



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

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## WEDNESDAY, 17 APRIL 2024

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

Mr Speaker (Hon. Curtis Pitt, Mulgrave) read prayers and took the chair.



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I respectfully acknowledge that we are sitting today on the land of Aboriginal people and pay my respects to elders past and present. I thank them, as First Australians, for their careful custodianship of the land over countless generations. We are very fortunate in this country to have two of the world's oldest continuing living cultures in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples whose lands, winds and waters we all now share.

### SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

#### School Group Tours



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Runcorn State High School in the electorate of Stretton and Burleigh Heads State School in the electorate of Burleigh. It is great to see that we have the member for Inala and the member for Ipswich West back again. We did not scare you off after day one.

### PETITION

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

#### Renters, Rent Limits

788 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate to limit rent to 25% of the renter's income [\[584\]](#).

Petition received.

### TABLED PAPERS

#### REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

[585](#) Report pursuant to Standing Order 169 (Acts to be numbered by the Clerk) and Standing Order 165 (Clerical errors or formal changes to any bill) detailing amendments to certain Bills, made by the Clerk, prior to assent by Her Excellency the Governor, viz—

#### Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2023

Amendments made to Bill

##### Short title and consequential references to short title—

*Omit—*

'Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2023'

*Insert—*

'Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024'

#### Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill 2023

Amendments made to Bill

##### Short title and consequential references to short title—

*Omit—*

'Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill 2023'

*Insert—*

'Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill 2024'

#### SPEAKER'S PAPERS

The following Speaker's papers were tabled by the Clerk—


Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (Hon. Pitt)—

[586](#) Oath of Allegiance and of Office: Member for Inala (Ms Nightingale)

[587](#) Affirmation of Allegiance and of Office: Member for Ipswich West (Mr Zanow)

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Electricity Prices

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.32 am): Queensland households have the lowest electricity bills in the National Electricity Market. That is according to Canstar Blue. Our massive energy rebate program has helped make that a reality. There are 1.6 million households that are receiving \$550 off their energy bills and a further 620,000—

**Opposition members** interjected.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members to my left!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! Let us hit the reset button, members.


**Mr MILES:** A further 620,000 vulnerable Queensland households are receiving \$1,072. This is more than households in any other state are receiving—something my government is proud of. It is because Queenslanders own their energy assets. On this side we believe in going even further. That is why we implemented the Climate Smart Energy Savers program: \$44 million in funding helped more than 72,000 Queenslanders purchase energy efficient appliances, including more than 22,000 fridges, more than 9,000 air conditioners, 24,000 washing machines, almost 5,000 driers, nearly 11,000 dishwashers and 1,600 solar and heat pump water systems. These appliances are using less electricity, driving down electricity bills. In real terms, the Department of Energy and Climate estimate that Queenslanders will save more than \$7.4 million on their bills each year. That is about \$102 per appliance. Each cycle is saving Queensland households money. These are the real and practical measures that my government will invest in. I have said the upcoming budget will deliver the biggest cost-of-living relief package to Queenslanders ever because they tell me that is what is impacting them the most. Their priorities are our priorities and I am committed to doing what we can to make a difference.

### Olympic and Paralympic Games, Delivery

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.34 am): We are not only delivering a world-class Olympic and Paralympic Games that is best value for money for Queenslanders but also delivering one that will serve Queensland for generations to come. To ensure we are making the most of the opportunity, we need to make sure we have the right people involved in the delivery. One of the first things I announced as Premier was that my government would establish an independent games delivery authority. Today we deliver on that promise with the Minister for State Development and Infrastructure to introduce new laws to parliament to form the Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority.

As a statutory body, it will be independent of government and will be charged with delivering new and upgraded infrastructure, not just for the games but for decades to come. It will follow a similar model to Sydney 2000 and London 2012 and will ensure our infrastructure creates lasting benefits to our communities. It is expected that the authority will be established by midyear and will feature a board of up to seven members recommended by games delivery partners. We will ensure it delivers results quickly with the legislation requiring the authority to develop a transport and mobility strategy within its first 18 months.

### Budget

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.35 am): Our government is determined to be up-front with Queenslanders about the challenges that our state faces. The next state budget will be difficult. The price of Queensland's steel making coal—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members to my left!

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left, I will issue a general caution right now. I am not going to put up with running commentary on matters. I need to hear the speaker on their feet.

**Mr DICK:** Our government is determined to be upfront with Queenslanders about the challenges that our state faces. The next state budget will be difficult. The price of Queensland's steel making coal has fallen about 25 per cent over the past year which will see a reduction in our royalty revenue. We


have seen a reduction in our share of GST revenue from the Commonwealth, despite our role as the growth state of Australia. There has been a huge population increase, with the influx from southern states doubling since 2020. That population growth means we must continue to fund our Big Build.

Preliminary forecasting suggests that by the 2027-28 financial year, Queensland's net debt could reach \$73 billion. Gross general government debt at that time could reach \$128 billion and when combined with the borrowings of our government owned corporations, which are delivering so much of our renewable energy transition, total non-financial public sector borrowings could reach \$188 billion by the 2027-28 financial year. On a proportional basis, these preliminary forecasts are consistent with the debt levels we were forecasting in 2020. At its greatest, total debt remains about one-third the size of Queensland's economy. Those who seek to compare Queensland's balance sheet to the mortgage on a family home ignore some fundamental truths: Queensland never stops working, Queensland will never retire and our economy will never stop growing.

As a government we will be working hard in the coming months leading up to the state budget to ensure Queensland's debt is as low as possible. We will remain relentlessly focused on providing cost-of-living relief to Queensland families and on delivering the infrastructure and services that Queenslanders deserve. We will continue to honour our promise to the people of Queensland that we will not raise their taxes.

We made no promises to big multinational corporations that we would not raise their taxes, but we made a promise to the people of Queensland that we would not raise taxes on them and we will keep that promise. What is important is what we will use debt for. Our government will use debt to provide the cost-of-living relief that Queenslanders deserve. We will use debt to deliver the infrastructure that our growing state demands and we will use debt to reduce inflation and increase the productivity of Queensland's economy. The level of debt held by the Queensland government is an important topic. Today, I invite the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow Treasurer to ask me any questions they might have on this important topic.

### **Aldoga Solar Farm; Infrastructure**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.39 am): Under the Miles government, Queensland is powering towards a sustainable future. Last week I joined the Premier, the Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs and the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing to turn the sod on Acciona Energia's \$500 million solar farm at Aldoga. Situated within the Gladstone State Development Area on land owned by Economic Development Queensland, EDQ, this facility will feature up to 820,000 solar modules with a capacity to produce a peak of 480 megawatts of power. The solar farm will offer \$150 million in local procurement opportunities—and I know the member for Gladstone and minister is particularly happy with that—and deliver up to 350 jobs during construction and up to 10 ongoing full-time roles.

This project not only aligns with our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan but also is a major example of how we are powering towards our 70 per cent renewable energy target by 2032 and our commitment to a 75 per cent reduction in emissions by 2035. Acciona Energia's community benefits program will also provide \$120,000 in annual funding to local initiatives, including scholarships with Central Queensland University, small grants and legacy projects. Some 100 per cent of the electricity it produces will be supplied to the Stanwell Corporation's proposed Central Queensland hydrogen project, CQ-H2, under a power purchase agreement. As Brett Wickham, managing director of Acciona Energia, said—

The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, great partners in Stanwell and EDQ and some of the best renewable resources in the country are why we want to keep building these projects here.

Construction of the Aldoga Solar Farm is now underway with the facility to be operational by mid-2026 and operate for 30 years. We are also in the final stages of consultation on four regional transformation strategies now that the outcomes of the local elections are known. I acknowledge the involvement of my assistant minister, the member for Mackay, in these consultations. The strategies will support the Mount Isa-North-West, Greater Whitsunday, Central Queensland, Darling Downs and South-West and South Burnett regions transition towards the jobs and industry that will support a low-emissions future. The Aldoga Solar Farm project and the regional transitional strategies are examples of how this government is creating jobs into the future for Queensland workers.

Projects such as the solar farm complement the Miles government Big Build, which will see more than \$90 billion of investment in the next four years alone. Right across the state, we are building the infrastructure Queensland needs. More than half of this is in our regions, I point out for regional members. We are building a new hospital in Bundaberg. We are building heavy rail on the Sunshine Coast. We are building the Rockhampton Ring Road in Central Queensland. The list goes on: we are building a new hospital in Toowoomba, we are building CopperString 2032 and we are building trains in Maryborough.

Queensland is in the biggest decade of infrastructure delivery in our history. We are proudly supporting innovative industries for our regions, ensuring our industrial heartlands continue their vital role in providing energy now and into the future. It is a Miles Labor government that will look after the regions. Queensland deserves nothing less.

### Central Queensland



**Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (9.43 am): Central Queensland is also crucial to our Big Build in Queensland. Our \$89 billion Big Build is not just creating construction jobs; it is helping unlock the jobs of the future. Our 117-kilometre Fitzroy-to-Gladstone pipeline is shoring up water security, helping to unlock future green energy projects plus ensuring the viability of current industries in the Gladstone region.

In Rockhampton, the 14-kilometre ring road will reduce travel time, improve flood resilience and help keep freight moving around this great state. There are so many jobs on the horizon in Central Queensland moving forward on the back of the Fortescue electrolyser facility, the Acciona solar farm and the Alpha HPA project—just to name a few. This is good for Gladstone, good for Queensland and good for Australia.

We are delivering the Big Build here in Queensland. We are also doing the hard yards with our councils to make sure they have the right core infrastructure for our growing communities, particularly in regional Queensland, and realising the potential of these major green energy projects. Through round 6 of our Building our Regions program, we are helping improve council water supply and sewerage systems in those regions. There is nearly \$70 million for 99 projects across 50 councils through round 6 of this fantastic program. That is nearly \$70 million that councils in Queensland do not need to fork out for themselves, meaning we are helping councils to put downward pressure on their rates and water charges and tackle the cost-of-living crunch.

In Mackay, there is more than \$6 million in funding to deliver crucial projects such as the Bloomsbury water supply project and Shellgrit Creek drainage upgrades. In Rockhampton, there is \$2 million to help Rockhampton Regional Council with its North Rockhampton Sewage Treatment Plant stage 2 project, supporting 80 jobs. In Bundaberg, there is \$2 million for Bargara's trunk sewer main to service that growing community, as we and the member for Bundaberg certainly know. That is millions of dollars that these councils do not have to pass onto their ratepayers and it is creating jobs along the way.

The Miles Labor government will always roll up our sleeves and help our local Queensland councils to unlock more jobs and to help ensure infrastructure meets the needs of our growing regional communities. We know that those opposite do not like spending and do not like helping our councils. They do not believe in working together; they only believe in cutting. I look forward to seeing all our Building our Regions round 6 projects up and running, serving these growing Queensland communities.

While I am on my feet, I congratulate all the new mayors and councillors, most of whom are here today and tonight. I say thank you to our mayors and councillors in Queensland. The Miles government is here to work with you and is here to continue to deliver for you in this great state. I look forward to meeting up with many of you this afternoon and over the next couple of days here in parliament to ensure you know that we have your back and are on your side.

### Cancer Care



**Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (9.47 am): Everyone in this place will at some point in their lifetime be affected by cancer, whether it is a close friend, a family member or a loved one. More than 30,000 Queenslanders are diagnosed every single year or roughly 90 Queenslanders a day. Just last week I met with Michelle on the Gold Coast who told me about her battle with breast cancer. She told me about the impact it had had saying—

In between scans and results is the scary part—you're always wondering what comes next, but I'm lucky to have lots of support.




We know that cancer is complex and can affect everybody differently. That is why Michelle's perspective and the perspectives of thousands of other cancer patients like her are so important. I take this opportunity to remind Queenslanders that our Cancer Strategy survey will be closing later today. I encourage everybody who wants to have their say to do so before the survey closes. So far, we have had the honour of hearing from over 1,000 Queenslanders who have been affected by cancer as well as their families, friends and carers. That is over 1,000 people whose lived experience will help shape the next decade of cancer care through the Queensland Cancer Strategy.

This strategy and the survey responses will help us determine what gaps currently exist in cancer care and how we can solve them. It will also help inform how we can better connect services across the state so that Queenslanders can access treatment and care closer to home. With cancer rates on the rise, the time to act is now, which is exactly what our government is doing. It is why we are building a new state-of-the-art Queensland Cancer Centre right here in Brisbane. It is one of the centrepieces of our health big build and will deliver 150 extra beds for cancer patients. It will also be one of only two facilities in the nation to offer proton beam therapy, which is a highly specialised form of radiation that accurately and painlessly targets tumours.

Whilst our government is putting in place strategies and infrastructure to care for cancer patients, our incredible researchers are also leading the fight against cancer. A team at the PA Hospital is spearheading a world-first cancer trial targeting prostate cancer cells which, if successful, could help people all over the world. With my recent announcement of a \$73 million investment in a new 10-year research strategy, I know we will continue to see more medical and scientific research conducted right here in Queensland, translating into real world cancer treatments.

It was an honour to make the announcement of a new research strategy alongside researchers at QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, and they showed me some of the incredible work they are doing on cancer fighting CAR T-cell therapy. I met with Jane, who began the CAR T-cell therapy trial as a last option to treat her lymphoma. She is now in remission thanks to the work and the staff at QIMR Berghofer. Queensland is doing so much in the fight against cancer, and our new Queensland Cancer Strategy is the next vital step in that fight. Once again, I want to thank everyone who has contributed to the survey. I encourage anyone who has not done so already to have their voice heard, complete the survey and join the thousands of Queenslanders helping to shape the future of cancer care.

## Local Government, Housing

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works) (9.50 am): With the 2024 local government elections behind us, I look forward to working with all newly elected councillors and mayors to improve the lives of Queenslanders. I will be meeting new mayors tonight. A huge focus will be on working closely with our 77 councils to build more homes faster. We want to unlock as much supply as we can, and local governments are a critical part of the solution for our Big Build. It cannot be business as usual, because Queensland's population is growing.


As part of our new long-term housing plan, Homes for Queenslanders, we have set a target of one million new homes by 2046 to cater for this growth. It is an ambitious goal that will require every council in Queensland to work with us to prioritise housing. Under Homes for Queenslanders, councils will have access to a \$12.5 million targeted fund providing needs-based funding for strategic planning and planning scheme updates. This will mean planning schemes are updated to facilitate the delivery of new homes in the right locations.

We have also announced a \$350 million Incentivising Infill Fund to encourage development in under-utilised areas close to jobs and services. It will mean more homes faster while ensuring councils receive contributions for critical infrastructure. That is on top of the billion dollar Townsville City Deal, the \$1.8 billion South-East Queensland City Deal, the \$1.1 billion Works for Queensland fund, the \$1.1 billion Recycling and Jobs Fund, \$368 million in infrastructure funds and \$76 million for local transport projects. On this side of the House we back local councils, unlike the Leader of the Opposition who, as local government minister, cut millions of dollars from Indigenous councils at the stroke of a pen. We back Homes for Queenslanders, unlike those opposite who think it is too much.

Homes for Queenslanders will be supported by updated regional plans being developed across this state, with Shaping South East Queensland 2023 leading the way by setting statutory housing supply and diversity targets. Housing pressures are being felt in all corners of the state, which is why my department is also working with rural and remote councils to find local solutions. With support from

the Queensland government, 22 local housing action plans have been completed for remote councils, and a further 38 plans are completed or underway for councils in other regions across the state. We are pulling every lever to unlock supply while protecting Queensland's lifestyle, and I look forward to working with our new local government leaders to get the job done.

### Critical Minerals


 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals) (9.53 am): I am proud to launch yet another initiative that will help advance Queensland's critical minerals sector. More than a century of mining has left behind piles of waste across Queensland which is being managed safely in accordance with environmental regulations. But more can be done, and this legacy demands effective and innovative solutions to manage this waste, reduce environmental risks and create new and exciting opportunities. Work by my department in conjunction with leading researchers from the University of Queensland has involved assessing and analysing these residual resources right across the state. This work has identified the presence of many valuable, scarce and in-demand minerals lingering in mining and mineral processing residues. These are minerals like cobalt and rare earths, which are a key part of building and developing batteries and renewable energy projects which this government backs as part of our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan.

As a government, we have done the work to identify and prove there is an opportunity to find value in mine waste. Now we are backing industry to take it further. Today I am proud to launch our new Collaborative Development Program, which is a \$5 million funding initiative to help companies assess and find ways to recover value from mining and processing residuals. Applications have now opened for the grants program. I have heard firsthand from international investors in places like South Korea about how excited they are to take on these prospects. There are huge opportunities for industry to recycle mine waste minerals into commercial and valuable products to reduce our carbon footprint and move towards creating a sustainable circular economy model.

This initiative is a key component of our Queensland Critical Minerals Strategy. The strategy oversees \$245 million in investment to transform the state, national and global economy through the responsible use of our critical minerals and outlines our ambition for the resources sector. Our ambition for this region and the state is not a small one. We want Queensland to be a global leader, supplier and manufacturer of critical minerals and renewable energy technologies. Queensland's attractiveness as an international investment destination for resources is growing, and we are striking while the iron is hot. We have the potential to be a leading producer of critical minerals based on the number of mineral deposit types we have around our state. We know that there is potentially \$500 billion worth of critical minerals in the North West Minerals Province alone, which is why this government is backing CopperString to unlock these opportunities. These minerals are essential for manufacturing renewable energy technologies like batteries and electric vehicles. We want investors across the globe to know about the huge opportunities in our Queensland resource sector, particularly in the North West Minerals Province, which will supply the critical minerals the world needs as part of its energy transition.

I would encourage anyone in the industry to apply to the Miles government's \$5 million Collaborative Development Program to take advantage of this massive opportunity to capitalise on what was once considered rubbish but could now be the next boom in resources for Queensland.

### State Schools, Renewable Energy

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice) (9.57 am): The Miles government is committed to providing cleaner, greener infrastructure that helps meet our renewable energy targets and also to power a cooler environment for our school students and staff. I am pleased to advise the House that the \$168 million Advancing Clean Energy Schools program—or ACES Program—successfully installed over 199,000 solar panels across 912 Queensland state schools, reducing energy costs and contributing to the Queensland government's 70 per cent renewable energy resources target by 2032. Over 70 megawatts of generating capacity is now on Queensland state school rooftops producing electricity which is estimated to generate in the vicinity of 280 megawatts of renewable energy each day. This infrastructure is providing a reduction in the annual spend on energy for Queensland state schools, with an estimated savings of over \$10 million per annum.


Some great examples of schools that have benefited from the ACES program include: an investment of almost \$198,000 at Dakabin State High School in the electorate of Murrumba, providing 270 solar panels which have the capacity to generate 99.9 kilowatts of solar power per day for the school; the installation of 424 solar panels at Merrimac State School in the electorate of Mudgeeraba

at a cost of just under \$315,000 with the capacity to provide 140 kilowatts of solar power per day; Mareeba State High School in the electorate of Cook received 596 solar panels with the capacity to generate 220 kilowatts of solar power per day for the school; and a \$330,000 investment in 413 solar panels at Kelvin Grove State College in the electorate of McConnel which can generate around 500 kilowatts of electricity per day on average. I cannot resist talking about my own electorate of Bulimba. Some 264 solar panels have been installed at Bulimba State School at a cost of \$226,000, with the capacity to provide 97 kilowatts of solar power per day.

The ACES program is a fantastic achievement and I congratulate my predecessor, the member for McConnel, on highlighting the Queensland government's commitment to a cleaner, greener energy future. This investment highlights our commitment to delivering state-of-the-art facilities to our world-class schools and to ensuring a bright future for our children by taking action on climate change.

These solar panels not only help to reduce our environmental footprint but also help schools to save money in the longer term that can be invested in other areas. I want to take this opportunity to commend the Department of Education, the schools and the contractors for working together to deliver on the commitment we have made to reduce energy costs and create sustainable schools in Queensland. I know, as I am sure every member in this House who has these solar panels installed at their schools knows, how excited the school communities, including the students, are about this initiative. Only the Miles Labor government is committed to tackling climate change through having serious targets for emissions reductions in order to provide a brighter future for Queenslanders because that is what Queensland deserves.

### **Police Service, Community Safety**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Community Safety) (10.01 am): The Queensland Police Service is currently conducting three parallel and ongoing intelligence-driven public safety operations, which are supported 100 per cent by the Miles government. These operations are enhancing community safety and, I am told by police, are reducing criminal offending in some areas. Operation Whiskey Unison has been operating for over a year. This operation is defined by its use of extreme high-visibility police patrols. These patrols are above and beyond the Queensland Police Service's everyday, business-as-usual operations. These extreme high-visibility police patrols were made possible by specific funding from this government.

So far, Operation Whiskey Unison has resulted in more than 11,000 offenders being arrested on almost 19,000 charges. Statewide efforts have included more than 170,000 proactive activities, including hotspot patrols, shopping centre walkthroughs, bail compliance checks, community engagements and other activities. Police say the community, including business providers, have responded very positively to these patrols through high pedestrian traffic areas.


In addition, police recently announced Operation Whiskey Legion. Whiskey Legion is a rolling police operation to reduce crime in communities across the state. The Acting Police Commissioner says communities can expect to see a surge of police officers in their area as part of rolling operation deployments across Queensland. The first deployments have already occurred in Ipswich and Logan. Operation Whiskey Legion targets those high-risk, high-harm offenders. During the Ipswich and Logan operations, over 400 offenders were charged with almost 900 charges. These offenders were charged with serious offences, including robbery with violence, breach of domestic violence orders, unlawful use of a motor vehicle and burglary.

Police advise Operation Whiskey Legion also focuses on crime prevention by using high-visibility policing. A total of 485 hotspot patrols were conducted at local shopping centres and local businesses in the Ipswich and Logan areas. In addition, over 2,400 random breath tests were conducted, almost 1,400 street checks and almost 1,000 business walkthroughs. Importantly, almost 650 reported crime files were cleared, with police making contact with the victims of these crimes to support them, update them and ensure that they continue to feel supported by the Queensland Police Service. This is extreme high-visibility, boots-on-the-ground policing, and I commend the Queensland Police Service for their proactive and dedicated approach to supporting the community. Police say further deployments to other regions are imminent.

Another policing initiative that is currently supporting the community is Taskforce Guardian. Taskforce Guardian is a dedicated flying squad of experienced detectives. The taskforce has deployed to multiple centres across the state, including Townsville, Logan, the Gold Coast, Ipswich and Toowoomba. In total, more than 60 deployments across Queensland have been made to date, with the most recent deployments in Mackay, Rockhampton, Hervey Bay and Cairns.

Taskforce Guardian operations have resulted in more than 1,200 people being arrested on 4,000 charges. Police advise that Taskforce Guardian, like Whiskey Legion, employs a surge capability to saturate the targeted area with police officers to disrupt and prevent crime. Police advise that, while it is very early days, Taskforce Guardian has played a key role in driving down certain crimes in a number of districts across Queensland. The Queensland Police Service is backed 100 per cent by the Miles government and is providing its full might in the effort to support community safety right across the state.

### Natural Disasters, Recovery

 **Hon. N BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.05 am): The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan sets out the Miles government's plan to deliver vital infrastructure, secure our energy transition and deliver secure jobs for Queenslanders into the future. Investing in renewable energy and reducing emissions are about addressing the impacts of climate change and setting our economy up to embrace a changing world and new job opportunities.


More frequent and devastating natural disasters are threatening our Queensland communities. Since being sworn in, I have been to communities impacted by Cyclone Jasper and subsequent flooding and landslides and to communities impacted by the Christmas Day storms that decimated our power assets and damaged houses. In my own community, I have seen houses impacted by flooding associated with Tropical Cyclone Kirrily. We have seen communities like Wujal Wujal absolutely decimated.

We have worked hand in hand with these communities on the road to recovery, and that is continuing. Damage assessments and reconstruction monitoring teams are revisiting impacted properties from this week in the far north before progressing to Townsville, the south-east and the south-west. In total, 2,975 properties will be assessed between 15 April and 3 May. QRA officers will collect information on property damage, progressive repairs, insurance matters and a resident's ability to access financial and personal support, when required.

Since August this year, Queensland has recorded more than 7,500 bushfires. More than 100 of these have been significant. Experts have also warned that rising sea levels due to climate change would increase the frequency of major flooding events. These compounding events risk the potential of stretching our emergency services to their limit and risk repeated impacts right across Queensland communities.

While we continue to strengthen our frontline services, we can help manage the risk of natural disasters into the future by addressing the impacts of climate change. We will keep responding to natural disasters, supporting communities in their recoveries and building emergency services' capability. We are also committed to delivering renewable energy to help address climate change and set Queensland up for the future.


### TAFE

 **Hon. LR McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.07 am): Thanks to the Miles government, right now there are electrical apprentices training to become the next crop of Queensland SuperGrid Superheroes, and they are doing it for free. There is an army of student SuperGrid Superheroes who are set to take up a high-paying, high-vis career in Queensland's big build of renewable energy. They will be working on everything from large-scale renewable energy generation, transmission and distribution to battery and pumped hydro storage or, like 19-year-old apprentice Cooper Gough, they will be working on the nation's biggest power station—Queensland's rooftop solar. Recently, the members for Redlands, Capalaba and I met Cooper and his fellow students studying a Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician. With a big build of renewable energy, is it any wonder that it has been one of Queensland's most popular courses at TAFE, with over 5,000 students enrolling last year. Here is the best part—Cooper is doing his apprenticeship for free.

I can inform the House that Queensland has hit another free TAFE milestone for our Big Build. As of this morning, more than 14,000 Queenslanders have taken up one of our free TAFE courses which is saving Queenslanders like Cooper around \$1,700. While Cooper is on his way to a good career, I am worried for the students who are enrolling in free TAFE for semester 2—those students who are thinking about doing it right now. What happens to the future of free TAFE students if an LNP government is elected in October? Will the LNP cut free TAFE and jack up fees like they did last time, or sell off campuses and sack TAFE workers like they did last time?

The Miles government's message to Queenslanders who are studying free TAFE is that free TAFE is locked in under Labor. If you are looking to save money on upskilling, reskilling or kickstarting your career as a Queensland SuperGrid Superhero, free TAFE and our Energy and Jobs Plan are your golden tickets to getting the skills you need to get a good, secure, highly paid job. There has never been a more important time to get electrical apprentices or SuperGrid Superheroes skilled up and into the workforce, delivering vital infrastructure, securing our energy transition and delivering a generation's worth of good, secure local jobs.

### Alpha HPA

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (10.10 am): Queensland is leading the way when it comes to creating new industries, and today the Prime Minister has shown just how much the Australian government believes in this great state. Later today, Minister Butcher and I will join the Prime Minister at Alpha HPA in Gladstone to announce \$400 million in funding to help deliver Australia's first high-purity alumina processing facility. That high-purity alumina will be used in commonly needed items like energy efficient LED lighting, lithium batteries for electric vehicles and semiconductors.

Our government has paved the way to help this massive next step happen. This facility—which will create nearly 500 jobs during construction and 200 jobs on completion—is being built on our state development area. Last year, we announced more than \$21 million to help get stage 2 of the Alpha HPA First Project off the ground. Since then, up to another \$30 million has been committed from the Queensland Critical Minerals and Battery Technology Fund to help Alpha HPA take the next step in making sapphire glass.

By 2025, Australia will overtake China as the world's largest producer of high-purity alumina, and Queensland will reap the rewards of that work. Our confidence in growing new industries here in Queensland has given industry the confidence to invest in us. Just last week, as we opened Fortescue Future Industries' new electrolyser facility in Gladstone, Fortescue Metals CEO, Mark Hutchinson, said—

This is really the first time that we can see we have a real, tangible alternative to fossil fuels. So we're giving the world that alternative for fossil fuels. And it starts here in Gladstone.


The very next day we turned the sod on what will be one of the biggest solar farms in the world right near Gladstone. The Aldoga Solar Farm has pushed Acciona's investment in Queensland to over \$2.5 billion. Acciona's managing director, Brett Wickham, said that Queensland is—

... a destination place for us not only for skills, for natural resources for the sun and the wind but also it's for the alignment on how we can get projects through and the support that we receive here.

Whether it be producing high-purity alumina or building hydrogen electrolysers or massive solar farms to generate energy, Queensland is leading the way in clean energy alternatives and the jobs that that energy can be used to create.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION


### Comments by Member for Nanango, Withdrawal

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (10.13 am): It has been brought to my attention that yesterday during question time I used unparliamentary language and I wish to withdraw those comments.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you for doing that proactively, member for Nanango.

## NOTICES OF MOTION

### Postal Voting, Privacy

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (10.14 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House:

1. notes:
  - (a) in a world of increasing data collection of personal details, privacy is key for Queenslanders;
  - (b) when Queenslanders respond to an offer to apply for postal voting, they expect this will go direct to the Electoral Commission of Queensland;

- (c) The current practice utilising generic 'reply paid' return address or postal box by political parties and MPs is inappropriate as it does not reveal that this information may be collected prior to being forwarded to the Queensland Electoral Commission;
  - (d) 87 per cent of Noosa residents who participated in the member for Noosa's annual survey agreed this practice should end;
  - (e) at the Federal level the Commonwealth Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters report 'Conduct of the 2022 federal election and other matters' recommended 'that section 184 of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 be amended to clarify that postal vote applications must be sent directly to the Australian Electoral Commission's nominated addresses.
2. and calls on the government to:
- (a) put forward, before the state election, amendments to the Queensland Electoral Act 1992 such that postal vote applications must be sent directly to the Queensland Electoral Commission's nominated addresses;
  - (b) calls on both sides of this House to support ending current practice and commit to amending the Queensland Electoral Act 1992 such that postal vote applications must be sent directly to the Queensland Electoral Commission's nominated addresses.

### Crime, Media Reporting



**Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (10.15 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House:

1. notes statements by:
  - (a) the member for Nicklin that media reporting of crime was 'scandalous' and he 'would prefer if elements that inform the public actually did their jobs' in relation to the youth crime crisis;
  - (b) the member for Capalaba that Queensland's youth crime crisis is 'a media beat up';
  - (c) the member for Bundaberg that 'mass commercial media use trope terms ... to distort the truth.
2. calls on the members for Nicklin, Capalaba and Bundaberg to cease blaming the media for their government's own policy failures; and
3. calls on the government to back the freedom of media to give crime victims a voice.

### QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.16 am.

#### Rochedale State School, Asbestos



**Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.16 am): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier guarantee the safety of staff and children from Rochedale State School and assure them that there is absolutely no chance of asbestos dust or fibres in the classroom since sealant was applied as a short-term remediation? If not, why have alternative arrangements not been put in place?

**Mr MILES:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. Obviously, the health and wellbeing of students, staff and teachers in our schools is our highest priority. As I advised the House yesterday, Education Queensland have advised me that three separate clearance certificates have been issued by independent occupational hygienists, with the most recent certificate issued last week. Advice from those asbestos experts is that all of the classrooms are safe for staff and students to return.

Parents have been kept up to date with the situation from the beginning, including a meeting late last week and an inspection of the classroom as well. The department has also advised that they will continue to do air monitoring and testing, including at the end of this week, to provide ongoing assurances. I am advised that access to those areas was immediately restricted and that parents and caregivers of impacted students were notified in accordance with the department's procedures. Steps were then taken to make those areas safe.

The removal of the perforated asbestos ceiling is scheduled for the 2024 school holidays—so the end of this year—with completion anticipated in time for the beginning of school next year. The advice I have from the department is that every reasonable step has been taken and we can assure those children and families that they are safe.

#### Rochedale State School, Asbestos

**Dr ROWAN:** My question is to the Premier. The asbestos management policy states that schools are to notify parents within 24 hours of asbestos incidents having been identified. Will the Premier explain why parents have told the LNP that asbestos was first discovered on 8 March at Rochedale State School but, however, they were not formally notified until midnight on 12 March?

**Mr MILES:** I thank the member for Moggill for his question. I assure the House that the health and safety of students in our schools is our utmost priority. I am advised that students and parents were notified quickly, but as to the exact time frame, I will ask the Minister for Education to investigate and report back to the House.

### **Manufacturing, Job Creation**

**Ms NIGHTINGALE:** My question is of the Premier. Can the Premier provide an update on the actions the Miles Labor government is taking to secure manufacturing jobs across Queensland, and is the Premier aware of any risky alternatives?

**Mr MILES:** I thank the member for Inala for her question. I think it is fitting that her first question in this place goes to one of the core priorities for Labor governments—making sure we are attracting investment and creating jobs in the industries of the future so that young people growing up in our state right now can aspire to a good, high-quality, secure job. The way to do that is to make sure we are making things here in our great state, including at companies like the Inala-based Graphene Manufacturing Group that was the beneficiary of \$2 million from our Critical Minerals and Battery Technology Fund, using those funds to create jobs in Inala that young Inala locals can aspire to.

We are absolutely focused on continuing to make more of what the world will need in the future here in Queensland, and to make it using renewable energy. The places that will especially benefit from that are our regional industrial powerhouses, places like Gladstone. We saw last week new products, with 'Made in Queensland' stamped on the side, coming off the production line at the world's biggest electrolyser factory built right there in Gladstone. The very next day, we turned the sod on one of the world's biggest solar farms, the Aldoga Solar Farm. All of the offtake from that massive solar farm is allocated to be run through those electrolysers to produce hydrogen to export to our trading partners in Singapore and Japan. I was really pleased to outline to the House earlier the next stage in Alpha HPA's investment here, where they are using high-purity, local alumina to produce screens for iPhones and watches and other high-tech equipment.

Those investors who are coming here to create jobs say they are doing it because of our plan to deliver to them 24/7 stored renewable energy. That is what they are demanding; that is the certainty they want from us. I can tell you that not a single one has said that they would prefer to power their factories with nuclear energy. They know that nuclear energy would be five to six times more expensive than our plan to deliver stored renewables, and that would make their projects uncompetitive. So, we are at a crossroads—a choice between our plan for stored renewables and the LNP's plan for more expensive nuclear power.

### **Rochedale State School, Asbestos**

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question is to the Premier. The asbestos register shows asbestos was first found in the ceiling at Rochedale State School blocks D and E 10 years ago. More was found in 2017. Why, after being in power for almost a decade, has the Labor government not removed asbestos from the ceilings at Rochedale State School?

**Mr MILES:** I thank the member for Kawana for his question. At the outset, let me restate that the health and safety of students and teachers in our schools is of the utmost priority. I am advised that all steps were taken in accordance with the department's incident management procedure. As I have already committed to the House, I will ask the Minister for Education to confirm those specific time frames and report back to the House in response to the question from the member for Moggill.

There is a long-term plan to manage and control assets and have them free of asbestos containing materials. The Department of Education's infrastructure portfolio obviously includes many aged assets, and many of them were built using asbestos containing materials. In 2022-23, the removal of high-priority asbestos took place at 196 schools, in 256 buildings within those schools. The department continues to deliver a program to progressively remove that asbestos containing material from facilities and uses a risk-based strategy for the management and removal of that.

We have allocated in this financial year funding of \$47.7 million for the removal of asbestos containing material from the Department of Education facilities and to fund asbestos audits. Of that funding allocation: \$29 million is for the continuation of low-density asbestos fibreboard removal; \$16 million has been allocated to the removal of asbestos containing material—\$13 million of that is base funding and \$3 million is a boost in funding; and there is \$2.7 million of base funding allocated to the department's budget for asbestos auditing at schools across the state.

Clearly, many of our schools were built during the period of time when asbestos containing material was a very common building material, and it will take time for us to deliver on this program of removing that material. However, in the meantime, we will continue to use a risk-based framework to make sure we are allocating those resources to the highest priority locations, and then using that management guideline to ensure that where there are emergent risks those risks are carefully managed to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of students, teachers and other staff. As I have said, and I am happy to repeat, the health and wellbeing of students is our No. 1 priority.

### **Regional Queensland, Manufacturing**

**Mr SMITH:** My question is of the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water. Can the minister please provide an update on how Labor governments are supporting regional manufacturing in Queensland, and is the minister aware of any risky alternative approaches?

**Mr BUTCHER:** I thank the member for the question. I know how passionate and supportive he is of the manufacturing industry in Queensland, particularly in the many visits I have made to his region, visiting manufacturers and seeing the work they are doing for us in Queensland.

The Miles Labor government proudly supports our manufacturers. We know that when you make things in Queensland, you are supporting local manufacturers and you are supporting good, secure jobs. It is not just in the manufacturing sector, it is all in the R&D sector, as we are seeing with Lava Blue and Alpha HPA in the Redlands area, supporting our manufacturers moving forward. We cannot do that without that support.

The global spotlight is certainly on Queensland when it comes to manufacturing. If we can make it here, we should be making it here. The potential of our manufacturers has no limits in Queensland, backed by the launch last week of Australia's first commercial hydrogen electrolyser manufacturing facility in Gladstone. We have delivered over \$207 million in grants to support our Queensland manufacturers. Our investments are not only about supporting our manufacturers but also supporting those good jobs right here in Queensland.

I am proud to say, as the manufacturing minister, we have delivered over 7,000 jobs in manufacturing in Queensland since we have been in government. Our manufacturing hub grants and our support programs are working in Queensland. The lean manufacturing workshops, the industry 4.0 seminars and everything else to do with manufacturing is working and delivering for our manufacturers. Every time we see a manufacturer take advantage of our programs and our grants, it is a step forward for more jobs on the ground in manufacturing in Queensland.

We are also going to make more trains again—65 six-car sets made here in Queensland. More locally made trains means more jobs in regional Queensland. We hear the words from LNP member for Burnett that the Train Manufacturing Program is 'a road to nowhere'. What a shame that the LNP are making these comments.

I have spoken about our record of creating good and secure jobs backing our manufacturers, but I was asked about alternatives and the associated risks. We know for a fact that the LNP sacked over 10,000 manufacturing workers in Queensland when they were in charge. The grants and supports were gone, the jobs were gone and the trains were sent overseas.

They have done it before, and they will do it again here in Queensland. There is nothing in the glossy brochure that they all prance around with. They simply do not care about manufacturing in Queensland—it did not even make their glossy blue book. They are a risk for regional Queenslanders because we know that they are a risk to our economy and a risk to manufacturing in Queensland—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Maryborough and the member for Burnett are both warned under the standing orders for quarrelling across the chamber.

