill? We are tough on crime. We are doing everything we possibly can to protect people. Those opposite need to learn the lessons from the past. The opposition leader's time is up and he needs to go.

(Time expired)



Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (4.29 pm): I move the following amendment—

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

'1. notes that Queensland Labor has released several policies in line with our platform to improve cost of living and address the problems facing Queenslanders;

2. notes that many policies and issues are debated at a convention or conference that may not form part of final election commitments; and in this respect notes the following issues debated at the LNP convention:

(a) a motion to recriminalise gay conversion practices;

(b) a motion to repeal anti-discrimination laws;

(c) a motion against solar panels, wind turbines and batteries;

(d) a motion to ban Welcome to Country ceremonies;

(e) a motion to remove paid parental leave for victims of domestic and family violence.'

We know why this motion was moved. The Attorney-General was caught sitting on a QLRC report—

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In relation to the amendment moved by the member for Waterford, can I be furnished with a copy?

Mr SPEAKER: It is on its way.

Ms FENTIMAN: We know why the Attorney has moved this motion. It is because she got stuck with a Queensland Law Reform Commission report sitting on her desk for over a year and she has been caught out not doing anything about it.

Mr Miles: She's embarrassed.

Ms FENTIMAN: She is embarrassed—I take that interjection—so she has come in here and said, 'Labor needs need to release their platform.' I will tell her what is in our platform: strong laws in relation to termination of pregnancy. That is what is in our platform, because on this side of the House we absolutely support a woman's right to choose. We believe it. We do not have to gag our members of parliament from talking about reforming termination of pregnancy. It is 2026. Surely the Queensland parliament should be able to debate and make progress when it comes to women's reproductive health, but not in Queensland because this Premier cannot trust his backbench to do the right thing. That is what is in our platform.

I will tell members what else is in our platform: supporting workers' rights, not making it harder for hardworking public servants to get access to workers compensation. That is not in our platform. To come in here and have this stunt on a day when the Attorney-General herself accused us of a stunt by moving stronger laws to keep women safe—

Mr Miles: We are doing her job for her.

Ms FENTIMAN: We are doing her job for her. I take that interjection. What message does it send to women experiencing domestic and family violence and strangulation that the Attorney-General, the first law officer, thinks introducing those reforms is a stunt? This is what a stunt is, because she has been caught out and she is embarrassed.

Mr Purdie interjected.

Ms FENTIMAN: I do not ever hear any of them talk about the motions debated at their conference. Of course they will not, because they are too embarrassing. They are against solar panels. They are against batteries. That is what their membership want to debate: banning welcome to country and removing paid leave for domestic and family violence victims. I am proud that Queensland was the first state in the country to introduce paid leave for domestic and family violence. We will stand up for women and we will stand up for those strong Labor values.

(Time expired)

Mrs YOUNG (Redlands—LNP) (4.33 pm): When I was a candidate for the 2024 election I got around Redlands and knocked on doors and I heard what Redlanders wanted. What they spoke to me about was having health care when they need it, restoring safety where they live and having their hard-earned taxpayers' dollars respected. They also wanted to feel safe in their homes and their businesses. That is the commitment and they are the policies we took to the 2024 election. One of the people I doorknocked was Bec Musgrave, who experienced a home break-in with four cars being stolen. I spoke about Bec last night because she was at a victims barbeque on Monday—

Mr J Kelly interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Greenslopes, you are warned.

Mrs YOUNG:—where we listened to victims. She shared with the Premier that for the first time ever she had voted LNP. Why did she vote LNP? It was because she knew what we stood for.

Mrs Poole: She wanted a fresh start.

Mrs YOUNG: She wanted a fresh start. She did not want to live in fear any longer. She commented to the Premier that she knew her vote would be in safe hands, and she stood with us and she backed our new laws.

What is Labor's 2026 policy? If we look at their 2025 policy platform, on page 110 it says that Labor will repeal laws imposing mandatory minimum sentences that restrict judicial discretion. Does that commitment remain in 2026? On page 109 it says that they will raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14. Is that still their position? It is important that Redlanders and Queenslanders know, because over 700 children between the ages of 10 and 13 were charged with burglary last year, 25 with rape and almost 200 with robbery in Queensland. On page 118 it says that police should not have general powers to move people on from public spaces. Do Labor still support that position? Will Labor retain Adult Crime, Adult Time or will they seek to wind it back? What is the plan for early intervention and support for people after detention? That is what Redlanders and Queenslanders want to know. These are real questions for victims, families, our police and businesses right across the state.

Those opposite need to release the 2026 platform by 9.30 tomorrow morning, put the policies on the table and let Queenslanders see it for themselves.

(Time expired)

Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (4.36 pm): After two years in government, you would think the government would start to talk about itself. You would think they would be in a position, after two years, where they could come into this House and start announcing some things, but how embarrassing. The most important issue for the Minister for Police—

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Bonney and member for Currumbin.

Ms GRACE:—is that the platform be tabled. You have no idea how the Labor Party works, and we on this side of the House know pretty well how it works. We were in government and not everything in that platform has been implemented—that is the way it works. Yet those opposite—

Mr Dick interjected.

Ms GRACE: And some of them probably never will be: I take that interjection from the member for Woodridge. As the Leader of the Opposition announced earlier, we will be putting a new platform together in 2027, so this motion is an absolute and complete waste of time.

There are four pillars that the people of Queensland are worried about. They are worried about cost of living, health, housing and crime. Let me tell you that those opposite have been in government for two years, taking no responsibility whatsoever. They have failed, according to the Queensland people, on every one of those pillars. All they are doing is spending blue advertising money advertising what they say.

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, member for McConnel. There will be no more use of 'you'. There has been too much use of the word 'you'. Speak to the Speaker.

Ms GRACE: I am using 'you' in general. I am not sure exactly how else to put it.

Honourable members: 'They'.

Ms GRACE: All they can do is come in here and talk—now I have lost my train of thought—about other issues and it is always about the Labor Party. Isn't it extraordinary? There was the Deputy Premier yesterday who could have talked about what has happened in his government for the past two years

and what did he do? He quoted a book. He did that not once, not twice, but three times. That is how proud they are of what they have been able to address. There is the police minister talking about this being the most important issue.

New police figures reveal that one gun is being stolen in Queensland every day, yet nothing is being done. Almost 300 guns were stolen in the first eight months of the year, with the worst places being LNP-held seats—Wide Bay, Darling Downs, Mackay, Whitsunday and Capricornia. Business owners and witnesses at the hearing in Cairns said that it is the worst they have seen.

Mr Purdie interjected.

Ms GRACE: Those opposite should not come in here and lecture us about Labor Party platforms of fairness, justice for workers and looking after the wellbeing of every Queenslander. You are in government. Do your job with the four pillars.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Ninderry, you are warned.

Hon. JH LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (4.39 pm): I find it really weird that I have to explain to those opposite how they are meant to speak through the Speaker, especially when the member for McConnel has been here since 2007, with a bit of an interregnum in the middle, Mr Speaker. However, we on this side are quite happy to debate the issues that those opposite seem to have suddenly discovered since the 2024 election—that is, the issues of health, housing, youth crime and the cost of living that they seem to have discovered now. We have heard it from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and we just heard it from the member for McConnel, but I would say to those opposite who are saying that this is a waste of time that we would love to go back and look at the things that they said during their time in government including, especially for those new members on this side of the House and that side of the House, the Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment Bill from 3 November 2016.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr LANGBROEK: Those opposite may groan, but for those on this side who are new and those on that side who are new it is a portent for what they would do if they were elected to this side again. We are talking about their policy platform that they are not prepared to release, even though they have some weasel words about why they will not such as, 'We never do. We will do it in 2027. We only do it in odd-ending years.' Do not give us that. Here is what they said in November 2016. The attorney-general at that time, Yvette D'Ath, said that the plan, which was to put 17-year-olds out of the criminal justice system, was—

> ... premised on careful assessment of each ... young person's development, cognitive ability, health, welfare and education needs.

There were lots of plans that obviously did not work, because on the Gold Coast and across the state it was clear that there was a youth crime crisis, about which the member for McConnel just said is worse than ever. I defy those opposite to have people say that that is true, unless it is their dead-red colleagues, because we know that it is definitely not worse; it is improving and there are green shoots. Things are improving and we are determined to do so with more police, more enforcement and making sure that we have stronger laws because those opposite weakened them. The now Deputy Leader of the Opposition said at that time—

> It is about leadership and compassion, responsibility and public safety, justice and civil rights. It is about doing the right thing.
>
> …
>
> What we are doing in this House tonight demonstrates political courage.

He was referring to that decision in November 2016. It failed and crime went up. It was a crisis. We campaigned on it significantly and now the Minister for Youth Justice and the Attorney-General are taking these measures and the police minister has brought in more police in just a couple of years than during the term of the previous government. There is more to be done, but it is important for those opposite to tell Queenslanders what they will do, not what they say in this House as opposed to what they say outside.

Ms MULLEN (Jordan—ALP) (4.42 pm): The member for Surfers Paradise giving us a history lesson—someone who I feel has been in here since 1980—like, seriously! Unbelievable!

Honourable members interjected.

Ms MULLEN: Even he found that funny, to be fair—but, truly, it is unbelievable. The Attorney-General has come in here and moved a motion, believing that this is the most important issue that the first law officer should be dealing with in our state right now. We have just heard from the

shadow attorney-general on a really important issue—non-fatal strangulation. As the mother of two daughters, I believe this is a really important issue and every woman in this parliament should be thinking that this is a most important issue, not what our Labor Party platform says or whether we should release it. Instead, the Attorney-General comes in here and moves this frivolous, waste of time motion.

The LNP government is absolutely obsessed by the Labor Party and absolutely obsessed by our platform and our policies, and this from the same LNP which was a complete policy-free zone for three years before the 2024 state election. Did it introduce any private members' bills when it was in opposition? No, I believe it did not.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms MULLEN: One. Apologies, I retract that—one. We have introduced more private members' bills—six private members' bills—in two years. It was a lazy opposition and it is now a lazy government.

When talking about a platform, let's have a look at some of the policies from the LNP convention and what LNP members have called on their own government to implement. As we heard from the member for Waterford, there were motions about recriminalising gay conversion practices; a motion to repeal anti-discrimination laws—we know they enjoy those; a motion against solar panels, wind turbines and batteries because, God forbid, they are terrible; a motion to ban Welcome to Country ceremonies—that has already started from what we see with 'Project Invisibility'; and a motion to remove paid parental leave for victims of domestic and family violence. Outrageous! There are a few more I found from the LNP's convention. I would like to know when it is going to introduce discounted council rates, driver's licence fees and car rego fees for seniors based on age rather than eligibility. Another one is wanting to consider the appointment of an agriculture commissioner. Maybe that is what the notoriously missing Andrew Cripps is meant to be doing, but maybe not.

(Time expired)

Mr WATTS (Toowoomba North—LNP) (4.45 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the member for Nanango. This is an accountability test for those on the other side. These are a group of people who sign a pledge that they will stand by this policy platform and the people of Queensland deserve to know what is in that policy platform. They need to understand whether the policy platform has in it that the Labor Party will raise the age of criminal responsibility. Last year 3,847 children between the ages of 10 and 13 were charged with serious offences—738 for burglary, 193 for robbery, 25 for rape. These will be children who cannot be charged, who cannot be incarcerated, who cannot be held accountable for their actions.

The people of Queensland want to know: is Labor going to be held accountable for its actions? Will it tell the people of Queensland that it is going to raise the age of criminal responsibility? Those opposite sign off on their own party document. They pledge that they will implement it and they will stand by it, so they should publish it so that people know that, if a young criminal breaking into their house and trying to attack them with a tomahawk or machete is under the age of 14, they will be back out on the streets immediately and cannot be charged, cannot be incarcerated and cannot be in any way held accountable for that action under the Labor Party policy—and the people of Queensland should know that. It is really clear that Labor needs to answer a question: is this part of your policy, will you publish that policy and will you let the people of Queensland hold you accountable for that policy at an election? Is it something you want to do? Do you want to get rid of mandatory minimum sentencing?

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba North, once again I am hearing the word 'you' too many times.

Mr WATTS: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. It is important that the Labor Party is honest with the people of Queensland. It is important that it stands for the values that it has at its conference. If those opposite are ashamed of their values at their conference and if they are ashamed of their party policy, then hide it, keep it hidden, do not admit it to the people of Queensland. However, if Labor does bring it to the people of Queensland, they should know that children under the age of 13 are not going to be charged or punished. The people of Queensland should know that if those opposite bring this forward minimum mandatory sentencing will be gone. Time is up for this Leader of the Opposition. Time is up for this party to put its platform out there in public so that the people of Queensland know who they are dealing with.

(Time expired)

Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (4.48 pm): How ironic to be lectured to by a member of parliament who could not even comply with COVID health restrictions during the pandemic! What an embarrassment. This is a puerile and childish motion that would be embarrassing at a Young Liberal

National Party convention, let alone this parliament. I find it ironic that a government that did not keep most of its election promises is now obsessed with Labor's policies. No new stadiums—how did that go? Rail to Maroochydore—how did that promise go? No health cuts—

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Currumbin—

Mr BAILEY: 2,200 beds by 2028—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Miller, stop.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Currumbin, that is totally unnecessary. You are warned.

Mr BAILEY: There has been a litany of broken promises from this government, yet they have the audacity to ask Labor two years out from an election what our policies would be. We have already released more policies than they did when they were in opposition, but what about their priorities? They are wasting an hour of this parliament's time when we could be debating more important things, like the fact that crime is not under control under this government and they do not have the answers. They have slogans but not policies. What about growth funding being cut in the HHSs or the CHO scandal? We could be debating the delayed hospital expansions and the Queensland Cancer Centre that has been delayed by this government indefinitely. 'Boldly changing the narrative'—$200,000 spent by the health minister on a slogan. Quite frankly, if I had seen that after spending 200 grand I would want my money back. 'Boldly changing the narrative'—that tells you everything, doesn't it?

We could be debating cutting affordable and social housing in this state. We could be debating the lack of cost-of-living support by this government. We know what Labor's policies were: 50-cent fares; the $1,000 power rebate that helped so many people; and a woman's right to choose. There are no answers on congestion; they do not want to talk about it. There is a refusal to answer questions in question time. That is the government's modus operandi. They have delayed any action whatsoever on the issue of strangulation. That is an absolute disgrace.

We could be debating the fact that we do not have evidence-based health policy when it comes to pill testing and gender services. We could be debating the IR changes, which this government did not take to an election, or the credit downgrade as this government botches the economy under this incompetent Treasurer and Premier. We could be debating the tsunami of money spent on blue ads that have bombarded Queenslanders, yet they are obsessed by us. Let me tell the government: we will continue to release policies when we are good and ready, and we will keep them—unlike the current government, which has broken most of its election promises already.

(Time expired)

Mr KRAUSE (Scenic Rim—LNP) (4.52 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the Attorney-General. We need to know if the Labor Party has learned the lessons of the 2024 election. Have they heeded the message that Queenslanders sent them about crime, the cost of living, housing and all of the crises they created during their time in office? Are they still refusing to concede that the message has been received—just as the Leader of the Opposition refused to concede defeat on election night? Do they still have their heads in the sand?

They are a deeply divided party, and that is why we need to see their platform—all of the commitments that will be binding on every member opposite and every candidate that goes to the 2028 election. Unlike the party platforms of the Liberal National Party and other parties, the platform commitments of the ALP are binding. The people of Queensland can expect them to be implemented, so we need to see what they are. Have they learned the lessons of the past or will we still see people in their party putting in their headphones when we have a vote on Breach Bail, Go to Jail later this week?

They are deeply divided on crime and they are deeply divided on the message that Queenslanders sent to them at the 2024 election. We have seen in the last two years. Every time the issue of crime comes up, the Labor Party is deeply divided and goes to war within itself. That is why we need to see the platform which is binding. Are they going to bring back BPIC? BPIC has cost Queenslanders so much in productivity, in lost infrastructure and in increased costs for housing—houses that could have been built except for the BPIC policy which the ALP brought in and some of them want to bring back. It sucks money out of the economy and prevents people getting into homes.

Are they still putting the rights of offenders ahead of the rights of victims? Are they going to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14? During the last term, I think I remember hearing the then attorney-general, the member for Waterford, saying that they did not have any plans to raise the

age of criminal responsibility, but it is still in their policy platform for 2025. They want to do that because it is in line with international best practice, but that is not what the people of Queensland want. It is the Queensland people who decide which laws are implemented in this country and in this state—not the international best practice people in the UN or wherever it is. They want to weaken our tough laws. There are other issues they need to come clean on, because their platform is binding on them.

I wholeheartedly support the motion moved by the Attorney-General. If the Labor Party is given another chance to govern, we know that they will weaken all of our tough laws when it comes to crime, because they have not changed. They could not accept responsibility on election night and they still cannot accept responsibility for what they got wrong in government. The people of Queensland have sent their message loud and clear when it comes to crime. The Labor Party should come clean with the people of Queensland.

Mr SMITH (Bundaberg—ALP) (4.55 pm): We talk about political parties. Quite often we wonder which one of them is in the Liberal Party and which one of them is in the National Party. Well, the member for Toowoomba North is in the 'street party'. If he wants to talk about accountability, imagine being a shadow minister for police and having the police come to your street party. Imagine that! He had to turn off the barbecue. He had the steak on there, he was grilling away and then he got grilled by the local authorities. When it comes to accountability, we are not going to listen to the member for Toowoomba North, even if he sends us an invitation.

The LNP today want to talk about commitments before the next election. Let's talk about the LNP's commitments before the last election in Bundaberg. They said that they would deliver Labor's plan for the new Bundaberg Hospital and that it would be done, as planned, by the end of 2027. Instead, by the time the Olympics start there are plans for half a hospital and 200 beds—100 fewer beds than we have now. We are going to have half a hospital with 100 fewer beds by 2032. It is confusing enough, but after the election the member for Burnett went on radio and said, 'No. You have to remember: the new hospital will actually only be 120 beds.' We do not even know what their policy is.

This is the same LNP that in opposition said it would deliver a brand-new Paradise Dam for the people of Bundaberg. Instead, we have Sunwater putting out a published document saying that no amount of work can fix the current Paradise Dam—that it gets weaker every single day and it is not safe to restore 5.8 metres worth of concrete. What is the new LNP's new policy? It is to restore that 5.8 metres worth of concrete on a broken dam that Sunwater themselves said will fail. That is what we have from this LNP.

When it comes to making sure people are safe in our communities, they are not going to deliver the health services to keep people safe in our community. They are quite literally going to risk lives and our economy in the Bundaberg region with a terrible decision that the member for Burnett backs in wholeheartedly. When the dam fails and people die, we all know that he can be legally accountable; he can put his hand up to be accountable for that. We know anything the LNP want to say about us means nothing because, whatever they say at their convention or at a street party where they do their policy, it is not actually going to happen when they get into government. They are a failed political organisation and they do not stand for anything. Member for Burnett, save the farmers, mate. Save them.

