




Speech By  
**Natalie Marr**

**MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA**

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Record of Proceedings, 25 March 2026

## **ELECTRICAL SAFETY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (4.00 pm): The member opposite is someone who supposedly fights for workers, but I heard very little about workers and a lot more about the LNP, but I digress. I rise to speak in strong support of the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, a bill that puts Queensland workers first, restores common sense to our workplaces and strengthens genuine safety protections right across our state. This is the Crisafulli government delivering on our promise to keep Queenslanders safe on the job while getting our construction industry working efficiently again.

In my electorate of Thuringowa and right across Townsville city, these balanced changes cannot come soon enough. As we consider the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 let me be clear: safety must remain the single most important factor guiding every decision we make. Electricity is an invisible but unforgiving force. One small oversight, one outdated regulation or one moment of complacency can result in devastating injuries, tragic loss of life or catastrophic fires that destroy homes and businesses in an instant. This bill is not introduced for the sake of merely updating rules. It is about putting people first by strengthening standards for installation, maintenance and inspection of electrical systems across Queensland. It demands higher accountability from contractors, better training for workers and clearer protections for families and communities. When we prioritise safety above convenience, above cost and above political expediency, we send a powerful message: every Queenslander deserves to live and work in an environment where electrical hazards are minimised and human life is valued most of all.

At the heart of this bill is a clear and practical focus on worker safety. The former Labor government introduced changes that would have given union officials virtually unfettered access to every enforcement notice the regulator ever issued going back decades. We are repealing section 155A of the Work Health and Safety Act. This restores balance so the regulator can focus squarely on protecting workers rather than being drawn into unnecessary workplace disputes or information-gathering exercises. Those opposite have been vocal in their opposition, claiming the repeal undermines workers' rights and weakens safety, yet the very laws they defend risk turning historical safety data into a tool for division rather than prevention. We believe real safety comes from a regulator that acts independently and fairly, not from handing unions unrestricted access to decades-old records that could be used to target employers or disrupt sites. This repeal brings Queensland back into line with every other state and territory. Labor's changes were an outlier that risked undermining the safety culture we all support.

The evidence supports this measured approach. The State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee recommended the bill be passed. Industry bodies such as Master Builders Queensland, Civil Contractors Federation Queensland and Master Electricians Australia have welcomed the changes, highlighting the need to restore productivity while maintaining strong safety standards onsite. As Rob Maroney from Master Builders noted—

This provides a platform for productivity to start to return to worksites in Queensland ...

Kristian Marlow from the Civil Contractors Federation emphasised that safety includes psychological safety and personal privacy of workers. Matthew Duncan from Master Electricians described it as 'an important step towards restoring proportionality, accountability and efficiency'. These are practical steps that support the men and women on the tools—the electricians, carpenters and labourers—in Thuringowa and Townsville who simply want to do their job safely and return home to their families each day.

The bill also delivers important improvements to our electrical safety framework, the very rules that protect every home, school, business and worksite from the deadly risks of faulty wiring and unsafe electrical equipment. We are clarifying the powers for electricity entities to issue defect notices—a practice they have carried out safely and effectively for over 20 years. We are modernising the regulator's powers to ban unsafe electrical equipment by moving them into the act itself with clear time limits, greater transparency and stronger safeguards. These commonsense measures will ensure the Electrical Safety Act continues to eliminate the human cost of electricity related deaths and injuries. In North Queensland when cyclones, storms and extreme heat constantly test our infrastructure, strong electrical safety standards are essential for protecting workers and our wider community.

It cannot be clearer to Queenslanders: the former Labor government handed the CFMEU the keys to the kingdom. In March 2024 they rammed through laws that gave union officials, including the CFMEU entry permit holders, virtually unfettered access to every enforcement notice the regulator ever issued going back decades—no limits, no safeguards, no fees, just a blank cheque for the CFMEU to weaponise safety data against any employer or worker who dared to stand up to them. Their own minister at the time dressed it up as 'strengthening the rights of health and safety representatives'. What absolute rubbish! What it actually did was open the floodgates to aggressive, intrusive and obstructionist conduct—exactly the tactics the CFMEU has used to terrorise workers and worksites across Queensland.

There were 10 years of Labor enabling the CFMEU, 10 years of looking the other way while productivity tanked and workers suffered. Now even in opposition they still cannot bring themselves to put Queenslanders ahead of their union mates. This bill is a clear test for the Labor opposition: do they back the safety of Queensland workers and the productivity of our construction industry or will they continue to enable the CFMEU's culture of bullying and standover tactics? If they vote against this bill the message to every family in Thuringowa and Townsville is loud and clear: nothing has changed. They have not learnt a thing. If they ever crawl back into government it will be straight back to the bad old days: more harassment, more delays, more fear on our worksites.

This bill strikes the right balance. It strengthens genuine safety protections for workers, restores fairness and proportionality on worksites, and ensures our laws focus on getting every Queensland home safely at the end of their day without unnecessary disruption or conflict. The Crisafulli government is delivering practical reforms that protect workers, support productivity and keep safety at the centre of everything we do. I commend this bill to the House.