### **Rochedale State School, Asbestos**

**Ms CAMM:** My question is to the Minister for Education. The LNP has been told by parents that since asbestos was found at Rochedale State School cleaners have been using a broom to clean classroom ceilings containing asbestos. Can the minister confirm that all staff are aware of the asbestos issue and have had appropriate workplace health and safety training to ensure their own safety and that of students and teachers?



**Ms FARMER:** I thank the member for her question. I commend the principal and deputy principal at Rochedale State School who have gone to great lengths to make sure that parents and staff at Rochedale State School have been fully informed and that they have a level of comfort with the action that has been taken, so they are absolutely aware and are continually communicating with them.

As has already been aired in this House, dust was first noticed falling from the ceiling on 8 March, which was a Friday. The area was immediately sectioned off so that investigations could be made. There have been numerous visits to the school by experts, as the Premier has said. There have been three separate independent experts who have declared the area safe. There were about 12 classrooms in the particular block. They have all been sealed with industrial sealant and then painted over. They will continue to be tested. The principal has spoken to all of the teachers in that block to make sure that they are comfortable—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members to my left, the minister, as I hear her answer, is being responsive to the question as asked. I would like to hear the answer.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, members to my right.

**Ms FARMER:** The principal has spoken to all of the teachers in those classrooms to make sure they are comfortable. They have said they are comfortable. The principal and deputy principal have spoken to the parents. There is a small group of parents who are not comfortable and their children are being placed in other classes while other arrangements are being considered. As the Premier has said, there have been some very specific—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms FARMER:** I am very happy to keep talking about it if the opposition actually wants to hear the answer.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, you have the call.

**Ms FARMER:** There have been some specific questions asked this morning about when parents were notified and about other incidents. I have asked my department to come back to me with those details. I do not have them on hand right now, but I will provide them to the House as soon as they are available to me.

### Cost of Living, Relief

**Mr SULLIVAN:** My question is of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. Can the Deputy Premier outline to the House how the Miles Labor government is continuing to fund cost-of-living relief for Queensland families, our renewable energy transition and our government's Big Build, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative risks?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Stafford for his question. As I said in my ministerial statement earlier today, this year's Queensland budget will be challenging but our borrowings will increase as a consequence. We do not apologise for that, because those borrowings will help deliver that record big infrastructure build for Queensland. Those borrowings will help deliver our nation-leading cost-of-living relief for Queensland families, and those borrowings will help lead our world-renowned Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan—a plan that will contribute to cutting emissions by 75 per cent by 2035.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** I take the interjection from the Leader of the Opposition and I look forward to receiving a question from him on debt before the end of question time. That is how we are responsibly managing debt.

I was asked about risky alternatives. The LNP has made it clear that it remains obsessed with cutting revenue, whether it be progressive coal royalties or transfer duties. When revenue falls, what happens is that we see debt rise even further and the ability to service debt will diminish even further unless, of course, there is a plan to cut. On the last day of October in 2022, the LNP leader told the *Australian* newspaper that the LNP was 'formulating a debt reduction plan'. Some 534 days later—that is almost a year and a half—that plan remains hidden from the people of Queensland. The Leader of the Opposition says one thing to the media gallery, but he does another thing behind their backs. The LNP leader may be noisy, but when it comes to actions he is completely silent. Way back in October 2022 the LNP leader said he was working through a tax policy but 'we are still two years out so I'm not making any statement'. Guess what? We are barely six months out now and the Leader of the

Opposition is still not making any statement. He is still silent, other than telling the coal lobby that he will take those progressive coal royalties and, when he cuts them, they can take that to the bank—his words.

You simply cannot trust a single word the Leader of the Opposition says whether it be on debt and tax, whether it be on nuclear reactors, whether it be on fairer working conditions for working Queenslanders or whether it be on progressive coal royalties. The LNP leader needs to start giving real answers to real questions, and he must start by doing that today.

### **Bruce Highway**

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** My question is to the Minister for Transport. I refer to the Labor government's 2017 election commitment to establish a Bruce Highway trust advisory council to develop a 15-year vision and action plan. After just six meetings the council was abandoned and the promised action plan never happened. Does the Queensland government take responsibility for the disastrous state of the Bruce Highway?

**Mr MELLISH:** I am very pleased to be asked a question on the Bruce Highway and I am happy to talk about the Bruce Highway all morning. We have a range of Bruce Highway projects underway from the top to the bottom of our state. We have the Rockhampton Ring Road, an outstanding project—I have visited the southern end and the northern end—and I have seen the local member advocating for that. We have Cooroy to Curra, section D. We have the Anzac Avenue to Uhlmann Road upgrade. We have the Tiaro Bypass and the Walkerston Bypass underway.

Just last week I was with the Premier, the federal infrastructure minister and the member for Morayfield for an outstanding Bruce Highway project that we were commissioning—additional lanes on the Bruce Highway. We are delivering right up and down the state for the Bruce Highway. We have over \$13 billion over 10 years jointly funded with the federal government on Bruce Highway projects. I note that the member for Nanango is laughing. The member for Nanango thinks the Bruce Highway is a joke. She clearly underfunded her own election promise which was reported to the media as over \$33 billion on the Bruce Highway. It ended up being \$30 million for consultants.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members on all sides of the House, I am having difficulty hearing the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Hansard must be able to hear him also.

**Mr MELLISH:** In 2020 the opposition—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Nanango, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr MELLISH:** In an apparent promise, the announcement was for \$33 billion on the Bruce Highway and it ended up being \$30 million—the Bruce Highway hoax. Queenslanders will not forget the underfunding, the undelivered promises and the lack of care for the Bruce Highway that those opposite have. The LNP want to cut projects in transport and they want to cut jobs in transport. They have no plan for the Bruce Highway. They have no plan for delivering for our state.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Callide? No?

**Honourable members:** Southern Downs.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Southern Downs, welcome back! You are warned. Minister for Transport and Main Roads, you are warned for quarrelling across the chamber.

### **Environmental Protection**

**Ms BUSH:** My question is of the Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister update the House on how the Miles Labor government is protecting our environment and supporting the industries and jobs of the future and is the minister aware of any risky alternative approaches?

**Ms GRACE:** I thank the member for Cooper for her question. She is very passionate about what this government is doing in addressing climate change and how we are transitioning to renewables. We see that happening every single day and in the reports that we give to this House. I know the member for Cooper has a particular passion in this area. It is a pity those opposite do not have the same passion for renewables and climate change as they had for the hoax of the Bruce Highway that they entered into.

On this side of the House we are protecting the environment and creating jobs associated with the industries of the future and we are proud of our record. We are setting a new interim emissions target of 75 per cent reduction by 2035 and net zero by 2050. Our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan sets out the state's pathway to transform our energy network and create more jobs. It will help us transition to 70 per cent renewable energy by 2032. We are not stopping there.

We have invested more than \$260 million in national parks and protected areas—the largest in Queensland's history. Since 2015 we have invested a huge \$1.2 billion to protect the Great Barrier Reef. Let me give the alternative. Those opposite opposed our reef regulations. That is what they did when we brought them in. We have launched the Queensland Climate Action Plan, our state's economic and environmental blueprint to create jobs and meet our targets. What did those opposite do? They abolished the office of climate change and the office of renewable energy. That is their track record.

We have created regional jobs and reduced carbon emissions through our \$500 million Land Restoration Fund. What did those opposite do? They reduced 33 per cent of the staff in the environment department and 85 staff from the environmental regulator. That is their track record. We have banned single-use plastic bags and other single-use plastics. We are investing in a \$2.1 billion waste package to fast-track Queensland's transition to zero waste, building more recycling facilities and creating jobs. They scrapped the waste levy, making Queensland the dumping ground of Australia. That is their track record.

We have collected more than eight billion containers and created over 1,200 jobs as part of the container refund scheme, putting over \$800 million back into the pockets of Queenslanders, with \$11 million going to charity. What do we hear from those opposite? They continually talk down the container refund scheme—and who could forget the bizarre speech from the member for Callide in relation to the container refund scheme?

We are employing more First Nations rangers. They sacked 60 of them. On this side of the House we know what we—

*(Time expired)*

### **Bruce Highway**

**Mr LAST:** I have a question to the Minister for Transport. Have the tens of billions of dollars in infrastructure project blowouts contributed to the Labor government's inability to fund fixing the Bruce Highway?

**Mr MELLISH:** I welcome another question on the Bruce Highway. We have a significant program of works on the Bruce Highway which we are delivering right up and down the state. At the moment we have over \$13 billion invested along with the federal government and this is following on from almost a decade of achievement on Bruce Highway works. In the last 10 years alone we have completed the six-laning upgrade between Caboolture-Bribie Island Road and Steve Irwin Way, we have committed to the Edmondton to Gordonvale upgrade in Far North Queensland, Cairns southern access, Haughton River flood plain project, Caloundra Road to Sunshine Motorway, over 200 kilometres of wide centre-line treatment, over 95 new overtaking lanes have been constructed—the works have not stopped between the top of the state and the bottom of the Sunshine Coast.

It is interesting when the opposition ask a question on transport funding. We know they want to prune transport projects; they have said that publicly. We know they think the era of largesse has come to an end. We know they want to cut transport jobs; they cut over 700 RoadTek workers when they were last in government. The LNP have no leg to stand on when it comes to funding the Bruce Highway. They have a \$6 billion black hole when it comes to direct Sunshine Coast rail. They have no plan on how they would fund that. They do not have a leg to stand on when it comes to Bruce Highway funding.

### **Environmental Protection**

**Mr KELLY:** My question is of the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation. Can the minister advise the House how the Miles Labor government is supporting the Queensland environment, and is the minister aware of any risks or threats to the environment?

**Ms LINARD:** I thank my colleague for the question. I know he is a strong advocate for the environment in his local community and how it adds to livability but he is also a great advocate for these issues across the state. I thank him for that question.

It is only a state Labor government that has the policies, the plans and the will to genuinely protect our Queensland environment and all who call it home. In just the last few months we have seen our government announce an ambitious new emissions reduction target—75 by '35 on our path to net zero in 2050. We have announced enhanced protections for the globally iconic Queensland section of Lake Eyre Basin, home to one of the last remaining, free-flowing desert river systems in the world—global significance. We have acquired 140 islands or parts thereof within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park—and I thank the Premier; we were able to announce that recently—to add to Queensland's protected area estate, protecting vital habitat for our marine species and birds.

I am particularly proud of our government's achievements in expanding our protected area estate. We have recently acquired a 213-hectare parcel of land in Shailer Park to add to the Daisy Hill Conservation Park. I acknowledge the very strong advocacy of Minister de Brenni in regard to that on behalf of his community, koala country. We have recently acquired Tonkoro Station in Longreach and Melrose Station, more than 200,000 hectares of nationally environmentally significant land. I can also announce that we have this week acquired Vergemont Station, one of the largest and most environmentally significant land acquisitions in recent history; 98 per cent is covered in remnant vegetation. It will protect the endangered night parrot, the vulnerable yellow-footed rock-wallaby and the Opalton grasswren and create an uninterrupted 1½ million hectares of Channel Country bioregion. That is how we are protecting the environment.

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Ms LINARD:** Here we go. My colleague asked, 'What is the risk?' That is the risk—and I acknowledge the member for Gregory is calling out as always. The LNP is the risk every day of the week. They have no policy, no plans and a small target strategy, but when we get them talking about the environment we know what they really want to do. Last time they were in government they undid all the environmental protections. That is what they will do again. That is the risk: the LNP.

### Great Artesian Basin

**Mr MILLAR:** My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier join the LNP and rule out approving the plan by Glencore to store CO<sub>2</sub> in the Great Artesian Basin?

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my right, questions will be heard in silence. Please state your question again, member.

**Mr MILLAR:** My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier join the LNP and rule out approving the plan by Glencore to store CO<sub>2</sub> in the Great Artesian Basin?

**Mr MILES:** I thank the member for Gregory for his question. I was pleased recently to meet with a delegation from local government—from the agricultural lobby led by QFF and from the conservation movement led by the Queensland Conservation Council—to talk about their concerns about this project in the Great Artesian Basin. I expressed to them that I shared those concerns but that I thought, like any project, it should undergo the rigorous environmental assessment that we have here in Queensland including the right for community, including those organisations, to contribute to the process, a right that was removed from them by the LNP and reinstated by the environment minister in 2015. As I have said, I share many of those concerns but we have in our state a rigorous environmental impact assessment process. What I indicated to them was that, like any proponent, that application should be properly considered and that I would reconvene with them after that process had concluded.

I know those opposite have a potted history of ministerial interference in the decision-making with regards to environmental approvals, including their decision to take away the right of the community to contribute to decision-making such as this. Under the laws that were in place under the LNP, these organisations would have no right whatsoever to contribute to the decision-making process. Thanks to our efforts to reverse those LNP laws, the concerns of those groups will be heard and properly considered. As to the longer term prospects of carbon capture and storage, particularly in the Great Artesian Basin, we will make decisions once we see the outcome of this EIS process.

### Homes for Queenslanders

**Ms PEASE:** My question is of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning. Can the minister please update the House on how the Miles Labor government's Homes for Queenslanders plan will build more homes faster and unlock supply, and is the minister aware of any risky alternative approaches?

**Ms SCANLON:** I thank the member for Lytton for the question. I know that, like everyone on this side of the House, she is focused on delivering more homes faster, which is exactly what the bill we passed last night was all about. Developers told us that in other states it can take up to four years to get a development approval. These new laws will mean applications will be assessed within 75 business days. That will also mean that the Queensland government can condition social and affordable housing as part of those developments.

Last night we heard from the LNP that they think we are moving too fast. They want us to slow down. We also learnt from the Leader of the Opposition that he thinks conditioning social and affordable housing is too cumbersome. Maybe he would like to tell that to the young Queenslanders and the frontline service workers who want to live in the city where they work. Of course, the member for Kawana wanted to talk about government records, which, frankly, is a bold move for someone who was a key part of the Newman government.

Let us set the record straight: on average, more homes have been approved, commenced and completed under our Labor government compared to the LNP and we are delivering the biggest infrastructure build that this state has ever seen, which includes trunk infrastructure that will unlock housing supply. The Leader of the Opposition said the word 'infrastructure' but did not have any actual detail, as per usual. I remind the members of this House that the Leader of the Opposition was the minister directly responsible for cutting infrastructure funding to councils. I can assure the Leader of the Opposition that they have not forgotten.

It appears that it is not just councils the LNP have a problem with; it is renters as well. Last night the Leader of the Opposition said that we are apparently at war with landlords, which is absolute rubbish. I would love the Leader of the Opposition to explain what he is going to cut for renters if he thinks we are at war with landlords. Which part of the Homes for Queenslanders plan is too much? We know that last time they cut funding to the renters advisory service, they axed 1,600 jobs, they cut the social housing construction program by 90 per cent and they appointed the very same bloke to do it all over again.

The language used by the Leader of the Opposition last night should send a shiver up the spines of the 30 per cent of Queenslanders in this state who rent. If he does not support renters and he does not support the laws and additional cost-of-living measures that we are providing to renters, what is he going to wind back? What is he going to cut? The Leader of the Opposition cut last time and, unless he comes clean about six months before the election, we can only expect that he is going to do the same again.

### **Gender Dysphoria Treatment**

**Mr KNUTH:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Health. Medical professionals at Queensland Health are being forced to use the gender affirmation model for treatment of gender dysphoria in children. In light of the recent damning independent UK Cass review that forced the gender affirmation model's withdrawal from all UK health services, will the minister immediately suspend the program and launch an independent inquiry into its use?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I thank the member for his question. No doubt he would be aware that there is a current review underway for the service at the Queensland Children's Hospital. I want to commend the clinicians who work at the service for their commitment to ensuring that trans and gender-diverse children and young people can access lifesaving treatment. We know it is an emerging field globally with 80 per cent of the literature being published in the last decade or so, but that does not mean that it is experimental or unsafe.

The Queensland Children's Gender Service has contributed to the growing evidence base and research around gender-affirming care for children and young people and is an active member of the Australian Research Consortium for Trans Youth and Children. That review is underway and I am very happy to update the House once that review has been completed. As I said, our gender service will continue to work very closely with some of the most vulnerable children and young people in our state and their families to make sure that they are supported on their journey.

### **Health Workforce**

**Ms RICHARDS:** My question is of the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women. Can the minister advise how the Miles Labor government's efforts to hire more health staff in our regions has improved patient outcomes, and is the minister aware of any risky alternative approaches?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I thank the member for Redlands for her question. I know how proud she is, like every member on this side of the House, of our huge commitment to employ more frontline staff for our public hospitals. Whether she is visiting the new satellite hospital at the Redlands or the Redland Hospital, the member is always very happy to meet with and very supportive of our hardworking frontline staff.

In 2020, the Labor government made an election commitment to hire 9,735 more frontline health staff, which is something that those opposite did not commit to do. Almost four years later I am proud to say that that election commitment has been an overwhelming success. Not only have we met many of those recruitment targets; we are actually exceeding them. That includes 1,667 doctors, which is well above our target of 1,500 doctors. We have exceeded our target for allied health professionals with 1,890 recruited across the state against a target of 1,700. We are on track to reach nursing, midwifery and paramedic targets well before September this year. We are hiring more staff, we are building and expanding our hospitals and there are more beds on the way so that Queenslanders can have access to high-quality health care close to home. However, all of that work is at risk because those opposite refuse to say what their plan for health care is. If they refuse to say what their plan is, then we can only judge them on their record. And what a record it is!

**Mr Head** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Callide is warned under the standing orders.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** The Leader of the Opposition has refused to apologise to the 1,432 health staff who were sacked from Metro North, including the 731 nurses who were sacked. The Leader of the Opposition has not apologised. What about the 306 staff sacked in Cairns, including 48 nurses? What about the 926 staff who were sacked from Metro South, including almost 300 nurses? What about the 197 staff who were sacked in Central Queensland, including 41 nurses? Eighty-four health staff were sacked from Children's Health Queensland. Who sacks doctors and nurses from Children's Health Queensland? Those opposite!

What happened in Townsville, where the Leader of the Opposition was the local member? Did he stand up for the nurses in Townsville? He did not. I am pleased to tell you that still he has not stood up for the nurses and the doctors who were sacked in Townsville. There were 398 of them. He said that he felt sorry for them but that it was important that everyone lived within their means.

### Wind Farms, Noise

**Mr ANDREW:** My question is to the Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs. Could the minister please advise the House on what studies have been done on the low-frequency emissions and noise resonance from wind factories—not farms—in my electorate, which upsets and interferes with the koala's ability to communicate with each other?

**Mr SPEAKER:** I call—

**Mr ANDREW:** Because it is real.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! You had finished your question already, member. You cannot have a second shot.

**Mr de BRENNI:** I thank the member for the question and his interest in the renewable energy transformation of this state. As the member knows, and all members on this side of the House know, the reason that we are implementing the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, the reason that we are building some of the largest wind farms in the Southern Hemisphere and building some of the largest solar farms in the nation, is because it delivers lower power costs to households and businesses across this state. Later today the Prime Minister and the Premier will be in Central Queensland announcing a new manufacturing facility—

**Mr ANDREW:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). I asked about resonance, low frequency and how that will affect the koala population in their community.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The minister has two minutes and 10 seconds left. He is less than one-third of the way through his allotted time. I will allow him to answer the question.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Thank you for the indulgence with the remaining time. I am simply providing some context for the member for Mirani on why we are pursuing clean energy solutions, the sorts of proven technology that delivers the lowest energy costs. Of course, when it comes to technologies like wind farms, Queensland and Australia lead the implementation of the latest technology, the sort of technology that delivers the best outcome for the environments in which we build those wind farms.

Earlier this week I announced that we would—and I will be careful not to stray into anticipation of the debate of the bills before the House today—introduce a mandatory code of conduct for the developers of projects here in Queensland. That is to ensure that the residents of Mirani, Central Queensland and South-Western Queensland can have absolute confidence that when we deliver these projects the importance of the issues that the member raises about the impacts of these projects on local environments is taken into account. The member's question goes specifically, I think, to the question of social licence for the clean energy transition. Only Labor is conscious of the need to both deliver downward pressure on electricity costs and a reduction in emissions and also make sure that we deliver these projects with a high level of sensitivity—

**Mr ANDREW:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). I am asking about the koala population, the resonance and where are the studies that show that it does not affect—

**Mr SPEAKER:** This is not an opportunity to restate the question. The minister has been responsive to the question as asked. There were a number of different parts to the question, not just the specific area you are referencing. Minister, you have 19 seconds remaining.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Of course, all of the requisite studies and tests are undertaken on these projects to ensure that they are sensitive to the natural flora and fauna of the areas in which these projects are delivered.

### Community Safety

**Mr WALKER:** My question is to the Minister for Police and Community Safety. Can the minister update the House on how the Miles Labor government is investing in community safety measures and is the minister aware of any risky alternative approaches?

**Mr RYAN:** I thank the member for the question. Speaker, you and I have known a number of members for Mundingburra and I have to say that this is the best member for Mundingburra the Queensland parliament has ever seen. He is an outstanding champion for his community. This is a great question from the great member for Mundingburra. He is, of course, part of a team which has delivered a dedicated, permanent, fully-funded police helicopter for Townsville, part of a team that invests in the front line.

I have seen the member for Kawana in the last 24 hours start talking about helicopters. The member for Kawana, the Bronwyn Bishop of the Queensland parliament, is a bit of an expert when it comes to helicopters. When he was the attorney-general he spent almost \$15,000 on two helicopters to fly 300 kilometres from Townsville out to Lincoln Springs. Of course, the member for Kawana will stick his head up to talk about helicopters because he is a bit of an expert when it comes to that. I am not sure how I am going to do this, Speaker, but you know that movie, *True Lies*, with Arnold Schwarzenegger—that is okay? Thank you. You can imagine the member for Kawana walking towards those two helicopters going: 'Get to the chopper'. He is the sort of person who would crack that joke.

We are the side of politics that delivers for the Queensland Police Service. We have delivered that dedicated, permanent helicopter for Townsville. We have members of the team advocating for further investment. When it comes to the front line we will always deliver for the Queensland Police Service. I was reflecting on some comments from Ian Leavers in a recent *Police Journal* when he spoke about important safety equipment. He said—

Body Worn Video has been provided for all police along with personalised body armour with knife and ballistic rating that was previously denied by the Newman Government.

Think about that for a minute. Someone is advocating for safety equipment for a police officer with a knife and ballistic rating. Think about how important that is to the Police Service. Which side of politics said no? It was that side. Which side of politics said yes and is delivering? It was our side. When it comes to supporting the Queensland Police Service that side will always say no. This side will always say yes. We stand by our record. We deliver. We back the front line and we will continue to back the front line, unlike those opposite.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, I was going to warn you under the standing orders for having the wrong movie, but I believe he said it in more than one film so you are off the hook.

### Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro Project

**Mr JANETZKI:** My question is to the Treasurer. How much will Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro cost?

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** I must start by thanking the member for the question. It has been a while. I was hoping for one on the budget, on revenue, on debt, on the economy. I will just have to wait until tomorrow. Can I make it very clear that the estimate of that project is \$12 billion. In the budget papers this year we made clear our equity investment in that—our first equity investment. If you want to read it, have a look at Budget Paper 2, pages 103 and 157. If that changes, member, we will let you know.

We make no apologies for investing in the cheapest known source of power: renewable energy. We are proud of our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. Publicly owned generation, transmission and deep storage will transform our state forever. We make no apologies for that.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** I take the interjections from the members opposite. What we will not support in Queensland, what we should not support and what the LNP wants to do is invest in the most significant and expensive source of power known to humankind: nuclear energy. We will not support that. There are serious questions the Leader of the Opposition has to answer. If he wants to abandon the renewable energy future of Queensland then he should have the strength to say that to the people of Queensland.

The Leader of the Opposition says one thing to the media gallery. He is good with the slick slogans but slow with the truth. It is about time he stopped slipping and sliding like that train wreck interview last Friday. He was asked some serious questions by Channel 9 and he could not answer those serious questions. That was just one media outlet that now knows the Leader of the Opposition is slick and slippery with the truth but is slow to be honest with the people of Queensland. There are serious questions the Leader of the Opposition has to answer—

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Buderim is warned under the standing orders.

**Mr DICK:** Do not ask all these questions with inference. Ask a direct question as one should answer a direct question.

*(Time expired)*

### Mackay Electorate, Energy Rebates

**Mrs GILBERT:** My question is to the Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs. Can the minister outline how the Miles Labor government is supporting my local community of Mackay, including through energy rebates, and is the minister aware of any risky alternative approaches?

**Mr de BRENNI:** We know that the member for Mackay is delivering for the community that she is so proud to represent. Just last week she opened the brand new Sarina Hospital, and we congratulate the member for Mackay. She is delivering the Walkerston Bypass and the member is delivering nation-leading cost-of-living rebates to every household in her community. The Premier has committed his first budget to be a record cost-of-living support budget for the residents of Mackay—in fact, all of Queensland. In Mackay they want good roads, good hospitals, good schools, good jobs and help with the cost of living. The fact is that only the Miles government can deliver all of that infrastructure and support with the cost of living, but the LNP cannot. They cannot deliver both because they oppose progressive coal royalties.

We know that the Leader of the Opposition does not have the strength to tell the residents of Mackay what he will cut. Will it be the Mackay North State High School performing arts upgrade? Will he reveal his choice to cut that important infrastructure for the students at Mackay North State High School? Will he cut the cost-of-living rebates for their parents, because we know that they have a massive black hole in their budget? We know that they do not back pumped hydro. What is their alternative? Is it 168 gigawatts of batteries? In terms of what that would cost the LNP, I am glad everyone is sitting down. The alternative would be batteries worth \$776 billion—three-quarters of a trillion dollars.

I researched what was bigger than a black hole. It turns out to be a thing called an SMBH, a stellar mass black hole, also known as a supermassive black hole. This week we are finding out that those opposite have a supermassive budget problem. Whilst I am not one to linger on the science too



long, in all seriousness I looked at the cause of a supermassive black hole. The science book says that it is a relatively small volume of highly dense matter. Mr Speaker, you cannot make this stuff up! They do not have the strength to admit that they will cut cost-of-living support. They do not have the strength to admit that they will cut key infrastructure. The LNP has a supermassive black hole in its budget.

### Path to Treaty

**Mr LANGBROEK:** My question is to the Minister for Treaty. The Victorian Labor Premier has confirmed that Indigenous Victorians could receive tax exemptions as part of their treaty process. Will the minister rule out providing tax exemptions as part of the Queensland Labor government's Path to Treaty process?

**Ms ENOCH:** I thank the member for the question about treaty—the same piece of legislation that in this House the member and all those opposite voted in favour for and then within moments of a completely different decision backflipped on treaty and turned their backs on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. They turned their backs on the First Nations peoples of this state. Any question from them about treaty is about undermining treaty. That is what the question is about. The question is about undermining treaty. It is about turning their backs on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members to my left!

**Ms ENOCH:** That is the nature of the LNP; that is the nature of the question. We know that, as per the legislation, there are bodies of work that are underway, including the establishment of the Treaty Institute and of a Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry. That is part of the legislation that this whole House backed but on which those opposite have since backflipped. We cannot trust a word they say. One day they say one thing and then the next day when it is not convenient they say another thing. There is nothing that they can say on this matter that anybody in Queensland can trust because they will change on a whim.

We know that through that legislation those two bodies of work that are being finalised currently will help to guide what treaty will look like in this state, and that work will be required of those bodies. We will allow that work to occur and that will be an important part of our pathway to treaty. This is an important part of ensuring that this state contributes to the Closing the Gap Agreement in this country. We know that the life outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in comparison to non-Indigenous Queenslanders is unacceptable. When we look at housing, health and incarceration rates, this is absolutely unacceptable. We know that the LNP cut funding and services in those spaces that only contributed to the widening of the gap. Of course, treaty and truth-telling gives us the opportunity to understand how this gap occurred in the first place and why—

**Mr LANGBROEK:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). It is clear that we would like the question answered as to whether this will be ruled out.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Surfers Paradise, I understand the part of the question which related to ruling something in or out, but there are other components to the answer which provide context. The minister has 21 seconds remaining.

**Ms ENOCH:** When it comes to anything regarding the First Nations peoples of this state, those opposite cannot be trusted. Those opposite have turned their backs on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people every single time they get the chance to do that, and continue to do it. We are supporting the legislation.

**Honourable members** interjected.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! The period for question time has expired.

**Mr Saunders:** No!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Say it ain't so.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Rochedale State School, Asbestos

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice) (11.17 am): I want to update the House on matters concerning the identification of asbestos-containing material at Rochedale State School. I am advised that on Friday, 8 March 2024 a staff member reported

a misty dust falling from the ceiling of a classroom in block E. The classroom ceiling is perforated cement-based sheeting confirmed as asbestos-containing material, or ACM. Similar ACM ceilings were identified throughout block E and access was restricted to facilitate precautionary testing of these areas. Further classrooms in block D were also identified as ACM perforated ceilings and on Monday, 11 March 2024 precautionary testing was undertaken. A total of 90 take-sample tests were conducted in various locations in both blocks D and E with 15 positive ACM results returned.

In line with the asbestos incident management procedure, parents and carers of students in the affected classroom, EG03, were notified on Monday, 11 March and parents and carers of students in other classrooms in the affected blocks of D and E were notified on Tuesday, 12 March after further testing was conducted. I table the dated letters for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence, dated 11 and 12 March 2024, from the Principal of Rochedale State School, Ms Melissa Provost-Boyle, to parents regarding asbestos incident management procedures [588].

All perforated ceilings in blocks D and E have been made safe to enable reoccupation of the spaces. The make-safe activities included decontamination, the application of an adhesive spray to seal the perforated ceilings, visual inspections and air monitoring to provide clearance for reoccupation.

Carpets, air-conditioning units and projectors within the affected classrooms were also replaced. Information sessions were held for staff and parents with the department's chief health advisor and occupational health expert, Dr Keith Adam, and departmental representatives. I am advised that three separate clearance certificates have been issued by independent occupational hygienists, with the most recent certificate issued last week. The advice from the experts is that all classrooms were safe for staff and students to return.

I understand that some parents and carers have some concerns about the health and wellbeing of their children, and I want to assure them that the health and wellbeing of students and staff is my highest priority. That is why the Department of Education has such strong protocols in place regarding any suspicion or identification of asbestos containing material. All staff undertake mandatory asbestos training every year. Asbestos is taken very seriously by all staff members.


I would like to commend the staff of Rochedale State School who, along with departmental officers, have been keeping parents and carers up to date with the situation from the beginning. My staff have also attended some of those meetings, including a meeting late last week and an inspection of classrooms as well. This has obviously been very disruptive to staff and students, and they have done a marvellous job of continuing learning for students during this time. The department has also advised that they will continue to undertake air monitoring to provide ongoing assurances regarding the safety of classrooms. I encourage families to continue to stay informed through their usual school channels and once again say thank you to the principal and staff for the wonderful work they are doing at Rochedale State School.

In relation to ACM more broadly, the Queensland government's long-term objective is that all Department of Education managed and controlled assets are free of ACM. The Department of Education's infrastructure portfolio includes aged assets, with the majority of facilities containing ACM. During 2022-23 the removal of high-priority asbestos took place at 196 schools and 256 buildings within those schools. The department continues to deliver a program to progressively remove ACM from its facilities and applies a risk-based strategy for the management and removal of ACM.

There were a couple of other matters raised in question time. One of them is historical in nature. I am not able to provide answers to those specific questions at this time because they are historical allegations. The department is doing all it can to uncover that information and I will update the House accordingly.

## BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS AMENDMENT BILL

### Message from Governor

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (11.22 am): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): The message from Her Excellency recommends the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

## MESSAGE

## BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS AMENDMENT BILL 2024

*Constitution of Queensland 2001*, section 68

I, DR JEANNETTE ROSITA YOUNG AC PSM, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—


A Bill for an Act to amend the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021 for particular purposes

## GOVERNOR

Date: 17 April 2024

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 17 April 2024, from Her Excellency the Governor recommending the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill 2024 [\[589\]](#).

## Introduction

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (11.23 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill 2024 [\[590\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill 2024, explanatory notes [\[591\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[592\]](#).

Three years ago Brisbane was announced as host of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It was a massive landmark moment for our state, a transformational opportunity to be celebrated. We know this will be our time to shine as we invite the world to our doorstep and celebrate everything great about Queensland. Hosting the games is a privilege that will define our city and state for decades to come. We are planning for, and building, an accessible, safe and sustainable Brisbane, connecting the places and spaces we all love. Our future as a world-class city is definitely arriving. Since 2021 we have been setting the foundations to ensure our games will be the highlight of a lifetime for competitors and spectators alike and create lasting benefits for Queensland long after the games are over.

In 2021, KPMG estimated that over the 20-year period from 2022 to 2042 the games would generate total economic benefits for Queensland up to \$8.1 billion, largely driven by increases in the value of tourism, trade, health and volunteering. The benefits for Queenslanders will not just be in Brisbane but in our regions as well. In terms of infrastructure we are already starting to deliver this with Queensland's Big Build—an over \$90 billion investment over the next four years alone, with half of this work happening in regional Queensland. Many regional venues will receive upgrades—not just those hosting Olympic events—to provide much needed community sporting infrastructure in the lead-up to the games and beyond. Regional centres, including Cairns, Townsville, the Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast, Ipswich, Moreton Bay and the Scenic Rim, will host Olympic events. This will: create jobs and opportunities for people living and working in those regions; attract visitors to the area before, during and after the games; and give Queenslanders across the state the exciting opportunity to attend the events in their hometown.

In less than four months time the eyes of the world will be on Paris. The 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be broadcast to more than 200 nations and territories and reach an audience well in excess of five billion people. It will bring into closer focus our own future opportunities as an Olympic and Paralympic Games host. Queenslanders will be representing our nation across most sports. We will have our gazes fixed on multiple venues in Paris, but particularly in the pool with our champion swimmers looking to bring home a host of medals. Our support will continue through to the Paralympics shortly after, cheering on local talent by three-time gold medallist Curtis McGrath and two-time medallist Susan Seipel in para flatwater canoeing. Back here in Queensland the games will provide a generational opportunity to transform our state economically, culturally, socially and environmentally. They will deliver more economic activity, more jobs and plenty of legacy infrastructure to benefit Queenslanders in the coming decades.

The recent Sport Venue Review has been beneficial in ensuring our venue investments are affordable, fit for purpose and will create a substantial legacy. We accepted 27 of the 30 recommendations from the independent panel and used their findings to adopt new opportunities and

a new direction to deliver value for money for Queenslanders while supporting our legacy vision. At its core, our government's response prioritises community benefit while ensuring costs remain within the agreed funding envelope of \$7.1 billion. We have ruled out the option to build a new stadium at Victoria Park. At a time when Queenslanders face significant cost-of-living pressures, building a brand new multibillion stadium is something the government is just not prepared to do. Whilst we will deliver a world-class Olympic and Paralympic Games that will be the envy of the world, our focus must also be on providing cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders and continuing to deliver critical investments in health, housing and essential services.

Also, in sticking to the IOC's 'new norm' approach we will deliver a games that utilise existing infrastructure as far as possible. More than 80 per cent of the venues in the master plan are existing or temporary, reducing the overall cost of the games and reducing environmental impacts. It currently includes 36 competition venues for hosting 28 Olympic and 22 Paralympic sports. We will upgrade QSAC, Suncorp Stadium and the Gabba plus deliver a new state-of-the-art Brisbane Arena at a new site within Roma Street Parklands. The arena will be a much needed piece of community infrastructure with multiple legacy uses for decades to come and will feature within a connected precinct close to the city's cultural and entertainment centres as well as transport, of course.

We will also explore legacy transport opportunities to link QSAC, QEII Hospital and Griffith University with connected precincts in the city. QSAC is a much loved venue, hosting nearly 782,000 visits alone in 2022-23, mainly from community sporting groups and schools. These upgrades to QSAC will further broaden community access for years to come. What a legacy that will be and one that has been welcomed by Athletics Australia, Queensland Athletics and the IOC.

For once we will see a games that will not rip up the athletics track once the main events are over. We will have new and upgraded venues right across Queensland as well as make good use of existing venues across the state, in line with the IOC's new norm. New indoor sports stadiums will be constructed on the Sunshine Coast and at Chandler, Moreton Bay and Logan, along with the new Redland Whitewater Centre at Birkdale. We will upgrade and refurbish Barlow Park in Cairns, the Brisbane Aquatic Centre at Chandler, the Brisbane International Shooting Centre at Belmont, Sunshine Coast Stadium, Sunshine Coast Mountain Bike Centre and Wyaralong Flat Water Centre.

Athlete villages will be constructed at Hamilton Northshore in Brisbane, on the Gold and Sunshine Coasts and in the Scenic Rim. With regard to those athlete villages, their amazing legacy will be to house residents after the games. I believe about 10,000 athletes will be using those facilities during the games, so that is an incredible legacy that will be built and made available as homes for Queenslanders. Existing venues will be used, including the Queensland Country Bank Stadium in Townsville—what a great stadium that is, and it would not be there if it were not for a Labor government; the Queensland Tennis Centre; the Boondall Entertainment Centre; the Manly Boat Harbour; Ballymore Stadium—and what a great new stadium we have built at Ballymore as well; Brighton Homes Arena at Springfield; and Cbus stadium on the Gold Coast.

In March 2022, the Brisbane 2032 Coordination Office was established within the Queensland government to coordinate and integrate essential games programs. It has been progressing preparations with other parts of government on activities including venue development, legacy planning and sustainability. As the Premier said in December, now is the time to establish a separate statutory body and build on the vital work that has already occurred since we were awarded the games in 2021. Since then, we have established a Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games organising committee; signed an historic \$7.1 billion investment agreement with the Commonwealth; established a legacy committee with strong regional representation, which will meet very soon with me as a new minister; and launched You for 2032, Australia's largest ever athlete talent identification program.

Our 2032 procurement strategy means businesses across Queensland are already getting match fit to win contracts worth an estimated \$180 billion from our government, other suppliers and the world market before, during and after the games. Elevate 2042, our 20-year legacy strategy developed in conjunction with our games partners, will maximise economic, social and environmental benefits from hosting this once-in-a-lifetime event. This brings me to the main purpose of this bill—to establish the Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority to ensure Queensland's readiness to successfully host and maximise the legacy and benefits from the games. The authority's key role is to ensure that venues and villages are delivered in time for the games and within budget allocations as well as maximising the legacy benefits from the games, which is an important key role.