Mr HUNT (Nicklin—LNP) (4.58 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the member for Nanango. A little over a week ago I was going through the media clips and saw the opposition leader confessing that 'we could have and should have done more in government'. I replayed that quite a few times. I thought, 'That will come in handy later if they keep him as leader'—which I fully support. He then went on to announce that they were going to support minimum mandatory sentencing. I nearly fell off my chair. I thought they must have had a new policy document, so I went onto Google, but it is still the 2025 policy. There are no updates, so that must be the current policy. Paragraph 8.76 states—

> Labor will repeal legislation which fetters judicial discretion by imposing mandatory minimum sentences for criminal offences.

That is their binding policy. That is what they sign on for. I found the get-out clause though—the excuse for the union masters and the union backers. They do not have to not vote for it; they just have to repeal it in government. We can be sure that when they get back into government they will repeal mandatory minimum sentences. As the police minister pointed out, that is for murder as well. They are bound by the party document to repeal mandatory minimum sentences for our worst criminals. The people of Queensland know what they are in for if they were ever to put this mob back into government.

I read a bit more of the policy platform while I had it up. It made for scary reading. It is certainly not for children. I did find a part in there that I quite agreed with—paragraph 8.63. It was to let their candidates and volunteers know that intimidation, harassment and threats are against the law and they should be dissuaded from doing that. That is a policy they disregarded in relation to the member for

Pumicestone and the terrible, disgraceful behaviour she had to put up with on the booths from union thugs and volunteers. I encourage those opposite in their 2026 document—or is it 2027 they are releasing?—to not only keep that policy but also provide a bit of training to their volunteers in terms of threats, harassment and intimidation. That would do them well.

I encourage the Labor Party to get rid of their policy to repeal mandatory minimum sentences, but I am sure it will be there. They are going to increase the age of criminal responsibility. We have heard other members speak of the nearly 4,000 serious offences committed by 10- to 13-year-olds. The committee hearing held in North Queensland heard from victims of crime experiencing the trauma of people breaking into their homes with weapons. Only our strong laws will bring victims of crime numbers down, as they are doing now. We cannot afford to go back to this mob because they will repeal all those good laws and take us backwards in Queensland.

(Time expired)

Mr McCALLUM (Bundamba—ALP) (5.01 pm): I rise to speak against the motion moved by the member for Nanango and for the amendment moved by the member for Waterford. That was a sad contribution from the member for Nicklin. I would encourage him to go back to the PCYC and the blue-light disco and maybe spin a record. This is a government that is all about spin over substance. This motion is a perfect example of spin over substance. In fact, this is a government that would rather take an hour of this parliament's time away from their own bill that they purport to say is a priority for them as a government and a priority for Queenslanders. That has been absolutely laid bare as a complete fallacy by this motion moved by the first law officer of this state.

This is a motion from a government that is halfway through its term, has run out of puff and is all about filibustering. It has run out of ideas and has to come into this place to move motions that are nothing more than a stunt. This week we have seen the continued personal attacks on the Leader of the Opposition and members on this side of the House. This motion is a continuation of that. We have a government halfway through its term, halfway through this sitting week, that is completely bereft of ideas.

The four big crises that the Premier promised to fix when he was elected are getting worse under this government. On every single measure Queensland is going backwards under the LNP government. There is record high ramping at our hospitals and ballooning specialist outpatient waitlists, we have a housing minister who will not even commit to his own housing target and has scrapped over 10,000 affordable homes, and they come in here and want to know what the Labor Party's priorities are! We can tell them because we will always stand up for workers' rights. Labor is committed to making rego free for construction trade apprentices and their supervisors to help build an army of tradies. We have committed to modernising the social housing waitlist threshold. Labor has committed to extending the build-to-rent tax cut indefinitely where affordable homes are included—real policy that will help Queenslanders. Labor is committed to doubling funding for First Nations and multicultural communities. We will not support these pathetic stunts.

Mr McDONALD (Lockyer—LNP) (5.04 pm): This is all about accountability and transparency. There is a 2025 policy document that the Labor Party have that says they will reject any minimum mandatory sentencing. It says that they are going to raise the age of criminal responsibility. It also says that people in public places will not be moved on by police. The last two relate to using statistics to reduce crime. They weakened the bail laws in 2016 for the same reason. They thought they would take a few offences away and it would reduce crime. It will not reduce crime. They say raising the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 is international best practice. When you speak to magistrates you hear about their anguish when they have to incarcerate a 11- or 12-year-old because they have been getting into trouble and have been part of the system since they were 10 years old. They are some of the worst of the worst in the system. As my colleague the member for Toowoomba said, there are over 3,800 offenders in that cohort of 10- to 14-year-olds. Those opposite think it is okay to send them back out into the community. They have form for this. They have been beholden to that ideology for a long time. Ten- to 14-year-old kids know—and it is the position of police to know—that there is criminal responsibility. If there is some problem about that level of criminal responsibility or understanding, trust the police. They will work that out.

Mrs Poole: They don't trust the police.

Mr McDONALD: In fact, that is a fundamental issue. I will take that interjection from the member for Mundingburra. They just do not trust the police. I support the motion moved by the Attorney-General and the contributions from those on our side. It is important for Queenslanders to have transparency from the Labor Party and to know what is in their document. As a very important report said, let the sunshine in.

Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (5.06 pm): I rise to support the motion as moved by the Attorney-General in relation to the matters that we are debating now. It is important that we know what is in Labor's platform. The unions know what is in there, the Labor delegates who have been to their conference know, but Queenslanders do not know what is contained within that document. We simply want to know what is in Labor's platform. Release it publicly. Federal Labor has an open and transparent platform. This is all about openness, transparency and accountability, not only by the Leader of the Opposition but also by the Labor Party here in Queensland.

As a number of speakers have said, Labor members of parliament are bound by what is contained in this document. Earlier in this debate the Leader of the Opposition said 'just trust me for 2027'. After the last 10 years—the decade of decline—Queenslanders know that they simply cannot trust the former Labor premier and those members opposite in relation to what they should have done here in Queensland and the crises that they created. Whether it was Labor's crime crisis, whether it was their failures on housing, whether it was failures when it comes to the health system or cost of living, over the last 10 years they broke the trust of Queenslanders.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition said it is a waste of time to have this debate. It is not a waste of time to have the Labor opposition outline clearly to Queenslanders their plans and what they would do if they came back into government. I think most Queenslanders believe it is a critical component of democracy in this state to know what the opposition would implement if they got back into government. They want to keep it secret. It is all about secrecy when it comes to the Labor Party opposite. We know what they did in relation to BPIC.

Mr Furner: Complete rubbish.

Dr ROWAN: I hear the member for Ferny Grove interjecting. He is a failed former minister for agriculture. There are so many failed former ministers over there, whether it is agriculture, health, cost of living or transport.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Dr ROWAN: That is why they interject: there is a litany of failure. That is why at the 2024 state election the people of Queensland judged the Labor Party and judged them harshly. That is why they voted out of office the former Palaszczuk and Miles Labor government after a decade of decline and a complete failure right across Queensland. This government, the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government, is implementing plans, progressing legislation, progressing policies and doing what we said we would do for Queenslanders and we are doing it successfully. Those opposite are so bitter about this motion before us tonight because they failed Queenslanders. If they had the chance, they would fail them again.

(Time expired)

Mr MELLISH (Aspley—ALP) (5.09 pm): I am pleased to be lectured to by the Leader of the House on transparency and accountability when he is happy to seek the jump and not listen to the opposition hold them to account.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, you have one minute, I am afraid.

Mr MELLISH: There you go: they are guillotining their own motion. They do not want us to speak. This motion moved by the Attorney-General is about lecturing us and telling us to tell our party what to do. Let us not forget that when the member for Nanango was the leader of the opposition she could not even talk to her own party president. She could not even be in a room with him. An article dated June 2020 states—

The Queensland president of the Liberal National Party is facing an ultimatum to back the leader Deb Frecklington or resign, after accusations the executive wing was destabilising the party.

We are being lectured to by the Attorney-General, who has introduced a motion into this House telling us to tell our party what to do when she could not even meet with her own party president. We remember when she was the opposition leader and asked 64 times to open the borders. While we were busy fighting COVID, she was busy fighting her own party. She was delivering nothing for Queenslanders. I was there on the election booth at Bald Hills in the last couple of hours—

Mr McDONALD: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance.

Mr SPEAKER: That has been a bit broad. Member for Aspley, you have 14 seconds.

Mr MELLISH: They have brought in this motion and come to a screaming crash at the end. They cannot even listen to the debate from the opposition. They want to guillotine it and shut it down. They do not want to talk about their own party. They do not want to talk about the Attorney-General's own history as leader when she could not even talk to her own party.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The time for the debate has expired.

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

AYES, 34:

ALP, 34—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richmond, Russo, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

NOES, 50:

LNP, 50—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Chiesa, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Hatcher, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

Pairs: Camm, Butcher; Lister, Ryan.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Ms Fentiman) negatived.

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

Mr SPEAKER: Ring the bells for one minute.

AYES, 50:

LNP, 50—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Chiesa, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Hatcher, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

NOES, 34:

ALP, 34—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richmond, Russo, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Pairs: Camm, Butcher; Lister, Ryan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

PRIVILEGE

Comments by Member for Woodridge, Clarification and Apology

Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.18 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. In a debate before the House this afternoon, I referenced a matter that, on a point of order, the member for Mundingburra, a former police officer and assistant minister, claimed was before the courts. I referenced the matter because the facts were presented to a committee of the parliament at a public hearing. Because of that, I thought the sub judice rule did not apply as the sub judice rule does not apply to open hearings of committees.

Speaker, to you and to the House, if I have inadvertently breached standing orders then I apologise. I ask you to review the proceedings of the committee to ensure there was no breach of the sub judice rule because in her point of order the member for Mundingburra claimed the matter was before the court. I do not want the parliament to be in error in how it may have conducted itself.

Mr HUNT: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I might be able to assist with that. Before all committee hearings in North Queensland in relation to the bill, the members of the public and witnesses were advised that if any matter was before the court then they were not to mention that to the committee. That was made clear during those proceedings. You will see that in the transcript.

Mr SPEAKER: We will review that.

RURAL AND REGIONAL ADJUSTMENT AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

Hon. DR LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (5.19 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Primary Industries and Resources Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Rural and Regional Adjustment Amendment Bill 2026 [2162].

Tabled paper: Rural and Regional Adjustment Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes [2163].

Tabled paper: Rural and Regional Adjustment Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights [2164].

The Rural and Regional Adjustment Amendment Bill 2026 amends the Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994. This act establishes the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority, QRIDA, to administer schemes of financial assistance on behalf of the Queensland and Australian governments. For the benefit of the House, when we refer to a scheme under this legislation we are talking about the financial assistance programs administered by the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority, commonly known as QRIDA. Put simply, these are the mechanisms through which government provides targeted financial support to eligible primary producers, businesses and industries across Queensland.

The bill amends the act to improve the operational performance of QRIDA and modernise the provisions of the act. The bill will streamline the process to establish new financial assistance schemes. Currently, section 11 of the act requires schemes delivered in Queensland to be detailed in a regulation. This process is timely and can potentially take months to make or amend a scheme. In practical terms, this means that establishing a new financial assistance scheme, or making changes to an existing one, requires a formal regulatory process, including the preparation and approval of subordinate legislation. While this process provides oversight, it can be lengthy and administratively burdensome, delaying the delivery of financial assistance programs, which is particularly problematic when it comes to things like disaster assistance which we need to get out the door as soon as possible.

The bill will replace this process with a ministerial notice for scheme approval. New schemes will be detailed in a guideline published by QRIDA and then approved through a ministerial notice. This will substantially reduce the time taken to make a new scheme or amend an existing one. Importantly, ministerial notices will be subordinate legislation and subject to the requirements of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992. This is important. The Crisafulli government is not seeking to remove oversight or diminish accountability; we are simply removing unnecessary administrative barriers.

Customer service provisions can be included in the scheme guidelines published by QRIDA. Customer service provisions could include provision for pre-approval, flexible repayment options or direct payments to a supplier. Stating the relevant customer service provisions in the scheme guidelines will provide transparency and help ensure schemes are customer focused. Applicants will also be given more time to make an application for internal review. The bill will extend the timeframe from 20 to 30 business days to ensure applicants have enough time to request an internal review, particularly where a disaster or emergency causes a delay in their ability to respond.

The bill will clarify that QRIDA may administer parts of Queensland government schemes, addressing ambiguity in the current act. The bill will expand QRIDA's power to recover funds such as funds paid in error. Currently, the act only allows QRIDA to recover funds where the applicant knowingly provides false or misleading information or documents to receive financial assistance that they otherwise would not have received. To ensure human rights are preserved, the bill includes provisions to provide for applicants to appeal financial recovery decisions through the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

The bill will clarify the requirements for creating new functions for QRIDA. Section 8 of the act sets out the functions of QRIDA and allows for a regulation to be made to establish a new function, in addition to those stated in section 8. The bill will amend section 8 of the act to make it clearer what a regulation to establish a new function can contain—for example, what the function is, how the function is to be performed and for how long. The bill will make a number of amendments to improve QRIDA corporate governance, particularly for appointing a director to the board of QRIDA, and the chief executive officer. These changes will bring the act in line with modern legislation for statutory bodies.

In the development of the bill, we consulted with major agricultural industry groups whose membership benefit from the support provided to rural and regional Queensland. I also note that the former Labor government commenced some of this work, but ran out of time to make any of those improvements.

The bill complies with fundamental legislative principles and has been assessed for consistency with the human rights protected under the Human Rights Act 2019. The bill is compatible with human rights under the Human Rights Act because it limits a human right only to the extent that is reasonable and demonstrably justifiable in a free and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom.

We often hear about QRIDA and what they do, but, for the information of the House, I will elaborate on what QRIDA actually does. They administer a wide range of assistance schemes, including concessional loans to primary producers through the Primary Industry Productivity Enhancement Scheme, disaster recovery grants and loans for primary producers, small businesses and not-for-profit organisations under the joint Commonwealth-state Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, drought preparedness programs for primary producers and variance other assistance schemes on a fee-for-service basis that support communities or benefit the economy.

The bill will improve the overall customer experience. It will reduce red tape, it will speed up the process to create or amend schemes for financial assistance and it will update the governance provisions of the act in accordance with best practice administration for statutory bodies. In essence, these changes are about cutting unnecessary red tape, making government more responsive especially in a disaster situation where Queenslanders need access to funding and loans quickly, and ensuring Queensland's rural and regional businesses can access financial assistance when they need it.

As the ministerial notice will be subordinate legislation and will be prepared by the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel, the level of rigour remains high. The notice itself will be published on the Queensland legislation website and tabled in parliament. It will also be subject to potential disallowance and expiry under the Statutory Instruments Act 1992. Importantly, while these reforms will streamline administrative processes and reduce unnecessary red tape, they will not come at the expense of transparency, accountability or proper parliamentary scrutiny. Once the new process commences, any amendments that may be necessary to existing schemes will see them transition to the ministerial notice process. This should reduce the time taken to commence or amend schemes as well as lighten the workload of the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel.

Major agricultural industry groups such as AgForce, QFF, Canegrowers et cetera and the rural financial counselling service providers were briefed on the proposed amendments and no issues were raised. Briefings were held with central agencies and departments with programs delivered by QRIDA, and that feedback has helped form the basis of this bill which is now before the House. I can also advise the House that we will continue ongoing consultation with government agencies that have programs administered by QRIDA in the transition to the new ministerial notice process.

QRIDA performs an important function in Queensland. It is a well-respected organisation, an organisation that administers funds, particularly in times of hardship, in times of disaster, and we certainly appreciate the work they do. I want to acknowledge the work of the staff at QRIDA and their professionalism and ongoing work around this state in administering those particular funds.

This bill represents the most significant reform in 30 years to the legislation governing QRIDA and demonstrates the government's commitment to streamlining processes, reducing red tape and delivering tangible benefits to regional and rural communities across Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. DR LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (5.29 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to Primary Industries and Resources Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Primary Industries and Resources Committee.

MOTION

Cost of Living; Labor Party, Commitments

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

That this House notes:

1. that rents have increased by 8.7 per cent in Cairns, 6.1 per cent in Brisbane and it is now more expensive to rent on the Gold Coast than in Sydney;
2. reports that the rapid expansion of AI data centres would put household energy bills up by $370 a year;
3. an extra $1 billion will be spent on the LNP's credit rating downgrade interest receipt instead of infrastructure and frontline services;
4. fuel prices have increased by more than five cents a litre 2,100 times in one month;
5. only Labor is standing up for workers' rights;
6. Labor has committed to make rego free for construction trade apprentices and their supervisors to build an army of tradies;
7. Labor has committed to modernise the social housing waitlist threshold;
8. Labor has committed to extending the build-to-rent tax cut indefinitely where affordable homes are included;
9. Labor has committed to pay interest on rental bonds and introduce a portable rental bond scheme;
10. Labor has committed to doubling funding for First Nations and multicultural community events;
11. Labor has committed to $10 million to support the community services sector in addressing food insecurity; and
12. Labor has committed to establishing an independent Queensland community safety statistics bureau.

After two years of the Crisafulli LNP government, Queenslanders deserve to know what they have to show for it. For too many Queenslanders, the answer lies in the bills that are on the kitchen table they sit around: the increased rent, the petrol prices that smash them at the bowser, their rates, their water bills, their energy bills and their rego. That is where they can see what they have to show for the two years of this Crisafulli LNP government. Too many people feel like they are working hard but have nothing to show for it. The goal for any government should be to make life better for Queenslanders now and for the next generation.

After two years of the Crisafulli LNP government, Queenslanders are not better off. In fact, they are worse off. Rents are up nearly nine per cent in Cairns and more than six per cent in Brisbane. It now costs more to rent on the Gold Coast than it does in Sydney. Behind those figures sits a family wondering if they can continue to live in their neighbourhood or if they can keep their kids at the school where they started school. Young people are wondering whether they can afford to live near their parents and the support network that comes with that. We hear spin from the LNP government, but our Labor team has been proposing practical solutions to the problems that we are hearing about from Queenslanders.

One practical solution is to pay interest on rental bonds. For many renters, their rental bond is a big chunk of their savings—thousands of dollars. Right now the government keeps the interest on those rental bonds. We think it is their money and they deserve to keep the interest. We will also introduce a seamless bond transfer scheme, so when they move from one property to the next not only will they have more rental bond because of the interest that was earned on it, they will not have to find a second bond like they do at the moment.

