



Speech By Sean Dillon

MEMBER FOR GREGORY

Record of Proceedings, 14 October 2025

QUEENSLAND INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH BILL 2025

 **Mr DILLON:** Mr Deputy Speaker—

Mr POWER: Mr Deputy Speaker—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): I call the member for Gregory.

Mr DILLON (Gregory—LNP) (5.58 pm): I rise to very briefly contribute—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member for Logan, we can do without the theatrics, thank you.

Mr POWER: Sorry, Mr Deputy Speaker?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Tapping while somebody else is speaking is inappropriate and you have been here long enough to know not to do that.

Mr POWER: Sorry?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have been here long enough to know not to tap your desk and perform theatrics when somebody else is speaking. You are next, so take your seat, please. I call the member for Gregory.

Mr DILLON: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I was grateful for the introduction to the chamber by the member for Logan, so thank you.

This evening I rise to very briefly contribute to the debate on the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025. At the outset I commend and applaud the work of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services and his team for their diligence and attention to detail in the drafting of this bill. I also thank the committee for its hard work—led so well by the chair, the member for Burnett, and supported by the government members for Mirani and Mackay—in scrutinising this bill.

Here we have another example of the Crisafulli government getting on with the job of delivering for Queensland. The work of QIMR is almost unparalleled in medical research and, whilst it has been able to consistently modernise its approach to research and medical outcomes, this place has not yet responded by modernising the legislation it is governed by. The great work undertaken through the facility by world-leading researchers on skin cancers and melanoma is something which has touched countless constituents in my electorate. Treatment options and almost certainly thousands of changed lives have resulted. People like Dr Alan Jones can now provide services to communities and individuals right throughout Gregory, providing early detection and saving these lives as a result of the countless hours of research undertaken through QIMR.

I also wish to voice my gratitude for the work undertaken at QIMR by the team led by Dr Brittany Mitchell, as well as the separate team that is linked through Dr Jodi Thomas and her colleagues, into depression in women. Forever we have known in the bush that women are the glue that hold not only our families but our communities together, especially in long periods of absence. The pressure this

places on their mental health is obvious and the groundbreaking research that has been undertaken shows there are now identifiable genetic markers which are linked to females only, giving hope to the millions of Australian females and their families who are affected by this terrible disease.

I may not have the training or the intellectual capacity to aid QIMR by way of contribution to the research but by being part of a proactive government led by Premier Crisafulli and his ministry, I can contribute to the legislative overhaul of the act governing this terrific research body. I am proud to be part of a government that can support and seek carriage of this bill so ably crafted by the minister in consultation with the sector at large, especially QIMR and the council itself, who were fully consulted through this development and support the changes. For all the matters raised by those opposite around appointments, especially those outlined by the former speaker, I point out the hypocrisy that they display around government appointments. It is breathtaking. For a party who espouses the procedures they used to appoint the likes of Dave Hanna to a government role to then question the method and individuals appointed by this side would be laughable if it was not so tragic. Again, I stress that the parties most relevant to this decision—the QIMR and its council—support these changes.

The government is methodically reviewing legislation across all portfolios in line with our commitments and in keeping with being a good government. Bringing modern legislative approaches to the older governance frameworks of our terrifically important government agencies, statutory bodies and others is central to this approach. QIMR is a tremendous vehicle for medical research and has changed the lives of millions of people and their families. This overhaul of the legislation that outlines the legislative requirements for QIMR will aid in the entry of this organisation into the 21st century from a governance perspective. This will allow contemporary research to be matched by modern, well-placed administration. We on this side were elected to ensure access to health care where and when it is needed. The critical work undertaken through research at QIMR is part of that. This reform continues to deliver on the commitments we made to the people of Queensland. On behalf of the electorate of Gregory, I add my voice of support to this bill.