The bill was prepared in close collaboration with games delivery partners and the International Olympic Committee. Establishing the authority as a statutory body will enable it to have a high level of independence and operate at arm's length from government. The authority will have control over its own funds, have operational and financial independence and operate within a flexible structure. It will also reduce the impact changes in government will have on infrastructure delivery and government services coordination for the games over the next eight years. This delivery authority model is similar to that adopted for the highly successful Sydney 2000 and London 2012 games, and we have heard from stakeholders that this is a model we should emulate for our games.

The authority will be overseen by an independent board, which will be selected by a panel of chief executives of games delivery partners, including all levels of government as well as Olympic and Paralympic bodies. If we want to make the most of the opportunity, we need to have all the right people at the table taking a collaborative and cooperative approach. I am confident the authority will have the best people and be operating under the right model to be leading the way towards 2032 and beyond.

Noting the significant importance of transport infrastructure for the games, the authority will be required to develop a transport and mobility strategy within the first 18 months of its establishment. The strategy will identify the critical transport projects needed in time for the games and describe ways in which these projects may be prioritised and integrated. The work we have done on Elevate 2042 that I mentioned earlier has laid the foundations for the authority to immediately begin development of this work. Similarly, a games coordination plan will be established which reiterates the obligations of the state, Commonwealth and local governments under and related to the Olympic host contract and sets out how these are allocated and coordinated. In preparing the plan, the authority must consult broadly, and we have ensured the bill is explicit in this respect.

The authority will carry out its functions within Queensland's well-established planning framework. However, the authority will have a reserve power to expedite the delivery of a venue, or village, should a planning issue arise that threatens its timely delivery. The Miles government has always said that the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games is not just about four weeks of sport; it is about creating jobs and new industries, creating healthy lifestyles, encouraging sports participation and capitalising on the uplift in tourism and trade across the state. It is also about building the best value-for-money community sports infrastructure to create lasting benefits at a grassroots level. As a government, we want to ensure that we get this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity right. That is why we wish to establish the Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (11.37 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee.

### Declared Urgent; Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

**Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (11.38 am), by leave, without notice: I move—


That, under the provisions of standing order 137, the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill be declared an urgent bill and the Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee report to the House on the bill by Friday, 17 May 2024.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND REHABILITATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Message from Governor

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (11.38 am): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): The message from Her Excellency the Governor recommends the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

#### MESSAGE

WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND REHABILITATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

*Constitution of Queensland 2001*, section 68

I, DR JEANNETTE ROSITA YOUNG AC PSM, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intitled—


A Bill for an Act to amend the Industrial Relations Act 2016, the Labour Hire Licensing Act 2017, the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003 and the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Regulation 2014 for particular purposes

#### GOVERNOR

Date: 17 April 2024

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 17 April 2024, from Her Excellency the Governor recommending the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 [\[593\]](#).

### Introduction

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (11.39 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Industrial Relations Act 2016, the Labour Hire Licensing Act 2017, the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003 and the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Regulation 2014 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 [\[594\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, explanatory notes [\[595\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[596\]](#).

I am proud to introduce the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 into the House. This bill gives effect to legislative recommendations made by the 2023 review of the operation of the Queensland workers compensation scheme. The Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003 requires the responsible minister to ensure a review of the operation of the workers compensation scheme is completed at least once in every five-year period. The 2023 review report was tabled in the Queensland parliament on 4 October 2023, which fulfils this legislative requirement. The review was conducted by independent reviewers: former Queensland Industrial Relations Commissioner Ms Glenys Fisher, and Emeritus Professor of Employment Relations at Griffith University David Peetz. The independent reviewers brought extensive expertise to the review, and I sincerely thank them for their thorough and considered work.

The terms of reference of the review relate to: the performance of the scheme in meeting the objectives of the act; emerging issues facing the scheme; the effectiveness of current rehabilitation and return-to-work programs and policies; the management of mental injuries in the scheme; and any national reviews or regulatory proposals relating to gig workers and insecure work which should be taken into account by the government in its consideration of extending the scheme to gig workers.

The review found that the scheme remains strong and, while major reform was not recommended, it identified emerging trends which may impact the scheme's performance and viability. It found that the scheme is well placed to respond to these trends, which include: a rise in psychiatric and psychological injury claims, including secondary psychiatric and psychological injury claims; lower rehabilitation and return-to-work performance compared to other Australian workers compensation jurisdictions; and delays in administrative decision-making.

I would like to extend my thanks to all stakeholders who have participated in consultation during the review of the act and in the development of this bill. The reviewers invited key stakeholders to make submissions and to meet with them. A total of 31 meetings were held by the reviewers, and 45 submissions were received.

Since the review was completed, my department has been working closely with a stakeholder reference group comprising representatives from registered industrial organisations, insurers and representatives of the medical, allied health, legal professions and gig businesses. The stakeholder reference group has met seven times since November 2023 to consider policy proposals arising from the recommendations of the review and development of this bill, and I thank the members of that group for their important contributions.

I turn now to key provisions in the bill which implement the legislative recommendations of the 2023 review. The bill continues this government's proud record when it comes to providing support and care for injured workers and their families, and improving our nation-leading workers compensation scheme. The Queensland scheme is one of the best in the nation. It is one of the best performing in the nation, and this government intends to keep it this way.

It was this government in 2015 which introduced deemed disease provisions for certain latent onset diseases for current or former firefighters. These changes were made in recognition that there is carcinogenic occupational exposure in the firefighting profession. Under those amendments, if a firefighter develops one of 12 specified cancers and meets the qualifying period of active firefighting service, then the cancer will automatically be deemed to be work related. In other words, they do not have to prove work causation; it is deemed to be work related.

This bill takes into account the latest medical and scientific evidence and expands the number of deemed diseases from 12 to 22. These include primary site cancers for liver, lung, skin, pancreatic, penile and thyroid. Importantly, the bill also includes cervical and ovarian cancer in recognition of the increasing number of women choosing firefighting as a calling or as a volunteer, as noted by the review. Congratulations to our female firefighters as well. The bill also makes improvements to qualifying periods, including reducing the qualifying period for primary site oesophageal cancer to 15 years and clarifying that the calculation for the minimum qualifying period includes periods of day work rotation. This is technical but necessary.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the advocacy of the United Firefighters Union Queensland on this important issue. These changes mean that Queensland will have the most comprehensive list of firefighter deemed diseases of all workers compensation jurisdictions in the country. Importantly, it allows claims to be processed more quickly, reduces the administrative burden on the firefighter and gives workers access to payments and care when they need it most. The Miles government will always back our brave firies.

The bill also implements the government's decisions, as explored in the decision impact analysis statement, on whether to extend workers compensation coverage to workers in the gig economy and to bailee drivers in the taxi and limousine industry. It is the top priority of the Miles government that every worker should be able to go to work and come home safely at the end of each shift. I often say that workers sell their labour, not their health.

The government recognises that gig workers who become injured at work do not have the same workers compensation protections as other workers and that intervention may be required to address this problem. It all comes from what is the definition of a 'worker', and that is the question that is often unanswered.

The decision impact analysis statement determined that, while coverage of gig workers would be beneficial to those workers, there is a need for flexibility for the government when regulating the workers compensation status of this cohort. This reflects the fact the legal status of various gig workers will be determined under new Fair Work Commission powers to regulate workers and businesses in the gig economy.

To provide the ability to respond to these determinations, the bill inserts a narrow head of power into the act that enables a regulation to prescribe who is a 'worker' and 'employer' where an individual has been determined to be a 'regulated worker' by the Fair Work Commission. Therefore, this amendment will only take effect once the Fair Work Commission begins to exercise these new powers and determinations are made. This approach allows the Queensland government to be appropriately guided by decisions at the national level on the legal status of gig workers which will provide certainty and consistency for industry.

If the government proposes to make a regulation, comprehensive public consultation along with regulatory impact analysis will be undertaken to ensure there are no unintended consequences. This would include: consideration of the terms of the relevant minimum standards order; minimum standards guideline or collective agreement made by the Fair Work Commission; any existing insurance arrangements in that industry; and impacts on scheme sustainability, regulatory burden, compliance costs and other impacts on business and industry. The decision impact analysis statement also determined not to extend coverage to bailee taxi and limousine drivers at this time, after taking into account the longstanding and well-established safety and industry insurance arrangements for bailee drivers. The gig worker area is a complicated area. It manifests itself in many ways out there in industries. We need to take a balanced and serious approach. I think the Fair Work Commission's determinations in assessing where we go further by regulation is the best place for this at this point in time.

I am proud that the bill strengthens and promotes workers' rights in the scheme. It explicitly includes the right of a worker to choose their own treating medical practitioner, not have their employer or insurer present during medical examinations, seek advice from their registered industrial organisation or lawyer, and choose their own workplace rehabilitation provider if they are dissatisfied by the one selected by their insurer.

While certain rights may be implied at common law, the bill makes it clear they are recognised in the scheme. The bill includes a new requirement that a statement of rights and responsibilities concerning workers compensation must be provided to a worker by their employer upon the commencement of their employment. The statement must subsequently be provided to a worker and employer by the insurer when the worker makes the claim for compensation.

Another important change is the creation of a default workers compensation payment. This will ensure workers are not disadvantaged when the calculation of their weekly compensation is pending due to employers not providing information in a timely manner. This will mean immediate cash flow to an injured worker and their families with an accepted workers compensation claim and avoids unnecessary financial distress. This change is also supported by the creation of a power for WorkCover to compel an employer to provide relevant information within strict time frames.

The bill responds to increases in secondary psychiatric and psychological injury claims by requiring insurers to take all reasonable steps to minimise this risk and provide support services. It is proposed to develop a code of practice to further support insurers in this space. This will be done in consultation with key stakeholders and informed by expert advice.

The bill also improves rehabilitation and return-to-work outcomes in the scheme. This includes creating a new obligation on host employers to cooperate with a labour hire employer in the rehabilitation and return to work of an injured labour hire worker. The review found Queensland has comparatively lower use of rehabilitation and return-to-work plans compared to other jurisdictions. Recognising the important role these plans play, the bill introduces a new obligation on an insurer to establish a rehabilitation and return-to-work plan for an injured worker within 10 business days of accepting the workers compensation claim. The plan must be prepared in consultation with the injured worker, their employer and the worker's treating practitioners and is to be reviewed and updated as the worker's recovery progresses.

Another key element in the successful return to work is a provision of suitable duties. An employer who cannot identify suitable duties for an injured worker must provide evidence to support this claim. The bill introduces an obligation on an insurer to scrutinise this evidence before forming their own opinion. To ensure the quality of providers of rehabilitation services in the scheme, the bill gives the power to the workers compensation regulator to set performance and service delivery standards for rehabilitation providers.

The workers compensation scheme is underpinned by its robust compliance and enforcement mechanisms. The bill further improves these mechanisms. The existing code of practice provisions are being expanded beyond insurer claims management to allow the coverage of other matters, such as rehabilitation and return-to-work requirements for employers or other persons. Existing guidelines and standards will be transitioned to scheme directions. This will provide certainty for obligation holders.

The workers compensation regulator will have enhanced regulatory tools. This will include the power to issue compliance notices to promote and enforce compliance where prosecution action is not warranted, as well as increase reporting obligations to require insurers to report employer-related offences to the regulator. Maximum penalties for certain key offences are being increased to reflect the seriousness of the offences and to meet community expectations about the enforcement of workers compensation offences.



Other amendments for this scheme include a strict prohibition on employers offering to provide a benefit or disadvantage to discourage or interfere with a worker making a workers compensation claim and providing a head of power to implement a governance framework to ensure appropriate training and ongoing due diligence checks for medical specialists in the scheme. These changes will ensure that our scheme remains strong and fair and that everyone meets their obligations.

The bill also makes amendments to the Industrial Relations Act 2016. I am very proud that this bill will bring parental leave entitlements into line with the prevailing conditions found in the Commonwealth Fair Work Act 2009. These changes include increasing the number of unpaid flexible parental leave days from 30 to 100; providing greater flexibility for parents with the introduction of late-term pregnancy leave; and allowing pregnant employees the ability to take leave up to six weeks prior to the commencement of birth-related leave. This brings us in line with the Fair Work Act.

Other changes in this bill include the addition of superannuation contributions to Queensland Employment Standards; increasing the small claims threshold for an unpaid wages claim from \$50,000 to \$100,000—we thought the increase in wages lines up and provides a much faster claims process for people wanting to make a claim; and amendments to the appeal pathway for decisions made by the Full Bench of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission when constituted by a presidential member, which brings this into line with other comparable jurisdictions.

Lastly, the bill makes recommendations to the Labour Hire Licensing Act 2017 to ensure its compatibility with human rights; promote contemporary operational practices by facilitating the electronic service of documents under the act; and provide clarifying amendments to inspector powers regarding information and attendance.

As I said earlier, every worker deserves to come home safe at the end of every shift. When they do not, they and their families deserve nothing less than outstanding care and support from a world-class Queensland workers compensation scheme. These amendments make it even better than what it is currently. This bill will ensure that it continues to be the case here in this great state that we have one of the best workers compensation schemes in the nation. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (11.56 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee.

## ENERGY (RENEWABLE TRANSFORMATION AND JOBS) BILL

### CLEAN ECONOMY JOBS BILL

Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill resumed from 24 October 2023 (see p. 3116) and Clean Economy Jobs Bill resumed from 14 February (see p. 141).

### Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs) (11.57 am): I move—

That the bills be now read a second time.

The Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023 and the Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024 are bills of global significance. Last week in Brisbane the Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, stated—

Queensland will be at the forefront in helping the nations in our region grow, industrialise and decarbonise.

He reminded Australians that we need to 'aim high, be bold and build big to match the size of the opportunity in front of us'. The Miles government is embracing this challenge.

These bills are a planned and methodical approach to enact real change, a change to bring more jobs and a healthier environment and a better future for our children and theirs. These are profound, multigenerational reforms.

I thank the Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee for its consideration of both bills. I thank all who participated and those who made submissions. These bills are the product of robust engagement. These bills are the product of direct input from a vast array of stakeholders. They are reform that delivers on the full spectrum of Queensland's interests: industry, unions, community, local government, farming and environment groups. The regions and the suburbs, from Wide Bay to Mount Isa—all of Queensland—have shaped this reform before us today.

The reason the Miles government is acting is clear: we must transform our electricity system to deliver clean, reliable and affordable power, to secure our economy for today and tomorrow and to reduce emissions. Queenslanders expect government to coordinate this transformation by collaborating in co-design with communities, partnering with industry and unions and harnessing the power of Queensland's publicly-owned energy sector working alongside the private sector.

Cheaper renewables and lower emissions will power our economy. A clean energy system will deliver a future made in Australia. We will attract investment and create new jobs in manufacturing and new jobs in technology. Jobs like those manufacturing hydrogen electrolyser stacks at Fortescue in Gladstone. Jobs like those at Alpha HPA manufacturing high-purity alumina in Central Queensland. We will protect existing jobs in our industrial heartland, in places like the smelters in Gladstone and in Townsville. We can ensure Queensland is not left behind as the world transitions because there is a global competition—not one for cheap labour but one for clever solutions. The Miles government has a plan in place and we are acting.

In 2022, Labor released the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. It made Queensland the leader in the nation's clean energy transition. It is a clear and practical strategy—one that impressed the experts with its scale and with its insight. It is a plan to calm the culture wars of the last two decades. It established the world's first job security guarantee. It committed to maintaining public ownership of energy assets. It launched the Queensland SuperGrid—foundational infrastructure connecting world-class renewables to homes, businesses and industry alike. The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan means Queensland can act and invest in a programmed and systematic way but do that at scale. It means that we can build our sovereign capability. It means we can be assertive about outcomes for communities and leverage the transition to deliver even stronger communities.

It is the catalyst for the bills that are before us today. Each bill that we will consider today marks a significant milestone for the Miles government. These bills show that we are tackling the climate emergency by cutting emissions whilst at the same time delivering sustained economic growth. This groundbreaking reform is for our children who hope for a better and cleaner future. It is for towns like Biloela whose families are critical to the clean energy transformation. It is for every worker, farmer and miner, for every tradie, truck driver and tourism operator who wants job security. It is for First Nations Queenslanders who have cared for this land for tens of thousands of years. It is for every single person who wants to maintain our Queensland way of life for generations to come. It is for every business and household that wants affordable, cleaner energy and it is for the reef, rainforest, beaches, farmlands, koalas and other wildlife that are all threatened by climate change. Doing nothing is not an option. Delay is not an option.

The Liberal National Party says we should sit it out and watch whilst every other nation builds its clean energy economy. Delay would jeopardise jobs and industry right across Queensland. Sitting it out would guarantee failure and that, by definition, would be reckless. Yet that is the policy of those opposite. Every other nation is acting to prepare its economy for a more sustainable future, and so must we. Labor is not sitting back. We are clear-eyed about the opportunity and the challenge. These bills set the foundation to futureproof our economy for all Queenslanders and to make sure it is a fairer economy. On this side of the House we are clear about our purpose. We are in government to deliver, unlike those opposite who simply seek power so that they can rule. I will now discuss each bill and the focus areas of the committee consideration process.

The Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill sets out a careful and considered energy jobs transformation and we do this across three themes: commitments, frameworks and governance. The bill locks in renewable energy targets, maintaining the public ownership of energy assets and the Job Security Guarantee—industry has told us this is important. The Queensland Renewable Energy

Council stated in their submission to the committee inquiry that they are 'supportive of legislating the renewable energy targets providing a level of certainty to the industry'. These targets—50 per cent renewable energy by 2030, 70 per cent by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035—provide that certainty.

This is a historic moment as we lock in our commitment to the public ownership of energy assets. Public ownership can only be guaranteed by Labor and we do that for the benefit of all Queenslanders. This bill requires a public ownership strategy outlining how the state intends to achieve the following targets by 2035: 100 per cent public ownership of transmission, distribution and deep storage assets and at least 54 per cent public ownership of the state's generation assets. This bill defines public ownership to include: where the state, local or Commonwealth government directly or indirectly owns all or part of an energy asset, including through ownership of a government owned corporation; and where particular agreements or arrangements are prescribed by regulation. This is intended to capture complex or novel ownership arrangements that provide control or significant state benefits.

The government is clear about what is not included in public ownership. Privatisation is not public ownership. Asset leasing or asset recycling is not public ownership. Any entity that can be perceived as a privately owned or a for-profit entity cannot be considered publicly owned. These provisions are specifically designed to ensure no government can privatise Queensland's energy system by stealth. Any future Queensland government that seeks to privatise the energy system would need to amend this act and do that under the full glare and scrutiny of all Queenslanders.

We do not seek to undertake this transformation alone. It is by government and the private sector acting together that we can best achieve a successful transformation. The state will encourage the private sector to invest alongside us. Our enabling infrastructure opens up opportunities for new investment. We are doing the things that only government can do so that the broader economy benefits. We will also look for partnerships in the supply chain. As Greg Combet noted in his recent National Press Club address—

... Australia has the opportunity to develop numerous new clean industrial projects involving billions of investment dollars and providing thousands of jobs.

...

Neither government funding nor private capital alone can meet this challenge.

Public ownership has been hard fought and hard won in Queensland. Public ownership has secured enduring support for Queensland workers. To that end, I would like to acknowledge the tireless work of Queensland's trade unions. As the Electrical Trades Union puts it in their submission—

The public ownership of Queensland's energy assets affords the State valuable control over the future pace and shape of its transition for energy workers and communities and enables the Government to ensure that they aren't left behind by this transition.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members, there is too much audible conversation on both sides of the chamber. Could you please be quiet or take your conversations outside.

**Mr de BRENNI:** We are definitely not leaving anyone behind with our Job Security Guarantee. The bill enshrines this guarantee in law; it establishes the fund with a \$150 million down payment. It is a fund to facilitate security and to support affected energy workers. Job security for workers and relevant contractors at publicly owned coal-fired coal power stations and prescribed facilities including relevant coalmines. It will welcome participating private employers if they wish to invest as well. Just last week, when I was at one of our publicly owned coal-fired power stations, I listened to workers talk about their experiences. They told me how important the Job Security Guarantee is for them.

As the Mining and Energy Union noted in their submission, 'Queensland should embrace its opportunity to lead in this area, and the Job Security Guarantee is an opportunity to do so.' The bill creates frameworks for coordination. In their submission, the Queensland University of Technology told us—

QUT supports the establishment of infrastructure frameworks ... to build the Queensland SuperGrid and ensure delivery of renewable energy generation.

The infrastructure blueprint was released alongside the plan—a blueprint for the lowest cost, optimal pathway to decarbonise the state's electricity system. This bill outlines a planned and methodical approach to review and update the blueprint every two years. The optimal infrastructure pathway must meet three core objectives: achievement of the renewable energy targets; the provision of a safe, secure and reliable supply; and long-term cost minimisation.

The bill sets out a process for priority transmission investment to identify, assess and build the required projects. These will be the backbone of the Queensland SuperGrid. This framework will ensure an orderly, considered and efficient build out of transmission. This will include from our renewable energy zones—or REZs—to industry. The REZ framework will coordinate development of approximately 22 gigawatts of new large-scale wind and solar. Coordination lowers costs and improves local community, environmental and cultural heritage outcomes. Many submissions to the committee highlighted the importance of locals having their say. The REZ approach, along with other measures, will deliver them that say. A new mandatory code of conduct for building these projects will lift the standards and the soon-to-be-established Coexistence Queensland will make sure of it.

We listened to stakeholder feedback, like that from the Local Government Association of Queensland, that stressed the importance of involving communities in the planning and development process. We doubled the minimum consultation period on the draft REZ management plan and locked in REZ assessments—or REZ readiness assessments—to assess area suitability given local opportunities and local challenges. They will look at a wide array of factors including land use, agriculture, environment, workforce, First Nations, water and waste as well as enabling infrastructure like roads, bridges, ports and housing. These assessments will help identify opportunities for local communities. Collectively, the infrastructure blueprint, the priority transmission investments, the renewable energy zone frameworks, the code of conduct and Coexistence Queensland will facilitate the energy transformation and build social license while maintaining a safe, secure and affordable electricity system.

The final component of the bill establishes three new bodies for inclusive governance. The Queensland Energy System Advisory Board will be a new independent expert technical advisory board. The board will comprise experts who can provide relevant technical advice to the government and support the biennial update of the infrastructure blueprint. We listened to stakeholder views about the need for more diversity. That is why the bill we introduced allows for up to seven appointed board members and specifies a range of skills, qualifications or knowledge required.

The Energy Industry Council established in the bill will consist of representatives from government, publicly owned energy businesses and unions. It will provide advice to government on the impacts for affected energy workers and communities so that no-one is left behind. We first committed to establishing the Energy Industry Council through the landmark Queensland Energy Workers' Charter. This charter is the first of its kind—a tripartite agreement that sets Queensland ahead of the pack. I acknowledge all those involved in the development of the charter. They are to be commended for their outstanding and globally recognised leadership.

Lastly, the Queensland Renewable Energy Jobs Advocate established in the bill will provide advice to government on how to increase opportunities for employment in the energy industry. They will be in the workplaces in Central Queensland, in the training institutions in North Queensland and here in the boardrooms in Brisbane. Most importantly, they will be with regional Queenslanders—with them as a trusted ally to collaborate and to share information. They will maintain the bond between communities and the energy sector. The advocate has been warmly welcomed by stakeholders, with the LGAQ noting the role will be critical.

The bill also provides minor clarifying and technical amendments to the following acts: the Electricity Act 1994, the Electricity—National Scheme (Queensland) Act 1997, the National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) Act 2014 and the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004. Firstly, the committee examined amendments to the Electricity Act 1994 to update the definition of 'operating works' to clarify that generating plants now include battery storage devices. It will recognise them as 'other property' for operating the transmission grid or supply network. We have also included an amendment to incorporate the new term 'reactive power compensation device' as other property for generation, transmission and distribution entities. These devices help keep the grid secure and stable.

Secondly, this bill contains a minor amendment to the National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) Act 2014 to correct a numbering error. Thirdly, a note is inserted into section 6 of the Electricity—National Scheme (Queensland) Act 1997 to clarify that the bill will modify the application of some elements of that act. Finally, for the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 there is a single word amendment to insert the word 'scheme' in place of the word 'cover' under section 423. This amendment preserves the state's ability to recover the gas portion of Queensland's contribution to Australian Energy Market Commission costs, reflecting changes in national gas law terminology.

I want to thank the many stakeholders from the industry, councils, community, farming and environment sectors for their valuable input into the development of this bill, whether that was by way of submissions or in other department led engagement activities. This process provided valuable feedback that informed development of the bill before the parliament today.

This bill was also scrutinised rigorously by the committee. I express my thanks to the chair of the Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee, the member for Redlands, as well as its former chairs, the member for Kurwongbah and the member for Macalister. I extend this thanks to their fellow committee members for undertaking such a thorough examination. I acknowledge the parliamentary staff who supported the committee through the inquiry. I thank the Department of Energy and Climate, the Queensland Treasury and all of the other agencies for their tireless work behind the scenes. I thank all those who attended the committee's public hearings which were held in Brisbane, Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns.

There were 48 written submissions made to the inquiry showing strong support for the approach taken. The Queensland Renewable Energy Council said in their submission—

QREC supports the Energy bill as another step towards the certainty needed to secure future investment into Queensland.

The Queensland Council of Unions stated in their submission that—

This bill will help to support a structured and planned transition and transformation of the energy industry across Queensland, which is critical to the future of Queensland's economy, both state-wide and regionally.

Both of those organisations' reflections and observations were correct. Among the many helpful, constructive and positive submissions, there were some that were not as considered. Here is a quote from one of the many LNP dinosaurs. In his submission he referred to 'not-so-renewable energy sources like solar and wind'. If solar and wind are not renewable, I beg those opposite to define what is.

Then there was the institute with an LNP stacked board who told us not to be alarmed as 'there is no climate crisis'. That is what they said. According to them, 'warming is occurring gradually and is not dangerous'. I say try telling that to the Queenslanders who lost their homes to floods in places like Rocklea and Logan, or the residents of suburbs like Helensvale and Mount Tamborine who can now add tornadoes to the threat of summer cyclones. Thankfully, those sorts of ill-considered comments were in the minority. The fact is the vast majority of submissions noted the importance of the energy bill. We are proud that engagement on this bill has delivered comprehensive new laws. We have delivered a fit-for-purpose framework for the energy transition—one that works for all Queenslanders.

This feedback informed the committee's report, published on 1 March, which made four recommendations, the first being that the bill be passed. The other recommendations were: that we explore additional avenues of consultation and information sharing with stakeholders in regard to the assessment process for determining candidate priority transmission investments; that we consider further how to incorporate decommissioning plans into applications for renewable energy projects to manage the replacement of equipment throughout the life of a project and full site rehabilitation at end stage so proponents meet agreed environmental protocols in a timely manner; and that there is collaboration between the Department of Energy and Climate and the Department of Transport and Main Roads to review and consider the upgrade of relevant supply chain infrastructure, particularly high-risk roads and bridges, to facilitate the achievement of the bill's renewable energy targets. I table the Queensland government response to these recommendations.

*Tabled paper:* Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee: Report No. 1, 57th Parliament—Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023, government response [\[597\]](#).

The Miles government recognises and accepts the recommendations and we commit to their implementation. The Department of Energy and Climate will prepare new guidance materials on the existing avenues for feedback on the development of priority transmission lines. The government response also reaffirms our commitment to partner with industries and communities to maximise benefits from the transformation and drive regional economic opportunities. Our government has already committed to a state planning framework review in the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. We will continue to investigate options for asset lifecycle assessments, including end-of-life planning and recycling. Just last week we announced over \$5.5 million in funding to facilitate this, including solar panel recycling across five locations. Finally, the Department of Energy and Climate and the Department of Transport and Main Roads are identifying critical supply chain infrastructure.

I would also note the matters discussed in the statement of reservation to the report on the bill. The statement notes that government must ensure regional communities directly benefit from the rollout of renewables and that worker shortages, supply chain issues and transport logistics are matters that

may not only jeopardise social licence but also prevent the achievement of the renewable energy targets. We acknowledge those matters raised. However, I make this point: the Miles government is already acting on all of those matters and we have a plan to support regional and host communities. We have a real plan. I ask those opposite: where is the LNP plan?

The Miles government established the Local Energy Partnerships initiative, which is a \$9.25 million commitment including funding to partner with industry and community bodies, to improve practices and engagement in the renewable energy sector and support communities. The Local Energy Partnerships initiative includes a commitment to expand the remit of the GasFields Commission to promote coexistence for renewable energy. This week we deliver on that commitment. The Miles government has also committed \$200 million to support communities through the Regional Economic Futures Fund which will support local projects in key regions across the state. Of that, \$20 million has already been earmarked to support outcomes from the first REZ readiness assessments on top of the \$6 million committed to undertake the assessments.

The statement raised the methodology for calculating renewable energy targets. This bill provides for full transparency about the methodology. To the question in the statement of reservation as to whether generation from battery storage is included in the methodology, the answer is no, which is to ensure there is no double counting.

In response to matters raised about the review timing of the targets, I highlight that the five yearly review is designed, as the committee report notes, to provide certainty for stakeholders with inbuilt flexibility to review targets, if required. The statement of reservation raised how REZs will be declared and their broader impacts. The bill provides for an extensive process that must occur for a REZ to be declared. It is a process that requires mandatory community consultation, including, importantly, with local government, and extensive government oversight on a draft REZ management plan and REZ assessments.

The statement of reservation also raised the composition of the Queensland Energy System Advisory Board and the Energy Industry Council. I can inform the House that, when making appointments to the board, we will look to ensure that appointees have full awareness of matters facing local communities, local government and the agriculture sector.

We are continuing to take on board stakeholder feedback and, to further support our energy transformation, several amendments to the bill have been circulated in my name. Amendment 1 inserts new requirements in the Electricity Act around the granting of generation authorities, requiring renewable energy proponents to meet social licence criteria. It also allows for the development of a code of conduct that sets out leading practice and how renewable energy proponents right across the state can satisfy the social licence criteria. This code of conduct will be designed in a process of partnership and collaboration with industry, peak bodies and community stakeholders to ensure it is fit for purpose and meets community expectations.

Amendment 2 will require that the process to identify the entities and projects that can connect to a REZ must have regard to social licence, developer capability and project feasibility. Only the best developers and projects will be considered REZ eligible.

Amendment 3 will provide a targeted modification to the application of national guidelines to enable Powerlink to remain focused on supporting delivery of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. It will introduce a temporary, targeted head of power to create regulations that allow Queensland to derogate from certain new ring-fencing obligations. Without this amendment Powerlink's attention and resources could be diverted unnecessarily.

Amendment 4 provides the authorisations necessary to ensure the success of the REZ model. This amendment allows additional conduct to be authorised under the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 and the Queensland Competition Code, and clarifies the period to which these authorisations extend.

Amendment 5 provides Powerlink with a two-year limited protection from civil liability, to enable negotiations with project developers necessary for commercial viability of REZs as we transition to a REZ regulatory framework. Finally, amendment 6 will modify and clarify the existing regulation-making powers under the Electricity—National Scheme (Queensland) Act 1997 and the National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) Act 2014 to ensure that Queensland's jurisdictional framework has the necessary flexibility to moderate the effect of the national energy framework as it operates in Queensland, if and when there is sufficient justification to do so.

I now come to the Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024. The Clean Economy Jobs Bill establishes a structured, credible approach to reduce greenhouse gas emissions—an approach that grows Queensland's economy and jobs. Scientists have confirmed that last year was the warmest on record and last month, March 2024, was the warmest March ever on record. Every Queenslanders felt it. The evidence shows we must act now and we must act decisively if we are to tackle climate change and retain our state's and our nation's global advantage. Investors are seeking opportunities in clean industries and technologies and consumers are demanding low-carbon products. As the member for Murrumba said in his first speech as Premier—

Our trading partners, particularly those in Europe, North America and much of Asia, are demanding the places they trade with act responsibly ...

The things we make in our regions and sell to the world, must be made with an eye to how the world wants them.

That's why responsible emissions targets are essential to jobs in our existing industries like mining, agriculture, and manufacturing.

Queensland is in the driver's seat of our nation's economy. We can take this opportunity to plan for a measured and orderly transformation of our economy to benefit Queenslanders and all Australians. A Clean Economy Jobs Act will guide this plan, offering a way to work in partnership with industry and community. When enacted, it will guide our work in three key ways. First, it will legislate Queensland's emissions reduction targets: 30 per cent reduction by 2030, 75 per cent by 2035 and net zero emissions by 2050. Second, the bill sets out a predictable process for setting emissions reduction targets for 2040 and 2045. These interim targets must be decided a decade in advance, providing certainty to industry and enabling a long-term planning and investment approach. Third, this bill establishes a framework for accountability and action.

An expert panel, including Queensland's Chief Scientist and esteemed members from relevant fields, will advise on the most effective strategies to achieve our emissions reduction targets. This bill also mandates the preparation of emissions reduction plans for key sectors of Queensland's economy. The sector plans will be considered, building on existing action and prepared in partnership with industry and community stakeholders.

Finally, this legislation mandates an annual progress statement be tabled in the Queensland parliament. This statement will provide a comprehensive review of our progress in reducing emissions and implementing our sectoral plans. It will use the most up-to-date emissions data and ensure that our ongoing work is informed by the best available information. WWF Australia recognises this bill as—

... a significant step towards science-based targets to avoid some of the worst impacts of climate change on Queensland, Australia and the world.

We are making a difference and we are making it now. Last week, the Commonwealth government released new emissions data showing that Queensland's emissions in 2022 were 35 per cent below 2005 levels. This means we have surpassed our 2030 target eight years early. We have always said that our targets are a floor and not a ceiling. Exceeding the 2030 target reinforces that the 75 per cent by 2035 target is credible and achievable.

While the new data is positive for Queensland, we must take a considered approach to understand what this means for our targets and for the sector plans. I will be proposing and have circulated an amendment to the bill to require a review of the 2030 target by the end of 2025 to align with delivery of the sector plans. A considered and thoughtful approach to reviewing the current target is important to ensure the continued confidence of all sectors. Rushing would be counter to the tenets of this bill which is to provide investors, industry and the community with certainty. While it is appropriate that we should focus our attention 10 years ahead, a review of the 2030 target is an opportunity to provide more certainty on where we realistically expect Queensland emissions to be in 2030 as we work towards 75 by '35. We will take a balanced approach to the review, just as we have done with the development of this bill.

I thank all 35 submitters to the committee inquiry, as well as the committee members and secretariat. They made it clear there is strong support for this bill. In its submission, Fortescue Energy said—

... the Queensland Government has established the right policy settings to assist industry to invest at pace and scale to meet or beat those targets.

We heard from the Queensland Conservation Council, North Queensland Conservation Council, Mackay Conservation Group and Wide Bay Burnett Environment Council that—

With this framework in place, Queensland communities and businesses can plan for and realise a decarbonised future.

The Insurance Council of Australia said—

Legislated targets will offer Queensland businesses and industries a stable and predictable investment environment which enables businesses and investors to make long-term plans and allocate capital towards green and climate-friendly initiatives.

At a public hearing for the bill, the Queensland Resources Council acknowledged that—

... global decarbonisation represents one of the greatest opportunities for Queensland's resources industry that we have ever seen.

This feedback informed development of the committee's report, published on 5 April. Following consideration of submissions and department responses, I am pleased the committee made only one recommendation—that the bill be passed.

The report gives us the opportunity to respond to some questions asked by stakeholders involved in the committee's inquiry. They involved queries about the economic and jobs impacts of the 75 per cent by 2035 target on our regions and regional communities. We are listening, and that is why we have set a target that is credible and achievable. We have a planned approach to work with industry and all levels of government to achieve the target.

We will undertake analysis, informed by evidence and expertise, to ensure economic transformation does not disadvantage the regions. Instead, it will benefit those communities, support existing jobs, create new ones and attract investment here to Queensland. We already see this in the Central Queensland Hydrogen Hub and the Fortescue Future Industries Green Energy Manufacturing Centre in Gladstone, and more investment is coming. In February, Idemitsu and Sumitomo signed with Vecco to build a battery factory in Townsville using Julia Creek vanadium.

These new industries and jobs are enabled by the Miles government's commitments and funding programs including the \$100 million Critical Minerals and Battery Technology Fund and the \$4.5 billion Queensland Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund. These investments grow our regions—not just in mining but in onshore manufacturing. Our traditional industries contributed immensely to this state's prosperity and now we must ensure the same prosperity for those workers and their communities into the future.

This is not a one-size-fits-all strategy. We have never said that every sector must be 75 by '35. We will consult and partner with local governments, communities, industries and stakeholders to design sector plans that outline each sector's unique role, address industry-specific challenges, and identify innovations and the best practices desirable for abatement.

There will be feedback opportunities with five-yearly reviews of sector plans. This is a balanced approach, an approach that will encourage industries to do their part to meet targets. We will not impose impractical requirements. I cannot emphasise enough that engagement and partnership will be critical for success. Through partnerships we can develop the practical solutions that enable sectors to grow while at the same time reducing emissions. The incredible research strengths of our universities can and will assist us. This government's planning work will always be informed by the most up-to-date and best information available.

Our modelling, set out in the Queensland's 2035 Clean Economy Pathway document, shows we can reduce emissions while growing Queensland's economy. Not only are these goals entirely compatible; they are mutually reinforcing. The modelling shows that, while emissions reduce to 75 per cent below 2005 levels by 2035, employment grows over that time by 590,000 persons. Likewise, our Energy and Jobs Plan is underpinned by contemporary modelling that shows how we can decarbonise the electricity sector over time in the most cost-effective way while delivering and securing jobs. We will do this for each of the sector plans in a considered and methodical way that ensures that regional communities benefit. We will consider the latest data along with inputs from a range of sources including experts, industries and communities. Just as we have done with the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, we will publish the data and modelling that informs each sectoral plan.


The following amendments to the bill have been circulated in my name: a proposal that, when making an emissions reduction plan, the minister must undertake public consultation; a proposal that the expert panel may consult in preparing its advice to government; and a proposal that the minister review the 2030 target by the end of 2025 to align with delivery of the sector plans. The amendments respond to the considered feedback that we have received during the consultation process: feedback from stakeholders including WWF Australia, Western Downs Regional Council, the Queensland Resources Council, Queensland Farmers' Federation, Climate Council and Clean Energy Council and, of course, the committee itself and ensures that sectors like local government in particular and other sector representatives are closely involved. The bill provides all of the key components for success—a considered and realistic goal backed by a credible plan to work together to achieve it.