We have said that we will modernise the social housing threshold so it more closely reflects the current cost of living. We know that we need tradies to build all of the extra houses we need, and that is why we will deliver to them and their apprentices free rego, which will build an army of tradies in our state. Those same tradies will benefit from our plan to deliver more affordable fuel. Last month alone, fuel in Brisbane jumped more than five cents a litre more than 2,100 times. Every single time a motorist filled up at the service station, they could have saved money through a plan that is before the parliament right now.

Those same tradies will be scared about what the LNP's AI data centres will mean for their power bills. Published modelling shows that their plan for AI data centres could push up power bills by $270 a year. The Premier says that they will drive down power prices, but there is no modelling to support that. The only modelling available to Queenslanders shows that bills will go up $370 a year.

Then there is the big expense that every Queenslander today and in the future will have to pay because of this Treasurer's credit rating downgrade. An extra billion dollars payable in interest means that it cannot be used to deliver cost-of-living relief or build our schools and hospitals. The fact is: we

risk a further downgrade because they have no plan to stabilise the state's fiscal situation. Labor is listening to Queenslanders and detailing practical policies that will help them, while all we get from those opposite is spin, spin, spin. They have no substance to help Queenslanders.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Toowoomba South, let me remind of the members who are on a warning. They are the members for Waterford, Sandgate, Greenslopes, Ninderry and Currumbin.

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

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

'1. the Queensland Productivity Commission report found that Best Practice Industry Conditions, implemented by the former Labor government, resulted in 77,000 fewer homes being constructed and higher rents;

2. the former Labor government oversaw consecutive increases to power prices, and their Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro project would have further increased costs for Queenslanders;

3. 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. members of the former Labor government and current opposition did not stand up for Queensland workers who faced abuse, intimidation and violence as revealed in the Commission of Inquiry into the CFMEU.'

There is a part of me that feels a little sorry for the Leader of the Opposition moving his valedictory motion here tonight. I feel a little sorry for the opposition leader. It was recently reported in the *Australian* that one of his frontbenchers said—

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

One of the opposition leader's frontbench colleagues who is literally within touching distance—he could literally reach around and touch them—actually said that about him. There is a certain comedic tragedy feeling about the opposition leader coming in here tonight and moving a motion to try to prove to the frontbench colleagues beside him that he has a plan to get them re-elected in 2028. That is the task that has been left to the opposition leader tonight.

The opposition leader may have been unrepentant tonight in his desire to prosecute a failed scare campaign once more for 2028. I am here to tell the opposition leader that the facts will set him free. I will run through some of the facts in his motion that are deeply wrong and deeply troubling. I will rattle a few off.

Under the leadership of the opposition leader, ramping tripled. Debt would have been $73 billion worse than it is under our government. We have improving deficits and a predicted surplus in the last of the out years. We have had two consecutive budgets with no new or increased taxes, and I contrast that with the member for Woodridge's budgets. Budget after budget we had new and increased taxes, even after he promised 26 times that he would not do anything. He lifted and increased taxes. We know about his renters tax. He is right there. We remember how bitter he was when then premier Palaszczuk rolled him at National Cabinet. He suffered public humiliation on the renters tax when he was rolled—

Mr DICK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at everything the member has said. I ask him to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr JANETZKI: I withdraw. I do not think the member for Woodridge can take offence at his being rolled by then premier Palaszczuk on his renters tax, which was publicly reported. He wanted to drive up rents and drive out investment in the middle of a housing crisis.

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

Mr SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr JANETZKI: That is his record.

Mr SPEAKER: Treasurer, I have a point of order.

Mr DICK: How about you respect the Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr DICK: I take personal offence at those words and ask the honourable member to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: I ask you to withdraw.

Mr JANETZKI: I withdraw. I am going to come back to the member for Woodridge shortly. We look back at their other failings—1,127 fewer police than what they promised before the last election. We have had a 193 per cent lift in victims of crime under their watch over 10 years. Then we come to housing. They talk about rents. Over the last four years of the former Labor government, rents in Queensland went up 52 per cent—more than 11 per cent per year. In the last year under our government rents have gone up 4.8 per cent. They are the facts. They are the facts that could set the opposition free, but they will not be set free because they are tied to a leader whose time is up.

There is no more example of the policy vacuum than the front bench who sit beside him—the front bench who say to journalists that they have no way out, that they have no idea what their argument to be re-elected is. They are the people who sit within touching distance of the opposition leader. We know it is getting worse for them. Their Homes for Queenslanders plan that they released in the middle of 2024 did not mention productivity. It is getting worse. Time's up for them. Time's up on the policy vacuum and the failure of the Leader of the Opposition. It is time for him to go.

(Time expired)

Mr MELLISH (Aspley—ALP) (5.40 pm): I would say that that was a degrading performance by the Treasurer, but maybe I should call it a 'downgraded' performance! This is a Treasurer who used to come in here and lecture us about bond spread—'What's the bond yield?' There he goes, acting like he is the big egghead of parliament. Then he came in and said he did not want a downgrade on his watch. What happened? He got a downgrade. In a five-minute contribution he could not mention the word 'downgrade' once. I would call him 'Downgrade Dave' but that is unparliamentary, so of course I would not say that.

Across the board we know that Queensland is going backwards under the LNP. Queenslanders are doing it tough. We know that households are watching their budgets and cutting expenses like never before. It is just a shame that the LNP is not doing the same. Under the careful watch of the previous speaker, S&P Global downgraded Queensland's credit rating for the first time in 17 years. S&P made it clear that 'Queensland's budgetary performance could weaken during the next two years, resulting in higher debt, largely due to heavy infrastructure spending'. Nowhere is that more apparent than in the LNP's Olympic plans. A researcher on Olympic budget overruns says the LNP's figures are already short by billions. Alexander Budzier questioned, 'How can this possibly be enough money to do what Brisbane wants to do?'

Chief economist Stephen Walters warns that 'we're going to probably end up with much bigger costs than we expect'. Maybe we should have all paid more attention to the member for Cook when he said that the regions would struggle for funding while the LNP's Olympic spending is set to suck so many resources out of South-East Queensland. Walter said that 'at some point, the government probably should let taxpayers know how much they are on the hook for'. When households across the state are tightening their budgets and watching what they spend, the least the LNP can do is come clean about how they are spending taxpayers' money and just how much they are spending.

The LNP have developed a culture of secrecy and a reputation for hiding the important details. Details like funding allocations and construction timelines have completely disappeared from transport projects, leaving local government, industry and communities in the dark. Removing details reduces transparency and, importantly, it reduces accountability. It leaves Queenslanders wondering when the road they use on a daily basis is finally going to be upgraded and Queenslanders who want to know how much funding the government is providing to local public transport infrastructure and services. Our roads, rail and buses need investment, but instead this government has delayed projects already in the pipeline and has stopped planning for Queensland's future.

The absence of a vision and a long-term investment in the transport network sees more Queenslanders confined to the slow lane. Driving has never been more expensive and it has never been harder to get projects off the ground. Brisbane's motorists are hit with the highest petrol prices of the five largest capital cities. The average cost for unleaded today has climbed to 237.5 cents per litre—higher than every other mainland capital. Diesel prices remain higher than the other capitals and continue to hit the household budget too.

Queenslanders should not be held to ransom by global uncertainty and corporate greed, affecting their ability to get around. Fuel prices continue to surge as this government stands by and does nothing. Stronger oversight and greater price regulation is desperately needed for a market that is failing Queenslanders, but this government refuses to act.

We understand that electrification is one of the most effective strategies to reduce our dependence on imported foreign fuel and protect households from fuel price spikes. That is why it is so incomprehensible that the LNP is standing in the way of progress. Instead of embracing cheaper, alternative technologies already in use, the LNP has backed a new fleet of diesel buses pumping out fumes in our suburbs for decades to come. When the rest of the country is looking to the future, the LNP is sending Queensland back to the past. As they continue to look backwards, the challenges facing Queensland's workforce only increase.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Quarrelling will cease.

Mr MELLISH: Under the LNP, fewer young Queenslanders are taking up trades, compared to 2024 figures. This is why we are backing the next generation of tradies with our plan to get young people to pick up the tools and for the businesses to put them on site.

Earlier this year we announced that we would waive vehicle registration costs for trade apprentices and their workplace supervisors for their training period, encouraging more small and family businesses to take on apprentices. This could mean savings of up to $590 a year. Free rego puts money back in the pockets of workers and supports more young people to take up a construction trade, support small business and build up our skilled workforce. Without real cost-of-living relief, without action on fuel prices, without real investment in our roads and public transport infrastructure, our future is at risk.

We deserve a government that plans and invests for the future instead of hiding from it. The LNP could not even manage the transport chaos from a Zara Larsson concert two weeks ago here at Riverstage, so how can Queenslanders have confidence they can manage the biggest event we have ever hosted? I am proud this week that we have released our *Slow lane: a state of congestion* issues paper on transport in Queensland. It is already about four times thicker than the government's current plan on transport. They removed costs. They removed timelines. They have no plan for roads. They have no plan for public transport. They have no plan to tackle the price of petrol. This government is going nowhere on transport.



Hon. RM BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (5.45 pm): I support the amendment and oppose the motion moved by the member for Murrumba. We have heard these promises before: state owned service stations, free lunches and now free rego. The member for Murrumba loves announcing giveaways, but Queenslanders know that nothing is really free. Someone always pays. Under Labor, the bill falls on taxpayers. If the member for Murrumba wants to talk about cost-of-living pressures, he should explain the impact of the decisions his own government made. He was a senior minister and later premier. Try as he might he cannot hide his record. Let's start with housing.

The Queensland Productivity Commission found that construction productivity had fallen by nine per cent since 2018. For Queensland families, that means fewer homes available, more competition for rentals and higher costs. The commission also found that Labor's Best Practice Industry Conditions increased building costs and reduced housing supply. It estimated that these policies could cost the community up to $20.6 billion by 2029-30 while also leading to fewer homes and higher rents. Labor called these policies best practice. Queensland families ended up paying the price. That is why we scrapped BPIC. Queenslanders deserve more homes and better value for money when building hospitals, schools and essential infrastructure.

Let's also talk about electricity. Under Labor, power prices kept rising. One of their major plans was the Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro project, which was expected to cost up to $36.8 billion. The cost would eventually have been passed on to Queenslanders. A slogan does not make a project affordable. We scrapped Pioneer-Burdekin because Queensland needs reliable and affordable energy, backed by sound decisions and proper scrutiny.

The same approach applies to the state's finances. State debt is forecast to reach $216.5 billion by 2029-30, and we accept the responsibility of managing it. On Labor's trajectory, debt would have reached $290 billion, meaning $73.5 billion more debt for Queenslanders.

The member for Murrumba can keep announcing new giveaways, but he still needs to explain how he would pay for them. If he wants to talk about apprentices, trainees and small businesses, let's talk about TAFE. Labor had 10 years to build the skilled workforce Queensland needs, yet employers still struggled to find workers to build homes and deliver essential services. Announcing free rego does not fix the problem. Training people, helping them complete qualifications and supporting small businesses to hire apprentices requires long-term effort.

The Crisafulli LNP government is doing the work. We are fighting to protect Queensland's free TAFE funding. When will we hear the slightest peep from those opposite about their federal Labor mates trying to cut Queensland's funding? We are backing small businesses to cover apprentice wages while workers are away at training, and investing in TAFE facilities that teach the skills Queensland needs.

Labor think that the key KPI for training is how many Queenslanders commence a new training course. Under those opposite, completions—the ones who actually exit with a qualification—were abysmal. A training announcement only matters if people can enrol, finish their course and get a job using those skills. Our focus is on delivering those opportunities.

We warned that the Commonwealth's proposed funding arrangements would have left Queensland $208 million worse off and put around 11,000 training places at risk. If the member for Murrumba wanted to support something free, he could have started by standing up to his federal Labor colleagues and backing Queensland's case. Here is some free advice: spend less time announcing new giveaways and more time protecting Queensland's training opportunities.

Finally, supporting workers also means protecting their safety. The commission of inquiry into the CFMEU is hearing serious allegations of abuse, intimidation and violence. These allegations deserve to be properly examined and investigated. Every apprentice and tradie should be able to go to work without fear of threats, bullying or intimidation. Labor needs to answer for its failures to address the behaviour that is now under investigation. If those opposite claim to represent workers, those opposite also have a responsibility to protect them. Where was their leadership when it was needed? Our government established this inquiry and has given it time to do its work properly. Queenslanders deserve answers and the people coming forward deserve to be heard.

The member for Murrumba wants the House to judge our government while ignoring the record of his own. We are increasing housing supply, making responsible energy decisions, repairing the budget, training Queenslanders and supporting safe workplaces. When it comes to the member for Murrumba, the record speaks for itself. He failed as premier. He failed as Leader of the Opposition. Here is some more free advice for the member: stop wasting Queenslanders' time—

(Time expired)

Hon. LM ENOCH (Algester—ALP) (5.50 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition, particularly Labor's commitment to doubling funding for First Nations and multicultural community events. I want to focus on why this commitment matters after two years of the Crisafulli LNP government.

While Labor is committed to celebrating First Nations cultures, this government has been systematically diminishing First Nations visibility, representation and cultural authority. This is what has been widely described as 'Project Invisibility'. After two years, 'Project Invisibility' is no longer just a description of this government's actions; it is a warning about the direction Queensland is heading—a direction that increasingly resembles a modern form of assimilation policy. It is the kind of assimilation policy that may not use the explicit language we saw in the past, but it acts instead to quietly dismantle First Nations representation, erode cultural authority within the Public Service and weaken Indigenous voices and Indigenous influence in government decision-making.

Consider the long list of regressive decisions under this Premier and his minister. On its very first parliamentary sitting day, this government repealed the Path to Treaty legislation and terminated the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry. The Premier had publicly promised respect and decency. First Nations people saw none of that. As part of their first act, the Premier and his LNP government abandoned a process designed to explore our shared history and advance reconciliation. This government has not even bothered to renew its reconciliation action plan.

We have seen First Nations representation dramatically reduced across Queensland's major cultural institutions. Numerous First Nations board members on the very institutions that are responsible for preserving and presenting Queensland's story and culture have departed or been removed, some without explanation and before their term expired. It has been reported in the media that the proposed naming of QPAC's new theatre after Oodgeroo Noonuccal was overturned via ministerial influence. Further reports identified that plans to temporarily display Aboriginal artwork on the 'Brisbane' sign at South Bank during the Clancestry festival were cancelled. This is 'Project Invisibility' in action.

Perhaps even more disturbing is what has happened inside the Queensland Public Service. This government is not simply diminishing cultural recognition. Many public servants tell me this government is systematically eroding First Nations cultural authority from the machinery of government itself. They say they have seen identified positions, dedicated work units and key policies downgraded, abolished

or 'embedded', with dedicated First Nations representation weakened across public institutions. These actions appear to be not simply changes to organisational charts; they appear to be about determining who has authority, who influences policy and whose knowledge informs government decisions. Even when decisions directly impact First Nations people it would appear that, under this LNP government, First Nations expertise and even our very presence is increasingly being treated as optional rather than essential.

These are political choices, and political choices reveal political priorities. This government can talk all it likes about closing the gap, but closing the gap is about sharing power, strengthening community controlled organisations and transforming government institutions. These are very clearly spelled out in the four priority reform areas of the Closing the Gap agreement, yet this government appears determined to move in the opposite direction. In fact, their political priorities may come under the same scrutiny as the Northern Territory when it comes to the Closing the Gap agreement if they do not reverse course immediately, risking much needed federal funding for some of our most vulnerable communities.

To add to 'Project Invisibility', the Queensland Government Reconciliation Action Plan expired in June 2025. Where is its replacement? Where is the report on its 24 commitments? How is this action in keeping with the government's *Reframing the relationship plan,* which is bound by legislation? You cannot claim to be reframing the relationship or reconciliation while dismantling the structures that make all of that meaningful.

That brings me back to Labor's commitment. Doubling funding for community celebrations recognises the importance of culture, identity and belonging. It also sends a strong message about the Crisafulli LNP government's 'Project Invisibility'. It will not go unchallenged! Labor supports genuine representation, self-determination and respect—not this pattern of decisions from the LNP that risk taking Queensland backwards towards a modern-day version of assimilation where First Nations culture and influence is diminished and where the government speaks of partnership while removing the very voices they claim to be partnering with. First Nations Queenslanders will not be made invisible. We will not accept turning back the clock. 'Project Invisibility' must end, and it starts with supporting this motion.

Mrs YOUNG (Redlands—LNP) (5.55 pm): I find it extraordinary that Labor has come into this House with 12 points about the cost of living—12 points about what Queenslanders are paying—but not one word about what Labor's own decisions have cost them. They want to talk about housing affordability, electricity prices and Queensland's finances. Let's talk about their record, because Queensland families are still paying the price.

In my electorate of Redlands, I speak to parents worried about their children never being able to afford a home in the community they grew up in. Young families are struggling to enter the market and renters are watching more and more of their weekly pay disappear into housing costs. These are real challenges that did not happen overnight. Under Labor, Brisbane's rent increased by 52.5 per cent in just four years, and now Labor wants to lecture this government about housing affordability? In the most recent 12 months, rents have increased by only 4.8 per cent. That is still too high, but let's not pretend the housing crisis started in October 2024.

What makes it worse is that the Queensland Productivity Commission found that construction productivity has fallen by nine per cent since 2018. That is the equivalent of 77,000 homes that could otherwise have been built. Think about how many Queensland's families could have had a place to call home. Labor's Best Practice Industry Conditions added costs to construction and made delivering homes harder. You cannot spend years making it more expensive to build and then axe the price when Queenslanders cannot afford a home. That is the legacy Labor needs to answer for.

Our government is taking a different approach. We have permanently removed BPIC from government procurement policy and we are reforming planning to unlock housing supply. In Redlands, we are seeing work in progress. The Southern Thornlands PDA provides a pathway for around 8,000 future homes. That is supported by a proposed infrastructure investment of more than $544 million for roads, sewerage and community facilities. It is not enough to simply announce more houses; we need to plan for the infrastructure that goes with them.

Housing is not the only area where Queenslanders are paying for Labor's decisions. Let's talk about electricity. In the first year after Labor released its Energy and Jobs Plan, regional power prices went up 29 per cent. What did Labor offer Queenslanders? A pumped hydro project at Pioneer-Burdekin with estimated costs reaching almost $37 billion. That is not loose change; that is Queensland taxpayers' money. Families struggling to pay their electricity bills have every right to ask how projects of that scale were allowed to reach those estimated costs.

Under our government, typical regional household bills on the standard regulated tariff are falling by 6.9 per cent this year. We are focused on reliable, affordable energy while making sure Queenslanders' money is respected. That brings me to debt. Labor's former debt trajectory would have seen Queensland's debt reach $290 billion by 2029-30. Our budget forecasts $216.5 billion. That is a $73.5 billion difference. Let's remember that debt is not free. Every dollar spent servicing debt is money that cannot be spent on hospitals, schools and roads in our growing communities.