In closing, this reform will shape Queensland's future. It is faithful to the vision outlined by the Premier on our commitment to act on climate change, protect jobs and care for Queensland communities, our commitment to deliver lasting benefits to Queenslanders and to protect our pristine environment as we move towards net zero. Through these laws and our broader frameworks, we are sending a powerful message to the world that Queensland is both a leader in climate action and a champion of clean economy jobs and progress. As the Climate Council of Australia notes—

Seeing all parties in the Queensland Parliament back this bill will help maintain the current positive momentum in delivering clean energy infrastructure, boost investment confidence and ensure Queenslanders see the benefits as soon as possible.

I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (12.39 pm): As shadow environment minister, my contribution to this cognate debate will focus on the bill within my portfolio which sets out our state's overall emissions targets and creates the framework for a pathway to a cleaner economy. We are committed to getting the shift to renewables right, especially when it comes to regional community benefit and the impacts on our environment. The shadow energy minister's contribution on the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill, immediately following mine, will outline our position on the government's proposal before us. Today I can confirm that the Liberal National Party will not be opposing the Clean Economy Jobs Bill.

Around 92 per cent of the world's GDP is covered by commitments to net zero. Investment in the low-carbon energy transition surged 17 per cent in 2023. Queensland is in a fierce competition locally and internationally to secure as much of that investment as we can. The LNP's decision today will provide certainty to the market about the direction in which our state is heading. Our support today sends a signal to investors that under a future LNP government Queensland is open for business.

The shift to a cleaner economy is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to bring jobs, long-term industries and new wealth to Queensland. Putting aside the strong economic arguments for our position, I also recognise the threat of climate change to our environment and our state's unique and precious biodiversity. We must do all we can to become more sustainable so Queenslanders for many generations to come can continue to enjoy the unrivalled natural beauty by which our state is defined.

For several years the LNP has committed to achieving the end goal of net zero. Our decision to support the targets outlined in this bill is significant and it has been carefully considered. Reducing our emissions by 75 per cent by 2035 is ambitious, but it is achievable. To date, Queensland's emissions have reduced by 29 per cent on 2005 levels according to the latest data available from 2020-21. This gives the LNP confidence there is a pathway to reaching what this bill proposes.

We must also take care to ensure this is not done at the expense of Queenslanders in our regions. It will take hard work and innovation, but these are well-known traits of the people and industries of Queensland. The regional communities and industries who are so important to our state's economy must be partners on this journey—not opponents or obstacles as they have been treated by Labor. It is these industries and communities that are leading the way to deploy cheap, clean energy and that are looking for ways to be part of new industry supply chains. They are creating jobs in regional communities that will last for generations to come. We have seen small, medium and large businesses getting on with the job of reducing emissions, with many signing on to their own industry targets already. Similarly, we have seen councils set their own ambitious emissions targets.

Brisbane City Council is one of Australia's largest carbon-neutral certified organisations, a massive feat and a demonstration of the commitment of this local government to take the steps it needs to for the sake of our environment. Across our economy we have seen moves to become cleaner through ingenuity, innovation and a dedication to reducing emissions across all sectors even where that reduction will be complex. This bill follows the work these Queenslanders are already undertaking and provides a framework for accountability so we can properly measure our progress overall.

When it comes to our environment, outcomes are what matter. If elected in October, an LNP government will listen to and work with these Queenslanders to develop sensible, practical and consensus-based plans to deliver emissions reductions in the key sectors of our economy. Urban and regional Queenslanders alike will benefit from a cleaner economy and the jobs and investment this will bring.

The overwhelming majority of submitters giving their feedback to the committee on this bill were in favour of reducing our emissions. Some wanted more ambitious targets while others wanted a different approach altogether. A common theme was wanting to work in partnership. There was a concern the government's approach is too top-down. We need instead to see consultation and collaboration. That is how we will maximise the opportunities which come with a cleaner economy.

While the requirement to consider the economic, financial, social and environmental impact any interim target may have in Queensland, including any impacts on the communities, industries and rural and regional areas is welcome, there must be follow-through. Local communities which could be impacted deserve to be listened to. It cannot be just that a minister sits with the Premier and the Treasurer—as this bill requires—making guesses about the impact these targets could have. There must be genuine engagement with the sectors which will have to do the heavy lifting on emissions reduction. They must be given sufficient time and notice to do this—not hidden on a government website with a two-week turnaround. The Local Government Association of Queensland submitted—

A successful transformation needs to be coordinated across government departments at a state level, but driven and delivered locally. Each of Queensland's resource communities is unique and different. They need tailored long-term economic and social sustainability plans. Without these, these host resources communities will be left behind. As local leaders, Queensland councils know what policies are needed to ensure the liveability of their communities comes first. They have developed tangible solutions—supported by the council colleagues from across Queensland—and they want to partner with the State in this transformation journey.

No two Queensland communities are the same. This diversity is a strength. They each have grown uniquely and transformed since they were established. Each holds their own identity. They each have taken their own approach to the protection of their local environment and they should be respected and their voices should be heard.

Our LNP members proudly represent most of regional Queensland, particularly outside of the major cities, with communities of people who have legitimate questions about how the energy shift will occur and what it will mean for them. Regional Queenslanders have done the hard work to get us to the 29 per cent and likely higher reduction that we have achieved so far. They will be vital partners as we seek to more than double this progress over the next decade.

It was telling that the submission from Western Downs Regional Council contained questions of how the interim targets would be reached. This council, which is trademarked as the energy capital of Queensland and has had 24 solar farms approved since 2016, two operational wind farms and a renewables-based hydrogen demonstration plant, still has major questions over how the state government will deliver the targets outlined in the bill and whether they will be consulted. Its representatives said—

While there is an existence of targets, it is yet to be understood in what manner the interim targets will be developed across the lifetime of the Bill at the Minister's discretion. While the interim targets are important to reach the final goal of net zero by 2050, it is important for Council to understand what measures are in place to ensure that regional consultation will occur prior to the targets being set as per Section 6 of the Bill.

There were similar concerns raised regarding consultation with other areas of the bill, particularly when it comes to putting together emissions reduction plans. There is no guidance as to which sectors will be included in these plans but, more concerningly, there is no clarity in the bill about how these plans will be determined. These are going to be essential. They will outline an analysis of the emissions trends of Queensland's key sectors and ascribe actions the Queensland government is taking to reduce emissions produced in each sector and how that will contribute to the achievement of the state's broader emissions reductions targets. The only provision this bill has in terms of the making of these plans is that the minister determined to be responsible for that sector must ensure the emissions reduction plan is published on the Queensland government's website.

While it is understood these are the actions the Queensland government will take, it is naive to think that government operates in a silo. These plans will be vital for investment confidence and to give the market an idea about the direction the government wants industry to take. Again, this is a failure of this government to listen to the experts on the ground, the people who know their industry better than anyone, and to work with them. They rightly should be treated as genuine partners in achieving emissions reductions and must be first in line for the jobs, local contracting opportunities and community investment. Similarly, the clean economy expert panel should be required to have a minimum standard of membership which includes representatives from the sectors required to have a plan under the bill and from local government.

We need to listen to the organisations that are figuring this out within their industry. They should be part of the body setting the broader settings on the path to a cleaner economy. I will be moving simple but important amendments to make this a legislated requirement which I table now for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024, amendments to be moved by Mr Sam O'Connor MP [\[598\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024, explanatory notes to Mr Sam O'Connor's amendments [\[599\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Mr Sam O'Connor's amendments [\[600\]](#).


These will require the panel to include a representative from each sector required to have an emissions reduction plan as well as a representative from local government given the important role our councils will play in this transition. It is expected that these sectors could include energy, resources, manufacturing, transport, agriculture, construction and tourism. My amendment offers a point of difference to the top-down approach proposed by Labor. It means that more informed voices will have a seat at the table instead of the limited approach before us which requires at least two, but not more than five, panel members in addition to the Chief Scientist.

The annual statement on the measures taken to reduce emissions is an opportunity for transparency and to review and adjust our policy settings as needed, something which happens far too infrequently under this government. It will be an opportunity to provide real, measurable insight into what has made a difference in terms of reducing our emissions and to give clarity on the path forward. The annual progress reports should also address any impact these policies are having on local jobs, regional and rural communities and Queenslanders' cost of living. Too often discussions on environmental action are removed from the everyday reality of what most people are experiencing and that does not help us work towards our goal as a community. These reports need to be exceptionally clear about the progress made, how it was measured and what actions led to the emissions reduction.

Whilst we have spoken a lot today about numbers and targets, we cannot forget what this is all about. This bill sets an economic imperative and aspiration, but it is all to conserve our natural environment. Queensland is a haven of biodiversity. Our natural assets are key to our tourism industry, and we will feel the impacts if we see a decline. This cannot become about ticking a box. It must be about action on the ground: protecting, increasing and better managing our conservation estate; safeguarding and restoring biodiversity; reducing our waste; increasing our recycling rates; and decreasing the impact we are having long term.

Too often we have seen this government make big environmental announcements and comprehensively fail on delivering key outcomes. In 2015 the now Premier, as the then environment minister, committed to a 17 per cent target for our protected estate—vital sanctuaries of biodiversity across Queensland. At that point, almost a decade ago, 7.8 per cent of Queensland was protected. The latest data shows the estate is at 8.39 per cent—just a 0.6 per cent increase in a decade. In 2019 the government released their Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy and set targets on the path to 2050. Their draft review report, which I note we have had no follow-up on over a year after being released, revealed that just two of the nine targets were on track to be met. Again, what good is having a target if you cannot follow through? Containers for Change has also fallen woefully short of its legislated targets. Action on threatened species has slowed, with just two of the seven recommendations implemented according to the follow-up report to the Auditor-General's 2018-19 *Conserving threatened species* report. Targets cannot just be set; they must be followed through with actions and accountability.

It is on this basis that we are supporting this proposal. It is the work behind those targets and this framework which will make the difference, and that is what an LNP government is committed to doing. The LNP wants to see a pathway to a clean economy which involves listening to industry and working with them as genuine partners; empowering individuals to make choices that will reduce their energy bills as well as cut their household emissions; and ensuring regional communities across our state can make the most of the opportunities this shift in our economy presents. We will not be opposing this bill, but we emphasise the need to work with Queenslanders across our state and urge Labor to support our sensible amendments.

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (12.53 pm): I rise to support the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023 and the Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024. I am pleased the LNP will be supporting both of these bills in cognate, but I would ask—as the member for Bonney just said—what is their pathway to the targets? I think there is a real white elephant in the room in the form of nuclear power on which a position has not been taken. I know very well that the future member for Oodgeroo has a very deep, burning passion for nuclear power, and we know what the federal member looks like. I will remind those opposite that when we talk about a renewables future it most certainly does not include nuclear power. I know there is not one person in the Redlands who would want to see a nuclear power plant in our beautiful part of the world.

The member for Bonney also talked about consultation. Again, some of the things that come from the other side! The cornerstone of our work has been engagement, partnership, collaboration and consultation. Our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is world leading, and these two bills are a result

of that planning work. If you fail to plan, then you plan to fail. The Miles government is focused on ensuring that not only do we transition our energy into a renewables future but we make sure that we bring all Queenslanders on that journey with us.

What is world leading is the Queensland Energy Workers' Charter. I am really proud of our government's work with trade unions to make sure that we bring Queenslanders on the journey to a renewables future. These two bills are extraordinarily important to the future, as the member for Bonney would well know. As one of the younger people in this parliament, he would know how significant climate change is and how much young people in our communities are focused on what climate change looks like and what we as a government are doing to deliver and secure a better future for young people.

There is not an awful lot of time left on the clock, but I will talk about the results of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan and what these two bills have been returning for Queenslanders through public ownership of our energy assets in terms of electricity rebates. As we heard today in the minister's ministerial statement, we have the lowest energy prices here in Queensland. The work of our Miles government is delivering to make sure that we put downward pressure on energy prices for all Queenslanders.

I was pleased to chair in part the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023. I thank the member for Macalister for her work in doing all of the travel that was required in the public hearings for that bill. When you talk about consultation, the committee went to Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville, Cairns and Brisbane on that bill. There was substantial consultation. There were 48 submissions to that bill. With regard to the Clean Economy Jobs Bill, which I did have carriage of in its entirety, we had 35 submissions, public briefings and public hearings. I thank all of the witnesses and submitters who contributed to this process. Those sector plans will be extraordinarily important in terms of how we are able to deliver on meeting those targets. As the minister said in his ministerial statement yesterday, we are on track to meet those targets into the future.

I also want to talk about the workforce, the transition and the training, because I think that is a really big piece of work and it should give all Queenslanders comfort that our government is working on how we make sure that we transform into a renewables future. The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan sets out that path for transformation. We know that we are going to need an extra 100,000 workers in the energy space into the future. It is significant that 64,000 direct and indirect jobs will be created from building the SuperGrid and 36,000 jobs will be created across key sectors.

I was really pleased that the member for Bundamba, the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development, was able to attend our TAFE, because free TAFE is part of delivering in this sector. We got to meet Ciara, a lovely young electrical apprentice who lives in the Redlands. She is really excited about what the opportunity of training to be an electrician of the future looks like. She is currently working on the PA Hospital. She knows how important the Miles government's investment is in our renewables future, the training that is attached to that and what workforce transition looks like. I am really proud of that work. I thank the secretariat for all of their work. I thank the minister for considering the recommendations that were made for the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill. I look forward to seeing all of these plans roll out right the way across Queensland, with regional Queenslanders being very much a big beneficiary.

Talking about consultation, the member for Kurwongbah and Assistant Minister for Clean Economy Jobs and I had a chance to attend the Mackay Chamber of Commerce meeting with Queensland Hydro to talk about pumped hydro. That is the cornerstone of how we do business here in our Miles government: we go out to communities, we talk to them and we listen to them. On that note, I commend the bills to the House.

Debate, on motion of Ms Richards, adjourned.


Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

## **HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

### **Report, Motion to Take Note**

Resumed from 20 March (see p. 774), on motion of Mr Harper—

That the House take note of the Health and Environment Committee Report No. 38, 57th Parliament—*Vaping: An inquiry into reducing rates of e-cigarette use in Queensland*, tabled on 31 August 2023.

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (2.01 pm): I rise to support the Health and Environment Committee Report No. 38, 57th Parliament, tabled on 31 August. I would like to start by thanking the committee, which conducted extensive consultation and heard from many different witnesses. I also acknowledge the work of the committee chair, the member for Thuringowa, who has taken a great interest in this particular issue and has been a champion for people's safety. I also understand he may or may not have been a paramedic.

The vaping inquiry into reducing rates of e-cigarette use in Queensland has been very informative, especially looking into the use by young people, school-aged children and First Nations communities as well as its links with mental illness. All members of this House, I am sure, would have heard concerns from their local constituents about vaping. I myself have spoken to mums, dads, grandparents and carers, and it has come up at P&C meetings. I have spoken about it with teachers and many more.

Over the last few years, the take-up of e-cigarettes has increased dramatically. Concerningly, a significant portion of people use both e-cigarettes and tobacco, and there is strong evidence that e-cigarettes pose a serious risk to health. They contain nicotine, a range of harmful chemicals, heavy metals, pesticides and other carcinogenic substances. They come in a range of flavours that appeal to kids, such as bubblegum, fruit, chocolate and mint flavours. I acknowledge also that many in the community claim that they find e-cigarettes helpful as a smoking cessation tool. That has been put to me quite a number of times. The committee considered this information and the committee heard witnesses who said as much; however, the committee noted that the evidence on its effectiveness was uncertain, especially when you look at not only smoking cessation but also harm. That is, how long someone smokes and the harm that it causes.


The committee also found that quite a few of the vapes and disposal vapes that said that they did not contain any nicotine actually did contain nicotine, which we know is highly addictive, and they also contain a whole range of other toxins. Young people are vaping thinking that they will not get hooked or that they are somehow safe; however, they are actually going to end up getting addicted. That is a real risk to Queensland. It is a real risk to young people in Queensland. We could have a whole generation of people addicted to nicotine.

I want to acknowledge some of the public servants who are working very hard analysing and testing these vapes. I want to give a special shout-out to senior chemist David Pass, based in Nathan at the John Tonge Centre next to the QEII Hospital. He is part of the team that carries out the tests on these vapes, and the Queensland research suggests that over 85 per cent of vapes sold contain two to six per cent of nicotine. That is massive, and that is something that all members, I am sure, are very concerned about. The TGA have also listed further prohibitive compounds which they have found inside some vapes.

If we could go back in time to when cigarettes became commercially available, which resulted in millions of people becoming addicted and, ultimately, millions of people killed, I am sure we would have never allowed it. In some respects, this committee report considers that we are in a similar situation—we have a window of opportunity at this time to have an impact on reducing the uptake of e-cigarettes and the long-term health consequences that will have. Some of the other evidence that the committee heard was that we do not know what some of these long-term consequences might be—what might happen to young people in 20 or 30 years, what kinds of conditions they might come down with as a result of the long-term damage that they are doing to themselves and to their lungs.

The committee also supports the Australian government laws that have been introduced for stronger regulation and enforcement banning disposal vapes and stopping their sale in retail stores and also to impose control on imports. I also acknowledge the need for federal and state governments to work together and that the No. 1 recommendation, which I think is great, is for the establishment of a taskforce, which would include the AFP, Queensland Police, Queensland Health and Border Force coming together to work to reduce e-cigarettes.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (2.06 pm): I too rise to address the Health and Environment Committee's report titled *Vaping: An inquiry into reducing rates of e-cigarette use in Queensland*. I was a member of that committee at the time that this inquiry was undertaken and the report was prepared. I want to pick up where the previous speaker left off.

We looked at a range of things in this inquiry, including the prevalence of e-cigarette usage and associated risks, which, as was just mentioned, are quite extraordinary. There is strong evidence that e-cigarettes pose a serious risk to the health of individuals, often exposing them to nicotine and a range

of harmful chemicals, heavy metals, pesticides and carcinogenic substances. I was the same with tobacco. I am definitely the same with e-cigarettes—if you knew that that is what you were putting into your body, why the heck would you do it?

Vaping is increasingly prevalent particularly among young people. We were asked to look at education programs—what is working and what is not—and ways to increase awareness and also whether we needed to look at inquiries, legislative frameworks, policies and preventive activities related to e-cigarettes in other jurisdictions. When the committee was looking into this matter, the Australian government announced they would be strengthening their regulations and enforcements around e-cigarettes and making it tougher to access e-cigarettes. That is why the committee's first recommendation specifically calls on the Queensland government to investigate establishing a joint taskforce involving Queensland and Commonwealth agencies with the primary objective of ending the illegal retail supply of e-cigarettes, including online, especially to people under the age of 18.

It is that recommendation I want to focus on. Like many of us here, I have been contacted by legitimate businesses that do the right thing, that do sell tobacco products and that are concerned about the increasing proliferation of illegal tobacco sales, including those centred around e-cigarettes. One of the small business owners in the electorate of Glass House is incredibly frustrated at the loss of revenue through the illegal sale of tobacco and related products and asked me to chase up what is actually being done to enforce the existing Queensland health legislation when we talk about that improved enforcement by the Australian government.

I put a question to the health minister back in February of this year when I asked—


With reference to legislative changes in 2023 regarding the sale of illicit tobacco—

Will the Minister provide (a) the number of monitoring and enforcement activities undertaken by Queensland Health Environmental Health Officers in the City of Moreton Bay and Sunshine Coast Regional Council ... and (b) the number of specific breaches, warnings and on-the-spot fines issued in each jurisdiction ...

I appreciate that councils do not easily align to hospital and health services, but what we discovered was that 45 retailers suspected of supplying illicit tobacco had been identified in the Metro North Hospital and Health Service area, and that includes the City of Moreton Bay, and that they were all still under investigation. We also found that 21 retailers suspected of supplying illicit tobacco had been identified within the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service and that 18 of those 21 retailers were still undergoing investigation. Interestingly, between July and December 2023, Queensland Health identified 315 retailers suspected of supplying illicit tobacco across Queensland. That is an extraordinary number—315. The answer stated—

Over the same period, 206 on-the-spot fines for supplying or possessing illicit tobacco, displaying and advertising smoking products and failure to display mandatory signage were issued. There were 87 seizures of illicit tobacco, bongs, and vapes. Five written warnings and five improvement notices were also issued for breaches of retailers supplying or possessing illicit tobacco.

That answer shows the scale of the problem we are facing and that enforcement is a huge task. That is why I commend all of the recommendations of this report, particularly the first one. I think we need to work closer with the Commonwealth government to come up with a better form of enforcement to ensure we can prevent these kinds of products being sold illegally, particularly to young people. Let us shut this down as soon as we possibly can.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (2.11 pm): I rise to make my contribution to this significant report done by the health committee. I thank the committee for their detailed consideration. I followed this particular inquiry with great interest because this is one of the issues that is frequently raised by community members and stakeholders in the electorate of Macalister, particularly by school principals. They are finding it really hard to be able to identify and crack down on this. Back in my day, if kids were going down the back of the school to have a smoke, they had to do that by sneaking away and then there was an act of lighting as well as other things. Kids these days are telling me that they can have the little vaping products in their pockets and just take a puff while walking between classrooms. Also, many of them are sold to look like everyday common school items. This tells me that it is specifically being directed and targeted at schoolchildren, which is quite a concern.

People who are informing themselves of these issues are aware of the problems associated with the availability of vapes as well as the dangerous consequences of vaping, but it is an area where we obviously need to do more. It is also an example of how as a parliament we need to be extremely flexible in the legislation because this is not something that we were overly considering 15 years ago.

I remember the first time I encountered vaping and e-cigarettes. I was in Liverpool for an extended period of time and some streets were just wall-to-wall vaping stores. I remember having to ask one of the nurses at the hospital what this vaping thing was and they were talking about e-cigarettes


and those kinds of things. I remember thinking, 'I'm glad we don't have that in Australia.' Australia has a fantastic international reputation, particularly when it comes to the work we have done around reducing cigarette use and tobacco use throughout the country. Some of the biggest reforms that have been made throughout the world started here in Australia—whether it was the plain packaging or all of the warning signs.

Due to that, the trend in tobacco consumption among Australians had always been on a downward trend. We saw a 24 per cent reduction in smoking between 1991 and 2000. However, what we are now seeing is an inverse upwards increase in the use of e-cigarettes, particularly among young people. The statistics that were provided were that 14 per cent of young adults—that is, those aged 14 plus—vaped on a regular basis. Vaping is being sold as a harmless activity. Vapes are able to be purchased because there is allegedly no nicotine and no tobacco in them. Therefore, a school student can walk in after school and buy a vape. I looked at my local high school and within 500 metres of the school there were seven retailers who sold vapes and could easily sell vapes to high school students. This is how prevalent it is in my community.

We are looking at a future health epidemic unfolding unless we do something right now to address the number of kids who are accessing vapes because e-cigarettes do contain nicotine. I refer to the evidence provided by Queensland Health that tested 17 e-liquids contained in vaping products available in Queensland at the time of the inquiry. The analysis found that every one of the e-cigarettes contained some nicotine. This was despite the fact that none of the e-cigarettes tested were able to be obtained on prescription, meaning that none of them should have had any nicotine and were therefore readily available to be purchased by teenagers.

It is more than just the nicotine in the products. The testing found that some 200-plus chemicals were found in e-cigarettes. Queensland Health testing found that some of those chemicals included formaldehyde, acetaldehyde and acrolein, which are all cancer-causing agents. If it is not the nicotine that is going to be causing long-term health damage—and we know that nicotine is one of the most addictive substances in the world—it is going to be some of those other substances found in vapes.

The other aspect I want to touch on briefly is the waste issues we find with these disposable e-cigarettes. Clean Up Australia Day this year was the first time I encountered a large amount of e-cigarette waste by the side of the road in our local community. This is problematic on many levels. I commend the recommendations to the House.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.16 pm): Before I begin my contribution on committee report No. 38, I refer to Mr Speaker's statement on 16 April concerning correspondence from the Leader of the House. This was the first time this matter had been drawn to my attention. In response to Mr Speaker's request, I correct the record and advise that I should have ensured that the post referred to the fact that 18 of the 19 ministers did not make a ministerial statement on the day in question. I have removed the social media post.

Committee report No. 38 deals with vaping and reducing the rate of e-cigarette use in Queensland. I thank the committee members on both sides of the House for their report, as well as all of the submitters who came forward with their submissions and those who participated in the hearings, and there were quite a number of them. This is a real challenge in our society and particularly for our young people. It is very difficult for parents, some of whom have contacted me directly to express their concerns about vaping. They are at their wits' end with what is happening in our community with vapes. Parents are struggling to understand why their children are vaping, what the vapes are and what needs to be done about them. Some of these vapes look just like a highlighter pen so it is very difficult for parents to identify them. Similarly, in our boarding schools, it is very difficult for the boarding supervisors to identify them when they look just like something that would normally be in a pencil case. There are challenges in schools. I know of very good schools in my electorate that are very frustrated with the vaping that occurs in the toilets during breaks. They are struggling to address this issue, particularly on their school grounds.

One certainty is that illegal and illicit e-cigarette sales in Queensland and Australia are out of control. I am told by legitimate mum-and-dad businesses which adhere to the law and regulations around the sale of tobacco that they are frustrated with these vape shops that literally seem to pop up overnight in regional towns. There certainly has been a lack of compliance by the state Labor government and it has been very difficult. I have been working with some of those legitimate mums and dads in their businesses to get compliance on this activity, and when it is requested it is very difficult to address those illegal and illicit e-cigarette sales in Queensland.

You only have to walk 50 metres outside my electorate office in Dalby and you will walk past a couple of vape shops. You only have to walk 50 metres outside my electorate office in Roma, down Wyndham Street, and you will find one of these shops. I note the committee report says—


Since 1 October 2021, in all states and territories in Australia:

- e-cigarettes and vaping products that contain nicotine are illegal, unless obtained on prescription from a pharmacist, or from an overseas vendor via the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) Personal Importation Scheme, Authorised Prescriber Scheme, or Special Access Scheme
- it is illegal for a retailer other than a pharmacy, such as a tobacconist, 'vape' shop, or convenience store, to sell e-cigarettes and vaping products that contain nicotine, even if the purchaser has a prescription
- it is legal for adults to buy and use e-cigarettes and vaping products that do not contain nicotine
- e-cigarettes cannot be sold or supplied to people under 18, regardless of nicotine content.

However, I say that you probably should come to the local race meetings because you will find a lot of people there under the age of 18 with vapes. That may well be the law, but what is happening on the ground is very different.

These shops continue to pop up left, right and centre. The law does not seem to be a deterrent to them. Maybe it is that both the federal and state Labor governments are not resourcing the compliance sufficiently on these shops. I ask: who is going to these shops and testing these products for nicotine content? If there is no nicotine in these products, what is in them that is making them so addictive? We heard from speakers earlier in relation to some of the cancer forming products that are in them.

There are 14 recommendations in the committee report. I think recommendation 8 is a very good recommendation. There are some very good recommendations in this committee report, but unfortunately what we have seen—and the committee report does state what the law was in 2021—is that this Labor government really has been slow to act on this issue. I am really concerned for the health of those people whose lungs and bodies have already been harmed by some of the chemicals that are in vapes. You cannot be slow to act on this. It is by far too much of an important issue, particularly for the health of our community into the future.

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (2.21 pm): I rise to endorse the report from the committee. I was not on the committee, but I want to thank them for their work because I believe that reducing the rates of vaping is very important. I speak as a parent of teenagers and school-aged kids, but, more broadly, I work very closely with my local schools, particularly the high schools, both state and private, and it has been raised with me on many occasions by principals, leadership teams, teachers and parents as a growing problem. I associate myself with comments made by other members on both sides of the House in terms of the importance of this issue, and I wanted to add my voice to that argument.

We know that serious health issues stem from this growing trend involving dangerous chemicals, the nicotine when it is advertised that there is no nicotine, and, most sadly to me, the deliberate and obvious targeting of young people with the flavours that are used. As speakers have said, e-cigarettes shaped like USB sticks or highlighter pens are deliberately designed to target children. Let's be honest: when we are talking about school students, we are talking about children. It is indefensible, in my view, for children to be advertised to, sold to and addicted to this horrendous trend in our community. I really thank the committee for their extensive work.


As the member for Stretton said, we can look back to times when we have legislated on really important issues. I think it was Nicola Roxon, the Commonwealth health minister at the time, who took on the big tobacco companies when it came to plain packaging and when it came to the prevention of the display of cigarettes, whether it be at a petrol station or at a tobacconist, to try to stop the naturalisation of smoking. I think we need to stop the naturalisation of vaping that is unfortunately really taking over our community, particularly our young people. There are important steps that people can take, like the Australian Labor Party, from decades ago now, refusing donations from the cigarette industry. A stance such as that is a really important signal and a really important principle that we need to pursue.

I look forward to the work of the taskforce. I think we need to work with a combination of the health workforce and the law enforcement workforce, but also in collaboration with the Commonwealth because this has to be a joint effort. Surely we all agree that this is a stain on our society that we need to address and whatever we can do will be really important. What was really important about this particular committee report was the detail and research that went into it. It was evidence-based and the recommendations reflect that.



Again, I think it is outrageous that shops, particularly dodgy shops, are deliberately targeting our young people with vapes of bubblegum and raspberry flavours designed to look like a USB stick or a highlighter pen. There is no excuse for that behaviour.

Thank you to the committee for their report. Thank you to the department that did a huge amount of work behind the scenes. Likewise, thank you to the secretariat for helping to prepare this report. Again, I look forward to seeing what comes from the work of the taskforce and I commend the committee report to the House.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (2.26 pm): I am very pleased to make a contribution to the debate on this particular committee report. I note that the chair's summary at the beginning said—

As Chair, I echo the view of Queensland's Chief Health Officer, Dr John Gerrard—now is the time to act—if not we will face a generation of nicotine-addicted adults in the years to come. We have an absolute responsibility to address this issue now.

I cannot agree more with that particular statement.

If I could give some context for my electors in Southern Downs, I have risen in this House on more occasions than I can remember and I have written to the government on several occasions to complain about a lack of action in enforcing the new laws that the government gave Queensland Health to crack down on illegal tobacco sales and the characters who are involved in that. These businesses, which spring up like mushrooms—I think I heard the member for Warrego say that they just spring up—are unafraid of Queensland Health. I have been told by sources in my electorate that the Queensland Health inspectors do not like going into the illegal chop-chop shops because they are a bit scary. They are scary because they are run by organised crime. However, the inspectors have been given the powers and they wear the badge; it is time that Queensland Health did something about this.

I have complained many times about the number of outlets in my electorate, and I will again read into the record the places where illegal chop-chop shops are that I know of. Maybe even more have sprung up in the time since I compiled this list: the Goondiwindi tobacco shop at 111 Marshall Street, Goondiwindi; AJ Tobacconist at Warwick, 111 Palmerin Street; the Warwick Tobacconist Gifts & Convenience at 2/105 Palmerin Street; the Axon tobacco shop at 7 Rogers Street, Stanthorpe; and a new one, Zaba tobacconist between 143 and 145 High Street, Stanthorpe.

One of the most disgraceful things in this business occurred last week involving a very angry proprietor of a legitimate tobacco business—Tobacco Station in Stanthorpe—who works hard to make a living for himself, employ people and generate taxes to pay for all of the things that we administer. A complaint came in that they were selling vapes, and Queensland Health remarkably, because it does not seem that they are usually so responsive, went down on them like a tonne of bricks—went through them, wanted to see everything and gave them a hard time. The proprietor, not unreasonably, who has been asking me to raise this matter, was very unhappy about that and they were even further incensed at the insouciance of the Queensland Health inspectors who were utterly uninterested in the illegal tobacco business openly trading 50 metres down the street.

This stinks of a Labor Party announcement with no follow-through. I say it again: it stinks of a Labor Party announcement with no follow-through. These places have been trading openly. The people in my electorate cannot fail to find them, yet apparently the Queensland Health inspectors are unable to crack down on these places. It is a disgrace. The government is responsible for this and something needs to be done.

The proceeds of these businesses are used to invest in other illegitimate businesses—organised crime. We are talking about extortion, prostitution, drugs and loan sharking. There is strong evidence to suggest that these illegal shops are selling vapes—we know they are—and selling drugs. I say this to Queensland Health, the minister who is responsible and this government: they should get themselves in order and start cracking down on these practices instead of talking about it. I see the former minister over there. I am glad she is listening to what I have to say, because this is unacceptable. It is an open suggestion that there must be corrupt tolerance of these businesses going on where no action happens, yet when one complaint comes in of a legitimate business selling vapes—which happened to be untrue—Queensland Health comes down on them like a tonne of bricks. I am speaking for my communities and for the small businesses that are disadvantaged by this laxity by Queensland Health. I say again in this House that something needs to be done.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr LISTER:** I think the fact that anybody on the other side of the House should interject is a mark of shame, because everybody in this House has been falling over themselves to say that they are against the trade of illegal tobacco—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Members, the member for Southern Downs is entitled to give his speech in silence, so I would ask for silence from my right please.

**Mr LISTER:** Everybody in this House is falling over themselves to say that they detest the trade in illegal tobacco, they do not want vapes, they do not want kids to be having them and that we should do something about this, yet I am copping interjections when I am raising the legitimate interests of my electorate. I have had complaints from all over my electorate, including—

**Mr Kelly** interjected.

**Mr LISTER:** The member for Greenslopes continues to interrupt me. Perhaps he enjoys supporting the tobacco industry or maybe the organised crime that goes on around it.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock.

**Mr KELLY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That is a ridiculous statement. I take personal offence.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Resume your seat. Members, we will not have an argument across the chamber. Member for Southern Downs, I ask you to withdraw that comment please.

**Mr LISTER:** I withdraw. This government has nothing to be smug about. They have done almost nothing to stamp out the illegal trade in tobacco from illegal tobacco shops—

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.31 pm): Cancer, COPD, heart disease, stroke, asthma, birth and fetal impacts, diabetes: I have seen more people die of these diseases than I care to remember, member for Southern Downs, so how dare you sit in this place and tell me that I do not—

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Members, I have just given a direction not to argue across the chamber. Member for Greenslopes, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Southern Downs, you are warned under the standing orders. I will not tolerate that behaviour again from either of you.

**Mr KELLY:** How dare the member for Southern Downs stand in this place and accuse me of not caring and not taking this issue seriously.

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, you are under a warning. You will leave the chamber for an hour. Member for Greenslopes, you have the call but I am listening closely.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Southern Downs withdrew from the chamber at 2.32 pm.*

**Mr KELLY:** How dare the member stand in this place and say those things when I have devoted my entire working career since the age of 18 to the area of health and community welfare in one way, shape, form or another. Tobacco and all of its products are an absolute scourge on our society. If I could get rid of them all right now or if I could have gotten rid of them 35 or 36 years ago when I started, I would have done that because we would have seen a lot fewer people impacted and a lot fewer people die. What we need in relation to this very serious public health matter is not people coming in here and playing ridiculous political games. This is a public health issue. One of the ways that we have been very successful in responding to tobacco and reducing its use from when I started my nursing career from about 80 per cent of people smoking down to what it was a few years ago—about 10 per cent—was by having sensible evidence-based policies that were broadly supported across the political spectrum, not by people coming in here and using a public health issue to attempt to gain political points against a rival. That is what we have seen here today from speaker after speaker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Greenslopes, I have given you a direction. Please stick to the report and move on. The other member has been ejected already.

**Mr KELLY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I am talking to the report.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Greenslopes, you are on a slippery slope if you are reflecting on the chair. I am trying to calm the chamber down, so please move on with your contribution.


**Mr POWER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In the free exercise of a debate, when a previous member has made an address, those points can be debated by other members.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Logan. I have taken that into account already and I have given the member a direction. As I said, I am trying to calm the chamber down. I am sure the member for Greenslopes understands where I am going with this, so, member for Greenslopes, you have the call.

**Mr KELLY:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, I will continue talking to the report. This is a public health issue and the committee has done an exceptionally good job of looking into this matter and I have to say that the report does represent what I think is a bipartisan way forward. The reality is that since this inquiry and since this report was initiated there have been multiple changes in this policy area at the state, federal, council and local government level. It is difficult to confine your comments within this because this is not a point in time issue and it will never be a point in time issue. We have to have a multi-government level response to this issue. I can tell the House that the community want this. The community absolutely support this. I have never engaged in an issue that has been so widely and broadly supported by people. People have responded to community surveys, they have contacted my office, they have raised concerns and they have raised issues, and I have listened to all of those issues.

The things contained in this report certainly are seeking and speaking to the things that those people are raising, because we know that, even if you do not have anything in a vape, sucking superheated moisturised air into your lungs hundreds and hundreds of times a day will damage your lungs. They are simply not designed for that. We know that you are not just sucking in superheated air with moisture in it; you are sucking in superheated air with moisture in it and chemicals. You are creating the perfect storm and the perfect environment for microbes and a whole range of other chemicals to get into your lungs and do significant damage. These are serious chemicals. It is extremely distressing, and the parents in my community are extremely distressed that there is such a broad range of young people who are engaging in this. I accept that older people are vaping, too.

As a society and at every level of government across the board we should be accepting that we have failed here. We have allowed people to hoodwink us into thinking that this would somehow help with smoking cessation. You tell me: when does someone sell a smoking cessation product that tastes like fairy floss with a clown picture on a fluoro coloured thing to a 10-year-old and seriously say that they are engaging in smoking cessation activities? That is a completely and utterly ridiculous notion. These are evil people behind this trade. They are out there trying to addict the next generation to whatever tobacco product they can get them to suck into their lungs and damage them. We need to work together, not fight with one another. If anybody doubts my credibility and sincerity on this issue, I am happy to have that conversation with them inside or outside this chamber. We need to end this.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.37 pm): I rise to address committee report No. 38 of the Health and Environment Committee, *Vaping: An inquiry into reducing rates of e-cigarette use in Queensland*. In March 2023 the Queensland Legislative Assembly agreed to a motion that the Health and Environment Committee inquire into and report on reducing rates of e-cigarette use in Queensland. I note that, through the course of its inquiry, the committee received 78 submissions from a diverse range of individual and organisational stakeholders spanning across the health, medical, education and retail sectors.

In confirming what had already been widely suspected and indeed known, the committee found from the data that was made available that e-cigarette use is increasing at an alarming rate and particularly amongst our young adults. As the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for education and as a specialist physician, I am deeply concerned that there has been an apparent increase in the uptake and ongoing use of e-cigarettes amongst specific cohorts, including school-aged children, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as well as those experiencing mental illness. As I said, as a specialist physician with a subspecialty in addiction medicine, we know that these vaping products contain nicotine, heavy metals, pesticides and carcinogenic chemicals and that there are significant harms with their consumption with respect to things such as heart disease, lung disease and other

forms of cancers. I think there is no clinical place for that. I know there is still research being undertaken with respect to the type and form of these products for a limited clinical place when it comes to recalcitrant smokers; however, I do not think the evidence is there whatsoever. We need to be doing a lot more when it comes to regulating and eliminating these products.


As with drugs and tobacco, vaping is a serious public health issue in our Queensland schools and warrants the full attention and action of the state Labor government. As the Liberal National Party has revealed, last year to the end of term 3 there were more than 43 student suspensions and exclusions each and every school day for incidents related to substance misuse, related paraphernalia and vaping products. Many parents and teachers have shared with the Liberal National Party their concerns that the state Labor government has been too slow to act on this vital public health issue and that significantly more resources and supports are required to eliminate vaping in our schools.

It is clear that previous measures which have been undertaken by the state Labor government to address vaping in schools have not as yet comprehensively addressed this issue and that more needs to be done. By way of example, whilst the Labor state government provided a funded commitment in August of last year for an anti-vaping program—and that was certainly welcome—this program was only for state high schools in Queensland. Disappointingly, this announcement failed to address the growing issue of vaping in Queensland primary schools.

As I highlighted at the time of Labor's announcement, since the state Labor government came to power, suspensions for primary school students for substance misconduct including vaping and drug use has exploded by 800 per cent. What is more, during the estimates committee hearing last year the Liberal National Party uncovered that the state Labor government does not comprehensively record specific instances of vaping and vape products in our schools. You cannot fix properly what you do not measure accurately. This includes the prevalence of vaping across both primary and state high schools in Queensland.

I acknowledge that of the 14 recommendations that the committee provided in its report, recommendations 5, 6 and 7 specifically pertain to the Department of Education. When it comes to the delivery of any additional resources and strategies, it is important that key delivery metrics are identified, implemented and made publicly available so as to ensure the overall success in reducing and eliminating vaping in our schools.

Finally, I refer to Mr Speaker's statement on 16 April concerning correspondence from the Leader of the House. This was the first time this matter had been drawn to my attention. In response to Mr Speaker's request, I correct the record and advise that I should have ensured the post referred to the fact that 18 of the 19 ministers did not make ministerial statements on the day in question. I have removed the social media post as requested.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.42 pm): I, too, rise to contribute to the examination of the parliamentary Health and Environment Committee's report titled *Vaping: An inquiry into reducing rates of e-cigarette use in Queensland*. I thank the committee for investigating this very important issue. On behalf of my community I was pleased to make a submission to that inquiry addressing the impact of vaping across my electorate. Like we have heard in this chamber today, it is prevalent across the state. It is increasing in a manner that none of us are satisfied or happy with. In fact, we would like to see it gone altogether.

My submission focused on the prevalence of e-cigarette use amongst children and young people, particularly in and around schools. The member for Macalister summed it up very well when she talked about the ability to purchase e-cigarettes and vapes right near school grounds. It is really quite disturbing. My submission focused on the risks of harmful chemicals contained in those e-cigarettes and the approaches being taken in our schools to discourage the uptake of vaping. We know and we have heard all the statistics in the chamber today about how harmful this is. We do not know what is in e-cigarettes. We know there is nicotine; that has certainly been proven.

I want to read a passage into the record, particularly for my constituents, from the submission of Chief Health Officer Dr John Gerrard. It is such a telling quote. He stated—


... this is the time to do something. In five or 10 years time—once it is well and truly established—it is too late. ... We cannot ban cigarettes now ... but we have the opportunity to take an aggressive control of this right now. This timing is perfect.

I really do want to associate my contribution with those comments because it is so imperative that we do put a stop to this horrific, addictive act by so many young kids. As the member for Warrego said, vapes can look like a fluoro or highlighter pen. It is really getting out of control. People are sitting in classrooms basically putting the vape in their mouth and hiding the smoke down their shirt.

In many regional towns many local agents have said to me that there are more vape shops popping up in the towns than any other commercial business. I know in Kingaroy in particular, with a population of just over 10,000 people, access to e-cigarettes is commonplace. Three specialist vape stores opened just last year alone. Those stores have an ATM machine at the door. They only accept cash and they willingly serve young people in school uniform. This is the practice that must stop. It simply must stop. We need to ensure there is someone going to these shops and actively shutting them down.

I also want to note the brazen use of vapes and e-cigarettes in the classrooms while the teachers are not looking. I want to put on record the toll that this is taking on the teachers and administrative staff in schools. It is creating an extra burden on those teachers and school staff because they are doing everything they can to restrict what is a banned activity. It is banned, but it is so easily accessible. They are really fighting an uphill battle. It is really sad that young people are either oblivious or unaware of the health impacts of vaping. I do welcome the Department of Education's advice to the committee that a revised alcohol and other drugs education program will be available early this year and that will cover specific vaping topics. Let's hope that hits the target where it needs to.

Finally, I refer to the Speaker's statement on 16 April concerning correspondence from the Leader of the House. This was the first time this matter had been brought to my attention. In response to Mr Speaker's request, I correct the record. I advise that I should have ensured my social media post referred to the fact that 18 of the 19 ministers did not make ministerial statements on the day in question. I have removed the social media post.


 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (2.47 pm): I, too, rise to speak to this committee report, which is very important to my local community and about which I have had quite a bit of communication with my local residents. Obviously the fact that these businesses are targeting young people and pushing these products onto young people is of deep concern for a lot of my constituents, especially parents in my local area. I thank the committee for all their work and the submitters who took the time to participate in these hearings.

When it comes down to it, we should look at a lot of these stores. One of the stores that is located very close to one of my local schools sells toys, drinks, candies and lip balms of all different flavours. People cannot say to me that these stores are not targeting young people. If these types of businesses are allowed to open up shop in close proximity to a school, they are targeting the young people who go to those schools and the families in those areas who pick up their kids from those schools.

Last year, I received a response to a letter I had written to the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women to highlight the concerns that some of my constituents have relayed to me. In the response to my letter the minister said that the opening of such a store would be managed by the landlord or local council. My issue is that we should be doing everything in our power to ensure that there are protection and exclusion areas around schools to prevent those types of businesses from operating there. When a business is selling lollies, sweet flavoured drinks of many varieties and toys, you cannot tell me that they are not targeting young people. This is causing issues in our schools and teachers and principals are finding it very frustrating to deal with. I say to those opposite: let's take this matter seriously by creating exclusion zones around schools to prevent kids from seeing such shops as they arrive at or leave school. The shops have bright neon flashing lights in the windows that attract young people.

We talk about the serious health repercussions that vapes have on our bodies so we need to be very diligent in ensuring that exposure to young people is minimised. This issue involves not just one school in my electorate; there are a couple of schools where such businesses are in very close proximity. When you walk out of the gate of one school, literally just to the right is a vape store. At another school, when you walk out from the bus stop straight across the road is a vape store that is clearly targeting young people. In this chamber, we have a real opportunity to make a difference and to stop those businesses from opening up in close proximity to schools.

We talk about the harmful chemicals in vapes and the lifelong repercussions they can have on young people and obviously others. Again, if shops selling bubblegum flavoured and raspberry flavoured vapes, targeting young people, are located in close proximity to a school then you are going to have a recipe for disaster. If we really want to get serious on this issue then we should have exclusion zones around our schools to make sure that kids are not influenced.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (2.52 pm): I rise to speak on the Health and Environment Committee's report No. 38 titled *Vaping: An inquiry into reducing rates of e-cigarette use in Queensland*. The committee conducted a broad review of the current situation regarding e-cigarettes, especially their

use by young people, and how vaping is managed in Queensland schools. It looked at how to increase awareness of its effects and improve education programs as well as the management of e-cigarette waste. The committee also investigated how the issue of vaping has been addressed in other states through inquiries, legislation, policies and preventive activities. The wide range of issues that vaping creates is demonstrated by the fact that the committee made 14 recommendations to deal with the issue.

I have had numerous conversations with constituents and read reports about under-age users, the use of vaping in our schools, the proliferation of vaping shops, online access and activities that go on outside and near the shops. There are also concerns about the black market in products and its potential to attract criminal activities. Recommendation 1 advises establishing a taskforce to end illegal retail and online supply, especially to those aged under 18.

Last year, a tobacco and vaping shop in Mary Street, Gympie, was firebombed. The *Gympie Times* reported that almost a dozen firefighting crews attended the fire, which rapidly spread to a nearby chiropractor's office and fast-food restaurant. The newspaper reported that police said it caused a series of explosions inside the building and cut power to the area. Residents heard the explosions up to one kilometre away. The tobacco shop and chiropractor's office were gutted. It was not an accident. The *Gympie Times* reported that Gympie CIB officer in charge Detective Sergeant Rob Lowry said the offenders went to the shop shortly after midnight 'armed with some jemmy bars and a jerry can full of fuel'.

This is not insignificant and represents an escalation in the type of criminal activity that is going on across Queensland in our crime crisis. This is not what anyone would want in our main street. It is not what you want in any shopping precinct. The Gympie Chamber of Commerce and the CBD Action Alliance have raised with me concerns about the type of activity that is going on, the adequacy of regulations and the improved monitoring of illegal activities. As the LNP statement of reservation notes—


Illegal & illicit e-cigarette sales in Queensland and Australia are out of control. Millions and millions of unchecked, unsafe and unregulated e-cigarettes are finding their way across our borders and into our homes and schools each and every month.

In 2022, 15.5 per cent of those aged 18 to 29 were regular or intermittent vapers. In 2017, 15.6 per cent of Queensland secondary school students aged 12 to 17 had tried vaping. Seven years later, anecdotal evidence suggests that it has not lost its attractiveness and that that figure would be much higher. Controlling vaping in schools, managing detentions and suspensions and other processes to deal with its rising popularity stretch staff resources and time and impact teaching outcomes. The committee heard that some schools are able to manage the problem effectively and others are struggling.

Committee recommendations 6 and 7 propose devising guidelines for schools, but it is not that simple. Managing vaping in schools is complex. A one-size-fits-all approach is not the best way to deal with this issue. In addition to guidelines and educational courses, the LNP statement of reservation said 'there is also a need to engage parents and the broader school community'. Some schools may need additional resources or specialist intervention and training.

Of course, a cornerstone of policy development and community responsibility is to protect our youth from potential harm. As the statement of reservation states—

It is not just about setting up barriers, but about instilling knowledge, values, and resilience in young people to ensure they make informed choices. With the increasing popularity of vaping, especially among younger demographics, it is paramount that our policies mirror this understanding.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.57 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the committee's report titled *Vaping: An inquiry into reducing rates of e-cigarette use in Queensland*. As many members across the chamber have said during this debate, vaping is a huge issue in our communities and it is a really big issue in our schools right now. I want to speak to recommendations 6 and 7 of the committee report, which talk about developing guidelines for Queensland schools in relation to interventions, and identifying and supporting students who are using vapes or have a nicotine dependency. I want to talk about that in particular to highlight one of my wonderful schools, Elanora State High School, and the work that it is doing in this area.

Elanora State High School is uniquely tackling the scourge of vaping in our community. For much of 2022, the staff at Elanora State High School adopted a zero tolerance approach to vaping. As a result of that zero tolerance approach, many students who were caught were suspended immediately. The policy resulted in around 52 students being suspended and a huge plumbing bill for the school because

students would flush their vapes down the toilets. Principal Rochelle Lewis said that, in 23 years as a principal, she had never before encountered such a problem. The continued rate of suspensions became unsustainable so she came up with an innovative way of dealing with the problem in her school.

Ms Lewis, parents and teachers came together and decided that those punitive measures were not sustainable. They decided that an educational approach was preferable. They came up with a process that involved the students. They came up with a 70-minute education session to educate students on how harmful vaping is. If students were caught vaping, they came up with a way to allow those students to complete that two-week program.


Recommendation 8 of the committee report talks about the Queensland government supporting the implementation of measures to stop the importation of non-prescription e-cigarettes. I note that many of the cigarettes that were found and tested at Elanora State High School actually did contain nicotine. The fact that we are talking about prescription and non-prescription in this space is a little irrelevant, because we know that many of these e-cigarettes that are imported and are claiming to be nicotine-free, that are claiming to be able to be sold legally, in fact contain nicotine and are extremely harmful. I have a number of wonderful initiatives that I want to talk about in relation to Elanora State High School, which I will continue with when the debate resumes.

Debate, on motion of Mrs Gerber, adjourned.

## ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF IPSWICH WEST

### First Speech

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the honourable member for Ipswich West, I remind members that this is the member's first speech in this place and should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions.

 **Mr ZANOW** (Ipswich West—LNP) (3.00 pm): I would like to welcome in the gallery the mayor of Ipswich, Teresa Harding, as well as federal member, Ross Vasta. Welcome along this afternoon. Reward for effort, making every dollar count and the importance of family—these are just some of the values that have led me to stand here today as the 11th member for the great community of Ipswich West, and what an honour it is. I would like to start by saying thank you to the good people of Ipswich West. Thank you for putting your faith and trust in me to be your voice in parliament. Thank you for backing a true Ipswich local to fight for a better future for our community. It is a privilege to be here in this chamber as your new local member. It is a responsibility I do not take lightly. Ipswich is my home. I was born and raised there and I want to see it thrive again, because for a time in the past our great community was shaping the economic future of this great state.

Ipswich is the birthplace of rail in Queensland. The first railway line built in our state was from Ipswich to Bigges Camp, now Grandchester, on the western border of the Ipswich West electorate. This was the first section of what would become the main line connecting Roma Street in Brisbane through to Ipswich and up the range to Toowoomba. Before this line was built it used to take around seven days to cart three tonnes of wool from Toowoomba to Ipswich, only then to be transferred to a paddle-steamer on the Bremer River and taken by boat to the Port of Brisbane. With rail this journey was cut down to five hours, connecting the agricultural wealth of the Darling Downs to the Port of Brisbane in a more effective and productive way. It was hard work for the people of Ipswich, but they made it possible. I find it quite ironic that a region that was so pivotal in the early success of our state has been not only left behind but also forgotten in recent times. So much so, Ipswich is truly Brisbane's poorer cousin. But I am here to change that.

I am not your typical politician and becoming a member of parliament was not something that I had ever dreamed of achieving. Before entering politics I was a farmer and a concrete and quarries businessman. After completing my schooling years at Rosewood State High School I attended the University of Queensland Gatton Campus, completing a Diploma of Horticulture. Throughout my high school and university years I helped run the family farm, as well as working part-time at Woolworths, Big W and the Sunday flea market at the Ipswich Showgrounds. It was also during this time that my dad, Viv, my brother, Brad, and I established our family business, Zanow Earthmovers, which later became Zanows' Concrete and Quarries. We started with dad's old Leyland truck and an old Michigan front-end loader digging sand and soil out of a creek on a leased property at Peak Crossing just outside of Ipswich. Interest rates were a crippling 17 per cent so to help grow the business and keep afloat Brad and I did not pay ourselves a wage for five years. Rather, we reinvested our money into the business. We shared our resources to survive.

During the 34 years of being the managing director of the Zanow businesses, we employed over 1,000 people, many of whom were Ipswich locals. We knew that by employing local people we were reinvesting in our community and helping us all grow. I have always been passionate about education, in particular educating our employees and helping them better themselves on all levels. As a member of the Institute of Quarrying Australia and the Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia I assisted in formulating the Diploma of Surface Operations Management course. This course provides the skills and knowledge to work in management roles within the resources sector such as quarrying or open-cut mining manager. It covers a broad range of skills, including managing and implementing work health and safety systems, environment, planning, leadership and coordination. I was one of the first to complete this diploma and I am very proud to say six of the Zanow staff have since graduated.

This story is not unique. Many Queensland family run and owned businesses have foregone paying themselves a wage to get ahead. It is the price you pay to survive. That is why when Queenslanders take a gamble on their business dream, make sacrifices and work hard to make a better life for them and their families, we should reward them, not punish them. It is these family businesses that lead to economic opportunities and prosperity that no government, from whatever level or side of politics, could ever achieve. From my own lived experiences I can stand here today and say I believe government should help, not hinder, small business.

I believe that reducing red tape and allowing businesses to be free to make their own decisions—to innovate, to invest and to employ—can only be good for the economy and good for our community. I believe that minimising taxes to help businesses grow means more people can be employed and families can put food on the table. I also believe smart investment from government into strategic infrastructure is the key to allowing a region to prosper. It is sad to see that has been neglected in Ipswich West. From projects like the Amberley interchange, which has been promised for over 27 years and has claimed way too many lives, through to the Mount Crosby interchange, which was campaigned as shovel ready in 2019 but has not even started, through to the Norman Street Bridge in the centre of our city and now the failed Bremer River Bridge, it is clear that successive governments have taken the people of Ipswich West for granted for far too long. Through talking to my constituents and listening to their concerns, I know they are fed up and tired of broken promises and inaction. I ran for Ipswich West because I could no longer sit by and see my community suffer.

I have a drive and determination to get things done. Maybe that is from my country upbringing where a man's word holds more value than a contract. I will strive to get things done. My track record on delivering for my community long before entering this House is testimony to this. It is just like my involvement with the Ipswich Show Society. I have been involved with the Ipswich Show Society since I was eight. I started off stewarding in the horse section. From there I became a member of the committee, fulfilling the roles of assistant treasurer, vice president and now president. These roles have been a huge honour and it gives me immense joy to see the show come to life each year for thousands of local families. In fact, Ipswich Show is now the fifth largest show of the 129 shows throughout Queensland. Everyone in Ipswich would have a story or two about the Ipswich Show and to know I have contributed to that in a small way drives me to do more. I had the opportunity to attend 33 agricultural shows right across Australia during the 2023 show season and I delivered two speeches to show delegates from across Australia and New Zealand at both the national conference in Adelaide and our Queensland think-tank event at the Showmen's Guild of Australasia offices at Yatala. I am passionate about the show movement and the immense contribution shows make to the agricultural, horticultural, industrial and cultural aspects of our communities.

One of the biggest moments to have influenced me, the direction of the show society and the people of Ipswich in modern times was the 2011 floods. I still remember the immense devastation and loss felt by so many during that terrible time. Caught by surprise and with nowhere to go, the Ipswich Showgrounds became the makeshift emergency evacuation centre for the 2011 floods for the whole district. For 10 days over 1,600 locals took refuge in the big sheds at the back of the showgrounds whilst their homes and livelihoods lay in ruin. When I first saw the sight of mums, dads, sons, daughters and grandparents so lost but so relieved that they were safely together, it started a fire in me to do more. Through my vice-presidency role at the show society, I set out to develop a master plan for the Ipswich Showgrounds. The centrepiece and priority of this plan was to provide a suitable facility to better cater for Ipswich locals should there be a repeat event of this magnitude. Working with our committee, I approached members of all levels of government and eventually secured \$8.9 million in funding for stage 1 of the Ipswich Showgrounds renewal program. I am proud to say that stage 1 was delivered in 2020. Since the horrible days of 2011, the Ipswich Showgrounds have been used six more times as the principal emergency evacuation and refuge centre for the entire Ipswich and West Moreton region.



My involvement in standing up for flood victims does not end there. The Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry was set up to investigate the circumstances of the deadly 2011 floods. Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, the inquiry came out in favour of the government and all of those in charge. It seemed no-one was to blame. However, I, along with a small group of members of the local community, knew this finding did not add up. The finding was false and it did not sit well with us. Through our determination and many long hours sifting through thousands of pages of documents, we found glaring inconsistencies that we used to push for a second inquiry. Through immense media pressure, the second flood commission of inquiry was established and I am glad to say that the findings of the second inquiry opposed the first and highlighted what we all knew: the 2011 floods were completely mismanaged.

The result of the second inquiry led to the payout of \$550 million to flood victims who were part of the class action against the government. This ensured thousands of Queensland families and victims received the compensation they rightly deserved. That has been one of my proudest achievements. It is with this drive and passion for my community that I will serve the people of Ipswich West and Queensland. I will always stand up and fight for what is right, no matter the odds stacked against me.

Running for parliament is no easy thing to do and we need an army behind us to make it happen. I want to acknowledge my opponent Wendy Bourne and previous member, Jim Madden, for their contribution to Ipswich West. I also want to pay tribute to the re-elected Ipswich City Council Mayor, Teresa Harding. I have spent many years working alongside the mayor through the Ipswich Show Society and various community groups and am excited to continue that good work now as the member for Ipswich West.

I want to thank the party and every member of the incredible state team whom I now sit beside in this chamber who helped during my campaign: the members for Bonney, Buderim, Burdekin, Burleigh, Burnett, Callide, Chatsworth, Clayfield, Condamine, Coomera, Currumbin, Everton, Glass House, Gregory, Lockyer, Maroochydore, Moggill, Mudgeeraba, Nanango, Ninderry, Oodgeroo, Southern Downs, Surfers Paradise, Theodore, Toowoomba North, Toowoomba South and Warrego. Thank you also to my federal colleagues—the member for Fadden and the member for Bonner, Senator Paul Scarr and Senator James McGrath. I also look forward to working with them to deliver for Ipswich West.

In particular, though, I want to thank the member for Scenic Rim for countless hours on the campaign trail sweating it out as well as the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the member for Broadwater and the member for Kawana. Your guidance, determination and leadership of our team makes me truly believe that our team can lead this state into the future. I am confident to say that there is a better way for Queenslanders.

I want to say thank you to the people who believed in me. Thank you to my campaign team, my A-team: Louise, Keiran and Georgia. I would have been lost without you. Thank you for all the hours and sleepless nights you put into getting me over the line. Thank you also to my incredible volunteers who helped during this whirlwind campaign, especially on election day. I want to particularly mention Paul, Rob, Karl, Andrew, Sandy, Kelly, Gloria and Ray, and sincere apologies if I have missed anyone. Finally, and most importantly, to my family: to my mum Kay, to Kacie and to my daughter, Lola, a very special thank you. I know, Lola, one day you will take on the world. To my brother, Brad, you are my rock and my bestie and I appreciate your support.

The 2024 Ipswich West by-election will always be an important day in my life. My family and Ipswich have made me who I am today. I am a determined and resilient person who knows the meaning of hard work and I will always go in to fight for you. I was born here and my family built a successful business here. Ipswich West will not be left behind any longer because I am here to ensure that we get our fair share. I am proud to be a part of the LNP team led by the member for Broadwater, who will hold this government to account and who has the right priorities for Ipswich West and Queensland's future.


Whether you are a farmer in Calvert worried about fire ant management so you can sell your hay, or a family in North Ipswich who are sick of the youth crime crisis and just want to feel safe in their homes, or whether you live in Karalee, Barellan Point or Chuwar and want to see the Mount Crosby interchange delivered, your priorities are my priorities and every single day I will work hard for you. Thank you.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Ipswich West.

**ENERGY (RENEWABLE TRANSFORMATION AND JOBS) BILL****CLEAN ECONOMY JOBS BILL****Second Reading (Cognate Debate)**

Resumed from p. 1068, on motion of Mr de Brenni—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (3.17 pm): I congratulate the member for Ipswich West on a fabulous first speech. Congratulations to the member for Ipswich West.

I rise to speak to the cognate debate but will speak specifically to the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023. My colleague the member for Bonney has contributed to the other bill, but I put on record that it is quite disappointing that these two distinctly different bills are being debated in a cognate debate. I am also extremely disappointed in the fact that this whole debate time has been truncated for such an important area, that is, the future of energy supply in this great state.

I firstly want to thank the members of the former Transport and Resources Committee, which had the majority of carriage for the review of the bill I am speaking to. In doing so, I specifically want to acknowledge the member for Condamine as acting deputy chair, the member for Gregory, the member for Callide and the member for Toowoomba North who are now part of the newly formed committee which tabled the final report. I also put on record and acknowledge the work of my predecessor, the former shadow minister and member for Condamine, who has listened and consulted with community and industry on this bill for some time, and continues to do so. I thank the member for Condamine very much for his stellar work in this regard.

Queenslanders want a government with aspiration, but they also want a steady hand to guide the state through a transition that ensures affordable, reliable and sustainable energy. In contrast, Labor has chosen to legislate for political reasons, and that decision embeds far higher risks for higher energy bills because it is founded on one major project, the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro Project, which even the Labor Party is starting to move away from. Today we are voting on Labor's plan, if you can call it that, centred on the multibillion dollar Pioneer-Burdekin project which, like I say, even Labor appears to be walking away from.

The risk that Labor's plan poses to the energy bills of Queenslanders is far too great, and in Queensland's cost-of-living crisis Queenslanders should not have to take that risk. They cannot afford to take that risk, especially at the hands of a government that has proven time and time again they cannot deliver on a single promised project on time or on budget. We should be guided by our aspiration to deliver affordable, reliable and sustainable energy: affordable—ensuring we keep Queenslanders' energy bills down; sustainable—ensuring we can transition with a steady hand through the long term; and reliable—long-term reliability in our mix to prevent brownouts and keep the lights on. These are the priorities that should drive us towards our aspirational targets, always listening to Queenslanders along the way. The legislation shackles Queenslanders to higher bills and unreliable supply, handcuffing the state to the decision instead of allowing us to be guided by aspects that actually impact Queenslanders. Labor instead wants to drag Queenslanders down the road when it cannot provide a tangible plan to get there. Legislation forces Queensland down this river without building a boat first.

To make it really clear, the LNP does support renewable energy. Queensland is the Sunshine State, but we are also lucky to have windy ranges and many of the local critical minerals and rare earths that the future economy will need. The state of Queensland can continue to be a player in the domestic and global markets for generations to come. We can create well-paying regional jobs, take advantage of the green minerals mining boom, develop and manufacture new technologies right here and power local businesses with clean energy. The LNP supports the targets, but we cannot support to legislate them when there is no credible pathway to achieve them. In fact, this bill is predicated on that one major project. We want to see more investment in renewable energy and new opportunities to manufacture energy technology such as batteries and electrolyzers in our state. That is without question.

We also want to see Queenslanders continue to benefit from rooftop solar on their own homes, giving them energy independence whilst driving down their bills. That is why the LNP announced our 'supercharged solar for renters' plan to make sure Queensland can continue to lead the nation in rooftop solar. For renewable energy to have the brightest future in Queensland, it needs to be done the right way, and rural and regional Queenslanders must benefit and be treated with the respect they deserve.

We do not want to miss the once-in-a-generation chance to create new careers and keep our brightest kids in the bush. We do not want those energy careers going across the border or to another country. The bill as written will not, in our view, see state and local communities make the most of the state's energy opportunities. I will be moving amendments, which I think have been circulated, that seek to address those concerns. In doing so, I call on the government to join with me in supporting these amendments in the best interests of Queenslanders and our renewable energy industry.

As this chamber has heard me say on many occasions, the LNP's vision for energy supply is affordable, reliable and sustainable. Like I have always said, the LNP supports a balance in the mix of generation sources. Secure base load supply continues to be critical to the reliability of our network. This chamber has heard me say on countless occasions how critical it is to get Callide C back up and going. We again ask for the independent Brady report to be released so Queenslanders know what went wrong at Callide—a failure which has driven up the cost of electricity for Queenslanders, as evidenced by the Auditor-General's—

**Government members:** It's not true.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will take those interjections. I would ask those members not to mislead their constituents, who have ridiculously high power bills. The Auditor-General and the Queensland Competition Authority debunked the myths those over there are trying to peddle. This is critical in providing reliability to the network and underpinning a shift to those renewable sources. When it comes to affordability, it is no secret that Labor's cost-of-living crisis is having a real impact on people's lives. Every day I speak to families that are struggling to pay their power bills. We know from the latest CPI data that Queensland electricity bills increased by 19.9 per cent—the worst increase in the nation, triple the national average.

Given those severe cost-of-living pressures, the LNP is seriously concerned that the purpose of this bill does not include affordability. As I said, that is why I moved amendments to rectify that. It is a glaring omission by an out-of-touch Premier at a time when Queenslanders need cost-of-living relief more than most. By omitting to include affordability in the bill, the Premier has shown how deaf he is to the needs of everyday Queenslanders. The bill neglects to consider the extraordinary costs of the infrastructure proposed and its impact on taxpayers.

We do not support the 10-year Labor government's addiction to cost blowouts that will add to our ballooning power bills. When you look at the costs for Borumba, they have blown out from \$6 billion to an eye-watering \$14.2 billion, and that is what we know about. History shows that major infrastructure projects are almost always over time and over budget under Labor. I am also concerned when I read reports about significant environmental hurdles, not just at Borumba but also at Pioneer-Burdekin. Those significant environmental approvals need to be overcome. The Pioneer-Burdekin, the great hydro hoax, is still a complete unknown. It was first announced as \$12 billion, but we know from reports that that is more than likely to double. In the chamber today we heard the difference between the Treasurer and the Premier. They have no clue when it comes to the cost. The Premier thinks the cost is \$18 billion. The Treasurer says it is \$12 billion. The locals are asking how much this project will cost, and the government refuses to answer. What is the real cost of this project? The people of Queensland, who are paying their electricity bills, deserve to know the cost.

There are so many sensitive environmental issues that whistleblowers tell me an EIS may not even proceed. As recently as last week the Premier could still not answer the most basic questions. Who is paying for this? Is it taxpayers? How much will the project cost? Tell us today what other infrastructure and services you are going to cut to pay for it. Say goodbye to new hospitals, schools and infrastructure projects, if that is the case. The only way GOCs are going to be able to pay back the massive piles of debt they will be forced to take on is by charging their customers, Queensland families, more. During this cost-of-living crisis we really think the government should be focusing on people's bills and how much it is going to cost.

We have seen an admission of the adverse impacts the Premier's hydro hoax has had on the mental health of people in the Pioneer Valley community. With this bill, today the Premier is asking Queenslanders to just trust him and sign two blank cheques: one for Borumba and one for Pioneer. This cannot be overstated. We know the Premier is completely reckless with the taxes paid by voters. The Premier has proven to himself, to this parliament and to Queenslanders that he cannot be trusted when it comes to the electricity bills of Queenslanders.

We need to consider transmission costs as well. The Queensland Electricity Users Network was very clear in saying the bill will not provide affordable electricity bills. When a commodity is in short supply, the price goes up. The AER report last month said that poles and wires costs are a large component of retail prices, comprising around 40 per cent of the price.

The bill also allows Powerlink—through part 5, division 2, proposed clause 24(3)—to build transmission infrastructure at any cost, even if there is no economic benefit. This completely removes the protection provided to consumers by the National Electricity Objective and the National Electricity Rules. Concerningly, proposed clause 72 of the bill states that the minister may declare that costs from the establishment, operation and assessment of a REZ can be recovered through the transmission network charges directly to the consumer. This government has not considered the impact of this plan on household electricity and is obviously out of touch, and I will go to the minister's amendments in a moment.

We do support the amendments in relation to social licence. This is something that we in the LNP have been screaming out for for a long time. It is too late. It should have happened already. We need to see the detail, and the devil is always in the detail, but it is important that this looks after the people of rural and regional Queensland. We know the government have been completely asleep at the wheel when it comes to managing the tranche of issues and opportunities. Who can forget the former premier standing at the LGAQ conference over nine months ago announcing the policy and then forgetting to ever legislate it? We still do not have that legislated. The poor GasFields Commission are screaming for some assistance because what is going on out there in the regions is really impactful. Impacts such as construction, road and infrastructure usage, property resumptions and the effects on local amenities like noise, water, competing land uses and, in some cases, property values and other social impacts are very real. This is something that mayors, councillors and community members constantly raise with me. Unlike the Premier, unlike the energy minister and unlike the member for Cairns, who are all city-based MPs, my own electorate of Nanango sits smack bang in the middle of the Labor government's southern Queensland renewable energy zone.

**Mr Healy** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My electorate, like others, have been living with these pressures and issues for some time now. I have spent countless hours listening to my constituents who have been affected. There are renewable energy proponents who are out there doing the right thing, and I commend them for it. There are those who create local benefits and those who have established neighbourhood benefit funds. I would like to see proponents go further such as improving local internet or creating legacy through scholarships, contributing to local health services or even offering cheap electricity to locals or having supply agreements with businesses in town. Then there is road infrastructure. How about they start contributing to serious road infrastructure after the impacts of construction? It is not hard to get your head around that concept.

If there is wind and solar near you, then you should benefit from that cheaper power. For example, in the UK, Octopus retail customers get 100 per cent renewable electricity at the same price as any other Octopus customer but with a twist—any electricity you use while your local turbine is spinning means an automatic benefit of a 20 per cent discount. If the energy is really flowing, you get a 50 per cent discount. These are the sorts of opportunities that Queenslanders obviously deserve. However, at the moment, we are experiencing amongst the highest prices across the country.

**Mr Healy** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** As I said, the social licence is extremely important, but the reality is that there are some proponents making a complete mockery of our rural and regional communities and taking advantage of the fact that there is no clear framework out there, and that needs to stop. The people of regional Queensland supply the city with the food, water, fibre and minerals required to sustain life, yet they feel disrespected and ignored by this government. As legislators, we can both drive investment and create new careers for regional Queensland and protect the livability and amenity of our rural and regional Queensland communities that are host to the renewable energy infrastructure.

**Mr Healy** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Cairns is consistently interrupting. Would you mind—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): Thank you. I remind all members that the noise is getting a little bit loud in the chamber. If we could just keep it down, it would be appreciated.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I am not taking his interjections. They are trivial.

**Mr Healy** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I understand the member just said some unparliamentary language and I ask him to withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I did not hear the language, but if a member did make unparliamentary comments I would encourage them to stand and withdraw that; otherwise, member for Nanango, you have the call.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Without reflecting on your ruling, the convention in this House is that, when a member takes personal offence and asks the member to withdraw, the member withdraws.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I believe that your point of order went to unparliamentary language, which I did not hear. I have asked the members, if there was a comment that was made, to withdraw. If no member is standing to that, I would suggest, member, that you write to the Speaker and he can review the footage.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker; I shall be doing that. As legislators, we can both drive investment—

**Mr Brown** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Capalaba! Member for Nanango, you have the call.

**Mr HART:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Capalaba just interjected while on his feet leaving the chamber, and you called him and he did not come back. There needs to be some action taken about that.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I did not call him back in. I will give the call back to the member for Nanango. I will get some advice and if a correction is required I will certainly do that.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** The reality is that the legislated targets do not necessarily guarantee success given that this government consistently sets targets that it fails to meet. One target that comes to mind is the container deposit scheme where Queensland legislated a recycling target of at least 85 per cent of bottles and cans by 2021-22 but just over 60 per cent was achieved by that date. Who could forget that it was this government that has missed seven of its own deadlines in getting Callide C back up and running following the explosion that occurred well over 1,000 days ago? This government promised that the GasFields Commission would be expanded to include the social licence. It has missed that.

The LNP believes in openness and transparency and the Labor government's 10-year plan to review these targets twice a decade defies the openness and transparency that Queenslanders expect, so our amendments will seek to change that to see the targets reviewed every two years. Transparency and accountability and more frequent measuring of progress is essential if the government is serious about meeting those targets.

I want to talk about the public ownership of our energy assets. The requirement of the government to have 54 per cent ownership of generation assets is a limitation on private investment. Let me be really clear: the LNP supports all state owned electricity assets remaining in our public hands. Unlike the former Labor government, we will not be selling off our assets. However, if the private sector wants to invest in Queensland's energy future, we should be supporting it, not saying that you cannot invest because of an arbitrary number within the legislation. All around the world we are seeing that private investors are keen to spend money driving the development of renewable energy and we should not be stopping the private sector from doing the same here.

Under this legislation, the government could sell 46 per cent of the current 100 per cent state owned generators. That is an issue. That is what the LNP are against because we want to keep them in our own hands. This bill fails to provide guidance on the amount of funding required for this co-investment over the years or the impact on consumer power bills. It is also unclear what would happen if the government refused to continue investment. Would it mean that a new generator could not be approved if it breached the 54 per cent cap? This again emphasises that the government has not properly thought out the details of this proposal.

The bill creates a framework for the ongoing support of workers in coal- and gas-fired power stations. We support that. However, importantly, this guarantee and fund do support the communities that have an economic reliance on these facilities. Communities which have their own local butcher, grocer, RSL club or mechanic, just to name a few, would suffer if more high-paid local jobs were not brought into their town.

The government's plan also fails to support workers in Queensland's coalmines who supply thermal coal for domestic energy production, like the workers at Meandu Mine in my own electorate of Nanango. It is important to note the Australian Institute for Progress's submission, which rightfully points out that the bill's title itself when it refers to 'jobs' is a misdemeanour. These are important considerations which deserve proper consideration.

No energy shift can occur without the support of rural and regional communities—something I have touched on before when I have talked about social licence challenges. Making sure projects directly benefit rural and regional communities is the only way that these energy proponents can properly thrive in Queensland. Yes, there are the Queensland solar farm guidelines, but they are not worth the paper they are written on. They are not mandatory; they are just a guide to the minimum work that must be done. Communities are sick and tired of being treated like they do not matter. I note the government is now reviewing the wind farm code and I implore the government to have more consideration for direct community benefit and social licence—and I note the minister has moved an amendment today—and I mean consideration of legitimacy, credibility and trust. Queenslanders deserve to be respected, and we must be heard because the rural and regional concerns that are coming out are legitimate. Much more must be done within these renewable energy projects to earn their own social licence.

We are an opposition that not only raises concerns where required but offers solutions. In that spirit, today I circulate amendments in my name with solutions to the issues I have spoken about. I wanted to speak to them in greater depth during consideration in detail, but we know that the debate is being truncated. These amendments include the public ownership report and a requirement that the minister is to be transparent with the impact of public ownership on the electricity bills of consumers and the reliability of the network. As I said earlier, affordability should be front and centre, as should reliability. There is an amendment to the public ownership of energy assets to support continued public ownership of the existing assets but not an arbitrary limit on public or private ownership of new renewable energy developments.

The LNP wants to keep Queensland's electricity assets in our public hands. The Premier did his apprenticeship in the Bligh government, and that was the government that sold all of the assets in Queensland. It was a Labor government that actually sold those assets and they got punished for that. Under this Labor legislation, the Labor government could sell 46 per cent of currently 100 per cent state owned generators. They have done it before and, watch them, they will want to do it again.