Finally, Labor wants to talk about standing up for workers. Let's be clear: standing up for workers means standing up for their right to go to work without intimidation or threats. The CFMEU commission of inquiry is hearing serious allegations of intimidation and misconduct. Those allegations must be properly examined because every worker deserves a safe workplace regardless of which union they belong to or who employs them. Queenslanders do not need another lecture from Labor about cost of living. They need answers about the decisions that help create these pressures in the first place: the housing shortage, the rising electricity costs, the escalating project costs and the debt Queenslanders are being asked to carry.

Mr McCALLUM (Bundamba—ALP) (6.00 pm): In that contribution from the member for Redlands, she posed the question of what Labor did to bring power bills down for Queenslanders. We gave Queenslanders a $1,000 rebate on their electricity bills. This was universal relief for every single Queenslander. If the member for Redlands wants to talk about her concern that her community is suffering under cost-of-living pressures—which her government has been raining down on them for the last two years—I suggest the member for Redlands and every other government member who holds that same concern should provide real cost-of-living relief for Queensland families. Families are struggling in Bundamba and the other 92 electorates that are represented in parliament.

The member for Toowoomba South had a lot to say, but he did not mention that he is the first treasurer in almost 20 years to deliver a ratings downgrade for Queensland. That is his record and the record of this government after two years in power—an extra billion dollars in interest rate payments for Queenslanders. That is what this government is costing our communities. He had some temerity to mention people getting rolled, because he is the minister who got rolled in the first 12 months of this government when the member for Kawana decided to cancel renewable energy projects without even telling the energy minister. If we talk about getting rolled, that is his record.

The most egregious thing the energy minister has been doing, along with so many other ministers in the Crisafulli government, is using spin over substance when it comes to electricity prices for Queenslanders. They are out there gaslighting Queenslanders in regional communities, saying that power prices are coming down when there has been a 121 per cent increase in the number of Queenslanders who are unable to pay their bills. Queenslanders are struggling under this government. That is the government's record. Those figures are from the Australian Energy Regulator.

I have been contacted by Queenslanders in regional areas who have seen the government's announcement and their gaslighting about cheaper electricity prices. Their bills are going up and they have noticed that the network charges, the supply charges, have increased. The government sits here and does nothing. This is the same government that has presided over a cut to the regional solar feed-in tariff. This means that regional households are getting less for their solar PVs.

The Premier's promise around power prices going down because of data centres is probably the biggest untruth of all untruths in relation to power prices. I decided to use some of the online artificial intelligence, and I asked this question: 'Is David Crisafulli's promise that data centres in Queensland will bring down power prices without requirements to bring their own new energy realistic?' This is what no less than Anthropic said: 'What the evidence shows in a market adding a very large load without adding supply tends to push wholesale prices up. That is standard market economics. That is why the government's own federal counterparts and independent analysts expect increases.'

I also asked, 'How much will the proposed Western Downs data centre increase power prices by if there is no new energy and it uses existing coal and gas power?' The answer according to Anthropic was, 'Queensland's wholesale power prices could rise by at least 13 per cent.' That is according to independent modelling from the Climate Council. We had independent modelling from the Smart Energy Council released a couple of days ago that showed that, under this government's plan, household bills will go up by $375 a year because of their data centres.

(Time expired)

Mr G KELLY (Mirani—LNP) (6.05 pm): I rise to support the amendment before the House. When we talk about cost of living, housing, electricity prices and government debt, these are not just numbers on a page; these are real issues affecting hardworking Queensland families, particularly in our regional communities. The decisions made by the former Labor government have had consequences.

Let's start with housing. The Queensland Productivity Commission's report highlighted the impact of the Best Practice Industry Conditions introduced by the former Labor government, which the amendment identifies as contributing to 77,000 fewer homes being constructed and higher rents. At a time when families across Sarina, Mount Morgan and Central Queensland have been struggling to find affordable housing, that is a serious concern. We need more homes being built, not unnecessary costs and delays making housing even harder to deliver.

Then there is electricity. Under Labor's Energy and Jobs Plan, regional Queensland power prices increased by 29 per cent in its first years, with no thanks to their obsession with renewables. Ask the communities who live under the Wambo Wind Farm or next to the Gladstone solar farm, which recently caught fire, just how good they think Labor's Energy and Jobs Plan was. Communities have been torn apart under that plan, including my own communities.

Compare that to the first year of the Crisafulli government's Energy Roadmap, where prices are down between seven and 10 per cent. In Central Queensland, we know how important affordable and reliable electricity is. We have families trying to pay their bills, small businesses trying to survive and industries that rely on affordable power to remain competitive. Let's not forget Labor's Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro project—a project that was estimated to cost at least $36.8 billion. What a blowout. That is an extraordinary amount of money, and it is Queenslanders who ultimately carry the financial risk when projects blow out.

It was not just the financial cost. The former Labor government threw a wrecking ball right through that community. I should know because I walk with those families. I have seen firsthand what it does to small communities. I can say right here and now that I have seen it and the opposition own it and they will own it until the day I am finished here. Families faced years of uncertainty about their homes, their properties and their futures. Even now, that community is still trying to get back on its feet after everything it was put through.

Queensland's debt is another important issue. Under Labor's projected trajectory, debt would have reached $290 billion by 2029-30. The current forecast is $216.5 billion. That is a difference of $73.5 billion. We all know you are never better off under Labor, and these figures prove that. Regional Queenslanders expect their taxes to deliver better roads, hospitals, schools and essential services, not to be propping up renewable developers chasing a dream that will never work.

Finally, there is the CFMEU inquiry. The allegations and evidence of intimidation, abuse and violence are deeply concerning. Every Queensland worker deserves to go to work without fear of threats or intimidation. It does not matter whether they are working on a construction site in Brisbane or a major industrial project in Central Queensland; workers deserve to be safe. The findings of the CFMEU inquiry raise serious questions about whether the former Labor government did anything to protect those workers.

It is very simple: regional Queenslanders want affordable housing, reliable power, responsible spending and safe workplaces. Those are reasonable expectations. That is why I support the amendment to the motion before the House.

Mr HEALY (Cairns—ALP) (6.09 pm): There comes a time in the life of every government when excuses cease to carry any credibility, when blaming predecessors becomes an admission of failure and when their responsibility for governing rests squarely with those occupying the treasury benches. For the Crisafulli LNP government, that time has arrived. They cannot claim the authority of government while refusing the responsibility that comes with it, yet that is precisely the contradiction at the heart of this government. It wants the privilege of power, the publicity of office and the political credit for every announcement but seemingly none of the accountability when things go wrong. Nowhere is this failure in leadership more apparent than in Cairns and in Far North Queensland.

At a time when families are struggling with soaring rents, housing insecurity, rising household bills and increasing pressures on their living standards, this government appears more interested in advertising its achievements than in actually delivering them. Cairns rents have reportedly increased by 8.7 per cent. Families are making increasingly difficult decisions about groceries, electricity and keeping a roof over their heads, yet the government continues to promote itself through taxpayer-funded advertising campaigns congratulating itself on projects that remain years from completion—if any of them are going to be completed at all.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is too much noise.

Mr HEALY: The question Queenslanders are entitled to ask is simple: how much public money has been spent on promoting government promises instead of delivering government outcomes? There is something profoundly hypocritical about government preaching fiscal restraint while spending taxpayers' money promoting its own political credentials, and that is taking into account the fact we have just suffered a downgrading.

Government advertising should inform the public, not serve as an excuse in a ministerial self-congratulation. The people of Cairns do not need another glossy advertisement about hospital expansion; they need certainty about construction, additional beds, operating theatres and when services will improve. They need to know when it is going to happen. They do not need another ministerial photograph beside an infrastructure announcement, probably started by Labor; they need roads, bridges and facilities delivered.

Consider the Barron River bridge, an aging and increasingly constrained economic lifeline connecting Cairns with the tablelands. While other parts of Queensland receive detailed plans and viable progress on major bridge projects, Far North Queensland continues waiting for certainty on a replacement that is fundamental to freight, tourism, agriculture and disaster resilience.

The Cairns Western Arterial Road remains another example of promises outpacing progress. The Cairns Marine Precinct common user facility, a nation-building opportunity capable of transforming our defence, maritime and advanced manufacturing industries, continues to face uncertainty when decisive leadership is desperately needed. These are not optional luxuries; these are essential investments in the economic future of Northern Australia.

The same pattern can be seen when we look at tourism. Meanwhile, the cancellation of the proposed Cairns First Nations cultural centre represents another lost opportunity to develop a distinctive tourism attraction whilst supporting Indigenous economic participation. What does this government offer? More announcements, more excuses and more attempts to shift responsibility!

The Crisafulli government cannot continue looking backwards while Cairns and the far north are demanding leadership that looks forward; nor can it blame its predecessors indefinitely for decisions, delays and priorities that now well and truly fall under their own authority. This government must be judged by what it delivers, not who it blames.

There is also a stark contrast in the practical measures being advanced to address household pressures. Queensland Labor is committed to limiting daily fuel price increases to five cents, providing free registration for construction apprentices and supervisors, modernising social housing eligibility thresholds, and introducing portable rental bonds with interest paid to tenants. Labor has also committed $10 million to addressing food insecurity through the community services sector and establishing an independent Queensland community safety statistics bureau. These are tangible policy commitments directed towards affordability, housing, workforce development and, more importantly, community safety. They deserve scrutiny against any standard of delivery expected by government. Leadership is not measured by the size of an advertising campaign. It is measured by results.

Hon. SJ MINNIKIN (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (6.14 pm): I rise to support the amendment to the motion moved by the Treasurer. I have to say that, from the contributions of those opposite, something is pretty apparent—and it has not just been today but over the last 12 months: they are frustrated. They are absolutely frustrated. I know what it is like to spend time on the opposition benches. For what it is worth, I would say this.

The member for Cairns talked about and finished his contribution on the subject of leadership. On this occasion I agree with him. It does very much go to the heart of leadership, but the challenge they have opposite is this. I have had the privilege of being here for about 14½ years and I have gotten to know people on that side of the chamber well—as well as one can when we have different ideologies. Many people on that side of the House are good people, but the reality is: you can tell their frustration by the diminishing quality of their contributions in debates. The simple fact of the matter is: when you have a look at the Leader of the Opposition—

Ms Grace interjected.

Ms Mullen interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for McConnel and member Jordan.

Mr MINNIKIN:—it starts with the very fact, as has been often said, that he never even conceded on election night.

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Lytton, that is no excuse for you to start.

Mr MINNIKIN: Almost every single contribution contains gonna, could have, should have, 'we're going to get there', or 'if only we'd had another decade'. They do not get that. They simply do not get that.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr MINNIKIN: I will get to the member for Miller very shortly. I want to turn to the amendment to the motion. Item 4 states—

members of the former Labor government and current opposition did not stand up for Queensland workers who faced abuse, intimidation and violence as revealed in the Commission of Inquiry into the CFMEU.

Here is the classic case in point: it is their track record. It is almost as though it is a veritable field of 'what do we choose next?' For many years I debated the member for Miller when I was the shadow transport and main roads minister and he was the minister. There was $5.4 billion for Cross River Rail. It does not matter where I go in Queensland, if I want to use one little shiny example of the abject waste of those opposite—wasted years when they had the gift of being in government—I often use the member for Miller as my litmus test and say, 'Remember the guy who was referred to as "foolish" by the CCC but was able to take a project that was meant to be $5.4 billion and then it went to $6.88 billion?' In fact, I can recount every single estimates when there was obfuscation and excuses. First it was going to be open in two years, then four years and then five years. The problem with the poor old member for Miller was that he failed to deliver. The sad irony will be that when it eventually opens there will be a shiny little plaque, but there will not be a second plaque that says, 'It could have been opened by the member for Miller. He just missed out by several years.'

He is an absolute metaphor for all that is wrong when it comes to those opposite. We can go through a list of things. Whether it be youth justice or the economic ineptitude of those opposite—it does not matter what we come back to, they have a big problem going forward. They have refused to acknowledge that they lost the election. They have refused to work as a unified team. We see it every question time. We still see it when they do not pivot. There are three decisive blocs opposite. They may say that we do not know the ALP intimately. We do not want to. One thing we do see is that there is one bloc there, one bloc there and one bloc there. We know that many of them would rather see themselves fail than ever get across this way.

There is one person I do want to thank, though. I want to thank former prime minister Kevin Rudd. Kevin is the gift that keeps on giving, and I will tell members why in my last 20 seconds: we absolutely know the heat is well and truly on the current opposition leader, but they just do not have that mechanism where they can simply say, 'You know what? Enough's enough. Faction 1 and faction 2, time's up.' They just simply cannot do it. It is messy and it is unclean, but do member know what? Long may the current opposition leader stay in his job!

(Time expired)

Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (6.19 pm): I move the following amendment to the amendment—

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

'1. notes the LNP are 51,617 homes short of their housing target;

2. notes the Crisafulli government repealed the existing training policy that facilitated training and apprenticeship targets on government infrastructure projects following the Queensland Productivity Commission report;

3. notes the LNP's project gravity has hit the ground;

4. notes the Premier promised lower taxes, lower debt and no cuts and has failed to deliver all three resulting in Queensland's first credit rating downgrade in 17 years; and

5. notes all Queensland workers should come home safe from work at the end of the day.'

Two years on and Queenslanders are starting to realise that they did not elect a leader; they elected a salesman, a slick salesman—a Premier who can always find a camera for the announcement but somehow manages to leave the journalists behind. He wants the photo opportunity, the rehearsed slogan and the headline but none of the scrutiny. Halfway through this term I think Queenslanders are beginning to ask: are we better off than we were two years ago? Let's start with the cost of living. I know that families in my community of Waterford are not sitting around discussing budget forecasts; they are looking at their rent increases, their power bills, the price at the bowser and then what is left over for groceries. It is becoming increasingly difficult. Rents have risen 8.7 per cent in Cairns, 6.1 per cent in

Brisbane and on the Gold Coast it now costs more to rent than in Sydney. The Premier, though, has an excuse for everything. It is always someone else's fault—usually ours! Queenslanders did not elect him to point the finger; they deserved a Premier that would act and deliver.

That brings me now to the Treasurer's record. In September Queensland's credit rating was downgraded for the first time in 17 years—although, remember, he liked to say that it would not happen on his watch, but, well, it did. I do not think that he really had much help from his finance minister, and I would really love to know whether she has actually sat down with the ratings agencies yet. This is money—a billion dollars—in extra interest repayments. That is money that is not going into hospitals, it is not going into housing or schools or frontline services—money that does not make life one cent easier for Queenslanders. The LNP loves to lecture everyone about economic management, but after two years in government the Treasurer's record speaks for itself. Queenslanders cannot trust the LNP to manage the economy.

So, what is Labor doing? We have been busy on this side of the House. While the Premier sits in 1 William Street avoiding scrutiny, we are in our communities every day listening to Queenslanders about how they are doing it tough. According to the recent annual Foodbank Hunger Report, one in three Australian households are experiencing food insecurity. That is why we have committed $10 million to help community services tackle food insecurity. We also know renters are doing it tough, and that is why we are putting money back into the hands of renters: they will get the interest earned on their rental bonds, and they do not have to find another rental bond before they get their first rental bond back because we are going to make it so that they can keep their old bond when they have to move house. We are also modernising the social housing eligibility threshold and extending build-to-rent tax concessions because we know we need more homes and we know we need more skilled workers. That is why we are providing free rego to our apprentices and the tradies who skill them up.

I have just mentioned a bunch of very practical policies that will directly help Queenslanders, and what have we heard from those opposite? They have spent this entire debate just blaming us for everything—not one new idea to help Queenslanders doing it tough, to help those apprentices who are doing it tough stay in the job to get qualified so they can build the houses we need, nothing about those Queenslanders on the Gold Coast whose rents are out of control. How does a nurse or a teacher or a teacher aide on the Gold Coast afford to live in the community in which they work when rent is more expensive than Sydney? This government has absolutely run out of ideas and it spends its entire time in the community and in this House blaming us. We are going to keep getting on with the job with having practical ideas that will help Queenslanders—help with food insecurity, help renters and help build the skilled workers we need for tomorrow. We on this side of the House have had enough of the spin and the secrets. We want to ensure Queenslanders know that we have some practical measures that will really help them when they are doing it tough, so I say enough spin and let's get on and promote Labor's great policies.

(Time expired)

Hon. ST O'CONNOR (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (6.24 pm): The member for Murrumba has a remarkable ability to forget his own record. He spent a decade sitting around the cabinet table while Queenslanders watched their rents sore, their electricity bills climb and the dream of owning their own home slip further out of reach, and now he and the Labor Party come into this House pretending that they have discovered this new cost-of-living crisis, that it has just appeared in the last two years. The Leader of the Opposition does not get to spend a decade making everything in Queensland more expensive and then turn up pretending that he had nothing to do with that.

The opposition's motion mentions rents. What are the facts on rents? The independent Queensland Productivity Commission, which we re-established, has exposed the extraordinary cost of Labor's CFMEU tax, BPICs, on rents. Because of productivity stagnation since 2018, 77,000 fewer homes were built across Queensland than there otherwise would have been. Imagine the impact on rents across our state if we had another 77,000 homes right now. If BPIC had remained, construction costs could be up by as much as 25 per cent and rents would have gone up by another seven per cent towards the end of the decade. That is not some political claim; that is the independent Productivity Commission examining the consequences of Labor's own policies that it stood by and continues to stand by to this day. Labor's own record supports these findings. Over the last term of the former Labor government, Brisbane rents went up by 52½ per cent, in Cairns they saw a 41 per cent increase in rents over Labor's last term and on the Gold Coast a 60 per cent increase in rents over Labor's last term. Who was sitting around the cabinet table when those policies were imposed? The member for

Murrumba. Who stood by while the militant, misogynistic CFMEU dictated the terms of procurement and construction in Queensland? The member for Murrumba. And who is now pretending that he had absolutely nothing to do with it? The member for Murrumba.

Labor did not just fail to fix its housing crisis; its own policies created it, and the consequences were devastating. Over a decade Labor delivered an annual average of just 509 social homes a year. That meant that the social housing waitlist exploded by around 80 per cent. Under us, it is already lower than what we inherited, and now the Leader of the Opposition wants to lecture us about social housing eligibility. Where was this idea when he was premier? Where was it when he was deputy premier, a minister? Where was it during the decade that his government was responsible for Queensland's housing system? Our priority is to put a roof over the heads of our most vulnerable Queenslanders and the reality is that the waitlist that Labor left us is so large that the people on it are, by definition, our most vulnerable.