Our amendment will stop Labor ever doing this. They sold off the motorways, the ports, forestry and the Cairns Airport. By contrast, the amendment will not put a limit on government investment in renewable generators. We want to widen the job security guarantee and fund to include eligibility for those who work in secondary industries in rural and regional areas, to look after those people as our energy source shifts. We want to provide better transparency around the targets and in the public ownership strategy. We want to see the government publish alternative scenarios to meet those targets if the proposed pumped hydro projects do not proceed.

We have been asking for this for some time, yet the government refuses to provide it. In order for us to support the legislation in good faith, transparency in this regard must be essential. What is their plan B? In the event a minister directs Powerlink to submit in relation to candidate priority transmission investment, the minister must include the impact on energy affordability and sustainability for consumers. We want to see these decisions published publicly on the departmental website. When it comes to a declaration of a renewable energy zone, the minister must outline how it will impact existing land uses with mandatory public consultation. I note the minister's amendment hopefully goes to that. These are all commonsense amendments and I call on the government to join with me today in the best interests of Queensland and our renewable industry and support them today.

I note that the committee has not been given the opportunity to review the government amendments that were put forward. These are serious amendments that were put forward by the minister today. Yes, we agree to the social licence—we have talked about that—but let us look at those amendments that the minister has just circulated.

**Ms Pease** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I am happy to take that interjection if it had something to do with the fact that we were given them this morning. Thanks for the long consultation for the community! That is wonderful, thank you! I cannot wait for the contribution from that member. I am not sure she would understand what a renewable project looked like if she fell over one.

**Ms PEASE:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at those statements made by the member for Nanango and I ask her to withdraw.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I withdraw. In between Kingaroy and Jandowae, there are four wind farm projects in my electorate. Right near the township of Kingaroy and the township of Woolooga, there are massive solar farms. These have impacts on my community. We have got the massive transmission lines for Borumba pumped hydro. These are impacts that are real and they do affect the community.

With the greatest respect to more city-minded members, they do not understand those impacts because it is not in their backyard. After years and years of talking about renewable energy projects, why hasn't the social licence been brought in before today, Minister? That is the question.


When we look at the amendments the minister just circulated, let me simplify it. They are taking the distribution network out of the Australian Energy Regulator's purview. They do not want to play by the national rules. The committee should have been given the opportunity to consider this massive change to the way Queensland's energy sector works.

I will ask my questions to the minister now in case we do not get time later. Does this mean that Powerlink can spend money without the approval of the Australian Energy Regulator? What does that do to the regulated asset base calculations, the amount it can recover from retailers, and what does that do to the energy bills of Queenslanders? We asked the government to release the modelling on the deep storage projects. Obviously the government is trying to hide the real impact and price through this amendment. They would only put this amendment in because they know that it will increase what energy consumers are going to pay. Their energy bills will go up. If that was not the case, why do we need this amendment that basically removes us out of the national energy rules? Those are questions to very important parts of the amendments that the minister has circulated. We would like to see that.

Again, I say that we support any avenue towards decent social licence and acting in community, but the devil is in the detail. We would like to be consulted in relation to how that goes. I would like to see that the GasFields Commission, or whatever it is called, gets expanded immediately so they have the resources to be able to deal with the incoming correspondence they are already getting from the impacted landholders from the transition in our energy markets. These are simple requests.

How much are these projects going to cost? What is the government's plan B? What is the government going to do when the federal environment minister kiboshes these projects? What is the government going to do when it cannot get an EIS because of the environmental impacts and social impacts of these projects? We ask the government: what is plan B? How much will these projects cost? The Premier is now fighting with the Treasurer. Goodness knows what the energy minister thinks these projects cost because the Premier thinks it is \$18 billion and the Treasurer thinks it is \$12 billion. We know that the Treasurer has no regard for Queensland taxpayers' money. We have just seen the debt bomb grow out even bigger today but he says, 'That's okay. Debt's a tool.' Right now, today, energy users in Queensland are going to be paying more for their electricity because this government is kneecapping all Queenslanders because of this recklessness.

What will Pioneer-Burdekin cost? Can the government be honest with Queenslanders? What is the plan B? What will these projects cost? It is a simple question. What will the impact be on Queenslanders' cost of living? We are in a crisis, and the only way to fix it is to show Labor the door in 2024.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (3.49 pm): I am really proud to rise today to speak in favour of these significant bills—the Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024 and the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023. The Clean Economy Jobs Bill will support jobs and it will secure Queensland's economic future by enshrining the state's emissions reduction commitments into law and setting out a clear and structured approach to achieving targets. We know that those opposite care little for supporting Queensland jobs, regardless of the lip-service we have just heard. Those opposite have form. They will cut tens of thousands of jobs. They will gut Queensland, just like they did last time. I am yet to hear a statement to the contrary from the Leader of the Opposition or even an apology for the past.

I am intrigued by today's contribution by the member for Nanango. They must have some new speech writers who perhaps they should make use of to produce some actual pieces of a private members' bill instead of quickly cobbling together some amendments and standing up with a speech. The member for Nanango has said that they are an opposition of solution. What are their solutions? They carry around a little blue and yellow pamphlet. Dare I mention the fake Bradfield Scheme—how successful was that?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to relevance and ask that the member be directed back to the bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): As I have heard it, the member has just commenced and she is responding to comments which have been made already in the debate. I will listen, however, and remind the member to come back.

**Ms PEASE:** Thank you for your protection, Madam Deputy Speaker. I look forward to hearing some more about their far-right policy document that they have put out and what their policies actually are. What are they going to do? They might be an opposition of solutions, but I am yet to hear any in-depth information about what those solutions or areas might be. What we do hear each and every day, which my community hears, is whingeing and whining and more whingeing and whining.

Those opposite do not care for emissions reductions. At their core, they are nonbelievers. They do not trust climate science and they do not believe the facts. It is why Queenslanders do not trust them when it comes to reducing emissions. They can only provide lip-service.


This important bill will require new targets for 2040 and 2045 to be set at least 10 years in advance; an annual statement to the Queensland parliament on progress towards the targets; the preparation of emissions reduction plans for key sectors; and the establishment of an external panel to provide advice to government on progress towards the targets and to identify abatement opportunities in a way that supports jobs and growth.

I am incredibly proud that Premier Miles recently announced a new interim target of 75 per cent emissions reduction by 2035. This new target builds on Queensland's existing targets to reduce Queensland's greenhouse gas emissions by 30 per cent on the 2005 levels by 2030 and to achieve net zero by 2050.

Let us take a look at the basic facts. The facts are laid bare in the data. Recently released emissions data from the Commonwealth government shows Queensland has already exceeded that 2030 target nearly eight years early, demonstrating that targets drive action. It shows the clear commitment and strong record of follow-through by the Queensland government which is why the minister circulated amendments this morning which call for a review of the 2030 targets. Setting emissions reduction targets in legislation provides certainty on Queensland's emissions reduction pathway, supporting investment by government and industry and providing jobs to support Queensland's communities. Legislated emissions targets offer a clear direction to industry and business, allowing them to align their strategies accordingly, and has been called for by those very industries.

Of course, the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023 is the next key step in delivering Queensland's Energy and Jobs Plan. Queensland's unique natural advantages and public ownership of energy assets provide a strong foundation to build the Queensland SuperGrid outlined in the infrastructure blueprint. That blueprint outlines our pathway to effectively coordinate and sequence the energy transformation and deliver competitively priced, low-emissions electricity which will help facilitate economic growth across Queensland's regions. That is great news for Queensland's job creation, good news for industry and good news for Queensland workers and families.

The targets we set are a clear sign to markets and investors across the world that Queensland is a climate change powerhouse and a preferred location for clean energy investment. By setting clear goals for emissions reduction, the legislation will stimulate innovation in technologies and practices as industries seek new ways to reduce their carbon footprint and improve their productivity whilst also answering the call of their consumers who are doing their bit for the climate. I support these bills and I commend them to the House.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (3.55 pm): I rise to speak to the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023 and the Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024 in a cognate debate as a member of the Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee. Let me start with the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023.

In September 2022, the energy minister released the then Palaszczuk government's Energy and Jobs Plan. This bill proposes to legislate the key components of that plan into law, including renewable energy targets of 50 per cent by 2030, 70 per cent by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035. The bill also includes 54 per cent public ownership of energy assets, renewable energy zones, a Jobs Security Guarantee Fund, a Queensland Energy System Advisory Board, an Energy Industry Council and a Queensland Renewable Energy Jobs Advocate, amongst others. I will attempt to speak to as many of these as time allows, but I will not be able to speak to them all.

I will begin with the renewable targets. While a number of submitters noted their support for the renewable energy targets, others called for more ambitious renewable energy targets, including seeking a target of 100 per cent renewable energy generation by 2030. In contrast, Master Electricians Australia submitted that the targets are overly optimistic and potentially unachievable due to capacity constraints in the labour market and issues around grid stability and the reliance on the delivery of pumped hydro energy storage assets. This is a very valid point and reflects the contrast between reality and ideology.



The worker shortage is affecting every business in this state and indeed the nation—not just a worker shortage but a skills shortage that will be needed to deliver the energy transition. It was quoted during the committee hearings that we need an extra 35,000 electricians across the NEM to deliver on these targets. That is just one example and one area of a trade shortage. All tradies are in short supply.

Where are these workers going to come from? Are they going to be flown in from overseas? This was a concern that was raised by the MEU during the committee hearing in Brisbane by Shane Bruncker when he stated—

At the Coopers Gap Wind Farm at Kingaroy they were all fly-in fly-out workers from New Zealand. I am unsure where the labour will come from to be able to do this construction work. It is going to be fly-in fly-out, unfortunately, or DIDO.

The minister needs to explain to the Queensland public where these workers are going to come from. He cannot continue to fob this off. They have a right to know. If this was the only major project happening in this state perhaps there may be some slim chance that these targets may be met, but it is not. There are a number of new hospitals that have been announced to be built in that same time period, as well as new schools to keep up with the increase in population. There are a number of major road upgrades to the M1, the Bruce Highway, the Warrego, the Gore and the Flinders, to name just a few, that cannot be delayed any longer.

We are the host state for the 2032 Olympic Games and, due to the incompetence of this Steven Miles government, we are already way behind where we should be at this point in time. This is going to be another burden on an already strained workforce, racing to meet a target. We are suffering from a housing crisis in this state as a result of the failures of this government. We need builders and civil contractors building new houses to house those who cannot find a home here already.

Where are all these workers who will be needed to build all these renewable projects live? Are we going to put them in tents? This is an issue that the regional mayors are concerned about and believe has been largely overlooked. These projects will create a lot of jobs in the construction stage but not many in the running and maintenance stages. Those of us who were close to the early stages of the CSG industry remember the chaos that our regional towns endured in that building stage. These mistakes cannot be allowed to be repeated. These construction sites will necessitate the need for work camps to accommodate the temporary workforce to avoid unnecessary building in regional towns with houses left empty after the workforce moves on. The establishment of these work camps will present challenges for council with changes to land use, access, traffic and all the public services that will be needed.

Adding to the challenge of meeting the targets is the reliance on two large hydro projects to underpin the necessary storage. Part 3 of the bill outlines the public ownership strategy and the public ownership report that the minister must prepare for each reporting period. The public ownership strategy sets the public ownership targets to be achieved by 2035, which are: equal to or more than 54 per cent ownership of generation assets; 100 per cent ownership of transmission and distribution assets; and 100 per cent ownership of deep storage assets. Deep storage assets are defined to mean pumped hydro energy storage assets that can generate at least 1,500 megawatts of electricity for 24 hours and that are prescribed by regulation.

This entire plan is reliant on two large-scale hydro generation projects that fit into that category. The proposed two gigawatt Borumba Pumped Hydro Project is estimated to cost \$14 billion and the proposed five gigawatt Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro Project is estimated to cost \$12 billion. These cost estimates can be taken with a grain of salt. I am informed by those in the construction industry that Pioneer-Burdekin will not come in under \$20 billion. Neither of these projects have a business case or any environmental or planning approvals in place. The detailed analytical study for Borumba was due to be released by the end of 2023. We are still waiting to see this report.

Every project that this government touches is plagued with cost blowouts and delays and these hydro projects will suffer a similar fate. Under this government, we regularly see projects blow out to double the quoted cost. I well remember the conflict between landowners and resource companies in the early days of CSG. We are seeing a repeat of the same conflict, particularly those in the path of powerlines. This will be very challenging for local government, particularly those in REZ areas. Local government, AgForce, QFF and Canegrowers—among others—stress the need for early engagement with the affected stakeholders.

Renewable energy will play a huge role in our future energy mix. The LNP acknowledge that and are not opposed to renewable energy, but it needs to be done in a considered and affordable manner. Both sides of the House agree that crime needs to be reduced in this state but we do not agree with

the government's policy to achieve this because they are failing. It is the same with health, the housing crisis and the cost of living, among others. This is the same with the rollout of renewable energy. We support renewable energy but we do not trust this government to deliver these projects on time—

**Ms RICHARDS:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance to the two bills before the House. I am not sure how talking about crime and health has any relevance to the energy bills.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): Member for Condamine, I will ask you to remain focused on the bills.


**Mr WEIR:** This government is known for causing chaos and crisis. This is not something we can afford with our energy network. This government have a long history of failure to deliver. They are big on announcements and spin but lacking in substance and delivery. The whole Energy and Jobs Plan is about winning the election in October. This government will do and say anything to achieve this goal, including misleading Queenslanders. There is no greater example of this than what is happening in this chamber today.

This is arguably the most significant bill that has come into this parliament this term, yet this debate will be guillotined and there will be no debate on the clauses because this government knows this bill will not stand up to scrutiny. To confuse matters further, this bill has been made cognate with the Clean Economy Jobs Bill which sets emission reduction targets that are largely reliant on technologies that do not yet exist. This bill is basically in line with federal commitments that are aspirational and not binding. They will not be opposed by the LNP, as stated by the member for Bonney earlier. Both of these bills should have been debated as standalone bills and subject to the full scrutiny of the House. This government does not want this to happen as they know that this legislation will not stand up to that scrutiny.

If the transition to renewables is not done in a coordinated way, we will have network failures which will see increased power prices for households and business closures. This transition will not be delivered by media spin, glossy brochures and social media posts about projects and technologies that do not yet exist. I am quite stunned by the amendment that the minister has circulated because in the bill it says at clause 84—

It is also the intention of Parliament that the national electricity laws continue to apply in relation to the REZ transmission network or REZ controlled assets for a REZ to the extent the national electricity laws are not inconsistent with this part.

If that is the case, why do we have an amendment? This amendment worries me because I think it is a significant amendment. This should have gone before a committee. He should put this to the committee. We should be able to review this. It is a disgrace that it will be moved and we will not be able to debate it during consideration in detail. That tells you that there is something seriously wrong with this clause. We support renewable energy, but we do not trust this government to deliver it in any capacity.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mundingburra—ALP) (4.05 pm): I rise to speak to the Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024. It is an exceptionally important bill. The bill proposes the creation of a new act called the Clean Economy Jobs Act 2024 which will: legislate Queensland's greenhouse gas emission reduction targets of 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030, which has already been achieved—an amendment has now been circulated in the House to address this—75 per cent below the 2005 levels by 2035 and net zero emissions by 2050; provide a framework for setting interim emissions reduction targets for 2040 and 2045; require the development of emission reduction plans for key sectors; establish an expert panel to provide advice on progress towards emission reduction targets and cost-effective ways to reduce emissions that best support jobs and growth; and require an annual statement to parliament on progress towards the targets. The bill will provide certainty on the Queensland government's ambition for action on climate change which will support jobs in existing industries while supporting investment and growth in new industries and meet international standards and expectations when doing trade around the world.

Many organisations around the world use ESG—environmental, social and governance—as an indicator of organisational performance to measure their own progress towards meeting corporate social responsibility goals. This bill also assists in meeting these ESG standards, which will help with doing business on the world stage. It will send a clear message to the world that we as a state are serious about meeting global standards and expectations.

As a former Townsville city councillor in a city with one of the highest ultraviolet readings in Australia, I advocated for Townsville to bid to be an Australian Solar City and I achieved this title for our city with the assistance of a dynamic team from the Townsville City Council. We were the first Solar City winning bid on 26 September 2006. We were one of the first to start reducing carbon emissions, and Townsville should be very proud of that. The Solar Cities program was a \$94 million Australian government funded initiative bringing together industry, business, governments and communities to rethink the way they produce, use and save energy. The Ergon Energy-led consortium included the Queensland government. The Townsville City Council invested \$15 million into this world-class solar initiative and this was matched dollar for dollar. The reason I mention this is that it shows that, with leadership and vision, we can start reducing our carbon emissions and set a trend for others to follow.

The Townsville Solar Cities project commenced in July 2005 and it was completed in the financial year of 2012-13. It was a major success that placed Townsville on the world stage as a future green energy location for investment. This site, Lansdown, will now be the beneficiary of CopperString 2032. This visionary project, which has already commenced, will take clean green energy across Queensland. What made this more achievable was the vision of a former mayor of Townsville, Tony Mooney, who secured the land for what is now known as the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct, which is North Australia's first environmentally sustainable industrial hub. Lansdown is in the city's west, which has now become a site for leading advanced manufacturing and as a green hydrogen and renewable energy hub—one of the first in the region.

As a hydrogen champion for the Miles Labor government, I am immensely proud to support this bill which shows vision and leadership in the clean, green energy jobs of the future. On 30 January 2024, Edify Energy secured \$48 million in federal government funding for the Townsville Green Energy Hydrogen Hub. Edify and Siemens will partner with James Cook University and the University of Melbourne in Australia as well as a university in Germany. The partnership will deliver a number of research packages that complement the project and contribute to increased knowledge for the broader industry.

As we know, the Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee's report No. 4 to the 57th Parliament informs this bill. Of interest to me was the statement of reservation by LNP committee members attached to the said report signed by LNP committee members: the member for Condamine, Pat Weir; the member for Callide, Bryson Head; and the member for Toowoomba North, Trevor Watts. Their statement of reservation does not mention their position on the use of nuclear power. What it does state in the last paragraph of their statement of reservation is the following. It states—

The—


'no policy'—

LNP wants to see a pathway to net zero—

with no target date—

which involves working with industry, empowering individuals, and listening to communities across Queensland. We want to see government provide the right frameworks to make environmental action an opportunity, not an impost, to preserve what makes our state special for generations to come.

The need is now, the opportunity is here, and the Miles Labor government will take the people of Queensland with us to a clean, green energy future which they have asked for and deserve. It also takes leadership and direction, and that is what this bill does and the people of Queensland expect it. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (4.12 pm): I want to start by seconding the comments made by the members for Bonney, Nanango and Condamine, who made great contributions. I would have loved to have covered a lot more in this debate, but given it is a cognate debate there is only so much detail we can go into. The reality is that over 8,000 jobs across the Callide electorate are impacted by these bills, so it is really appalling that we lose half our debate time on this because that is the opportunity to go into the detail about how we can make sure this pathway is done correctly.

Why do we only get 10 minutes to speak on this bill? Apparently Minister de Brenni has a lunch to go to. That is right: we are debating two of the most significant pieces of legislation that Labor has introduced, according to Premier Miles, but it is not as important as the minister's lunch. I also want to point out the irony in Premier Miles—or Premier 'Air Miles'—flying to Gladstone today during debate on an emissions bill to announce more so-called clean, green things on behalf of 'Airbus' Albo.

**Mr KELLY:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Firstly, the member is not using the Premier's correct title. He is also referring to the absence of a member from this chamber and I believe there is a convention against doing that.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush):** I am getting advice on that at the moment. Member for Callide, I will remind you to use correct titles. What I heard was not a reflection on the member's absence from the House, but I will come back to your comments. They may have aroused some other issues for us. I will give you the call and I will continue to seek advice.

**Mr KELLY:** With respect, Madam Deputy Speaker, the member was referring to the Premier's trip to Gladstone today. Perhaps you missed that while you were seeking advice.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I did not actually capture that. Member, if you did refer to any member as being absent from the House, there is obviously a custom to not do that. I ask you to withdraw that comment.

**Mr HEAD:** Thank you for your guidance, Madam Deputy Speaker. I withdraw.

This bill being part of a cognate debate is a slap in the face to the 8,000 workers across Callide who are expected to be impacted by these two separate pieces of legislation. That is right: there are two pieces of legislation and only one speech we can make. This is yet another insult to our processes and democracy. Nevertheless, I will continue with the time that I have remaining.

The Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023 seeks to introduce a new act that sets out renewable energy targets, establishes the framework for renewable energy zones, rules out private investment opportunities for deep storage assets and establishes a so-called Job Security Guarantee. Firstly, with regard to the renewable energy targets, will these targets be met by nameplate capacity or actual generation? Will the output of battery storage be included, counting the same generation twice over? We know that renewables typically only produce around 30 per cent of their nameplate capacity annually. This means that much more needs to be installed to make up for existing generation. The opposition would like to see a commitment from the government to be fully transparent and publicise more information regarding their targets and current generation figures.

I also ask the minister: what guarantee is he giving that consumers will see genuine power bill relief with this energy transition push? We know that Queensland has seen the highest power hikes in the nation. On my own electricity bill the price per kilowatt hour went up a whopping 50 per cent on 1 July last year, literally overnight. This is the reality of a Labor government in Queensland. They might try to blame completely irrelevant factors, but the reality is the government operate the majority of the electricity grid and generation in the state. Labor is responsible for the cost-of-living crisis gripping Queensland.

These power prices come off the back of significant increases in solar and wind generation across Queensland and yet we are told this electricity generation is cheaper. Clearly, there is a fallacy being told here or Labor have completely stuffed up our grid and the market.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, that is unparliamentary language and I ask that you withdraw.

**Mr HEAD:** I withdraw. Labor have completely messed up our grid and market. Perhaps it is because our coal-fired power generators have been run into the ground. We know the Callide Power Station C unit has been offline for most of the last few years thanks to Labor's failures. We also know that this has directly contributed to higher electricity prices in Queensland. This is why the LNP is proud to back our coal-fired generators and, if elected, we will ensure our fleet is maintained to provide affordable and reliable electricity into the future.

At the public hearing into the renewables bill, Shane Bruncker from the MEU made the following comment—

... there are no jobs in renewable energy. People within government admit that now, too.

Apparently the government even admits there are no jobs in renewable energy.

This bill establishes something called the Job Security Guarantee. This in itself is evidence that the government knows that regional and rural communities will be left with no future if we do not drastically change the current approach of closing our coal-fired generators. This guarantee is nothing but a pitiful attempt to appease the union movement, but it will not protect the communities in Callide such as Chinchilla and Biloela. Further, it does not offer a guarantee to the coalmine workers beside the power stations and to the contractors and many indirect jobs in these communities.

I do question the need for amendments circulated today by the minister to exempt Powerlink from the Australian Energy Regulator's ring-fencing mandatory codes. These codes are meant to allow for healthy competition for the benefit of consumers. Does the government have other sinister motives? I know that this should have been brought before the committee so it could be properly scrutinised and we would have more insight into the reasons why. The member for Nanango circulated significant amendments we intend to make to the energy bill. If the government intends to be bipartisan and ensure there is transparency, due process and protections for workers in rural communities, then it will support us in these amendments.

The Barfield Road Producer Group from Banana in the great electorate of Callide raised several important and very well-considered points in their submission. They are not against renewables but believe a robust process that considers social and economic impacts and opportunities for the region should include local landholders and contractors to allow for open dialogue, information sharing and collaboration. This group also highlights the fact that, as a landholder, they are accountable for the land and vegetation management. They suggest adding a clause to this bill to make it clear that it is the responsibility of energy companies as well.

Further, thorough investigations should be undertaken at the suggested site prior to a renewable energy project being established. Those investigations need to assess the baseline natural capital before the projects are developed. I note the government has moved amendments regarding social licence and has flagged a mandatory code for energy developers. I certainly look forward to seeing the details that come from that. When solar and wind projects are developed across Queensland, it needs to be the right project, the right process and the right place.

It is important to crack down on rogue operators who are harassing landowners and not appropriately engaging with neighbouring or impacted properties. Companies should not be lulling landowners into false claims and agreements by land banking without the intention of following through on the build. Transmission lines are obviously an important part of an electricity grid. Unfortunately, those who face having transmission lines built on their land are getting the short end of the stick in this journey. Those landholders get next to no or little say in what happens and, for that, the compensation needs to be appropriate and substantial.

These renewable energy targets rely heavily on major infrastructure actually being built and not just spoken about, like the Borumba and Pioneer pumped hydro projects. Still no business case has been released for either of those projects. How can Queenslanders trust that the estimated costs published for those projects are accurate? How much are they really going to cost? The government will not tell us because then it will be obvious that the projects are nothing but a hoax—a hydro hoax. Meanwhile, locally there is a great pumped hydro project to replace the Mount Rawdon goldmine, but the government has not even given that a mention. It is clear that they are determined to keep their blinkers on and not support good private projects in small rural communities. It is also clear that many road upgrades need to be undertaken before the government continues on this pathway because it has failed to invest in rural and regional roads for far too long.

With the bit of time I have left I will turn to the emissions bill. As I said at the beginning of my speech, there are 8,000 jobs at risk because of these bills and, specifically, the emissions bill. In my maiden speech I said—

Do not ever turn up and pretend you care about my electorate. ... if your very next breath is about shutting down our towns. Do not claim that there will be alternate jobs for them—


that is, those communities—

into the future unless they are real and exist today ... I will not accept a raw deal for my electorate.

I stand by those comments. It is important that we know where we stand into the future. I reiterate the comments of the member for Bonney when he called for industry plans and annual reporting on the progress of these targets to outline the impacts on rural and regional towns, communities, jobs, the economy and the cost of living. Plenty of people say that into the future there will be lots of jobs in these new industries. Now it is up to the government and industry to explain where those jobs will be and what they will be.

I will not accept my communities being shut down because there is no industry and there is no future. In their submission, the Western Downs Regional Council raised concerns about adverse repercussions that emissions reduction plans will have on regional communities, workers and the environment. Any negative impacts on employment opportunities will have implications for our regional

communities. They will only exacerbate Labor's cost-of-living crisis. We also need to ensure communities, councils and industry are represented on advisory boards and all pathways moving forward. I note that much of the technology needed does not exist. Show Labor the door in 2024.

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation) (4.23 pm): I rise to participate in this cognate debate but will particularly address the benefits to the environment from the transition to renewable energy. From the outset, I acknowledge the leadership of Premier Steven Miles in announcing an ambitious and globally important emissions reduction target of 75 by '35. As a government we looked at the evidence and we found a credible pathway. It was the Premier's leadership, on being appointed, that has brought us here today. At the time of the announcement, the Queensland Conservation Council said, 'Increasing emissions reduction target to 75% by 2035 is the kind of leadership we need.'

When the government set that target last year—and I acknowledge them—the scientists in my department of environment and science worked hard to provide the science, the evidence and the confidence that led to that target. I acknowledge and really appreciate the efforts of every single person in my department who was involved in that process. They have every right to feel proud of the legacy that this will bring to Queenslanders for generations to come. It was an honour to be the minister who was privy to those conversations and to passionately advocate, as I will continue to do as long as I have the privilege of being in this House, for the importance of having a path to net zero for the future of all of our children, for every Queenslanders and for my own children.

I also acknowledge the conservation sector. They have been incredibly passionate. They have been evidence based and relentless—and they will not mind me saying so—in articulating the path to net zero and that we have to have a credible pathway. We have to be ambitious and we have to move now. It is not a question of whether we wish to. It is not a question of ideology, to pick up on the terminology used before. We have to move now. The science is clear and the climate wars should be over.

I also acknowledge and thank my ministerial colleague the member for Springwood for the strong leadership that he is showing, firstly through the world's best practice Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan and now with his considerable efforts to support decarbonisation across the Queensland economy and communities. That is a significant body of work. Not only does Minister de Brenni have the role as minister; he also feels deeply passionate about the journey and bringing everyone on that journey.

Our government acknowledges that climate change is the single biggest risk that our environment faces, that the wildlife that call Queensland home faces and that our communities face. Decarbonising our energy system is one of the most effective actions we can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit global warming to 1½ degrees from 2005 levels. Eliminating our contribution to climate change by tackling our emissions is vital. It is the critical step towards reducing the risks associated with more extreme weather events, coastal erosion, coral bleaching and biodiversity loss.

Members of this House are aware that global warming and climate change remain the greatest threat to one of our greatest assets, the beloved Great Barrier Reef. We see damage not only to our own reef but to every coral reef around the world. It is truly a global bleaching event of proportions that everyone should stand up and take note of. We are not only taking note of it; we are acting. While that event is still unfolding and the full extent of the impacts will not be known for some months, we know that the severity of the impacts that climate change is having on our iconic environment, on biodiversity loss and on the loss of Indigenous cultural heritage sites are extraordinary. We need to act now. We know that climate change accelerates that loss, species extinctions are increasing and the impacts of major threats are making our ecosystems more vulnerable.

Tackling climate change through our Energy and Jobs Plan means that we are taking our responsibility seriously and are contributing to the national goal of no more extinctions and restoring biodiversity. An important principle of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is that the energy transition is coordinated in a way that preserves Queensland's environment by ensuring the development of clean energy maximises opportunities for positive coexistence, preserves the local environment and promotes biodiversity.

This bill does not remove or reduce any of Queensland's existing land use planning for environmental assessment requirements that are in place to protect our unique and valuable threatened species and ecosystems, and it supports sustained development through the legislative framework for land use planning and important existing protections for biodiversity, including managing the impacts of habitat loss through the Vegetation Management Act. Renewable energy projects will continue to be subject—and rightly so—to rigorous environmental assessment processes under the relevant local,

state and national environment and planning laws. This will ensure that impacts to the environment are avoided, minimised through effective mitigation measures or, as a last resort, offset through restoration measures.

Time is short and I want to finish as I started by saying that Minister de Brenni is focused on ensuring a just transition for workers and communities, but we need to act now. We know that our government has a clear, credible pathway to achieve these targets. We also know that the LNP has absolutely no credible pathway to take real action on climate change. Every Queenslander deserves strong leadership in this respect. Every young Queenslander is demanding and calling for it. That is what our government will always give. I commend the bill to the House and I commend Minister de Brenni and the Premier for their strong leadership in this regard.

Debate, on motion of Ms Linard, adjourned.

## MOTIONS

### Postal Voting, Privacy



**Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (4.30 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. notes:
  - (a) in a world of increasing data collection of personal details, privacy is key for Queenslanders;
  - (b) when Queenslanders respond to an offer to apply for postal voting, they expect this will go direct to the Electoral Commission of Queensland;
  - (c) The current practice utilising generic 'reply paid' return address or postal box by political parties and MPs is inappropriate as it does not reveal that this information may be collected prior to being forwarded to the Queensland Electoral Commission;
  - (d) 87 per cent of Noosa residents who participated in the member for Noosa's annual survey agreed this practice should end;
  - (e) at the Federal level the Commonwealth Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters report 'Conduct of the 2022 federal election and other matters' recommended 'that section 184 of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 be amended to clarify that postal vote applications must be sent directly to the Australian Electoral Commission's nominated addresses.
2. and calls on the government to:
  - (a) put forward, before the state election, amendments to the Queensland Electoral Act 1992 such that postal vote applications must be sent directly to the Queensland Electoral Commission's nominated addresses;
  - (b) calls on both sides of this House to support ending current practice and commit to amending the Queensland Electoral Act 1992 such that postal vote applications must be sent directly to the Queensland Electoral Commission's nominated addresses.

We live in a world where trust is more important than ever. That trust includes Queenslanders having knowledge of how their private information is used and where it goes. Since 2021 I have raised the issue of postal vote application, or PVA, forms being sent out to voters who unknowingly were utilising the reply paid envelope in the belief the application for their postal vote was going directly to the Electoral Commission of Queensland. Some of those reply paid envelopes have been going to political party headquarters or the offices of members of parliament before the information is forwarded to the Electoral Commission.


Currently this is a legal practice. However, that does not make it right. The information privacy principles in the Queensland Information Privacy Act state that when collecting information you must tell the individual what the information is going to be used for before or at the point of collection. The fact that due to limitations in this privacy act the principle does not legally apply in this case does not change that a person's privacy is being breached by collecting their personal information in this manner.

Transparency is key to developing trust and there is no reason not to disclose where the application is going to first or what their information is being used for. Responses from government have included that it is a matter for the individual elector how they apply for a postal vote, that the current PVA practice is lawful or that it would be discussed with the Electoral Commissioner. Queenslanders have consistently asked why they receive unsolicited emails, robocalls and the like and maybe this is part of the reason. With an increasing number of Queenslanders becoming disengaged from elections—and our recent council elections saw one of the highest informals for the councillor vote—it is time to end practices that hoodwink, deliberately or not, and reinstate integrity and credibility into our elections and processes. Privacy of information is an excellent start.

After the 2022 federal election, the Commonwealth Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters report, *Conduct of the 2022 federal election and other matters*, highlighted this as an issue. The report noted that the AEC said that, while legal, the distribution and collection of PVAs by candidates and parties creates eligibility confusion and privacy concerns amongst voters. One submitter to the commission reported both firsthand and anecdotally that very few voters know that the commission is not the direct recipient of their ballot paper application when they use a PVA from a party or a candidate.

This follows on from the Western Australia 2021 election report by their electoral commission which complained about the delays caused by the sending of postal ballots to third parties before sending them on to the electoral commission. A Victorian parliamentary report in 2020 found that the Victorian Electoral Commission received an increased number of complaints regarding political parties distributing postal vote applications in 2018. Electors find the practice misleading, believe it must be against the rules and sometimes believe the commission has sent party political material demonstrating bias.

The Commonwealth parliament is to be applauded by putting forward amendments to end this at a federal level and we need to follow suit, hence why I am asking for a commitment from both sides of this House to commit to supporting building trust back in voters and ending this practice by amending the Queensland Electoral Act 1992 to ensure postal vote applications posted to voters are returned directly to the Queensland Electoral Commission. Right now in this chamber you have the opportunity to amend some wrongs and I ask for your support for my motion on behalf of Queenslanders. Thank you.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (4.34 pm): It is a pleasure to stand to talk about electoral reforms because I am very proud of what we have done in government, in particular since 2015.

**An opposition member:** Preferential voting?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I will take that interjection. That includes compulsory preferential voting, absolutely. Those opposite should remember how that all played out because they brought in an urgency bill.

In speaking to this motion, the government will not be supporting this motion relating to the provision of postal vote applications by election participants to voters. I note the member's advocacy for amendments to the Electoral Act to require that postal vote applications must only be sent directly by the Electoral Commission of Queensland. As the member is aware, section 119(3)(b)(ii) of the Electoral Act provides that a postal vote application or request, as it is referred to in the legislation, can be provided to the ECQ by the voter or another person. It is not just about whether it sits within the privacy legislation; the Electoral Act specifically provides for another person. While I appreciate that this is an area of concern for the member and some voters, the government will not be supporting the member's motion.

As the member has correctly stated, privacy is key for Queenslanders, and that is absolutely true. The Miles government will always work to protect Queenslanders' privacy. However, it is the government's position that amending the Electoral Act as suggested will not provide that balance and benefit voters. There are three key things here. The current process allows choice. It is not mandatory. It gets posted out to the individual by candidates or members of parliament for their information. They do not have to choose to fill that in. There are other options to fill in that application which includes filling it in online. They can apply directly to the Electoral Commission. This is the choice of individuals. It is not forced upon them.

In my 17 years as a member of parliament and as a candidate I have sat around the dining table of many people and assisted them with making an application for a postal vote that they otherwise might not have been able to make and that has been valued by them. They have the right to make that choice. When it comes to engagement with voters, the fact is allowing candidates or members of parliament who are candidates to post things out in relation to postal votes is akin to the interaction that candidates and volunteers get to have at election time at pre-poll centres and on election day when they get to engage and provide them with a how-to-vote card. This is the only way you get to engage with postal voters to advise them of their rights and how they can vote if they have mobility issues or they are going to be away and also provide them with a how-to-vote card because they are not going to physically turn up at a booth. It is about giving them that choice.


The third key issue around privacy is that generally the information that is provided in an application for a postal vote is the voter's name, their address, their date of birth, their phone number and their email address. The fact is that this is essential information that is already on the electoral roll



so they are not providing the candidate with any new information that, in effect, breaches their privacy because that information is already provided. Under section 61 of the Electoral Act the ECQ must provide a copy of the roll to candidates, registered political parties and a member of the Legislative Assembly. That information is already shared irrespective of whether that candidate sees that person's application for a postal vote.

In relation to the reference to the federal parliament, I want to make it clear that what is in the motion is not strictly accurate when it comes to the recommendations from the Commonwealth parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters. The recommendation to which the member is referring was made by the independent member for Curtin in additional comments annexed to the joint committee's report. The joint committee made 15 recommendations, none of which relate to postal votes. In fact, 10 of the 15 recommendations in the report substantially replicate what we in Queensland are doing with our transparent and accountable electoral laws. Unfortunately, I do not have any more time to comment.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (4.39 pm): I fully support the motion moved by the member for Noosa. It is all about honesty and integrity. It is very important for the Queensland parliament to acknowledge this because we do not see this happen too often in this parliament. The motion reads—

(b) when Queenslanders respond to an offer—

in the letterbox or elsewhere—

to apply for postal voting, they expect this will go direct to the Electoral Commission of Queensland;

It does not go directly to the Electoral Commission of Queensland if it is not sent out by the Electoral Commission. Further, the current practice utilising a generic reply paid return address, postal box or similar by political parties and MPs is inappropriate as it does not reveal that the information may be collected by others prior to being forwarded to the Electoral Commission. I will state that again: the current practice utilising a generic reply paid return address, postal box or similar by a political party and MPs is inappropriate as it does not reveal that this information may be collected by others prior to being forwarded to the Electoral Commission. I have never heard of anything like that. Only here in Queensland can someone receive a postal vote application to send back to the Electoral Commission that goes through the hands of three or four others.

Elections are not a great time for people because they are bombarded with advertisements, billboards, radio, TV ads and corflutes for at least four weeks. All we hear is the major parties telling us how wonderful they are, to vote for them and how we will virtually never go hungry again. People are sick of the propaganda. Then, all of a sudden, an old lady wants a postal vote because she is going away across the border. The next minute she receives a postal vote application form in the mail. She says, 'You beauty.' She fills it in. It has a reply paid address and she fills out all the details. It detours and goes through the hands of others. The next minute that old lady is flooded with party literature. She believes that is going to the Electoral Commission. Sometimes, because it goes through the hands of others, it is delayed and it ends up in the person's letterbox after they have gone away and they miss out. It should come straight from the Electoral Commission and go straight back to the Electoral Commission.