It is extraordinary how many solutions the member for Murrumba thinks he has discovered since losing the last state election, but here is what he still does not seem to understand: you cannot solve a housing shortage without building more homes; you cannot ease rental pressure while making construction more expensive. We are turning things around. Right now, there are more homes under construction than at any point in Queensland's history—four record quarters in a row, nearly 40 per cent up from when we inherited Queensland's construction pipeline. It is because we have permanently removed Labor's BPIC, the CFMEU tax. We now have a record $5.725 billion social and community housing capital program. That means our social and affordable housing pipeline sits at 7,037 homes under contract or construction across Queensland.

We are working towards delivering more than 2,000 social homes a year, four times the annual average of the former Labor government. Unlike the member for Murrumba and the Labor Party, we are not pretending that these problems can be fixed overnight, but, after a decade of decline under Labor, we are finally getting Queensland's housing system moving in the right direction. The member for Murrumba can run from his record but he cannot rewrite history—no accountability, no ownership and no credible plan to fix the damage. The Crisafulli government is getting on with the job of delivering more homes and building the momentum Queensland needs.

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

AYES, 34:

ALP, 34—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richmond, Russo, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

NOES, 50:

LNP, 50—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Chiesa, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Hatcher, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

Pairs: Camm, Butcher; Lister, Ryan.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Ms Fentiman) negatived.

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

Mr SPEAKER: Ring the bells for one minute.

AYES, 50:

LNP, 50—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Chiesa, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Hatcher, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

NOES, 34:

ALP, 34—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richmond, Russo, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Pairs: Camm, Butcher; Lister, Ryan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Amendment agreed to.

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

Mr SPEAKER: Ring the bells for one minute.

AYES, 50:

LNP, 50—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Chiesa, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Hatcher, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

NOES, 34:

ALP, 34—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richmond, Russo, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Pairs: Camm, Butcher; Lister, Ryan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House notes:

1. the Queensland Productivity Commission report found that Best Practice Industry Conditions, implemented by the former Labor government, resulted in 77,000 fewer homes being constructed and higher rents;
2. the former Labor government oversaw consecutive increases to power prices, and their Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro project would have further increased costs for Queenslanders;
3. 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. members of the former Labor government and current opposition did not stand up for Queensland workers who faced abuse, intimidation and violence as revealed in the Commission of Inquiry into the CFMEU.

Sitting suspended from 6.38 pm to 7.40 pm.

BREACH BAIL, GO TO JAIL AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 27 October (see p. 3468), on motion of Mrs Frecklington—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (7.40 pm): Queenslanders deserve to both be safe and feel safe in their homes and their communities. At first principle, Labor believes that people should not be committing crimes while they are on bail. If they are going to commit serious crimes, those offenders should not be on bail, but when they do commit crime while on bail there should be serious consequences. While we made some changes to bail laws when we were in government, I am the first to admit that the previous Palaszczuk government should have done more. I said that in 2024 and I have said it many times since then. I have heard some government members in their contributions attacking me for making that statement. I believe governing should not all be about spin; that where a government you are a part of makes mistakes you should be willing to say so. I have not heard many of those opposite own the mistakes of the Newman government that so many of them were a part of. We know they have not learnt those lessons because they continue to arrogantly pursue the same policies, like their attack on workers' rights.

Labor will support the bill just like we did with the Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. We are as disappointed as those opposite should be that those laws have not worked. Every time they need to amend these laws the government admits that they have not worked. We are as disappointed as those opposite should be that they have not. The fact is crime in Queensland remains too high, largely because this government has failed to properly invest in early intervention, crime prevention and rehabilitation. It is not good enough just to increase the consequences for committing crimes; the causes of crimes need to be addressed.

We are also very concerned about what these laws could mean for the safety of our police in watch houses, our prison officers in prisons and our youth detention workers in youth detention centres. No worker should be put at risk of violence because this government refuses to properly model and plan for capacity in our detention, prison and watch house systems. There are reports that 93 per cent of prison officers say that their facility cannot cope with additional prisoners. We have seen police told

not to arrest offenders because there is no room in the watch house. That is all because this government has failed to plan to keep those workers safe. No prison officer, no police officer, no youth detention worker should be assaulted, stabbed, strangled, punched or have urine thrown at them because the Crisafulli LNP government refuses to plan for the impacts these laws will have on capacity. That is why we are calling on the Crisafulli LNP government to put in place a plan to guarantee the safety of our police, our prison officers and our youth detention workers.

We are also calling on the government to focus more on crime prevention so that we prevent crimes before they occur. We are calling on the Crisafulli LNP government to support Labor's plan for an independent community safety statistics bureau so that we can all have confidence in the data that is being provided and see clearly what is working and what is not.

This week the *Courier-Mail* confirmed what the Queensland Labor opposition has been saying all along: despite this government's spin, despite the Premier's slick slogans, despite the crime rhymes, despite his fudged figures, Queenslanders do not feel safe. In fact, they feel less safe than they did two years ago. Worse still, the data shows that there is more crime in Queensland under the Crisafulli LNP government. For the year to September 2026 crime is up by over seven per cent compared to the same period in 2024.

Those opposite have the hide to come into this House and talk about a scare campaign. I said very clearly on the day I spoke to the media about Labor's position on this bill that we want to see the laws work. We will not repeal laws that keep Queenslanders safe. Anything that the LNP say is just more spin to suit their narrative. When one looks at the facts, it is those opposite who want to scare Queenslanders. It is the LNP that drove a targeted scare campaign on breach of bail in the letterboxes and inboxes of Queenslanders who do not feel safe. Their rhetoric on this bill has been more focused on selling a slogan than on safety. That speaks to the heart of the issue with this government. Queenslanders deserve better than slick slogans, spin and fudged figures; they deserve real solutions, real policies and real investment. Only then will Queenslanders feel safer and be safer in their homes and in their communities.

Hon. DG PURDIE (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (7.46 pm): I appreciate the opportunity to make a contribution to this bill, in particular following the Leader of the Opposition because there are a couple of things in his contribution I want to specifically address. Firstly, I acknowledge his partial confession after being the former premier and a senior minister in the Labor government for 10 years, but I need to point out that in Queensland, and in most jurisdictions, you do not get a discount on your sentence unless your admissions are fully frank and you show remorse.

We have not seen that. I do not want to let the Leader of the Opposition, the former premier, rewrite history. I know my colleagues have highlighted it briefly, but I do want to go through the chronology of the Labor government and how they proudly watered down the laws—not just in 2015 when they came into government. On the first full day of parliament under Premier Palaszczuk they tabled their amendments to water down the Youth Justice Act. They did so continuously for about four years. In December 2015, the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, repealing the tough youth justice measures introduced by the previous LNP government, removed breach of bail as an offence, made childhood findings of guilt inadmissible in court, reinstated the principle of detention as a last resort and a sentence that allows the offender to stay in community is preferable. The attorney-general at the time said—

> I'm pleased to introduce this legislation. The government's commitment to repeal the 2014 retrograde reforms reflects international evidence that increasing the severity of punishment is ineffective in reducing recidivism particularly by children and young people.

This is the same sort of language we are hearing from those opposite when they say they will support the bill but then talk about rehabilitation in the community is preferred.

Last night, the member for Mansfield was the last person to speak. I mention her only because I was in here and I heard what she said. I am mindful that she was not here in 2015 and 2016, but she is the shadow minister now. She said that we, the government, need to do the hard work on rehabilitation. That is the path they went down in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 and it did not work. In April 2016, the former Labor government introduced the community bail accommodation program, or community bail houses. The people of Townsville saw how that worked. It was awfully expensive and it was a failure.

In September 2016, the Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment Bill 2016 increased 'the upper age of who is a child … from 16 years to 17 years'. I see that the member for Capalaba is here. He can talk about the 17-year-old offender who changed the direction of his life. A lot of 17-year-olds were charged with murder as a child under their laws.

I will fast-forward to 2019. In 2019, the then youth justice minister tabled amendments to remove legislative barriers to enable young people to be granted bail, the presumption in favour of bail, and to reinstate detention as a last resort. It was not just one bill that they introduced to proudly water down the laws. They all spoke about how being tough on crime does not work and said that rehabilitation in the community is the best way to go. They did that for 10 years, but it did not work.

At that time I was a police officer working on the front line, as were a lot of my colleagues. All the ABS data and all the police data showed that victim numbers were spiralling out of control. We were on the front line and we saw how their laws tipped the balance of power away from the police and to the serious repeat offenders. The then government did not believe the data. Even as the numbers went up, they did not believe the police data. At the time, the Leader of the Opposition, the former premier, said that it was just that the media was addicted to CCTV footage. Other members opposite said it was a media beat-up. The police minister of the day likened it to kids stealing KitKats. Every year victim numbers spiralled out of control, but they did not believe the data. It is embarrassing for them to come in here now and still not believe the data. They do not believe the police data. They want to establish another layer of bureaucracy like the Australian Bureau of Statistics so that bureaucrats can assess police data, but they did not believe that data when the figures went up 10 per cent a year, year on year. People were dying—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Members, he is doing very well on his own. I do not think he needs all the support, thank you.

Mr PURDIE: The numbers were going up and up. The frontline police were saying, 'Hey, this isn't working.' They did not believe it. They said it was a media beat-up. Now victim numbers are going down and they still do not believe it. It is becoming embarrassing. The longer I sit in this seat and watch them in opposition, the more I think about how they were in government for 10 years. I now know how incompetent and inept they are when it comes to law and order and crime.

In the contribution that the Leader of the Opposition just made he talked about overall offence statistics. How many times have we come in here and talked about how many arrests have been made now that we have more police and more powers? We are arresting more people. They had fewer police, watered-down laws and fewer arrests, and they celebrated that. Offence numbers are up, and one reason is that we have more police. Police have wanded 220,000 people, confiscated 1,500 weapons and charged 3,000 people with over 6,000 offences. Prior to us expanding Jack's Law, those offences would never have been detected.

What about drug laws? They watered down drug laws and basically told police, 'We don't want you in the business of policing drugs,' so people were not arrested for drug offences. Now that the police are back in the business of keeping people safe from the scourge of dangerous drugs in our communities, drug offences are going up. Drink-driving offences are up. We want them to go up. We have more police, they have tougher laws and they are arresting more people. That is why offences are up. That is why we are talking about victim numbers. We talk about victim numbers because the 6,000 offences off the back of wanding laws mean that weapons were detected before a victim was involved. Weapons offences are up.

Proactive police work is up, and that is a good thing. When they come in here and say that overall offences are up and that is bad, that is because their KPI was fewer police, weaker laws and fewer arrests, and they celebrated that. That shows how incompetent they are and how embarrassing it is for them to come in here and continue to say that. They do not understand the basic principles of proactive policing to keep people safe. The more they do it, the more they say it and the more they call for bureaucracy to oversee police statistics when they do not trust the police shows they have never believed it. It is just fanciful. I am happy for them to keep digging that hole because we know our way is working.

Mrs Poole: We're on the side of victims.

Mr PURDIE: We will always be on the side of victims. That is why I am proud to support the Breach Bail, Go to Jail and Other Legislation Amendment Bill that is before the House. As we have continued to say and as I think everyone on this side has always appreciated, bail is a privilege, not a right. If you breach your bail and commit another serious crime while on bail, you should go to jail. If you do not want to go to jail, do not breach your bail. I am confident that that harsh penalty will act as a strong deterrent.

We have a vastly different approach. Last night I heard them talk about supporting the bill but say that this government needs to do the hard work in rehabilitation in community. That is what they said—it is in *Hansard*—in 2015 and 2016 and on up to 2019, but they did nothing. Victim numbers spiralled out of control and they did not believe it. We have a vastly different approach. We will continue to make sure we have more police. We are a government that has their back. We will make sure they have all the resources they need, whether it is laws, Jack's Law, Daniel's Law—you name it. I am proud to serve in this position under a Crisafulli government that backs our police and will always put victims first.

Those opposite put the rights of offenders over the rights of victims. If you go through their speeches from the past couple of days you will see that they are still more concerned about that. From the contribution we just heard, the opposition leader is more concerned about their comfort in the watch house than about serious repeat offenders coming into your living room.

Mrs Poole: They didn't talk about victims at all.

Mr PURDIE: That is a very good point. Last night—and I am happy to go through and add it up—I think every single opposition member mentioned 'slogan' probably a couple of times each. It was said probably dozens of times, if we add it up. I did not hear one of them say the word 'sorry'. We still have not heard one of them say the word 'sorry'. The Leader of the Opposition has made a confession on two occasions now—once in front of the media and once in here—but, as I said at the start, you do not get a discount on your sentence unless your admissions are full and frank and you show remorse. In this debate, what they should do is read *Hansard* from 10 years ago and then come in here and acknowledge that they are saying the same things now and it did not work. They should believe police. The police told them that things were not working, that crime was spiralling out of control and the number of victims was spiralling out of control, but they still do not believe them. They did not believe the figures when they were going up and they do not believe the figures now that they are going down.

We do back our police. I am proud to be part of a government that prioritises victims over offenders. I support this bill wholeheartedly. I thank the Crisafulli government for introducing it.

Ms BUSH (Cooper—ALP) (7.56 pm): Recently, a woman stopped me and told me how she had been broken into three times in the past two years. She told me about the money she has spent since installing extra security around her home—money that she had not budgeted for and money she really does not have. She told me that she was still waiting for a final decision about financial assistance and that she was not even sure what support she was entitled to. She told me about the anxiety she was experiencing, her sleepless nights and the feeling that her home, the place where she should feel safest, no longer felt safe to her. She told me how every day she takes her dog for a walk to clear her head and her anxiety and to have a bit of a mental health break.

Mr Field: Does she end up getting home?

Ms BUSH: I will not take that hostile interjection. She told me how, on her walk with her dog, she passes a billboard that says that the Queensland government is delivering Adult Crime, Adult Time. There is something profoundly sad about that image of a woman who has been broken into three times in two years, who is paying out of her own pocket to feel safe in her home, every day being confronted by a taxpayer-funded billboard advertising what the government is doing instead of them getting on with the job of actually doing it. She is not asking for a billboard; she wants to feel safe. That is the difference between announcing a policy and delivering an outcome.

Government members interjected.

Mr Crisafulli: They don't believe it.

Ms BUSH: I take the interjection from the Premier. I make this point: it is disappointing when I am on my feet speaking, and when I have not interjected on members opposite, to have members constantly interjecting on me. We do not always have to agree in this place, but I would think we would agree on a member's right to be heard.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member, I will control the House; if you can concentrate on the bill.

Ms BUSH: This is my contribution, Deputy Speaker. I have taken the interjection and I am responding to that, and this is now my contribution. Not everyone in this House has disclosed their personal circumstances, and there are people on this side of the House who are victims, but I have disclosed them. The Premier knows—in fact, everyone in this House knows—that I have lost two people that I love through homicide. My sister was stabbed 40 times; my father punched twice four months later. I do not know the Premier's circumstances, I do not know if he has received a death knock from

police, but I have—Premier. I do not know if the Premier knows what it is like for someone to organise the funerals of people that they love, to identify their bodies, but I know how that feels, and I would prefer to be able to give my contribution with the respect that I give other people in this House.

I come in here and make contributions on crime after 26 years of working in the sector, more than I would say—and I am happy to be proven wrong—anyone else in this House, and every time that I do it, I am told constantly by the Premier, by the Deputy Premier, by the minister, by the member for Capalaba—which is distressing as well—and last night it was the member for Callide, that I stand on the side of offenders simply because I do not support their view. It is the most offensive thing to say to someone who has gone through the experiences that I have gone through to say that I come in here and I do not stand with victims after that has been my life's work. Very few people would know better what it is like to stand on the side of victims than me, so I take offence—

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I never said the honourable member did not stand with victims at all. I would ask the member to withdraw that statement, please. I take personal offence.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, the Premier has taken offence. Will you withdraw?

Ms BUSH: I withdraw, Deputy Speaker. Members opposite—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, would you like me to pause the clock for a few moments?

Ms BUSH: No, I do not need that, Deputy Speaker. I am more than—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you want that, just ask me.

Ms BUSH: Thank you. I appreciate it. No, I am more than fine, thank you, because for five years now I have been standing here giving these speeches and have been constantly interrupted by those opposite. I have learned to be able to stand here and speak. Thank you, Deputy Speaker. My point is this: it is entirely disingenuous to come in here and say that you stand for victims while at the same time shouting over someone in this House who is a victim of homicide. We may not be perfect on this side of the House, but you will never hear one of us, that I know of—and I would hope we would never hear anyone on this side—howling down the member for Capalaba for speaking about his reasons for supporting a particular bill just because we disagree. I want to make that point for the record.

Two years into the Crisafulli government the scorecards are coming in. They have campaigned on the cost of living, yet Queenslanders tell us they have never felt more financially stretched. They have campaigned on increasing housing supply, yet we have seen ministerial interventions coming in to stop housing projects. They have campaigned on ending ambulance ramping, yet Queenslanders continue to wait for ambulances that do not arrive. They have campaigned on reducing the number of victims of crime. The Premier promised crime would be down—

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. With respect to the person on their feet, the debate has to be relevant to the bill that is before the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Take a seat for a moment, please. I will get some advice.

Ms BUSH: If it assists, Deputy Speaker, literally my next—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry. There has been a lot of leeway in respect of this debate. I would ask you to bring it back to the bill, thank you. You have the call.

Ms BUSH: My next sentence is: the Premier promised crime would be down by Christmas. Two Christmases later, polling shows that Queenslanders feel less safe than they did two years ago. So, what has the government delivered? Nine iterations of law and order legislation, Adult Crime, Adult Time, followed by multiple amendments, expansions and corrections. We have amendments that have been introduced to this bill, so they are building the ship quite literally as they are flying it.

Labor believes Queenslanders deserve more than consequences after the damage is done. They deserve a government that prevents the damage in the first place. That is where this government's record deserves scrutiny. While the Premier has been busy announcing tougher laws, the programs designed to prevent offending and reoffending have been delayed, underfunded or completely abandoned. Neither of the two promised youth justice schools have opened. Of the six crime prevention schools, just one is taking students in a single new year level. The remainder have been pushed out to 2027. There has been only one provider announced for the government's $65 million Proven Initiatives program. The government is already two months late announcing a provider for its signature Circuit Breaker program. Departmental reporting shows that less than half of the early intervention funding

scheduled has actually been spent. We have also heard that early evaluations of some programs are not producing the results promised. Those evaluations should be released so Queenslanders can judge the evidence for themselves.

While these programs remain undelivered, we have seen cuts to domestic and family violence support services. This week, we also learned that bail support funding to the Youth Advocacy Centre, a centre with 45 years of experience, has also been cut. It is obviously not going quite as well as the Premier, I am sure, would have thought.

I want to touch briefly on corrections. I have never really understood why ministers stand up and applaud the opening of new correctional facilities. I have always wondered whether that money could be better spent earlier. If we are opening more facilities, it is a sign that we have failed—every intervention has failed from a community or a government level. The billions of dollars spent building prisons could have been put into systems that could be front-ended and prevent crime from happening in the first place, which is actually our victims' policy. I see the Premier shaking his head at me still. I would hope that he would like to prevent crime before it actually happens.

The final issue I will address is that if the government is serious about reducing crime then it must be prepared to measure performance honestly. Trust in political institutions is at an all-time low. Is it any wonder when politicians cherrypick and distort data, particularly crime data? We have seen the Premier change the way that governments report crime figures to conceal, I believe, what is actually going on out there. They have changed the way that domestic and family violence offences are recorded. It is why Labor has proposed an independent community safety statistics bureau because Queenslanders should be able to trust the data regardless which party occupies government benches. Governments should be willing to be judged by independent evidence, not their own advertising.

I will finish off where I began with an ordinary Queenslander who has experienced an extraordinary level of crime—a woman struggling to find peace in the aftermath of break-ins. I do not think she really cares which political party gets to claim credit for reducing crime. I suspect she is tired of politicians arguing about who is tougher, who is to blame and who has the better slogan. She just wants us to put the politics aside and get on with reducing crime; to put our own interests aside, listen to victims, follow the evidence and invest, importantly, in interventions that actually work because what she wants and I am sure what all Queenslanders want—and what we deserve—are fewer victims. That should be the measure of every piece of legislation that we pass in this House.

Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (8.07 pm): Tonight I am making a relatively personal contribution in relation to this bill. I am glad the Premier is here for it because it has taken his leadership and our government's leadership—the member for Ninderry as the police minister, the Attorney-General, the youth justice minister—to take the first steps in addressing this crime crisis.

I am going to speak tonight more as a local MP. If I think back to where Toowoomba was three or four years ago—I am going to run through some of that history—believe me, those of us on this side of the House truly believe in what this bill will bring and what it will mean to victims in Queensland right across our state, as opposed to some of those opposite who clearly do not believe in the substance of this bill and what it will mean for victims. This side of the House believe it, because for years—for 10 years—we listened to victims, and we watched the former Labor government weaken the law time and again. I spent three years when the member for Nanango was leader as shadow attorney-general and I watched it up close. I am not going to repeat the history that the police minister, the member for Ninderry, gave, but it is a telling history because it is a history of weakened laws which resulted in more victims and unsafe communities.

Who could ever imagine that a city like Toowoomba would be held hostage to crime as it was in 2022 and 2023? What happened was extraordinary. The Premier said during the election campaign in 2024 that we would pass Making Queensland Safer Laws by Christmas to start the journey of addressing the crime crisis that those opposite oversaw for a decade, and we believed it. We knew how much it was necessary.

I still remember that many of our new members spoke to this in their first speeches. They knew what it meant for their communities. The most tragic of circumstances brought the member for Capalaba to this place. It meant something to so many of our new regional members—the members from Townsville, Cairns, Maryborough, Mackay and even Pumicestone and the Sunshine Coast. When we passed that first tranche by Christmas 2024, it meant something to us. It meant something to our first-term MPs and our new Premier, who was determined, as we all were, to turn around the crime crisis.

Who could forget the constant weakening of the bail laws over that 10-year period? They did not know which way they were going. The member for Bulimba was the youth justice minister and then she was swapped out and recycled. She gave the most expensive television interview in Australian history. She had to come up with $500 million after being interviewed on *Four Corners* by Mark Willacy. Then they had to split up the youth justice department and reform more laws.

I do not have the policing pedigree of the member for Ninderry, but who could forget the 'mea culpa' the now member for Murrumba attempted to give? Who could ever forget his personal emails to his then director-general, Mike Kaiser, after the murder of Emma Lovell in which he said that the cupboard was bare? It was only revealed under RTI. The cupboard was bare after 10 years of their weakening the laws. They had no cupboard. They had weakened the law.

They brought 17-year-olds into the youth justice system. I remember that the police union at the time said that more analysis and work went into determining where a McDonald's store would go than what the Labor government at the time did in analysing what it would mean to bring 17-year-olds into the youth justice system. We remember what we saw because of that. We saw the watch house crisis emerge. They never did the work. They never thought through the consequences. They never considered the unintended consequences of their decisions. They never did it. We saw it again and again. They spent $70 million on bail houses that had a 90 per cent recidivism rate.

Ms Marr: Waste of money.

Mr JANETZKI: I take the member for Thuringowa's interjection; it was a waste of money. Again, there was no true analysis of what would work and what would not work, but they continued to push ahead.

That brings us to the tragic murder of Emma Lovell on Boxing Day in 2022. In private messages to his then director-general, Mike Kaiser, the then deputy premier, the member for Murrumba, said—and I actually wrote it down—'That's almost everything in the cupboard.' It wasn't because they did not even try.

Six weeks later, in the main street of Toowoomba Robert Brown was killed in broad daylight while he waited outside Grand Central Shopping Centre for a cab. We called for a crime forum. We called for then premier Palaszczuk to come to the crime forum. She would not. Instead, a couple of days later she flew over us to go to the watermelon festival in Chinchilla, if I remember correctly.

Ms Leahy interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: I take the interjection from the member for Warrego. The then premier did not see fit to come to my city and explain the weakening of the laws and what it meant. No, she flew to the watermelon festival. There was probably a red carpet waiting for her at Chinchilla. That was their government in a nutshell. The premier of the day refused to come to Toowoomba and explain it.

I am going to mention a couple of people in Toowoomba. There are about 100,000 people in the city of Toowoomba and roughly 200,000 across our region. Those of us who have lived on the Darling Downs for six generations know so many people. If we do not know them, our parents know them, my wife's family knows them, my kids went to school with them, we played sport with them or we share a faith background with them. Every street I can think of in Toowoomba was hit by crime. I think of George and Anne-Marie—the late George; of Greg and Jan in Middle Ridge; of Ken in Centenary Heights; and of Mike and Helen Horan. Mike was the member for Toowoomba South for 21 years and he woke up to criminals in their bedroom.

I think of every street across my city. My wife does a lot of walking. She would be stopped every day. I remember going to a garage in Culliford Drive in Middle Ridge for a spontaneous meeting. They reached out to me as the local MP and said, 'Can you come and hear what is happening with crime in our streets?'

We on this side of the House fully support the laws. We have heard it. We spent 10 years listening to it, and so many of our first-term members are here because they listened to victims and were determined to act on crime, with the leadership of our Premier, and to honour the lives that have been lost.

Mrs Poole: Angus Beaumont.

Mr JANETZKI: Angus Beaumont. We want to do something about it. That is why when we passed the Making Queensland Safer Laws at the end of 2024 it meant something to us. We were determined that if we were given the great privilege of government we would strengthen the law, properly resource the police and invest in early intervention. That is what we were determined to do, and that is what I believe we have done in the first two years of this government.

We have always said that we will strengthen the law where necessary. That is what this bill is about. As the Premier has said, if the law requires strengthening we will do it. We will not tolerate the former government's 1,127 fewer police than they promised at the election in 2020. We will not tolerate that, and our police minister has overseen record numbers of police coming into the system. We will properly resource the police. We will properly invest in early intervention, and we see the youth justice minister investing in place-based, community-led programs that will help to turn lives around. More importantly, we will strengthen the law and we will make no apologies for putting victims first. For too long—for 10 years—victims cried out for a government that would listen to them, and this government under this Premier is doing exactly that.

(Time expired)



Mr KATTER (Traeger—KAP) (8.17 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the bill. As I understand, the bill provides mandatory minimum sentences of 12 months for committing specified and prescribed crimes while on bail for both adults and youth. It is a concept and a principle that I am well acquainted with because we have been pushing for it for many years. I went back through the annals and saw that the member for Hill, Shane Knuth, put a question on notice and lodged a petition back in 2021 to reintroduce breach of bail as an offence.

We discussed it internally ad nauseam as part of a suite of laws that we wanted to pursue with the then government to try to address what was a growing problem. We pushed for that, along with other initiatives—some of which have since been adopted and others we thought should have gone further. I should acknowledge the former member for Hinchinbrook because he was very vocal on this issue.

We are no stranger to the principle and the idea behind this. I can speak with some authority on the impact of crime because Mount Isa has been a gold medal winner for many years when it comes to statistics—the rates of offence per 100,000 people. It is as clear as day to me. When I first started as the local MP, you would get the odd report. It was quite comical. I remember when I first moved to Mount Isa they would report in the paper if there was a bottle of beer stolen from a caravan park or a rock thrown at a store owner. When all the car theft started in Townsville, I thought: what if that makes it to Mount Isa? Then it started in Mount Isa. Then we started getting serious assaults and home invasions. As the offences grew, the visits to my office grew. The scary thing was that visits to the office started tapering off. I think it hit a point where people gave up on government, saying, 'Nothing is going to be done.' I think that is worse than not getting visits to the office. I had various ministers visit at the time. I tried as politely as I could, and on occasions as forcefully as I could, to say, 'This is a really big problem. It is getting out of control.' We all became aware of that eventually, but nothing was done at that time. It was a very frustrating period for us in the KAP trying to get this message through down here.

As early as 2014 I raised in parliament the idea that relocation sentencing or alternative sentencing was needed. That is very much a part of this conversation. It is all well and good to say, 'If they breach bail, they go to jail,' and get them off the street, but they are going to end up back on the street in 12 months to two years. You need to think very hard about what sort of person is going to be back on the street in a year or two after serving their sentence. It is not about just getting them in jail. It is about reducing the recidivism rate. That is as important as the incarceration itself.

I compliment the minister, who is here in the House tonight, for adopting a policy that we felt very strongly about and that we advocated for for at least eight or nine years in this House. Changing the type of sentencing, as part of a suite of solutions, was needed. At the time it was criticised as having no academic support and having no evidence or research to back it up, but Professor Glenn Dawes from JCU had done a lot of research in that respect. He had done some work on Bentinck Island and Mornington Island.

The legislation for relocation sentencing was passed this year in parliament. It is not rolled out yet, and that is going to be a challenge—doing that effectively. I compliment the government on that. I acknowledge that that is something we had been pushing for for years. I think it is the most pivotal instrument to deal with this issue in the long term.

We have an acute issue, and it is a large issue. I think there is an argument to be had about the effectiveness of a measure like this. When crime levels are low, you can control these things in other ways and do more preventive measures, but the issue has grown well beyond that. We are where we are now. There needs to be strong measures to try to get a grip on this crisis and where it is at now. It is evident in community. Those things are still happening in Mount Isa. I am sure they are still happening in Townsville and Cairns, which are hotspots. I have some very strong views as to why places like Mount Isa, Townsville and Cairns are hotspots, but we do not have enough time for that tonight.

This continues to be an emotionally activating issue, particularly for people in North Queensland. We launched an e-petition on a policy initiative that we have before the parliament now. That was the largest e-petition in Queensland's history. That may not be because it is the best policy idea, but people want more. They want to see strong action on this because keeping our streets safe means so much to them.

It is important to acknowledge that 61 per cent of youth offenders reoffend while on bail and 44 per cent of all prisoners return to prison within two years of release. Cleveland Bay has a 94 per cent recidivism rate across all prisoners. That was something we have relied on for some time to say clearly we need to do something other than just sending them to a youth detention centre. That does not mean do not send them at all and just have some programs where they can still live in town in resi care where there are no locked doors and they can do whatever they want. That is not what we need either. We need some alternative sentencing to address that recidivism rate. That is as big a problem as the crime on the street. We are trying to fix this in the long term. How are we going to address that?

In amongst that, it was always very frustrating—and perhaps it just comes back to party slogans—to hear people say, 'Lock them up,' or 'Breach bail, go to jail'. We always kept coming back to the need to change the form of sentencing because there were kids who were saying, 'I want to go to Cleveland Youth Detention Centre. I don't see that as a punishment.' You have to address that issue as well. You cannot put a full stop after Breach Bail, Go to Jail. There is a lot more to do beyond that to address this problem.

Like I said, Mount Isa has often won the gold medal for its rates of crime. That is nothing to be proud of. In fact, it weighs heavily on me as a representative for that area. I have done what I could in this House to try to offer policy ideas. Here we see our policies manifesting as legislation in the House—which is terrific. I will humbly offer whoever is in government—the government of the day is the LNP—my compliments for adopting what I think is good policy, a good idea. No-one has the mortgage on good ideas. We just want outcomes for people.

I found it curious that there was a petition put out for Breach Bail, Go to Jail by government members. If you are the government, just make a decision. If it is a good idea—and you are advocating that it is good idea—just run with it. You do not need a petition from backbenchers to tell you what to do in government. If you are going to do it, do it. That was an interesting bit of theatrics. Substantially it does not really matter, does it? We want to try to fix these problems.

I did want to mention at the end of this contribution that no policy change has happened in this House as a result of events in North Queensland. There was almost a direct correlation between the reaction to murders occurring in South-East Queensland and policy. Action in the media and action in the Queensland parliament happened after events in the south-east corner, but we had murders in Mount Isa, Cairns and Townsville. I think it is important for us to acknowledge that. Granted that this was happening in North Queensland during the last parliament, there was no response until an event occurred in Brisbane. That is something for this parliament to remember.

Hon. AC POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (8.28 pm): I rise to support the Breach Bail, Go to Jail and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. At its heart this bill is about trust. Everyday across Queensland, courts make decisions to grant people bail. In doing so, they place trust in an individual. The justice system places trust in that individual. By default, and most importantly, the community places trust in that individual. That trust comes with an expectation. The expectation is simple: if you are granted bail, you go on to obey the law. When someone commits a serious offence while on bail, they are not simply breaking the law. They are breaching that trust that has been placed in them by the justice system and by the broader community. Queenslanders understand that. Queenslanders also understand that a breach of trust should have consequences. That is why this bill is important.

This bill is the next phase of the Crisafulli government's Adult Crime, Adult Time reforms. When we went to the election we made a commitment to Queenslanders. We said we would restore consequences for actions. We said we would put victims first. We said we would strengthen the law and restore both community safety and community confidence. That commitment did not finish with the first tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time reforms. Breach Bail, Go to Jail is another step in delivering exactly what Queenslanders voted for.

A person who is granted bail and then commits another serious offence has demonstrated that they cannot be trusted with that privilege. The Crisafulli government's position is straightforward: serious offending while on bail should attract clear and certain consequences. That is what this bill delivers. The bill creates a standalone offence for committing a serious offence while on bail. It imposes a

mandatory custodial consequence. It strengthens the threshold that repeat offenders must overcome if they seek bail again. Most importantly, it sends a clear message: if you commit a serious offence while on bail you will go to jail—not maybe, not eventually and not after endless chances. If you breach bail you will go to jail.

The reason this reform is necessary is that Queenslanders have lived through the consequences of a decade of failed policy under the former Labor government. I acknowledge the recent contribution of the member for Toowoomba South. For 10 years Labor weakened youth justice laws. They removed breach of bail as an offence. They made detention a last resort. They repeatedly argued against stronger consequences and repeatedly dismissed community concerns. The outcome was predictable. Victim numbers increased by 193 per cent. Car theft increased by 101 per cent. Break-ins increased by 44 per cent. Assaults increased by 198 per cent. Those are not just numbers. Each percentage point represents real Queenslanders—elderly Queenslanders, families and business owners. Queenslanders no longer felt safe, and as a result they voted for change. They also voted for action. That is what the Crisafulli government is delivering.

Those opposite are now attempting to rewrite history. Many of the same people who spent years saying that stronger bail laws would not work, stronger consequences would not work and breach of bail reforms would not work are now trying to distance themselves from that record. The reality is simple: Labor weakened the laws; the Crisafulli government is strengthening them. Labor put offenders first; the Crisafulli government is putting victims first.

We are beginning to see encouraging signs. In 2025 victim numbers fell for the first time in five years. Let me repeat that. In 2025 victim numbers fell for the first time in five years. More than 12,000 fewer Queenslanders became victims of crime compared with the previous years. That is encouraging. It tells us the government's reforms are helping move Queensland in the right direction. We are also seeing encouraging trends across my electorate and region, particularly on the north coast, with improvements in categories such as property crime, break-ins and motor theft.

None of us on this side of the House pretends the job is finished. There is still such a long way to go because, as I said, statistics only ever tell part of the story. In my electorate of Glass House we have seen innocent residents become victims of a violent home invasion after offenders allegedly targeted the wrong address. We have seen local families publicly describe the impact of knife related violence on young people. We have seen local businesses bear the cost of break-ins, vandalism and repeat offending within our communities. For these people crime is not a statistic; it is personal. That is why this bill matters.

Throughout consultation and committee consideration a common theme emerged time and time again. Victims, communities and community leaders spoke about frustration with what many described as a revolving door. Police do the work, victims come forward and charges are laid, yet serious repeat offenders continue to reappear in the system after allegedly committing further serious offending. Queenslanders are rightly asking where the accountability is. This bill provides the answer. It restores accountability, it restores consequences and it restores confidence that serious repeat offending will be treated seriously.

Of course, accountability and rehabilitation are not opposites. We can back stronger laws and invest in rehabilitation. We can support accountability and support early intervention. We can put victims first and still help offenders turn their lives around. In fact, we are doing exactly that. I acknowledge the work of the youth justice minister in early intervention and rehabilitation. This government has invested record funding in those programs. We are backing prevention initiatives. We are supporting young people before they become entrenched in a life of crime, but compassion for offenders should never come at the expense of victims. Rehabilitation should never mean that serious repeat offending carries no meaningful consequence. Queenslanders expect common sense. That is precisely what this bill delivers.

Before I conclude, I particularly pay tribute to a number of members on this side of the House. I acknowledge the member for Hinchinbrook and his advocacy in standing up for his community and bringing forward Breach Bail, Go to Jail. I also acknowledge the member for Capalaba. It is not widely known, but the member for Capalaba's son's partner, Kate Leadbetter, was a Maleny local. Her stepfather and mother still reside in Maleny. I have met with her mother. I think it is fair to say that she is just grateful, member for Capalaba, that you are doing what you are doing. It is such a hard space, and the grief is still very real within that family and within our community. I pay special tribute to the member for Capalaba and the stance he has taken throughout Adult Crime, Adult Time and now with Breach Bail, Go to Jail. Thank you for all you are doing to advocate for the changes to the law this state needs.

This legislation is another important step in the Crisafulli government's Adult Crime, Adult Time agenda. It strengthens the laws, it supports victims, it restores accountability, it reinforces trust in our justice system and, as we promised Queenslanders, it continues the work of making Queensland safe again. I commend the bill to the House.

Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (8.36 pm): Every Queenslander deserves to be safe and every Queenslander deserves to feel safe—safe in their home, safe at work and safe when they are out with family and friends—but for too many Queenslanders that sense of safety simply is not there. I saw the devastating consequences of violence in my own community over the weekend with the horrific shooting outside Fitzys at Loganholme. My thoughts are with those injured, their families, the staff at Fitzys and everyone who witnessed something that no-one should have to experience. I also acknowledge the police and emergency services responders to this awful incident. It is a stark reminder of why community safety matters. People want to know they can go out on a Saturday night. They want to be at a safe place and come home safe. They want more than reassuring words from their government; they want results.

Almost two years ago, the LNP promised that Adult Crime, Adult Time laws would make Queensland safer. Labor did not stand in the way because, like all Queenslanders, we want less crime, fewer victims and safer communities. Almost two years on, people say they still do not feel safe. In fact, many of them feel less safe. Now we are back debating another slogan: Breach Bail, Go to Jail. The fact that we are back here with another slogan is an admission of the fact they have not delivered what they promised for Queenslanders.

We will support these laws, but that does not mean giving the government a free pass on how to implement them, because you cannot legislate your way around a failure to plan. These changes will put more pressure on prisons and detention centres that are already under enormous strain. Queensland's adult prisons are operating at 136 per cent of cell capacity. In a recent union survey, 93 per cent of all custodial officers said that their centres could not safely take more prisoners without extra staff and resources. Our police officers, youth detention workers and correctional officers go to work every day to keep Queensland safe. They should not have to put their own safety at greater risk because this government has not planned for the consequences of its own legislation. Overcrowding and understaffing are not just operational problems; they create conditions where assaults and violence can escalate.

We want a guarantee that workers will not be left carrying the risk. Where is the plan for staffing, beds and safe conditions? Where is the modelling of what these changes will mean? Where is the investment to stop people returning to custody? We do not just want detention; we want detention with purpose. That means education, rehabilitation, mental health supports and programs that address the drivers of offending. It means early intervention in our communities before another young person enters the justice system and before another Queenslander becomes a victim.

Strong consequences and early intervention are not competing ideas; we need both. Keeping a serious offender in custody might protect the community today, but if we do nothing to prevent reoffending when they get out, we are failing the community tomorrow. We also need honesty about the results. That is why Labor has proposed an independent community safety statistics bureau, accountable to parliament, so Queenslanders can see the evidence without the political spin.

Safety should not be measured in slogans, announcements or headlines; it should be measured in fewer victims, safer workplaces and people feeling confident in their communities to go out on a Saturday night and come home safe. The real test for the Premier is not whether he can come up with another tough-sounding slogan; it is whether Queenslanders are genuinely safer and whether they feel safer. That is what they deserve.

Hon. RM BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (8.40 pm): I have previously spoken in this House about Belinda from the Mudgeeraba Redbacks. Belinda worked, raised a family, volunteered and gave hours upon hours of her time to our community. In 2021 young offenders stole her family's car and posted videos of themselves on social media as they drove it around Merrimac and Robina. The car was later found so badly damaged it had to be written off. One of those offenders had already faced 20 previous charges: 20! The young person's response when asked why she had done it was, 'I didn't steal it. I just took it for a spin.'

That tells you a lot about the attitude we are dealing with. For the offender, it was apparently a bit of fun. For Belinda and her family, it was their car and their sense of security. It shows how far some offenders are willing to go. It also sent a clear message to people living nearby that their homes and

their properties were not safe. My community deserves a justice system which protects them from serious repeat offenders. For a decade under Labor, families were left wondering what more they could do to protect themselves and keep safe.

I support the Breach Bail, Go to Jail and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 because the Crisafulli LNP government is making laws stronger for people who commit serious crimes while on bail. This issue has been building for years. Labor weakened the laws, ignored warnings and only changed direction when public pressure became too strong. People in Worongary, Tallai, Bonogin and Reedy Creek want to live their lives without fear. They should not have to worry about someone breaking into their home while they are at work. For a tradie, a stolen ute can mean losing the tools needed to earn a living. For a family, losing a car can disrupt work, school and daily life. For a shop owner in the Mudgeeraba village, another break-in means repair costs, insurance claims and time spent fixing damage instead of serving customers. Under Labor, the offender moves on but the victim continues to pay the price.

The impact of crime is not limited to the day it happens; for many victims, the effects continue for months or even years. People lose their sense of safety and confidence. They worry about leaving their homes, going on holiday or even sleeping at night. When a home is broken into, it is not just property which is taken. People feel their personal space has been violated. They wonder whether it could happen again and whether their family is truly safe. Parents should not have to explain to their children why someone entered their home or why their family car has disappeared from the driveway overnight.

Community confidence is also affected. Neighbours talk about crimes happening in their streets. Local social media pages fill with reports of break-ins, stolen vehicles and suspicious behaviour. Over time, it creates fear and frustration among the law-abiding residents who just want to live peacefully. Most people in my community are not asking for special treatment; they are asking for common sense. They want a justice system supporting victims, backing police and holding offenders accountable for their actions. They expect serious repeat offenders to face serious consequences. Above all, they want to know that their concerns are being heard and that their government is prepared to act to keep communities safe.

In 2023 I spoke about Queenslanders spending thousands of dollars on security screens and cameras and some even using their superannuation savings to do it. Because Labor failed to keep communities safe, many families paid for repairs and then paid again to try to stop the next crime. In 2016 Labor removed the offence of committing another crime while on bail for young people. Who could forget when Labor also brought back detention as a last resort? These were deliberate choices. Later came the denials, the reviews and the promises of tougher action. By 2023 Labor had reversed its position on making breach of bail an offence, after years of rejecting calls from the LNP for stronger laws. Now Labor supports this bill, and we welcome that, but supporting this bill does not erase Labor's record.

Yesterday the member for Ipswich told the House that 39 per cent of Queenslanders felt less safe, and then claimed that this meant four out of five Queenslanders. Thirty-nine per cent is roughly two in five. Those opposite spent the debate demanding an independent statistical bureau. Perhaps they should first read the statistics in front of them.

My community deserves a serious debate about keeping people safe in their homes. The facts show Labor's approach did not work. The Auditor-General found serious repeat offenders were responsible for 55 per cent of proven youth crimes in 2022-23. The number of these offenders had increased by 65 per cent since 2018-19. The report also found poor record keeping made it difficult to know whether rehabilitation programs were working. In a sample of 50 serious repeat offenders, nine had no record of receiving any rehabilitation support. Labor often talks about rehabilitation, but it should explain why there were no records showing some repeat offenders received those programs at all. Queenslanders deserve both meaningful consequences and actual rehabilitation. Labor failed to deliver either.

This bill creates a new offence for people who commit certain serious crimes whilst on bail. The minimum penalty is one year in custody, with a maximum of three years. For young offenders, this applies if they commit an Adult Crime, Adult Time offence while on bail. For adults, it also applies to serious offences such as coercive control and child sexual offences. The original bail can be for any offence. What matters is whether the person commits a serious listed offence whilst on bail.

The bill also applies to people who commit serious offences while unlawfully at large or after failing to appear in court. Avoiding court should never put an offender in a better position than someone who attends. A person must first be found guilty of the serious offence before the new offence applies.

Allegations alone are not enough. Young offenders convicted under this new offence must serve at least one year in detention. Courts cannot replace this with a restorative justice conference. For example, if a young person on bail commits a burglary and is found guilty, they will face the penalty for the burglary as well as the new offence. The law recognises both the crime itself and the fact it was committed while on bail. This is a targeted change.

For families in Tallai or shopkeepers in Mudgeeraba village, this distinction matters. A court order must carry weight. When someone commits another serious crime while on bail, the law must recognise the breach of trust and impose real consequences. The mandatory one-year sentence only applies when someone commits a serious listed offence. The bill also changes the rules for getting bail again. People charged with serious offences while already on bail, unlawfully at large or after failing to appear will need to show why they should not remain in custody. Police or a court must then have a high degree of confidence they will not commit another relevant serious offence if released.

The member for Gaven reminded us that courts will decide bail, and of course they will. Parliament sets the test and the courts apply it. We are raising the bar for release, making further bail harder to obtain for serious repeat offenders. The inclusion of coercive control is especially important to me. In 2017 as a survivor of domestic and family violence, I spoke in this House about the need for stronger protections. I talked about women living in fear and the need to protect families when dangerous offenders are released. I have never believed victims should have to change their lives because of someone else's violence. Women and children in Mudgeeraba deserve to feel safe in their own home. By including coercive control and serious sexual offences, we recognise community safety is about more than property crime.

The bill also gives police flexibility to use diversion programs if appropriate and to consider alternatives to arrest for some bail breaches, because we are also investing in prevention. Last week the Crisafulli government announced the Risk Response Bail program. Service providers must contact a young person and their family within 24 hours of a bail decision. On the Gold Coast the provider will be the Ted Noffs Foundation, with the program rolling out later this year. That means families will receive support while stronger consequences remain in place for serious offending.

As Minister for Employment and Training, I know the difference a job can make in a young person's life. Work provides structure, responsibility and a positive future, but opportunities need to come with accountability and the safety of other families cannot be ignored. Those opposite spent yesterday calling this another slogan. They say that strengthening the law proves the earlier reforms failed. What an extraordinary argument! We will keep improving the law where Queenslanders need stronger protection from offenders. This bill creates a separate offence for serious offending while on bail and makes further bail harder to obtain.

Labor can dismiss the words, but offenders will have to face the consequences. The people of Mudgeeraba have waited long enough for laws to take their concerns seriously. Labor had a decade to act but chose to weaken the law and left Queenslanders dealing with the consequences. The Crisafulli LNP government is taking action that should have been taken years ago. Our community should never have had to wait this long. I commend this bill to the House.

Mr RICHMOND (Stafford—ALP) (8.50 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Breach Bail, Go to Jail bill. I want to begin by acknowledging all of the victims of crime across Queensland and the victims of crime who are in this chamber, chiefly amongst them the member for Cooper and the member for Capalaba. I also want to acknowledge all of the people who are responsible for policing crime and preventing it: the police officers, the youth detention workers, the correctional facility workers and the people who work in prevention and intervention. It is the solemn duty of us all in this place to do everything we can to reduce the number of victims in Queensland. To do so ensures we maximise the dignity and respect afforded to all Queenslanders as is their birthright. Committing a criminal offence frays the bonds that tie our community together. It is a signal that the offender is subordinating the interests of their fellow citizens in favour of their own.

In my first speech I spoke about the need for government to ensure that all members of our society are given the opportunity to reach their potential. People cannot reach their potential if they live in fear that their streets are not safe. They cannot reach their potential if they do not feel secure in their own home. They cannot reach their potential if they feel that those who break the law do so with impunity. In this place we should do everything we can to crush crime. The only way to do that is to be tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime.

For some commentators, criminal offending is preordained. They argue that it is entirely a structural matter and individuals who commit offences do so without any agency. Others argue that those who commit crime are so beyond redemption that they are always destined to commit acts of

wickedness. Neither position is correct. Individuals choose to commit crime. They exercise their agency to make our community less safe and others' lives worse. However, their individual choices cannot be divorced from their circumstances, social and economic. That is not to excuse the behaviour of offenders; it is to highlight that the government has the power to exert influence over our collective and individual circumstances, making it less likely that crime will occur. Through decisions of government, we can reduce the likelihood that someone will face the trauma and rupture to their lives that accompanies becoming a victim of crime. That involves tough laws to protect the public and punish offenders. It requires properly funded and empowered prevention and intervention services and it requires youth detention and correctional centres that are fit for purpose.

Imagine and understand how much control the state has over someone who is incarcerated. We control who they see, what they eat and how they sleep. We decide what they can watch, read and hear. In addition to lengthening and strengthening custodial sentences, we need to ensure that our correctional facilities help reform the criminal behaviour that has led to offenders finding themselves incarcerated in the first place. For that to occur, our custodial facilities need to be properly staffed and they need to be safe enough for frontline workers to do their job. The two are inextricably linked. Based on the submission of the union for youth detention workers, which I happen to be a member of, the Australian Workers' Union, that is not happening in Queensland. Their submission identifies that chronic understaffing is precluding access to rehabilitation programs and that deficient youth detention centre capacity will lead to more and more serious assaults and injury in the workplace. Together Queensland notes that even as the government talks about the bed capacity for our correctional facilities expanding it omits the fact that this does not equate to operational capacity. Without investment in additional support for these staff, I fear their safety will be imperilled. It is not sufficient to talk tough on crime and then subject those on the front line to greater danger and more assaults.

In passing this legislation, the government needs to guarantee Queenslanders that it will prioritise investments that ensure our youth detention and corrections staff will be given what they need to stay safe and deliver effective rehabilitation initiatives in custody so that we keep Queenslanders safe, not just while offenders are imprisoned but also once they are released back into our community.

I note that, even before these laws have passed, prime-time TV and digital advertising has already taken place. At a bare minimum, I would suggest that the government should match any funds spent on advertising with a commensurate uplift in expenditure on its frontline workforce. While rehabilitating offenders is a core component of the purpose of sentencing, it is not the only purpose. Sentencing also serves a purpose of expressing society's moral condemnation of the act perpetrated by the offender. It is why offences are subject to aggravating circumstances, recognising that a particular factual nexus associated with offending may require a more punitive sentence.

People are granted bail with an explicit covenant to the court and to the community at large that they will not commit any further offences. A failure to live up to this covenant is a breach of trust. In the conversations that I have had with victims and constituents, there is by no means any certainty that the mandatory sentencing provisions this bill imposes will be effective in reducing crime, but they believe that it is worth trying and they hope it succeeds. I agree. Legislation such as this cannot be simply analysed through the prism of whether or not it infringes upon the rights of offenders. We need to prioritise the wellbeing of the collective, even in the event that it means that an individual must make additional sacrifices for the greater good. The individual rights of the offender cannot come before our duty to guarantee liberty for those who obey the law.

While the community might be ambivalent about the prospects of the success of this legislation, there is one section of society that is insistent that this legislation will reduce victims and criminal offending: the LNP. That is why the context in which this bill has been introduced is so deeply troubling. The concept of Breach Bail, Go to Jail was first introduced into the public lexicon in late 2025. On 18 November the Queensland LNP posted on their Facebook page—and I table this for the benefit of the House—'Breach Bail, Go to Jail; vote 1 Wayde Chiesa'.

Tabled paper: Extract from social media, dated 18 November 2025, featuring a post by 'LNP—Liberal National Party', titled 'Breach Bail, Go to Jail. Vote 1 Wayde Chiesa' [2165].

A reasonable person might have assumed that, with the Queensland LNP endorsing the proposition that if you breach bail you should go to jail, the LNP government might do something about it, given that they are the government—not so. In the wake of the Hinchinbrook by-election, all the government could muster was that they were considering it. It required the members of the LNP to debase themselves by petitioning the government to implement a policy position that their party had already endorsed months earlier. When this bill comes into effect on 30 November 2026, it will have been 378 days since the LNP's Facebook post endorsing this policy.

Let's call this out for what it is: a well-coordinated, call-and-response campaign that has allowed the LNP to seek advantage on the issue of community safety. However, the reality is this: the LNP's prioritisation of politics over people has real consequences. I remember hearing the submitters who told us about the criminal offences that they were subjected to. When I asked one if they thought that this bill would have prevented the offending against them, they said yes. The alleged offence against them was committed in January of this year. The LNP has rushed urgent bills through this House in a single day, so if it is the case that it was the LNP's position that this should have been the law in Queensland in December 2025 this bill could have been law and could have prevented the offence that was committed against that person in January. The reality is this: the LNP cares more about the safety of its seats than the safety of our streets. It cares more about politics and perception than prevention and protection. It cares more about how things look than how they are. It cares more about optics than outcomes. As a consequence of its focus on politics rather than people, Queenslanders are less safe.

Debate, on motion of Mr Richmond, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the House do now adjourn.

Literacy; Logan, Shooting

Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (9.00 pm): I rise to deliver a speech written by Springwood constituent Araminta Crocombe as part of the Raise Our Voice Australia campaign. It reads—

Disadvantage in this country rarely announces itself as disadvantage.

Sometimes it looks like a child arriving at school without the resources or support they need to keep up.

Everyone in this room shares a privilege that is easy to take for granted, the privilege of being able to read, to understand information, to engage in education, and to have our voices heard.

I recognise that literacy is not necessarily an issue that will define my own future, but Queensland's future depends on whether every child has the same opportunity that many of us had.

In 2026, only 80.5 per cent of Queensland's Year 3 students received at least the developing level in reading.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, that figure was just 59.2 per cent.

This gap remains substantial in year 7, with 82.2 per cent of students reaching that level overall, compared with only 62.6 per cent of Indigenous students.

These gaps compound over time.

And the cost-of-living crisis makes them harder to overcome.

When families are struggling with housing, food and energy costs, access to books, tutoring, technology and quiet study spaces cannot be assumed to be equal.

This is not simply an education issue; it is an issue of social mobility, economic participation and equality of opportunity.

So my request to parliament is simple.

Make literacy intervention a greater priority in disadvantaged Queensland schools.

Invest in specialist literacy teachers, targeted intervention and accessible learning resources, particularly where socioeconomic and educational disadvantage overlap.

Because the goal should not be for some Queensland students to have the privilege of literacy and a good education.

It should be the standard for every Queensland student.

I want to take the opportunity in the rest of the time that I have available to me tonight to express my sadness, anger and frustration about the shocking shooting at Fitzys Loganholme—sadness for the victims, their families and their friends, anger that innocent people have been subjected to this violence and frustration that these people got their hands on guns in the first place. To those injured, their loved ones, the staff and everyone who witnessed this horror, our community stands with you. We will do whatever we can to support you, and when Fitzys reopens I will be there in solidarity with the staff, in support of a local institution and in defiance of those who think violence and fear have any place in our community. We will not let them win.

(Time expired)

Ninderry Electorate, E-Mobility Devices

Hon. DG PURDIE (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (9.03 pm): Tonight I rise to update the House, the state and, most importantly, my electorate of Ninderry on our nation-leading laws and crackdown on the illegal and unsafe use of e-bikes and e-scooters, because this was not only a big issue across the state but also a particularly big issue in my electorate. There is no doubt that this was the issue about which we got the most calls from people, particularly elderly people, complaining about young people predominantly thumbing their nose at the law. It was our local police who led the charge on this, working with our local schools to try to crack down on it and keep people safe.

Unfortunately, on the Sunshine Coast we saw an eight-year-old lose their life, and last year over 10 people lost their lives at the hands of someone on one of those illegal devices. I want to update the House that, since we passed our nation-leading laws giving police the power to seize and destroy these illegal and unsafe devices, police have seized over 600 of them. They have issued over 2,800 fines and 78 people have been caught and charged with drink riding. It was never about fines—it was never about that—because we knew that a harsh penalty would act as a strong deterrent. I hope those opposite are listening because it feeds into the debate we are having at the moment. This is why last week I was awfully proud to stand up at the Queensland Children's Hospital with Professor Roy Kimble, who advised the media that the Children's Burns and Trauma Research Group did a deep dive and research into this. I am happy to table this.