The second part of the motion—and I fully agreed with this—states—


... calls on the government to:

- (a) put forward, before the state election, amendments to the Queensland Electoral Act 1992 such that postal vote applications must be sent directly to the Queensland Electoral Commission's nominated addresses;

That is a simple motion. It continues—

... calls on both sides of this House to support ending current practice and commit to amending the Queensland Electoral Act 1992 such that postal vote applications must be sent directly to the Queensland Electoral Commission's nominated addresses.

They should not all go all over the place or into the hands of two or three other people. I commend this motion to the House.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (4.44 pm): I take the opportunity to rise in support of the motion moved by the member for Noosa this evening. It is a pretty straightforward proposition. We all are familiar with this process. Every single election the major parties use these misleading postal vote application letters to harvest as much data as they can get out of constituents. Every single election I

have constituents coming to me asking if it is even legal to do this. It is kind of shocking that it is. Most people do not know about the scam. I guess that is the reason it still works and why the major parties carry on with it every time.

Labor and the LNP send these postal vote applications with a prepaid envelope that sends it to a PO box owned by the party—not by the Electoral Commission of Queensland. At this point, as we have heard from my crossbench colleague the member for Hill, the parties use this data to absolutely flood the mailboxes of these residents with whatever baseless propaganda it is that they choose to send out. In a short moment, I will get to some of the lies distributed through that process. They harvest this voter data from the forms for their campaigning purposes before they send them on to the ECQ. It is incredibly unedifying and just unscrupulous behaviour. It is dodgy and it is misleading.

Importantly, it deliberately targets vulnerable people such as first-time voters who do not know any better, people who perhaps speak English as a second language or new immigrants who do not understand the voting system as well as some of us do. That is why the Greens always encourage voters to apply directly to the ECQ and never collect data from postal vote applications. I commend the member for Noosa for putting the challenge to both of the major parties just to stop doing it. Whether or not they are willing to show a bit of ticker, as we always hear the opposition leader say, and whether they are willing to show enough gumption to change the law on it, I am not sure, but just stop doing it.

At the last election we saw both Labor and the LNP set up websites with urls something along the lines of 'postalvoteQueensland.com.au' which is set up to make them look like official websites but which, again, are just a front page for the major parties to harvest personal information and make electoral gain. People looking for a postal ballot have to first hand over their email address and phone number before getting redirected to the ECQ. Pause on that for a moment. Not only is it dodgy to present an unbranded website such as this, but there is a very real risk that people—again people who are more vulnerable than average—will complete the first page thinking they have made their application for a postal vote when in fact they have not. Then they do not receive the postal vote application. They do not receive the paperwork they need, end up failing to vote and cop a fine on the back of that all so these big grubby parties can get their data and try to make the most of it.

**Mr KRAUSE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe the member for Maiwar has used unparliamentary language. I ask him to withdraw it.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Yes, you are correct, member. Member for Maiwar, I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr BERKMAN:** I withdraw. These unscrupulous major parties can just harvest data and do with it what they please. In the lead-up to an election, my office will often help people when they apply for postal votes. Many of these people do not use computers or the internet.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mrs D'Ath:** They take JobKeeper payments, the Greens political party.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Mr BERKMAN:** Is this not precisely the practice that the Attorney-General has just claimed to use? Quietly, I think it is frankly embarrassing for the Attorney-General to get to her feet and try to defend the process—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Through the chair, please.

**Mr BERKMAN:** It is frankly embarrassing—

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I find those comments personally offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Attorney-General has taken personal offence. Will the member withdraw?

**Mr BERKMAN:** I withdraw. I find it hard to believe that the Attorney-General is willing to get to her feet to try to justify these practices that are clearly underhanded and duplicitous. Clearly, they are trying to get information for purposes other than for which a person intends to provide them. With both major parties treating this scam as routine practice, it is no wonder at all that people do not trust politicians. That is before we even get to the bald-faced lies that are distributed through the post.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Maiwar, I just cautioned you about unparliamentary language. I would ask you to withdraw. In terms of the rest of your speech, please make sure you do not use unparliamentary language.

**Mr BERKMAN:** Thank you for your guidance.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Can you please withdraw?

**Mr BERKMAN:** I withdraw and I will certainly endeavour to refer to untruths or misrepresentations. Let us take a moment to pause and think about the possibility of truth in political advertising. The member for Noosa has already indicated that the federal government is contemplating removing these practices or making them unlawful. This week we have heard that the federal government is now considering legislating truth in political advertising. Why is that too good for Queenslanders? Why can we not expect that from this government? It might be a small example of misleading political conduct, but it contributes to undermining public trust in the whole electoral process. That is a big deal. That is something the government should be concerned about and they should act on it now.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (4.50 pm): I am disappointed to hear the member for Maiwar making these allegations when he has not, in his own way, cleaned his own house. I immediately went and looked at the process for how the Greens party deals with postal votes. It is important because postal votes are often used by elderly people or people whose first language is not English. Sometimes they are not filled in correctly and it has to be taken back to the person to say, 'This will be sent to the Electoral Commission, but they will not act on it because it is not fully complete.' The Greens have the same process. They say, 'If you have already filled in your postal vote application, please return it here'—nominating one address—'and cc it to postal @ nswgreens.org.au.' No doubt all of the pure, snow-white Greens have taken to these scams. They are not, as the member for Maiwar describes it, data harvesting. I notice that—

**Mr Berkman** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Order, member for Maiwar!

**Mr POWER:** The member for Maiwar is pointing out that the Greens are a cynical political party that make suggestions about others and then get caught out with exactly the same practices, so this is very disappointing. I would like to see the Greens give up on the processes they want others to give up but are actually cynically doing themselves. It is really disappointing that we are being misled in this way in this House, and I will very carefully consider the way it was said and whether I need to write to the Speaker about this misleading behaviour.

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

Resolved in the negative under standing order 106(10).

### Crime, Media Reporting

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (4.57 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. notes statements by:
  - (a) the member for Nicklin that media reporting of crime was 'scandalous' and he 'would prefer if elements that inform the public actually did their jobs' in relation to the youth crime crisis;
  - (b) the member for Capalaba that Queensland's youth crime crisis is 'a media beat up';
  - (c) the member for Bundaberg that 'mass commercial media use trope terms ... to distort the truth.
2. calls on the members for Nicklin, Capalaba and Bundaberg to cease blaming the media for their government's own policy failures; and
3. calls on the government to back the freedom of media to give crime victims a voice.

We are being let down by a state Labor government that does not care about victims of crime and that has given up on keeping our community safe and has gone so far as to suggest that the youth crime crisis ripping through our state is a media beat-up or a figment of the media's imagination. To the Premier who giggled at journalists in response to a question about youth crime and to the entire government, which sits idly by and lets that ignorant, dismissive behaviour continue: shame on you!

Victims are going to the media and they are coming to the opposition to give them a voice because this state Labor government is not listening to them. Instead, this Premier has sent a very clear message: his government cares more about politics than people. He confirmed as much yesterday in question time when he admitted that Labor has vacated the field when it comes to youth crime. When it comes to putting our community's safety first, they put politics before people. That is right; we all knew it. With his Freudian slip yesterday, the Premier confirmed it.


Let us be frank: if victims of crime were being taken care of, if they felt heard, if they felt respected, if they felt even an ounce of compassion from this state Labor government, they would not need to go to the media to tell their stories, they would not need to come to the opposition and this state Labor government would not need to try to silence the media or blame the media for the youth crime crisis ripping through our state which they created almost a decade ago by watering down our youth justice laws.

This government consistently denies that the experiences of Queenslanders are real, and the statements from the member for Nicklin, the member for Bundaberg and the member for Capalaba prove it. In response to a constituent about youth crime—or who looks to be a constituent from his Facebook page—the member for Nicklin said, ‘I think you know that I don’t determine the narrative.’ He goes on to say, ‘I am not going to comment on the drivers. It is beyond my control, and I would prefer it if elements that inform the public actually did their jobs and we would not have this conversation.’

It is not only the Premier who has vacated the field on youth crime; the member for Nicklin is admitting he has vacated the field on youth crime, saying he has no control over the drivers. The drivers of youth crime are the youth criminals who are running riot through our state and who have been allowed to terrorise our state as a result of weak laws because of this state Labor government. Let us turn to the next one. Let us turn to the member for Capalaba. Let us not forget that the member for Capalaba called this whole youth crime crisis a complete media beat-up. Last, but certainly not least, let us look at the member for Bundaberg. In an opinion piece to his own paper, he blamed the media for the language used for the youth crime crisis, saying mass commercial media use trope terms to distort the truth.

We know that victims of crime in this state are being left isolated, without help and without a voice because this state Labor government refuses to acknowledge the youth crime crisis that is ripping through this state. What is worse is that these three members, the Premier and the rest of the state Labor government, for that matter—all of them—are blaming the media for this crisis. They are saying that this is a media beat-up, that it is all because of the language used by the media. These victims would not need to go to the media if this state Labor government listened to them, but this state Labor government would rather silence the media. They would rather silence victims of crime and they would rather put politics before people because that is in their DNA. We know that victims of crime are going to organisations like Voice for Victims for help. Voice for Victims are standing up for victims of crime, but this state Labor government denies Voice for Victims. They blame Voice for Victims and say that they are part of the media beat-up. Nothing is going to change in this state until we show Labor the door in ’24.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice) (5.02 pm): I move—

That all words after ‘by’ be omitted and the following inserted:

- ‘the members for Nicklin, Capalaba and Bundaberg on behalf of their constituents and their continued strong advocacy of measures to support community safety;
- 2. notes that all facets of society, including the media, have a role to play in supporting community safety; and
- 3. notes the Labor government’s investment in community safety measures.’

You have to love the old ‘never let the facts get in the way of a good story’ member for Currumbin. Before I go on, I want to say that I will not hear a word said against the members for Nicklin, Capalaba or Bundaberg. These are members who know, like we all do on this side of the parliament, that youth crime is a concern to Queenslanders which is why they talk to me about programs in their local area that matter. There is Transition 2 Success in Nicklin, youth co-responder teams in Capalaba and the restorative justice conferencing in Bundaberg. They are talking to me about these programs every day because they work. I want to thank the media because they recognise that youth crime is a complex issue and they are contributing in a really—

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Resume your seat please, Minister. Member for Gregory, you are warned under the standing orders, and even when you are interjecting you will use members’ correct titles.

**Ms FARMER:** I want to thank the media because they are the ones who are starting to ask questions about this fake crew over there. If those opposite were really interested in supporting victims, then they would not be playing politics with their stories. They would actually be speaking with sincerity. They would actually be speaking with intent. Even with all of their fake concerns, they do not have one single idea.


We have the Leader of the Opposition saying, 'When we get into government, we're going to turn things around immediately.' Not one government in the entire world has done that. This bloke over here is going to turn it around, but do we hear anything from him about what he is going to do? They have their little booklet. They have their little slogans. They have three slogans. They are going to solve youth crime like magic. Their slogan has about 13 words in it. All they have are those words and journalists keep asking them, 'But what does it actually mean? What's an example of it?'

It was all getting a bit awkward for them because people were asking them and they did not know what to say. I have worked out that behind the scenes they have gone to all of our programs. We have actually had the Leader of the Opposition and a couple of the others go to our programs and really praise them, so it is great. They say that imitation is the greatest form of flattery.

The Leader of the Opposition visited the Men of Business and said that this is what gold standard early intervention looks like. You are right, because we fund them for \$2 million. We had him visiting Esuarve in February and he said that it was so great, it was giving them hope and giving them the skills they needed for the future. We agree because we fund them for over \$400,000 under a program called Skilling Queenslanders for Work that those opposite cut when they were in government. The member for Clayfield loves them too. He went down there and said that it not only transforms lives but also contributes significantly to crime prevention. We think so too. That is why we fund them.

These are our rolled-gold early intervention programs. We know that Peter Dutton, the federal LNP leader, already wants to take our social media policies around youth crime. If they want to sit down with all of our programs if they are a bit short on ideas, I am really happy to take them through all of the things that actually work. I love the little ad he did about what they are going to do for youth crime, but, again, it was pretty short on detail. He was sitting in front of these kids shaking his hand, saying, 'You naughty kids. I'm going to tell you.' Every parent and teacher in this House knows how well that works for kids, but that is what he is going to do. That is another great idea.

I do not think the Leader of the Opposition gets what things actually work. On the one hand he says that he is going to have detention as a first resort and then on the other hand he says that he is only going to go for hard-core kids. On the one hand he says that he is going to lock all of these kids up and on the other hand he says that he is not going to have any more detention centres. If those opposite really cared about victims, they would be sincere and they would be proposing real solutions. These things cannot be politicised. They cannot be steamrolled. They cannot have their emotions used. We need victims to know that we care and that we have real solutions, and that is what this government is offering.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (5.08 pm): It is a toss-up which is the most disturbing—'the great lie or the great buy'. They are not my words, but issues have been raised with me recently and it is worth sharing them in relation to this motion. The first is a great lie—an absolute abandonment—

**Mr POWER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There was unparliamentary language that is unbecoming.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will just take some advice in relation to that. I ask you to resume your seat please, member for Burnett—

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:**—and I will take the point of order in silence!

**Mr Power:** We dealt with this last week with a quote as well.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I will manage the chamber and I will take the point of order. I do not need the assistance, Leader of the Opposition. I was just seeking some advice in relation to quotes and the use of context. That word has been ruled unparliamentary in every context and in every usage. I ask you to withdraw, and if you want to use it in that quote you will have to find another way to express that.

**Mr BENNETT:** Thank you; I certainly will withdraw. A broken promise is a broken promise is a broken promise. You can wriggle, squirm and hand wring as much as you like, but when the fog of self-serving spin has cleared a broken promise is still a broken promise.

While some may elect to suggest that there are problems with media reporting, I will remind the House of some of the facts in relation to crime in Bundaberg. Crime is up since Labor came into power. Unlawful use of motor vehicles is up 176 per cent, unlawful entry is up 62 per cent, other thefts are up 63 per cent, and assaults are up 204 per cent. It is timely that we acknowledge those who have been forgotten in Bundaberg, like the team at Network rentals. These are real people. They have been targeted four times in the last 12 months. Warren and his staff suffered more than \$600,000 in damages in the last attack, and he was brutally bashed. Again, these are youth criminals who are out on bail under the laws of this government.

Labor swore with their hands pressed firmly on their hearts that if they were elected they would deliver plenty of legacy projects for Bundy. We will never forget that the local member has reaffirmed these deceptions hundreds of times—things like the new hospital, flood mitigation, Paradise Dam, a drug and alcohol centre, and solutions to the health crisis, the housing crisis, the teachers crisis and crime.

How do you best disguise this singular lack of character and moral fibre? The answer is to break a promise, obviously. You simply justify your broken promise by telling another one. Then you tell another one, denying that you ever broke the promise in the first place. Once you have told that first one, it comes easily and you just keep going. Labor promises whatever it takes and they will say whatever it takes and then walk away with a wave of their hands: 'There's nothing to see here.' It is all about the great buy. They want to buy votes by sprinkling a bit of fairy dust and telling us that it is all good, but these are suffering Queenslanders, these are suffering people, these are our most vulnerable. Labor is doing a terrible job at running this state and this is what they have resorted to. Labor's answer to every problem is to sling locals a couple of hundred bucks in an attempt to get them to stick with them. This insults the intelligence of the electorate, but so does the swearing that their word is their bond, and then they break it without even a blink.

We have had nearly 10 years of cumulative failures of the Labor government and there are too many to mention. I have mentioned them before: the housing crisis, the cost-of-living crisis, the power prices, the aged-care crisis, infrastructure, youth crime, housing and hospitals. The Oxford Dictionary defines a crisis as 'a time of great disagreement, confusion, or suffering'. That is exactly what is happening in the Bundaberg region every day. We should never forget the displaced people who are living under the bridge. That never happened until this local member arrived. It is alarming to reflect on the degree to which the government has failed to ensure one of life's basic needs—that is, shelter—as we see a rapidly growing number of people who are living on the streets at the entrance to our great city.

What has added to the crisis is that fewer homes have been built than ever before and the median cost of rent has increased. This is a reflection of bad government policy. With plenty of virtue signalling, Labor continues to promote the appearance of standing for something but has absolutely nothing of substance to offer except arrogance and hubris. This government talks a big game but they cannot back it up.

With the election some months away, it is time people examined Labor's record more closely and challenged misinformation, distortions and falsehoods that have been peddled in press releases, social media and newspaper ads. There is a noticeable increase in Labor spin. The misinformation floating around indicates that a misleading election campaign is already underway. We have seen plenty of pro-Labor tax funded billboards appearing locally. With respect to the big bold promises, many have been broken and many will not even be completed until after the Olympics in 2032. How is that? They have promised so much and have taken two election cycles to even get things off the ground.

With power prices, grocery bills and housing costs all increasing, everyone's focus should be on the cost of living. Labor's solutions are bandaid measures that merely attempt to hide the problems—like selective subsidies for household electricity bills. What is needed is an end to government policies that are driving up the cost of living.

It is interesting that we are resorting to blaming the media. It is interesting that we continue to see selective quotes that have been put out in social media and the media. I guess there comes a time when people have to look at their own moral fortitude about what is real and what contestability of ideas is. Democracy is about having debates; it certainly is not about distorting the truth, taking people on a ride and, more importantly, breaking promises—because you cannot use the word that really refers to what this is.

I will end with a quote that was given to me when I was doorknocking on Saturday. I will not use the gentleman's name, but the local member was described as a deluded student politician, good on big announcements, reliant on factional party bosses, but out of his depth in understanding and representing the real people of the Bundaberg region.

**Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (5.14 pm): Given that the member for Burnett is a constituent in my electorate, I wonder if he doorknocked his own door for that one. There are few things better in life than being disliked by that lot, let me tell you.

Sometimes you get a little bit of a gift, and I would like to thank the member for Currumbin and the member for Burnett for giving me this gift of being able to write to the Speaker about misleading the House. The member for Currumbin said that my column was about youth crime. I am sure my colleagues sitting here to my right will notice that my column does not say 'youth crime' at all. It does not even talk about youth crime. In fact my column talked about the headlines in relation to the reporting of the Queensland parliament. Sometimes you get a little gift and I look forward to being able to write to the Speaker about the member for Currumbin.

What did I say? Even that has been an act of misleading of the parliament, because the LNP in their motion have actually deliberately changed a word from my column that they directly quoted. In my column I said 'to distort the realities'. However, the LNP in their motion have said 'to distort the truth'. That is already a deliberate misleading. We talk about the words that we cannot say in parliament, and I reckon they are in trouble. I reckon they are in a little bit of hurt.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! All members will cease their quarrelling across the chamber or I will start warning people.

**Mr SMITH:** It is important to note the difference between truth and reality. As great philosophers have told us over centuries, a truth can actually be false and something false can be a truth. One of the greatest examples of this is a very famous paradox. I am sorry to take everyone down the philosophical wormhole, but it is important to make sure that we have the difference between truth and reality. The famous paradox is 'This sentence is false.' Therefore, if the sentence is false, it must of course be true. However, if it is true, how can be it be false? This is a great paradox and the reason we make sure we have a reality. I know that members over there are trying to work it out. They cannot quite understand what is the difference between a truth and a paradox so I will go through that a little bit. A very famous philosopher said—

... a philosophical paradox normally starts off with some very, very commonsensical assumption or belief which we just think is obviously true. And then we do a little bit of reasoning, which seems so incredibly simple, so incredibly straightforward, that that can't be going wrong, and yet then we reach a conclusion which is against all commonsense belief.

**Mr Mander:** Was that Socrates or Aristotle?

**Mr SMITH:** No, that is wrong. That was Peter Cave.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Everton, you are warned.

**Mr SMITH:** I wonder how much they love Socrates and Aristotle over there. In fact I think some of them were there at the time. I am not talking about the member for Mermaid Beach, but he might have been there at the time. The philosopher also said—

And so why philosophical paradoxes are very, very deep I think, often, is because when we examine the premises, when we examine the reasoning, when we look at the conclusion, we just can't sort out exactly where something has gone wrong.

It is very important that we talk about the difference between truth and reality, and that is why I spoke about reality. The reality is that, as a member of parliament, I think it is fair to have a say as to whether or not I believe headlines are distorting the realities.

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Burleigh, you are warned.

**Mr SMITH:** I am actually going to come to the defence a bit here of the LNP. I saw a headline recently that claimed there was proof that Miles and Crisafulli care only about themselves and the election. I am sure that the Leader of the Opposition would think that is a part of hyperbole. I am sure he cares about more than just himself. I will let others decide, but I am sure of that. What are some other ones we have got? We have headlines that say that savage barbs have been traded in the parliament. I do not believe savage barbs have been traded in the parliament.

If I do not think those headlines are accurate, I am well entitled to speak about it. We have, 'Battlelines are being drawn.' Of course battlelines are not being drawn. We hear that 'ministers have been grilled in the parliament'. Of course no-one is actually grilled. What I call for is headlines to reflect the actual reality. The reality—

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am so enthralled, I move—

That the honourable member for Bundaberg be further heard.

Division: Question put—That the member for Bundaberg be further heard.

*In division—*

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members, we will maintain a level of decorum and dignity that this chamber deserves in future.

**AYES, 33:**

**LNP, 33—**Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir, Zanow.

**NOES, 48:**

**ALP, 48—**Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Rourke, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

Pair: McMillan, Molhoek.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Will the Clerk please report the votes of other parties and members.

**The DEPUTY CLERK:** No other votes, Mr Speaker.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Sorry, I could not hear you. No other votes?


**The DEPUTY CLERK:** No other votes, Mr Speaker.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you. To the point that I could not hear the Deputy Clerk then, members, please, let's reset this. We are going out of the division now. The result of the division is ayes 33, noes 48. The question is resolved in the negative.

Resolved in the negative.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Bundaberg, you have four seconds remaining.

**Mr SMITH:** I just want to say, everyone, thanks for coming.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (5.26 pm): I have been in this place some little while, but I have never ever seen a government fall apart over a division as fast as this one has. I want to say thank you. Thank you to the member for Bundaberg who was one of 48 people who voted against himself speaking in this place. All I can say, member for Bundaberg, is that is just the first 48, because they are coming for you in October and they will be voting against you in far bigger numbers. Member for Bundaberg, you are not supported by your own team and you are not wanted by us. It is a very lonely place for you to be at. When you talk about a gift being given to you, member for Bundaberg, today has been the gift of all gifts and you have delivered it hands down. Your foray into philosophy—true, false, false, true—your conclusions, your discussions about alternate reality—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Member for Clayfield, your comments will come through the chair, please.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** The member has had discussions about alternate reality. We want to know what reality you actually operate in, member for Bundaberg. Here is the reality: the reality is that crime is out of control in Queensland, and you and your colleagues are denying it. Member for Bundaberg, in relation to the reporting of any events by the media, you state—

The embarrassing scenes of mega wealthy television personalities, the likes of who have not only spent extravagant amounts of money on luxury overseas holiday...

Does that sound like any Labor members to you? Do we know any Labor members who have been on luxury overseas holidays—to ski resorts; to Whistler—mega wealthy Labor mates who have resorts overseas? That is who they are. Live on morning television 'demonstrates just who the LNP are really bound to when it comes to representing Queenslanders.' He disregards and disrespects the media who do a job of holding the government and the opposition to account each and every day. Each and every day that occurs in this place and around this place.




While this motion is addressed to the statements of denial of a crime crisis and its consequent reporting by the media by certain government members who have been named in the motion subsequently amended, I want to make it abundantly clear that the crime crisis is not confined to the electorates of Nicklin, Capalaba and Bundaberg. In my own electorate of Clayfield, the most common issue raised with me is the very high rate of crime. That is borne out by the numbers. Unlawful use of motor vehicle offences increased by 87 per cent from 340 in 2015 to 635 in 2023. Unlawful entry offences up 98 per cent—from 611 in 2015 to 1,209 in 2023. Assaults went up by 230 per cent in that same period. These are not media beat-ups as the government whip has claimed. These are real events affecting real people in their homes and their businesses. These are crimes being recorded on home security cameras and shared on community Facebook pages. These are crimes that are happening because, as the Premier admitted only last Sunday, the Labor government has vacated the field. They have left Queenslanders alone to defend themselves.

The Labor government has systematically weakened laws over the last nine years, beginning in 2016, and this has spawned a generation of untouchables. When members come in here and say, 'We have the toughest laws in Queensland and we are tough on crime and we believe it,' we call out their hypocrisy because we know from 2016 that this government and this Premier and those members who were in that government and subsequently have systematically voted in favour of every step to reduce those crimes. They have been caught out. That is why we need to remove detention as a last resort; that is why we need to rewrite the Youth Justice Act; that is why we need to unshackle the judiciary; and that is why we need investment in gold standard early intervention. It is so that we can deal with the untouchables, so we can deal with the mistakes made by a failed youth justice minister. We know why she does not like the media, because we remember her performance on the *7.30 Report* as well.

**An opposition member:** *Four Corners*.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** And *Four Corners*. Exactly, who could forget it? When it comes to crime, when it comes to the causes of the crime and when it comes to rehabilitation, Labor is weak. They will get shown the door in 2024.

 **Mr SKELTON** (Nicklin—ALP) (5.31 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amendment moved by the government to the motion. It is incumbent on all of us in this place to do everything we can to make sure that Queenslanders feel safe in their homes. We need to present our arguments based on facts. We need to highlight and lift up programs that are working. We need to back those on our front line and give them the tools they need to do their jobs. I am proud to be a part of a government that is relentlessly listening and delivering for Queenslanders. Those opposite choose to come in here and use the limited time they have to talk about comments on social media. They do so because they do not have anything of substance to contribute. The LNP want to use youth crime and youth justice as a wedge to divide our communities. They are not interested in doing the work required to combat youth offending. They are not interested in putting in place the long-term solutions based on better health and education outcomes for our young people to break the cycle of youth crime while taking steps to deal with hardcore repeat offenders to ensure that our communities are kept safe.


We know that our programs are starting to make a difference. We are hiring more police than ever, filling 2,000 new positions. We have charged more than 4,300 young offenders with more than 7,900 offences to ensure that people are held responsible for their actions. We have expanded the range of offences which attack a presumption against bail for young offenders who commit serious offences whilst on bail. These are the immediate steps that we have taken to increase community safety.

We are also making the necessary investments in a comprehensive youth justice reform program to address the complex causes of youth crime. We have allocated \$288 million for our youth engagement and reform program, including \$120.9 million for six new campuses of the Queensland Pathways State College; \$27.3 million for specialised alternative learning programs; \$56.9 million for intensive education case management for students known to youth justice; \$8.6 million for 12 additional court liaison officers who work with students appearing before the courts to help them get back to their education; \$45.4 million to create 50 new flexi spaces in high-need schools, with dedicated teachers to provide extra support for students who experience difficulty staying positively engaged in their regular classroom; and \$29.1 million for First Nations engagement and attendance programs. These are the types of early interventions and programs that make a real difference and I am proud to be a part of a government that has done the work to see them implemented.

Those opposite think that they are going to solve youth crime with some slick ads and glib lines. Six months out from an election, they still cannot outline what their plan for crime is. Once they finish their five slogans, they are out of puff. They hope that Queenslanders will forget that they cut 110 senior

police officer positions and that they slashed \$10 million in youth justice funding—brutally cutting the programs that stopped young offenders reoffending. They think that people will forget that they made our Police Service pay for their own body worn cameras. I am proud of what is being delivered locally, with new police stations in Aura, Nambour and soon in Cooroy. These are real investments that make a real difference to increasing community safety across the Sunshine Coast, and we are only just getting started.

I am proud to stand alongside my colleague the member for Caloundra in calling for a new police helicopter for the Sunshine Coast. I encourage everyone on the Sunshine Coast to get on board, sign my petition and have your say. They can find it on my website. Let me say this: police helicopters are a much better deterrent to youth crime than glossy brochures and overproduced television ads. Those opposite are more interested in coming in here to get their grab for the nightly news. I will keep listening and delivering for my community.

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (5.36 pm): I rise to support the shadow minister's motion that Labor has been dismissive of the youth crime crisis and has blamed the media to escape scrutiny. I join the call for the government to admit and fess up to their failure, cease blaming others, do more to support victims and get on with fixing their crisis so that Queenslanders are safe. On this side of the House we know that Labor's youth crime crisis is real. It is not a media beat-up; it is hurting Redlanders and is unduly straining police. In my 22 years in the Redlands—15 years as a state MP—I have never had as much feedback from local victims about acts of crime against them as I have in recent years. Victims are saying that they do not believe they are being listened to properly by this government.

Our local police at the Cleveland and Capalaba stations have been put under great pressure by this crisis, by the lack of support they receive from this government and by the revolving door of the youth justice system that sees serious repeat offenders and other serial offenders released back on the streets. More crime and fewer police equals a less safe community. Police data from the department's website shows the depth of the problem. Between 2015 and 2023 in the Capalaba police division, unlawful use of a motor vehicle is up 20 per cent; unlawful entry is up 22 per cent; other theft is up 23 per cent; and assault is up a massive 219 per cent. Many of these crimes are committed by young offenders. Sadly, local Labor MPs have their heads in the sand. This crisis is not a media beat-up.

Myself and the LNP candidates in Redland City and south-east Brisbane are the only ones in this region who are really listening and seeing the human side of this data. The LNP candidate for Oodgeroo, Amanda Stoker, recently recounted—

I doorknocked Daryl from Thornlands last Friday ... He's had 2 cars stolen from his driveway, and has had to shell out for a home security system he never dreamed he'd need. He had to use its speaker feature to scare off young people trying to break into the house while he and his wife were inside. It was very scary for them.

This week when doorknocking in the Redlands the awesome LNP candidate, Rebecca Young, heard from a lady in Thornlands who shared how she was recently stalked in the car park at Woolworths. The male who stalked her was a teenager in a hoodie and she felt that if she had not locked her handbag in her car while returning her trolley she may have lost it. She said she just does not feel safe doing a simple act like grocery shopping and she feels like she is constantly on the lookout. This is the same car park where just a few months prior a group of young people stole alcohol from the BWS shop and were caught outside by the community.


Rebecca Young also reports that a lady in her early 40s from Redland Bay relayed to her that—

I'm so stressed about the whole situation as I was sleeping on the lounge, at the time because of back pain, and I was an arm length away from them. 3 of them with masks and knives and my husband works away all week and is only home weekends so I'm alone with my children ... I have cameras but ... I had my phone on silent so I didn't hear the notifications.

It was the dog barking and growling that allowed her to see them there and she said what a shock it was.

Rebecca Young talked about Mia, who was assaulted at the Victoria Point Bus Station and had to seek refuge in McDonald's. There were others who were beaten up at the same place. In Springwood Susanna Damianopoulos, the LNP candidate, reports that Steve's home was broken into at 6 am on a Monday. His daughter woke up to someone in her bedroom and they had their car stolen. What a shock that was to them. So many others keep reporting incidents. Pinky Singh, LNP candidate for Mansfield, reports a ram raid happened at 4 am at Aminya Street shopping complex. There is a lot of damage that needs repair. The local barber is also now out of a job for days. She reports that locals do not feel safe anymore. That is just one story, she says, but there are many more.

I remind the Labor MPs in the Redlands and in south-east Brisbane that there is a youth crime crisis. These are very real stories of very real people who are very worried. I want to commend the LNP team for south-east Brisbane and Redland city: Amanda Stoker, Susanna Damianopoulos, Pinky Singh and Rebecca Young. They are listening to locals' concerns and they actually believe their stories. The only way to solve the current crisis is to show Labor the door in '24.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (5.41 pm): Youth crime is an important issue. It is more important than playing student politics in this House by moving silly immature motions—the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in full support of the Leader of the Opposition. It really shows how immaturity they take this issue and how little consideration they give to the member for Currumbin by pulling student politics stunts in this House. I thought the member for Clayfield would not buy into this, but he obviously did. The former attorney-general and member for Kawana should have more respect for this issue than playing this silly immature game.

It is important to get the facts right when it comes to youth crimes. I want to highlight one incident when the member for Oodgeroo brought someone into this place to talk about youth crime that, in fact, actually was not a youth crime. The member for Oodgeroo talked about a member from the Redlands community named Karen Oliver. On 13 September she came into the parliament and talked about an incident in Capalaba in April of 2023 in which eight youths attacked a woman. He raised this on 13 September 2023, five months later. I thought to myself at the time, 'I would have heard about this incident.' This would have made national news if eight youths, supposedly 800 metres from my office, attacked a single woman. What did I do? I checked with my local senior constable, Dave Candale. Dave Candale took a while to find the incident itself because, in fact, there were not eight youths; there was one male. The reason it took a while to find is because the male was known to the female and the female did not press charges because it was a domestic violence incident.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Resume your seat, member. Member, I will seek your assurance that this matter is not sub judice—

**Mr BROWN:** No, as I just said—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Just hear me out, member. I seek your assurance that this matter is not sub judice. Given the nature of the incident, I would ask you to proceed with extreme caution.

**Mr BROWN:** Yes, Mr Deputy Speaker. As I said, no charges were proceeded with by the female involved. In fact, police turned up six minutes later and ensured the health of the woman. It is important for members to not come into this place with stories of eight juvenile offenders when it is one male who was known to the victim. DV is an important issue of itself, but they use DV for their little youth crime issues—and we know the member for Oodgeroo has form. We know he has a track record of misleading this House. We just have to go back to the Ethics Committee report from last year that said he knew at the time that he was misleading the House. That was in the Ethics Committee report. A similar situation—

**Dr ROBINSON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence at those comments. I fear the member may be misleading the House himself because there were no such findings in the Ethics Committee report. There were no findings against me misleading the House deliberately.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, if you believe there is a matter where a member has misled the House, there is a process in relation to that of which I am sure you are very well aware. You can follow that process. I will deal with the other point of order. Member for Capalaba, the member has asked that you withdraw comments that he has found personally offensive. I ask you to do that.

**Mr BROWN:** I withdraw. I can say that two of the three elements were proven in that Ethics Committee report.

This just goes to show the lengths that they will go to in order to try to fabricate stories. When we go back and check the issues ourselves and do the due diligence about these issues, we find there was a DV incident that they turned into a youth crime incident that simply did not happen.

It is important also to highlight that since the Australia Day incident I have been a staunch advocate for change in this House when it comes to reforms. I have done more reforms since that incident than the two slogans that the Leader of the Opposition can only repeat over and over again. We have introduced breach of bail; we have expanded the list of offences for presumption of bail; we have extended the maximum duration of conditions of release orders from three to six months, ensuring if there is a breach a serious child offender is more likely to serve their suspension and term of detention; we have confirmed in legislation that the court takes into account the young person's bail history in sentencing, empowering the sentencing court to declare a child a serious repeat offender. We have

done all that since the incident on Australia Day. I have been a staunch advocate for that but also for prevention. Tonight at the Police and Citizens Youth Club there is free boxing for the youths there, taking them off the street and teaching them skills. It is led by police officers themselves. We are also working with Traction to deal with kids at the school. It is about prevention as well as toughening up our laws.

**Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (5.47 pm): We have just heard from the member for Capalaba. Did I hear him correctly when he used the phrase ‘little youth crime stories’? That is belittling the issue of youth crime by the member for Capalaba, who is on the public record as calling the youth crime crisis a media beat-up. It appears the member for Capalaba has no shame.

**Mrs Gerber:** Learnt nothing.

**Ms SIMPSON:** He has learnt nothing. He continues to belittle the victims of youth crime by mislabelling what is a youth crime crisis. This is happening across the team of Labor. This is beyond just the Premier, who admitted that Labor had vacated the field on crime, on youth crime. Yet we are still hearing the members of the backbench stand up in this place and defend the government’s record. I heard the member for Nicklin, who has still been attacking voters and the media in the last year and a half—and the media even more recently—defending this Labor government’s appalling record on crime and appalling record on youth crime.

We know that the member for Nicklin is an apologist for this government, but he is betraying his community. He is betraying those who are seeing things they never expected to see happen in their community. Just the other day on TV he was once again blaming others in the media, saying that their reporting was ‘scandalous’. At a time when people want the issue to be taken seriously, he attacks the media. This foolish member of parliament has been intent on blaming others online. He has quite a record of attacking others.

**Mr POWER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe that was unparliamentary language that is unbecoming to this debate.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): I am taking advice in relation to that, thank you. Resume your seat. Member for Maroochydore, you have used unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I withdraw. I will quote from one of the social media posts of the member for Nicklin, who has let his community down by attacking others, attacking the media and not standing up for his community. In this recent post he basically attacks the media by saying—

It’s a shame that a certain profession has disregarded its role as the fourth estate.

He tries to describe the fact that he does not control the narrative and I know the member for Currumbin referenced that before. I table a copy of his post.

*Tabled paper:* Extract of comments from a social media account of the member for Nicklin, Mr Rob Skelton MP, regarding diversionary programs [\[601\]](#).

The member has a record of getting into trouble for attacking others online. I also table these social media posts. I have tried my best to black out the unparliamentary language that, believe me, is a lot more serious than words we are not allowed to use in here. I have done my best to block them out but there is a series of not just unparliamentary words; these are things that you would not expect to hear on the street yet this man, who represents Nicklin, is abusing voters and abusing the media. He does not listen to his community.


*Tabled paper:* Bundle of media articles relating to comments made on social media by the member for Nicklin, Mr Rob Skelton MP [\[602\]](#).

Let us look at what has been happening in the member’s community. The member defends his government but he will not recognise what the Labor government did when it came to power in 2015. They watered down the youth justice laws and now we see the results playing out in the community as hardened youth criminals who were in the system move into the adult criminal world. They learned the tricks of the trade in regards to crime because they were not appropriately dealt with earlier.