Tabled paper: Document, dated October 2026, titled 'Centre for Children's Burns and Trauma Research, Rise and of e-scooter and e-bike injuries in Queensland Children including the impact of the new laws' [2166].

Their research has shown that since 1 July, when our laws came into effect, the number of presentations at the Queensland Children's Hospital for people suffering from serious injury after an e-bike or e-scooter accident has dropped by 60 per cent. This is the Children's Hospital; this is where children from around the state get medevaced to when they suffer an injury. Professor Kimble spoke about how emergency wards across the state have seen a massive reduction in hospital presentations, so this is keeping people safe.

Those opposite, the Labor Party, voted against it. They did not support it because they do not believe that a harsh penalty is a strong deterrent. If you do not believe the police data, listen to Assistant Commissioner Rhys Wildman, who has said publicly that in his 39 years of policing he has never seen a law or a government policy have such a dramatic effect on community safety, keeping people safe and changing behaviour. I think every MP in this place would know now that their local police and their local community are hardly seeing people on these devices anymore. This was always about community safety. I acknowledge the Queensland Children's Hospital for the work they do and restate that the result of this legislation has been a reduction in hospital presentations of 60 per cent.

(Time expired)

Inala Youth Advisory Panel, Data Centres

Mrs NIGHTINGALE (Inala—ALP) (9.06 pm): Young people deserve a voice in the decisions that will shape their future and they deserve to know that this parliament is listening. Through the Raise Your Voice project, my Inala Youth Advisory Panel has brought forward an issue they have been discussing for the past year: the environmental impact of artificial intelligence. Well before this became a prominent media issue, my YAP members were asking questions about the water and energy that these technologies consume and expressing concerns about who will bear the cost.

These are young people growing up with AI. They recognise its possibilities, but they also want accountability for its consequences. I am proud of the thought and commitment they have brought to this project. Today I have the privilege of bringing their words into this chamber. I would like to acknowledge the work of Sabrina, Piyushaa, Lily, Ajmira, Kelvin, Aurora and Izaak, and I ask members to listen carefully to what they have to say. The words that follow are theirs—

As young people, we are greatly aware of the development of Artificial Intelligence, or AI, and its rapid integration into our lives.

However, as AI has developed so quickly, there has not been sufficient consideration given to its environmental ramifications.

According to a 2026 study by the United Nations University, 'AI-related water consumption could equal the basic annual domestic needs of 1.3 billion people by the end of the decade.'

Speaker, when massive AI data centres use up billions of litres of water, it leaves way less for critical industries like agriculture, which makes existing water shortages even worse.

For communities already dealing with droughts, there is less water to live on and hence a much lower quality of life.

Furthermore, reducing the water supply for agriculture means lower crop yields, which will drive up food prices exorbitantly for everyday families.

On top of that, the huge amount of energy needed to keep these servers running exacerbates our carbon footprint, polluting our air even more.

The time to act is now.

We call on the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee of this Parliament to conduct a full-scale inquiry into the environmental impacts of AI.

We call upon the Committee to develop a standardised way to measure AI's carbon footprint in our state.

We must ensure legislation exists to require all AI companies to inform their users of the environmental cost per prompt and of the total impact of their use of AI per month.

We must ensure AI companies publicly disclose the full environmental impact of their AI products and services on a yearly basis.

We must create financial incentives for AI companies to invest in reducing the environmental impact of their products and services.

We must also allocate funding to research and development for more energy efficient and environmentally friendly AI products and services.

Only by doing these things can we avoid the severity of droughts and other dangerous environmental damage.

Barron River Electorate

Ms JAMES (Barron River—LNP) (9.10 pm): Two years ago, the people of Barron River put their trust in me to represent them in this parliament. I have never taken that responsibility lightly. Over the past two years, I have had the privilege of meeting thousands of people across our community, listening to their concerns, celebrating their successes and working to deliver on the issues that matter to them. I am really proud of what we are achieving together. Across Far North Queensland, we are seeing progress on major projects that will make a real difference to our region. The $1 billion Cairns Hospital expansion is well underway; the Queensland Ambulance Service's new building is progressing; upgrades to Cairns State Special School are complete; Stan Williams Park is also complete and looking fantastic; the Freshwater State School hall is coming along nicely; and following the devastation of ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper, the Kuranda Weir Recovery Project has been rebuilt, securing the future of the Barron Gorge hydro scheme and injecting almost $24 million into our regional economy.

We are also progressing important community projects, including the Cairns Youth Foyer, the Chinese Heritage Centre, the Cairns Turtle Rehabilitation Centre, the Stratford Bowls Club upgrades, Machans Beach Community Hall upgrades, new change rooms at AFL Cairns and a new shed and training room for the Cairns Surf Life Saving Club.

On our roads, work continues on the Kuranda Range repairs, which are nearly complete; after years of neglect the early works for the Cairns Western Arterial Road are going well; and the next steps for the Barron River Bridge are progressing. There is plenty to look forward to with the revitalisation of Double Island. Seeing the barge arrive last week with heavy equipment to start cleaning up the island was exciting for everybody. The Wangetti Trail and Smithfield Mountain Bike Park projects are coming along really well. There are also some great major events coming to our region. Cairns will host Australia's first T20 Gold Clash and the only regional Australian shows on Powderfinger's tour, bringing visitors, supporting local businesses and showcasing the best of Far North Queensland.

Delivering for our region also means keeping our community safe. Tomorrow we will deliver on our commitment to introduce Queensland's toughest bail laws. Over the past two years, we have passed legislation like Adult Crime, Adult Time. We have legislated electronic monitoring for high-risk youth offenders, Jack's Law and coercive control laws. We have strengthened police powers and introduced Circuit Breaker Sentencing for serious repeat youth offenders and lots more. We are backing these reforms with more police, early intervention and rehabilitation because Queenslanders deserve safer streets and real consequences for serious offending.

Beyond the projects, the legislation and the announcements, what matters most to me is the opportunity to represent the people of Barron River. Whether it is a conversation at a local business, at a community event, at a sporting club or simply at the shops, those conversations shape my work every day. To my electorate office team—Louise, Jenna, Jen and Ginnie—thank you for everything you do for me and for our community. You do an extraordinary job, and I am incredibly grateful for your dedication and all the work you do.

South Brisbane Electorate, Infrastructure

Dr O'SHEA (South Brisbane—ALP) (9.13 pm): My electorate of South Brisbane is experiencing unprecedented population growth, with thousands of new residents moving into our inner-city area. More and more high-rises are being planned and built, particularly in the suburbs of West End and South Brisbane. On the Visy site in South Brisbane alone there are plans to build 4,000 homes, and with zoning for high-rise apartments of up to 90 storeys in the area the increase in population is set to continue at pace. As our community grows we need to make sure we have the infrastructure in place to support this extraordinary level of growth, and that includes ensuring we have enough school places for our young people. Our state primary school in West End is rapidly approaching capacity. There are already almost 1,500 students at the school and the ongoing development will result in increasing demand for school places.

West End desperately needs a new primary school. Parents of children at West End State School constantly talk to me about their fears of severe overcrowding at the school as more and more students arrive. Without a new school, they are concerned about larger class sizes, less time for students with their teachers and demountable classrooms being set up on the school oval, reducing the already limited green space for the students.

Over two years ago, the Queensland Schools Planning Reference Committee highlighted that not just one but two new primary schools may be required for the West End State School catchment area over the next two decades. Last year, the Department of Education advised they were assessing the Visy site as the location for a new school. However, after the government announced plans to redevelop the site into a residential and mixed-use precinct, that option was taken off the table and no new location has been announced.

In a briefing in May this year, the Department of Education agreed that a new school is needed for the area. However, there was no funding for new schools set aside in the June budget. Our young people deserve to continue receiving a high-quality education in a school environment that supports them reaching their full potential. According to the department, it takes six years to plan and build a new school once a location is decided upon. Formal planning for the new school is required now, before we run out of time.

I have asked the Minister for Education to identify appropriate land and commence planning for the construction of a new school, but he has failed to do so. I have launched a petition with the South Brisbane community calling on the Minister for Education to build a new primary school for West End. I ask the minister to listen to the concerns of the community and take action to avoid the otherwise inevitable overcrowding at West End State School.

(Time expired)

Burdekin Electorate, Firefighters

Hon. DR LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (9.16 pm): Tonight I acknowledge our emergency services workers, in particular both our permanent firefighters and our auxiliaries. As in hundreds of other regional communities, auxiliary firefighters in the Burdekin respond to emergencies after hours, saving lives and protecting properties. The sad fact is that in recent years in the Burdekin the number of auxiliary firefighters has fallen. This was an issue that the former minister was well aware of. I spoke to him about it on numerous occasions, I raised it in this House and a solution was not found. However, I am pleased to advise the House that significant progress has been made in addressing this problem and ensuring safety for the Burdekin community. In fact, two new auxiliary firefighters started in the last week or so and more are on the way. I acknowledge the work of the minister in assisting to get those auxiliary firefighters on board.

By working together with our local firefighters, an agreement has been reached to ensure a timely response to both the community and visitors, including those who travel on the Bruce Highway. I am proud of the role that I have played in advocating for the Burdekin community and our local firefighters, both full-time and auxiliary. That advocacy has led to our local firefighters having the chance to raise their concerns and offer their solutions at face-to-face meetings with both the Queensland fire commissioner and the Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers. Those meetings have cleared the way for the implementation of a staffing model of full-time firefighters who will remain at the station after hours to support auxiliaries in responding.

I will be very clear: achieving this agreement has not been easy. Whereas the previous government was unable to find a solution, we listened and we acted. Rather than imposing on the Burdekin's firefighters, we worked cooperatively on a tailor-made approach. During the term of this agreement, recruitment of auxiliary firefighters will be stepped up and the presence of a full-time firefighter after hours will allow for an increase in training for both existing and new auxiliary firefighters. As the member for Burdekin, my advocacy for the community has never wavered. I gave a commitment to the local firefighters and the community that we would work cooperatively with them. The outcome we have achieved is proof positive that by working cooperatively we can tackle those longstanding challenges.

I am pleased to report that plans have been finalised for the construction of new a fire station at Ayr, which is long overdue. The current facility is contaminated with PFAS and the construction of that new facility cannot come soon enough. It is due recognition for the firefighters who put their lives on the line every day to keep that community safe.

Sandgate Electorate

Ms ASIF (Sandgate—ALP) (9.19 pm): Raise Our Voice Australia is a national organisation dedicated to bringing young people's perspectives into parliaments across our country. As part of the Raise Our Voice in Parliament program, I would like to share a speech written by 15-year-old Ely who lives in my electorate. Ely's speech states—

One of the biggest issues in shaping my future is the growing pressure on students to achieve perfect academic and co-curricular results, and the impact this has on mental health. I'm always standing outside an exam room, my heart pounding, feeling as though my entire future depends on a single grade. But in reality, does anyone ever ask what your final score was in Year 12? Despite this, students are constantly made to feel like their worth is defined by numbers.

Can you define the word mental health? This term is used so frequently, yet not many students know why it always gets talked about. This intense academic pressure, combined with expectations in sport and other areas, is overwhelming many young people. Mental health struggles among students is becoming more common, yet the system continues to prioritise performance over wellbeing.

Is it too late?

Better late than never. I believe Parliament should take meaningful action by increasing funding for school-based mental health to add compulsory units that teach students not just the what, but also the why, why it is so important, why you don't have to be alone in what feels like an emotional trap and why it is never too late to ask for help.

I agree with Ely and thank her for sharing her brave words. It is incredibly important for us to continue investing in mental health, especially for young people.

Late last week, the Commonwealth Bank informed me of its decision to close the Sandgate branch as of 4 December. It is the last bank branch in Sandgate. Their decision has been made with no local consultation and very little notice to our community. Since our petition has gone live, over 1,215 locals have signed the petition calling on the bank to reverse this decision and to consult with our community on this matter.

This branch provides banking support to so many people in our community, particularly our small businesses and our elderly residents. For seniors who do not drive, getting to the next branch that is close to our community is very difficult. Many of them have told me what this will mean for them and how this will limit their independence when it comes to banking.

CommBank has reported around $11 billion in cash profit in the last financial year, so keeping Sandgate's last bank branch open is well within its means. I have written to the CEO requesting a meeting, and I hope to hear back from him soon. I have asked him to reconsider this matter. Again, I am calling on the Commonwealth Bank to reconsider this decision and to not close Sandgate's last bank branch.

Maryborough Electorate, Community Safety

Mr BAROUNIS (Maryborough—LNP) (9.22 pm): Over the past two years, Maryborough has begun turning a corner after a decade of neglect under the previous Labor government. My commitment to the Queensland Crisafulli LNP government has always been matched by an even greater commitment to the people who elected me. Together, we are working to restore Maryborough's reputation as the welcoming and friendly town our residents know and love.

One of the most significant changes has been empowering the police to do their jobs and establishing Maryborough's CBD as the trial location for the Designated Business and Community Precinct. In the months since that community precinct began in July, 210 charges have been laid and

296 individuals have been wanded under Jack's Law. Police have also issued 34 banning notices and given 32 move-on directions, conducted over 300 walk-throughs in local shops and businesses, and, importantly, engaged with the community over 700 times.

The Designated Business and Community Precinct has already made a difference to Maryborough's CBD. It is working, and we are receiving positive feedback from the community. Now the police have the powers that are needed to do their job—the powers they were asking for. Our community has spoken. The victims of crime have spoken. Their voice is getting stronger and we are listening and delivering for them. They want to be safe, and they are very supportive of the Breach Bail, Go to Jail and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026.

Business owners are beginning to feel confident again. Residents are returning to our CBD and visitors are coming back to enjoy everything Maryborough has to offer. We are moving in the right direction, but there is more work to do and we will continue working. I thank the Crisafulli LNP government for listening to our community and taking action on the issues that matter to the people of my electorate.

The Maryborough police force are dedicated and hardworking officers. They are committed to restoring safety in our CBD and our community. I thank them for all the hard work they do to ensure everyone in the community feels safe while enjoying our beautiful town. Their dedication to improving safety in Maryborough has been noticed by the community, and we thank them very much for that.

Midwifery and Homebirthing Services

Mr KNUTH (Hill—KAP) (9.25 pm): I rise tonight to call on the Queensland government to urgently intervene in a looming crisis that threatens the future of private midwifery and homebirthing services across Queensland, particularly in rural and regional communities. I recently met with private midwives in Atherton who raised serious concerns about the changes to professional indemnity insurance arrangements coming into effect on 1 January 2027.

Unless the federal government acts, women could lose access to qualified, registered midwives who provide essential support during planned homebirths. Under current arrangements, planned homebirths require two midwives; however, the replacement insurance scheme requires the second midwife to hold an additional endorsement, despite their role not involving prescribing medication or providing Medicare funded services.

According to Homebirth Australia, 85 per cent of second midwives are registered but not endorsed. Their survey indicates that 88 per cent of these midwives could stop attending homebirths, potentially forcing 60 per cent of primary private midwives to stop offering homebirthing services. These are alarming figures. What concerns me most is the impact it will have on women in rural and regional Queensland, where maternity services are already stretched and birthing choices are limited.

The most important issue that will ever come our way is safely bringing new life into this world. Women on the Atherton Tablelands and throughout North Queensland should not be disadvantaged simply because of where they live. Homebirth Australia's survey also found that 59 per cent of women would consider giving birth without a registered health professional if private midwifery services became unavailable. Again, this is an alarming and dangerous situation. We should be encouraging safe, regulated births, not creating roadblocks that could push women outside of the healthcare system.

I acknowledge Homebirth Australia's call for an immediate extension of the existing insurance exemption, followed by a permanent, affordable insurance solution recognising registered second midwives. This is a Commonwealth responsibility, but our state government cannot sit back and watch these services disappear. I call on the Queensland health minister to urgently lobby the federal government to extend the exemption beyond 31 December 2026 and secure a permanent solution. Women deserve to have genuine choice, regardless of their postcode.

(Time expired)

Caloundra TAFE Centre of Excellence; Caloundra Transport Corridor Upgrade

Ms HATCHER (Caloundra—LNP) (9.28 pm): I rise tonight to highlight an incredibly exciting time and chapter in the history and development of Caloundra. Caloundra is a rapidly growing and vibrant community, and for too long our local infrastructure has struggled to keep pace with our soaring population. However, we are now turning the page on years of underinvestment with two massive, game-changing projects that are currently underway: the new Caloundra TAFE Centre of Excellence and the Caloundra Transport Corridor Upgrade, known locally as the CTCU.

Firstly, I want to celebrate the monumental investment into local skills and education. Early works and construction have officially commenced on the new $78 million Caloundra TAFE Centre of Excellence located on Maurice Harvey Crescent right next to the booming Aura master planned community. I thank Minister Bates in particular—our very own queen of TAFE—for believing in tradies and training.

This state-of-the-art facility will act as a major hub for construction and allied trades, hosting over 200 students and apprentices every single day. As we face a tight housing market and prepare for the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games, this TAFE will directly secure a local pipeline of essential tradies. From carpenters to plumbers to electricians, it will give our young people the incredible opportunity to stay local, learn a valuable trade and step immediately into high-paying, high-demand local jobs.

Building a skilled workforce is only one side of the coin. We also need to keep our community moving. That is why at the same time construction has started on the Caloundra Transport Corridor Upgrade. The CTCU is a priority, a congestion-busting project turning a 1.6-kilometre stretch between Omrah Avenue and Nicklin Way into a reality. For years, local motorists, families and businesses have fought daily battles with gridlock at the Caloundra Road-Nicklin Way roundabout, and the CTCU is changing that by building a brand-new alternative gateway into the Caloundra CBD.

Delivered by contractor SEE Civil, this project includes a new signalised intersection, dedicated active transport infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists, and a streamlined flow that will significantly reduce travel times. It ensures our hardworking community members spend less time stuck in traffic and more time at home with their families.

Together, the new Caloundra TAFE and the CTCU represent a comprehensive approach to securing our region's future. We are building the transport links required to move our people safely and we are constructing the educational pillars needed to train the workforce of tomorrow. I want to credit all of the local leaders and people involved in both of these projects. It takes a community effort, and we have together championed these projects. These investments prove that through sustained collaboration we are delivering the bright, prosperous and highly connected future that Caloundra truly deserves.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.30 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Asif, Bailey, Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Chiesa, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, de Brenni, Dick, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Field, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Grace, Hatcher, Head, Healy, Howard, Hunt, Hutton, James B, James T, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly G, Kelly J, Kempton, King, Kirkland, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Linard, 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