In many communities across Nicklin there are fewer police on the beat—actual police. Do not mislead people by saying ‘approved numbers’ but talk about actual police. I heard the member talking about how wonderful it is that we have this and that in the Nicklin electorate. He did not mention that there is no permanent police officer stationed in Kenilworth. In fact, the grass is so high you would have to get out the Victa mower to find the front door, I believe, because that station does not have a permanent officer. The police who work on the ground have to travel great distances, without backup,

to deal with the increasing number of offences. In Nicklin, what are those offences? In the Nambour division, there is a 177 per cent increase in unlawful use of a motor vehicle offences. In Nambour, the number of unlawful entry offences has increased. For assault, there has been an increase of 255 per cent. That is disgraceful—

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (5.53 pm): Considering her history as a former Speaker, what we have seen from the member for Maroochydore is her absolute disdain for this House as she continues to disobey rulings from the chair. As I have said before, the Leader of the Opposition has a great sense of humour when he gives her a title with the word 'integrity' in it.

I rise to support the amended motion moved by the member for Bulimba. When it comes to tonight's debate, it is concerning to see that the member for Kawana is not treating the youth justice issue with the dignity that it deserves. He did not put his name down to speak on the motion but wanted to play childish games on what I consider to be a real issue. He has not changed. The hypocrisy of those opposite, including the member for Kawana, given what happened when they were in government, is astonishing, particularly when it comes to their interaction with the media around the criminal justice system. As the first law officer of this state at the time, the member for Kawana leaked confidential discussions with a head of jurisdiction about future judicial appointments at the highest level. Later, he wrote to the then opposition leader, who we know is a three-term premier—

**Mr Crandon:** Three term?

**Mr SULLIVAN:** Yes. She won three elections. I thank the member for that interjection.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. This a run down memory lane but it has nothing do to with the motion or the amendment.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** On the point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): I will allow some commentary on the point of order before I rule.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** I explicitly said that this was in relation to the involvement of those opposite with the media when it comes to the criminal justice system, which is at the core of what this motion is about.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, that is substantive. I will take some advice. Member for Clayfield, I will allow a certain degree of latitude around setting some context in the debate. I note your many historical narratives in this place, which I always enjoy I have to say. I call the member for Stafford but I will be keeping a close eye on relevance.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** No-one in this place is surprised that the member for Clayfield is embarrassed about those 2½ years so I take his interjection.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and ask him to withdraw.

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

**Mr SULLIVAN:** I withdraw. Before the interjection, I was talking about the interaction between the LNP and the media when it comes to the criminal justice system. The member for Kawana wrote to the then opposition leader about consultation on the vacant chief justice position and that consultation was leaked to the media. I am not going to be lectured to by those opposite about what people—

**Ms Bates:** That's a long bow. That is a long bow.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** Keep it coming. When it comes to the criminal justice system, as the minister outlined this morning, the member for Kawana spent \$15,000 on a chopper ride to Lincoln Springs boot camp. If anyone in the House has not seen the footage, they should do themselves a favour and look it up. It is a try-hard *Days of Our Lives* video as they look longingly into the distance. Actually, I withdraw that. I do not want to insult *Days of Our Lives*.

**Ms Richards:** *The Bold and the Beautiful*.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** *The Bold and the Beautiful*, perhaps. That is his view of chopper safety in North Queensland. I compare that to this government, which is investing in a new chopper for North Queensland. Those opposite made moves to shut down the Townsville police academy campus, located just north of Townsville. They made officers pay for their own body worn cameras and protective vests. I compare that to what this government is delivering.

The genuine importance I place on the youth justice issue is not just because of my recent portfolio role. As early as my first speech I said that it is a passion issue of mine. I said that there was a lot of name calling and a lot of immaturity when it comes to the debate around these issues. At the time I said, when we are talking about people in the youth justice system, wouldn't it be great if, in 10 or 15 years time, the name that we call them is 'taxpayers' and that they are productive members of our community, contributing and looking after their families. That is what we need. If we can agree that that is the end goal then let us have a mature and constructive discussion in this House, through our committees, through government and through the media about how we get from here to there. That should not be beyond people elected to this House.


**Mr Bennett:** You can't even debate the motion. You change the motion every time.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** I think it was the member for Burnett who just interjected. When it comes to social media, he was lecturing us about what people put on social media when he tweeted that he thinks nurses are paid too much; that the problem with the health system—

**Mr BENNETT:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence. It is not correct and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member has asked you to withdraw. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** I withdraw. I do not have the exact tweet in front of me. I understand that the quote was that it was overarching pay or a drag on the system—shackling the health system. This is frontline workers. That is their record on social media. I will stand by ours any day of the week.

 **Mr PURDIE (Ninderry—LNP) (5.59 pm):** I am not really sure where to start after some of these contributions, but I might start with a quote that I understand was made famous by American author Zig Ziglar who said you cannot solve a problem until you acknowledge that you have one and accept responsibility for solving it. Herein lies the problem because from the top down, as we know and as has been reconfirmed in this chamber this evening, this government thinks the youth crime crisis gripping Queensland is a media beat-up and is perception. We heard it again today from the member for Capalaba who talked about the 'little youth crime issue' that we politicise. I would like the Field and Leadbetter families to hear that. He stood up with them and then shortly after called the youth crime crisis in Queensland and in his electorate a media beat-up. I for one will not be associating myself with any comment in this place by this member or any political process, be it a committee or otherwise, that suggests crime is a perception or a media beat-up and all we need to do to fix the problem is curtail the media's reporting of it. It is not a perception or a media beat-up. Every statistic across the board shows it. Those opposite like to cherrypick statistics to try to paint this in a blue light.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr PURDIE:** I hear the laugh. Those opposite trot out statistics about unique offenders with a proven offence before the Childrens Court, failing to acknowledge the 15,000 offences children have been cautioned for and failing to acknowledge that the clear-up rate is on the decline. Police are struggling to put people before the court and get justice for victims of crime across Queensland. Anyone can find out by googling the QPS crime stats that from 2012 to 2014 the number of victims in Queensland reduced by 30,000. By the end of 2023 that had increased by over 130,000 victims of crime—an increase of 60 per cent. One does not need to be a criminologist. Those opposite talk about an increase in population and other stats that they try to cherrypick. There is no doubt crime has exploded.

Population across Queensland is up about nine per cent since 2015. The number of victims is up 60 per cent, in the order of 130,000 victims of crime, reaching an all-time record high. Our police have acknowledged on the record that by the end of 2023 crime was at an all-time record high in Queensland. Still we have members coming in here talking about 'little youth crime issues' that we are trying to politicise. The issue goes right to the top. Just the other day in an opinion piece in the paper we heard the Premier of this state admit that they had vacated the field when it comes to youth justice, but then he clarified on his feet in parliament on Tuesday that he was talking about the politics, which just goes to show this is a government that is more concerned about how things look than how they are. They are more concerned about politics than people. You cannot fix a problem until you know you have got one.


I turn my attention now to the member for Nicklin and his contribution. He had five minutes to talk about his record in Nicklin, but all he could do was trot out all sorts of different statistics. In the last 12 months in Nicklin and across the Sunshine Coast you are more likely to be a victim of crime. You are 26 per cent more likely to have your car stolen, you are 25 per cent more likely to have your house

broken into and you are 19 per cent more likely to have your property stolen. Those opposite are now advocating for a police chopper. I can tell you, Mr Speaker, the only difference between a chopper and a police chopper is the copper who is in it, and it requires two. It requires a mission commander in the passenger seat and a trained observer in the back and what they do is they communicate with police on the ground. In Nicklin and on the Sunshine Coast we are down 15 police at the moment. In the minister's own electorate in Moreton Bay they are down 40 police. But here they are announcing a police chopper when they do not have the police on the beat to respond to the two police that they would need to find from somewhere else to put in the helicopter.

Which brings me to my last point: this minister has lost all credibility when it comes to police. Our police have been calling for back-up for years. He has promised police and he has not delivered them. There are 1,521 fewer police now than he promised in 2020. In answer to a question yesterday he said that the LNP never funded a police chopper when we were in government. That is not true. I am happy to table documents from the 2014 and 2015 budget papers that showed the LNP did fund—

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, regarding funding relating to police helicopter services and speed and red light cameras [\[603\]](#).

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Community Safety) (6.04 pm): I rise to support the amendment. I will start by acknowledging that it would be improper and incorrect to suggest that any member of this House does not support community safety. It would be improper and incorrect to suggest that any member of this House does not support victims of crime and the supports necessary to assist victims of crime in recovering from a traumatic, terrible event that has happened in their lives. Some of the contributions that we have heard today quite frankly are repugnant and undignified because, although we may approach this complex challenge differently, we have a unified resolve, and that is community safety and support for victims.

This government takes community safety concerns seriously. We have strengthened laws. We have boosted resources for the Queensland Police Service. We have boosted resources for early intervention and prevention services. When it comes to boosting and strengthening laws, we have introduced wandering powers, we have strengthened laws for organised crime gang responses by police, we increased penalties and sanctions for child killers and serial killers, we brought in a presumption against bail for youth offenders, and we brought in breach of bail in the Bail Act for youth offenders for the first time in Queensland history. This is what this government has done. We also reversed that abhorrent action by those opposite to reduce the monitoring periods for child sex offenders and we went further. We lengthened the periods to ensure that those monitoring periods for child sex offenders are the longest in the nation.

We hear those opposite make observations and contributions about what they think is the appropriate course. That is the right and entitlement of every member of this House. It is also the right and entitlement of members on this side of the House to advocate for their communities and approach this very complex issue. I want to call out the advocacy for their communities from the members for Capalaba, Bundaberg and Nicklin. They meet with members of their communities concerned about this issue. They meet with victims of crime and they advocate on behalf of them. As a result of their advocacy, there has been significant investment in their communities. There has been physical investments like new police stations, upgraded police stations, upgrades for PCYCs, more resources for the PCYC program—the member for Capalaba spoke about the After Dark PCYC program which is delivering alternate activities for young people at night-time—and investment for police resourcing and the front line. Community safety is an important issue that the government is committed to. Every member of this House shares the same resolve so it is undignified for those opposite to suggest otherwise. We might attack this issue from alternate perspectives, but we nonetheless care about community safety, care about victims and everything we do is committed to the goal of enhancing community safety and protecting victims.

The member for Ninderry made some remarks about cautioning. I note that the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee has made some observations about that. I refer to the committee transcript where someone said, 'I do know it is successful, as 80 per cent or more never reoffend.' That was the member for Ninderry.

**Mr Purdie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Ninderry will cease his interjections. You have just had your time. It is the minister's time now.

**Mr RYAN:** Just a few moments ago in his contribution, the member for Ninderry cast aspersions about that activity, yet in the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee he contradicts himself. The member for Lockyer said—

The diversionary processes that you do in the police see about 91 per cent of cautioned offenders never offend again.

I am not criticising those remarks; I am highlighting those remarks. I criticise the hypocrisy of the member for Ninderry in casting aspersions on those processes in his contribution only a few moments ago, suggesting that those police officers who in their discretion choose to caution someone have for some reason—

*(Time expired)*

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

**AYES, 49:**

**ALP, 49—**Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Rourke, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

**NOES, 34:**

**LNP, 33—**Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir, Zanow.

**PHON, 1—**Andrew.

Pair: McMillan, Molhoek.

Resolved in the affirmative.

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

**AYES, 49:**

**ALP, 49—**Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Rourke, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

**NOES, 33:**

**LNP, 33—**Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir, Zanow.

Pair: McMillan, Molhoek.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House:

1. notes statements by the Members for Nicklin, Capalaba and Bundaberg on behalf of their constituents and their continued strong advocacy of measures to support community safety;
2. notes that all facets of society, including the media, have a role to play in supporting community safety; and
3. notes the Labor government's investment in community safety measures.


## ENERGY (RENEWABLE TRANSFORMATION AND JOBS) BILL

### CLEAN ECONOMY JOBS BILL

#### Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from p. 1095, on motion of Mr de Brenni—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (6.17 pm): Mr Speaker, before I start my contribution, I refer to your statement of 16 April concerning correspondence from the Leader of the House. This was the first time that the matter had been drawn to my attention. In response to your request, I correct the record and advise that I should have referred to the fact that 18 of 19 ministers did not make a ministerial statement on that question. I have also deleted the social media post.



I will make a brief contribution to the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill and the Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024. These are important bills because a vast tract of land will be affected. How we power our businesses, homes and everything else will be affected as we go through this transition. There are a couple of issues I want to address in relation to the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill. In terms of public ownership, we have heard about the proposed amendments to change the public ownership of energy assets. Whilst we support the ownership of energy assets, the introduction of a percentage is seen as a backwards step because, at the moment, we own our energy assets. Is the government planning to divest from these?

**Government members:** You are.

**Mr WATTS:** I hear the 'you are' and the 'you are' and the 'you are'. The reality is that even the last time that was proposed we consulted with the people of Queensland and they rejected that offer. We have absolutely no intention of doing—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Buderim!

**Mr WATTS:** When it comes to the Job Security Guarantee and the proposed fund, I suggest that the eligibility of who can be included in that will cause some great difficulties in regional areas. I believe that the proposed amendment would help in that regard. There will be a transition and it will be uncomfortable in regional areas. We should be doing all we can to ensure we do that in a sensible way.

There are a couple of issues that I need to clear up. One is the amendments put forward today. There seems to have been no consultation. Obviously, they have been rushed in here. It is a massive change. Can the minister explain how the Powerlink scheme can spend money without the approval of the Australian Energy Regulator? What does that do to our regulated base asset calculations when the national regulator is working out the various bills that will be applied and the amount that wholesalers will be able to charge? How will that impact businesses and others? In the minister's wrap-up, I would like a bit more detail and a better understanding around that Powerlink statement and the ring fencing just so we are very clear that we are not going to cause difficulties in terms of power bills in the future. I would be keen for the modelling around that to be tabled.

I now refer to the public briefing for the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill. One of those who briefed us was Ms Stutz. She stated—

In the Queensland SuperGrid Infrastructure Blueprint, independent modelling indicated that Queensland will require approximately 25 gigawatts of total large-scale renewable generation capacity by 2035. It does give indications: just under three gigawatts of existing operational wind and grid scale as at June 2022 and a further just over 12 gigawatts of new wind generation. The total land area—

and this is the bit that I want people to listen to—

for this is approximately 540,000 hectares.

So people can get their heads around it, that is 5,400 square kilometres. She goes on to say—

Then there are approximately 10 gigawatts of new large-scale solar capacity, which equates to just over 40,000 hectares.

We will end up looking at a lot of square kilometres to do this. To give you some idea, I thought I would do a comparison so people can understand what that means. If we covered these electorates with wind towers and solar panels and nothing else, the electorates we are going to cover, the land mass of Queensland that is going to go under, includes: McConnel, Greenslopes, Stafford, Millar, Bulimba, Mount Ommaney, Sandgate, Aspley, Toohey, Woodridge, Stretton, Nudgee, Capalaba, Ferny Grove, Inala, Waterford, Cairns, Cooper, Murrumba, Lytton—I am halfway. These are the electorates that would go completely under: Algester, Morayfield, Mansfield, Bancroft, Gaven, Mackay, Ipswich, Macalister, Springwood, Bundaberg, Redlands, Murrumba, Kurwongbah, Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Redcliffe, Caloundra, Townsville, Thuringowa, Jordan, Pumicestone, Logan and, for the record, Pine Rivers as well. When we are talking about land management, just so the people of Queensland understand the size of the area we are talking about, that is the equivalent size.

The people who live in the areas where these wind towers are going to go up and where these solar panels are going to be positioned are very concerned about land management in their area, and members opposite need to grasp how much land we are talking about. Over 40 of their electorates in size will be lost to renewable energy.

I am not opposed to renewable energy; I am just saying that it should be managed appropriately. As we find in all of the members' electorates I just discussed, land management is a very important matter. That is why we have local council regulations and various other things to control land management in those areas. Why do the people who live in regional Queensland, which will supply the future energy for this state, not deserve the same level of consideration? Why do they not deserve to know that the land will be fully rehabilitated?

All of the environmental groups we spoke to want the land to be rehabilitated at the end of its use for renewables. All of the environmental groups we spoke to want to make sure that the government has some bond so that if the people who are generating that energy go bankrupt the land can be put back as it was. People want to know what is going to happen to the water supply. What is going to happen to the open spaces that are covered, and how is that all going to be rehabilitated? This bill is very scant on detail as to how we are going to do that.

In my contribution I want to make it very clear that as this transition happens it needs to be done sensibly and with open consultation. It needs to be done with transparency. It needs to be thought through and it needs to be done well, because we are talking about a massive chunk of the Queensland land mass, and the people who live in those areas deserve the same respect as everybody else when we are talking about land use in their area.

If we are going to have a credible pathway we should not cognate this debate, cut it short, make sure that people do not get to have their say, and bring in really serious amendments that have the potential to change the way the national regulator regulates energy to people in Queensland. This is fundamentally important and it should be put through the committee process. I believe that the minister should adjourn this debate and put that amendment through the committee process. Let us bring some transparency to it so we can be assured that we are going to get cheap, reliable energy.

Debate, on motion of Mr Watts, adjourned.

## MOTIONS

### Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.27 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended to immediately allow the member for Noosa in their capacity as chair and the member for Cooper in their capacity as deputy chair of the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee to immediately address the House for no more than five minutes on the progress of that committee and that the members need not be constrained by standing order 211.



**Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.28 pm): If you want any more indication of the arrogance of this third-term Labor government, here it is. There are two items the Leader of the House just moved: (1) allowing committee business to be detailed in the parliament tonight without notice; and (2) the second element, I assume, is to do what the government has just announced in the media and which I just saw on the news. This means there is only one person in this House—one person in this chamber—who could have told the media they were about to come in here and move a motion to suspend standing orders to talk about the parliamentary committee, and that is the Leader of the House.

The Leader of the House has breached the standing orders by informing the media what he was about to do in this very House. That is what he has done. I will tell members this—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order, members!

**Mr BLEIJIE**: What is playing out right now is what I have just seen on the news—that is, that the Leader of the House was going to do this. Here is the thing—

**Ms Richards**: The LNP voted for transparency.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Order, member for Redlands.

**Mr BLEIJIE**: I take the interjection from the member for Redlands about transparency. I will get to that right now. We have a parliamentary committee that was set up in a bipartisan way and the opposition put forward three fantastic members to sit on that committee—two former police officers and a Commonwealth prosecutor. What has happened now—and thank you to the Leader of the House—

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

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, resume your seat please. What is your point of order, Leader of the House?

**Mr de BRENNI:** I draw the member's and your attention to the standing orders on relevance to the motion. The member is straying from the motion I put before the House, which is to allow the member to speak for five minutes.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I will handle the point of order. I do not need the assistance of the Manager of Opposition Business. I should take some advice. Member for Kawana, I would ask you to come back to the substance of the motion. I do not have a copy of it in front of me yet, but effectively the substance of the motion is whether or not the members for Noosa and Cooper should be allowed to address the House in relation to the committee with the suspension of standing order 211. I would ask you to stick within those boundaries please.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** With respect to standing order 211, it is about releasing information to the media. The motion we are debating now is in direct breach of standing order 211. Why? What we have just heard through the media is that the government wish to release a draft report that has no dissenting information attached to it and has no alternative view on the report. It is simply a document with recommendations that the chair has put forward in draft format that has not been endorsed by the parliamentary committee. Why is the government trying to do this without the committee going through the proper processes?

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

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock please. Member for Kawana, resume your seat. Members will stop their interjections. Leader of the House, do you have a point of order?

**Mr de BRENNI:** The point of order is the same as my previous one. These may be relevant points that the member for Kawana seeks to make in later proceedings, but they are not relevant to the question that is before the House in relation to this motion.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): That is my view as well. I would ask you to come back to the narrowness of this motion.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I have just been provided now a copy of the notice of motion which, I have to say, is one of the most disgraceful things this third-term Labor government has done. The reason members should oppose this motion is because the government is only allowing the chair and the member for Cooper to talk about this particular issue. What about the LNP members? The reason we should be opposing this motion is that, in order for the parliament to be fully informed of the issues, it needs to hear from the opposition and this motion does not allow the opposition to speak. It simply says the 'member for Noosa in their capacity as chair and the member for Cooper'. It does not say that a debate will ensue after that; it simply says the member for Noosa and the member for Cooper will be able to make a statement about this committee report without hearing from the opposition.

I put the point to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, that that is so wrong on so many levels. The Leader of the Opposition put forward opposition members to work in a bipartisan way with the committee. To now not be afforded the opportunity to explain the situation and to have standing order 211 taken away so that only two members of the House—an Independent member and a Labor Party member—can say what they want without any rebuttal is absolutely disgraceful. It is an attack on the democracy and the actual privilege of members of this House, including the three LNP members of the committee, not to be able to respond.

We are not sure what the members for Noosa and Cooper will say other than what I have just seen on the news, which was a complete breach. How did the media obtain the information that this motion was about to be moved in the parliament? I wonder. As I said, there is only one person in this House who was going to move this motion who could have possibly given it to the media in direct breach of standing order 211.

The parliament should afford the opportunity for the opposition to put its case forward. Many times I have stood in here and been on a committee with the member for Noosa, including the former business committee, when the member for Noosa has advocated for more transparency for all members of the parliament. If the member for Noosa agrees with this motion which does not allow an LNP spokesperson on that committee to put forward a rebuttal to the propositions that are about to be put forward by the members for Noosa and Cooper, then it is about controlling a government narrative, which is what the LNP members on that committee had an issue with all of the time.

Parliament should be afforded the opportunity to hear from other members of that committee as per the standing orders, which are being suspended to allow those members of the committee to talk about this report. Why does the government need to suspend those standing orders? Why are they so inclined to release tonight what would ordinarily be confidential committee business? I would say that, pursuant to this motion and what we just saw on the news, if the government is saying that that draft report should be released, then I say release everything—minutes of the meetings and propositions put forward by the opposition, including propositions that the opposition wanted the weakening of the youth justice laws investigated by this committee but those opposite refused to do so. The reduction of police numbers should have been investigated by this committee and the government refused to allow it to happen.

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

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Resume your seat please, member for Kawana. Before I go to the Leader of the House, I just want to take some advice. Member for Kawana, I would remind you that standing order 211 also applies to you in your contribution until such time as this motion is passed and then it does not apply to you. You also are not allowed to reveal committee proceedings.


**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Buderim, but I am quite capable of managing the House and interpreting the standing orders. Member for Kawana, I would ask you to continue your contribution and to stay within the narrow bounds of the motion as written.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I move the following amendment—

The words 'and the member for Lockyer as a member of the committee' be added to this motion after 'the member for Cooper in their capacity as deputy chair of the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee'.

That amendment to this motion is that the member for Lockyer be afforded the opportunity to also speak to the motion moved.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (6.38 pm): As a former leader of the House, I have never seen the democracy of this House hijacked by the current Leader of the House in this fashion to suit their own political ends and take away the rights of members, particularly the opposition members, to have their say on committee proceedings.

We all know that standing order 211 precludes any dissemination of particular proceedings of those committee meetings. We get this ridiculous motion before the House that basically says, 'That's okay as long as we can tell a story about what we want to tell.' In terms of committee reporting, the idea of portfolio committees is that they give a balanced view and it gives opposition members as well as government members their say in portfolio committees.

In my time here since the new portfolio system was brought in in 2011, I have never seen this parliament being hijacked by the Leader of the House in this particular fashion. The amendment moved by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is at least a fair and reasonable outcome for this surprise motion we have before the House. I am not aware about leaking to the media and those sorts of matters. What I am saying is that the motion that the Leader of the House has moved is totally unreasonable, unfair and undemocratic. It will basically muzzle any other opinion apart from what the government wants to send out to the people of Queensland on youth justice. That is not fair and reasonable.

Our role here, as well as the media's role, is to hold the government to account. If there are matters that should be brought forward, I think the member for Lockyer would be able to do that in a reasonable capacity if the amendment that the deputy leader has reasonably put forward to this surprise motion is passed. The Leader of the House is trying to undermine the portfolio committee system. It will be interesting to see what other motions we see in relation to the Cost of Living and Economics Committee coming up shortly. I have not seen anything like this. It is a desperate government trying to overcome its lack of action in relation to youth justice. That is why they are putting forward this one-sided argument out there to the media and the Queensland public, without any opportunity for a different view to be put out.

In all fairness and reasonableness, the amendment moved by the deputy leader is fair and appropriate, and it would at least uphold some level of decency and democracy in terms of this particular motion before the House. I cannot understand why the Leader of the House would do this without any consultation—well, I can really. I am not even aware if the good members who are allocated to talk are aware of the job they need to do in spruiking the government's message on youth crime.


**Ms BOLTON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence and I ask the member to retract that statement.

**Mr STEVENS:** I did not mention any names.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! Member for Mermaid Beach, I am quite capable of ruling on this point of order without your assistance. Member for Noosa, there was no reference to you personally. There is no point of order.

**Mr STEVENS:** I will move on from the listed speakers under the current motion. Obviously, I believe the Leader of the House would have made them aware of their job to do on his behalf. Certainly, the member for Cooper, as the other speaker involved in this particularly bad outcome for the democracy of this House, would be aware of her calling in relation to this youth justice message. This motion is totally unreasonable and unfair in its current form. There has been a reasonable alternative put forward by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I am sure the member for Lockyer can deliver a version so the people of Queensland and the media can determine for themselves the true progress and the outcomes of the youth justice committee.

Every electorate is very concerned about youth justice. Mermaid Beach is in this up to its eyeballs. I am sure right throughout this House that youth justice is a major issue. This motion is all about saying what the portfolio committee delivered about youth justice. In the interests of fairness and reasonableness, the member for Lockyer should be given an opportunity to present his view on the matter, according to the amendment moved by the deputy leader.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.45 pm): Since the government will agree to the amendment, I suggest that, in accordance with standing order 88, the question be now put. I move—

That the question be now put.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Question put—That the amendment be agreed to.


Amendment agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

Motion, as agreed—

That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended to immediately allow the member for Noosa in their capacity as chair and the member for Cooper in their capacity as deputy chair of the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee, and the member for Lockyer as a member of the committee, to immediately address the House for no more than five minutes on the progress of that committee and that the members need not be constrained by standing order 211.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (6.46 pm): This all started because I asked to speak—and I was hoping to speak this morning—because the situation I was facing as chair had become literally untenable. I have no knowledge of anyone else being asked to speak, but I just wanted to get up and actually advise the House about the progress of the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee, especially given there has been so much media coverage and so much discussion in this chamber, and I think everyone wants to hear something.

As the House knows, the committee has been working towards the completion and tabling of an interim report—an interim report, not a final report—after six months of our inquiry which has incorporated 26 meetings, 13 public hearings, nine public briefings, 220 submissions and site visits. As chair I have endeavoured every step of the way to work patiently, impartially, respectfully and collaboratively with both sides of this chamber to get a balanced, nonpartisan report on the many contentious issues that we have heard about. This has been an incredibly difficult environment, heightened by the media and the politicking with the upcoming election. This has not been easy and has come at great cost.

Prior to commencing the drafting of a report, the committee had workshopped the content on three occasions, from memory. Even though there was consensus within the committee that Queensland's youth justice system is not meeting the community's expectations with regard to community safety and the rehabilitation of children and young people and that earlier intervention is required, members' views on how best to address this have proved polarising. As a consequence of this, I have sought to achieve compromises in an effort to reach a bipartisan agreement, which consistently has been asked for by Queenslanders whether it has been at public hearings or otherwise.

This journey has included three extensions of time granted for members to consider the draft interim report and the issues raised throughout the inquiry by submitters, witnesses, including victims, and members. Since the release of the draft four weeks ago, I have repeatedly asked committee members to articulate in writing what they want to delete, amend or insert into the report, including recommendations, so they can be considered and we can work collaboratively on this.

Where received, they have been incorporated for discussion. However, there have also been broad statements of objection which have been difficult to translate into specific amendments, with requests to the writers to articulate further either ignored or brushed off. In addition, there were statements that a report will not be agreed to unless it includes recommendations that clearly we could not get consensus on.

Despite the workshops, multiple meetings and extensions over a number of weeks to consider and approve the draft interim report, at the adoption meeting yesterday the report failed to achieve a majority under the current rules. This was deeply saddening. Even though significant amendments had been accomplished and the ability was still there to raise any concerns via a statement of dissent or reservation, which is standard.

Of note, I believe that the very vast majority of the 55 recommendations that we got to would have been approved as they had not been raised as requiring amendments or of concern.

That we have not delivered a bipartisan agreement so far, as needed by Queenslanders, has been personally and otherwise deeply disappointing. I will say again how very sad I am. An outcome where there is no report tabled, especially given that we have developed and agreed on many substantive comments and recommendations, is unacceptable. It is for these reasons that I regretfully—and really regretfully—stand here to seek the parliament's support to amend the voting rules agreed by the House on 12 October 2023—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! Pause the clock!

**Mr de BRENNI**: Deputy Speaker—


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Pause the clock! Resume your seat, member. Resume your seat, Leader of the House. I will take some advice.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders. Members, I was trying to listen carefully to what the member on her feet had to say and the extreme outburst there did not allow me to hear that. I will grant the member a few additional seconds. The time is always at the discretion of the Speaker. I call the member for Noosa and I would like to hear the final part of her contribution in silence.

**Ms BOLTON**: Literally, I am just asking that we go back to the standard voting rules so that we can take that report back to be able to work again to try to get there because Queenslanders deserve to see that interim report made public. There is absolutely no reason for it not to. So much work—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Thank you, member. I think you have made your point.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (6.53 pm): Seven months ago, the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee was established to examine ongoing reforms to the youth justice system and to support victims of crime and was comprised equally of government and non-government members and chaired by the member for Noosa. This was the first independently chaired committee in more than two decades. For many, this signalled a fresh approach and the government prioritisation of community safety. This rare and powerful parliamentary committee was asked to adopt a bipartisan approach to the issue of youth justice and propose reforms that would transcend the political arguments that can block meaningful and long-term reform. Government members have worked faithfully and cooperatively towards that outcome. I want to thank all of the submitters who have generously contributed their stories, experiences and ideas.

Our committee has met more than 25 times. We have held multiple workshops, received over 220 submissions and generated thousands of pages of work from public servants and those working at the front line with young people and victims. I do not underestimate the extraordinary investment of their time, and I thank them for their generosity.

The committee has had 16 public briefings over seven months across Queensland. Submitters repeated their hopes that all parties would put politics aside and work on a set of findings and recommendations that would help make Queensland communities safer. Disappointingly, that has not eventuated.

I stand here tonight making an extraordinary statement on an extraordinary but predictable outcome that the LNP members of the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee have now made it clear they will not be adopting an interim report, as requested months ago by the chair. Through this act, the LNP have let down every single victim of crime in Queensland. They have let down every one of the 300 young people sitting right now in Queensland watch houses and detention centres. They have let down those families. They have let down communities. They have let down Queenslanders.

I am going to reveal the lengths that the chair and members went to to produce a public report. Our first adoption meeting for the report was scheduled for Wednesday, 21 March. The report was not adopted, despite the chair and government members being ready. The chair provided an additional 14-day extension for members to review the report again. The second adoption meeting was scheduled for 4 April and proceeded for two hours. The report was not able to be adopted at that meeting either. The third adoption meeting occurred on Monday, 15 April for 2½ hours. Again the report was not adopted. The final adoption meeting occurred the following day for one hour and the LNP at that meeting voted to not adopt the report.

The work of this committee has created an incredible direct cost, but the indirect costs are far greater. We all made promises to victims and to young people. Tonight, my mind goes particularly to the people in places like Mount Isa where the community made it clear to us that they did not want us coming into town and wasting their time. I will quote what the chair told the public gallery in Mount Isa. She said—

We will be doing an interim report before the end of March with a series of recommendations because we understand the frustration, we understand the urgency and we understand the angst. We understand that everyone wants to get us doing the things that we can do right now.

Keeping Queenslanders safe is the government's greatest priority and it is an issue that should transcend politics. While I do not agree with all the recommendations in the report, it is important that findings from the committee are made, that they are published and that they are placed into the public domain for Queenslanders to examine and debate. The government members were committed to that process.

I would like to thank the chair of the committee, the member for Noosa, Sandy Bolton, for the professionalism she has displayed over the past seven months. Through this committee, the government invited members of the opposition to develop a set of bipartisan principles to reform Queensland's youth justice system and give certainty to stakeholders. I regret that the invitation was not taken up by the opposition, so I have regrettably come to the conclusion that this committee is no longer serving the interests of Queenslanders. It is no longer a vehicle for bipartisanship.

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock! Member for Southern Downs, you are already on a warning. You can leave the chamber.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Southern Downs withdrew from the chamber at 6.57 pm.*


**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, if you are having difficulty hearing the person on their feet, it means the noise is too much. If you wish to speak, you have the ability to speak, and you can do that and make your contribution at that point.

**Ms BUSH:** It is no longer a vehicle for bipartisanship. It has been hijacked by the LNP's political agenda. If we cannot agree—

**Mr Purdie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Ninderry, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms BUSH:** If we cannot agree on the release of an interim report, I do not see how we can agree on a pathway forward for this committee.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (6.58 pm): It is a privilege to be able to rise to speak to this matter. We entered this process in good faith. The LNP members entered this process in good faith. We—two former sworn police officers and a prosecuting barrister—dedicated our lives to protecting Queenslanders and we committed to this process in good faith. I still hold that hope, but the changing

of the voting rules of the committee removes the opportunity for this to be a bipartisan approach. The changing of the voting rules puts in place an opportunity that we have already seen here tonight for this government to be able to do whatever they want to do. They are not listening.

People have been murdered. People have had their lives torn apart. I have personally supported those people. The victims in this matter that we have heard about were never this government's concern. If they were, they would be listening to the recommendations that we are putting up to be included in this report—a report that is not finished. We are only a third of the way through the 60-odd recommendations. The work on the report is only a quarter of the way through.

A learned person the other day said that there would be another 40 hours of work on this committee—40 hours, that is a week's work. I think Queenslanders deserve that. This motion will remove the bipartisan approach of this committee to find fair dinkum solutions for fair dinkum Queenslanders, and Queenslanders deserve better. To the highest level of this government, they are not owning the problem of crime. At the highest level, all the way to the Premier and the department and the minister and the others in this place—as we heard earlier in the debate on the motion—they are not owning the problem.

We asked in a motion the other day that Queensland Police Service statistics be released to correct the factually incorrect statements of the Premier, ministers and other members. That was not supported by this government. The government committee members did not support the motion by our members and the chair to extend the time for this committee. That was not listened to. This should not be a political plaything. It is an absolute disgrace that this government is not listening to Queenslanders. We put up sensible motions that included investigating the reduction of police numbers and the impact that that has had on youth crime and safety and also on victims across Queensland. Crime is at the highest level across the state. They are not made up numbers that are being used to show youth crime is going down. Crime is at the highest level in this state and Queenslanders deserve a bipartisan approach. We moved sensible motions to investigate the changing and weakening of the laws by this government in 2016 to see what has happened and to look at why the growth in serious repeat offenders has continued from 380 some three or four years ago to over 600 now. They are committing more than 56 per cent of crime. We put forward those sensible motions in a bipartisan way and government members voted them down.

Earlier in the piece we came up with a lot of sensible motions—although some were just turning it back to the government. We were asked in our terms of reference to review matters. Most of the motions that have been put forward as suggestions actually ask for further review. Queenslanders deserve better than that. They deserve the solutions that we have heard from witnesses and from experts who told us to remove the detention as a last resort and to unshackle the judiciary. We heard that from experts who know. We heard it from the barrister in the Childrens Court who said, 'We know some kids need to be confined.' The problem is this government has not invested in solutions to keep those young children out of watch houses and they need to invest in the solutions, but they have not.


**Mr Smith** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Bundaberg is warned under the standing orders.

**Mr McDONALD:** This motion is a disgrace. It will change the voting rights of the committee so that it will not be a bipartisan approach.

*(Time expired)*


### Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (7.03 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders that—

1. The Leader of the House is permitted to immediately move a motion regarding parliamentary committees:
  - (a) standing order 211 is suspended for this debate in relation to the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee; and
  - (b) total time before question put being 30 minutes; and
2. the automatic adjournment for this day's sitting commences two hours after the conclusion of the debate of the motion outlined in 1.



 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (7.04 pm): I rise to make a contribution on this motion. If you need further evidence of the chaos and crisis that is gripping the Labor government, tonight has proven it on two fronts. They offer an opportunity to have a bipartisan committee to consider youth crime and now, they want to throw that out. Secondly, we now have to extend sitting hours for at least two hours, more likely 2½ hours, this evening.

We used to have a business program motion debate on Tuesday. Members of the opposition were able to explain why we opposed the business program. I can tell members that had that debate on the business program motion occurred yesterday, the Leader of the House would have been told that we did not have enough time this week to debate the six pieces of legislation that they were proposing to debate, let alone these kind of silly motions that the government continue to move. That is exactly what they would have been told. Because they have guillotined the guillotine debate, you do not hear that. I am pleased that the Leader of the House has now moved this motion because it gives me an opportunity to explain again. This kind of extension of hours, sitting later into the evening, is exactly what the members of the opposition have been saying from day one.

We do not have enough time to debate the legislation that this government is putting before us. Members do not have the opportunity to speak on bills that are important to their constituencies and to their electorates. Why can we do it tonight? Because the government has suddenly discovered they need to change the voting pattern for a select committee. Why can we do it tonight and not any other night? Go figure. This is a permanent solution that the government could adopt to ensure that members continue to be able to contribute on important bills. Let us return to why we are also having to do it this evening, and that is in what we have just heard in the contributions from the member for Noosa and the member for Cooper. We have heard a suggestion that because it is taking time to reach a bipartisan outcome on an important matter such as youth crime, they now want to throw out the voting procedures for that committee.

I cannot believe that we are extending hours this evening for that reason. I thought I had seen the most abysmal trashing of parliamentary democracy undertaken by those opposite in this term, particularly this year. You can tell an election is around the corner because they have thrown out all care that has been taken for years and years—indeed centuries of tradition in the Westminster system—in debate and in how contributions can be made in chambers like this one. They have completely and utterly thrown it out, but tonight it reaches new levels. It is a new low. I am constantly amazed at how low those opposite can go.


**Mr Watts:** They cut off their own member before.

**Mr POWELL:** I take that interjection from the member for Toowoomba South. They were clearly running out of time so they would not even allow their own member to extend his contribution. We will allow the extension of debate this evening, but please do not interpret that in any way as an agreement to the ongoing practices of those opposite regarding the motions put in this chamber—whether they be the business program motions at the start of the week or motions such as the ones we are about to hear from the Leader of the House. Supporting an extension of hours is consistent with the approach we in the opposition have been saying from day one, but to continue to put forward motions of this nature is not acceptable.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

### **Youth Justice Reform Select Committee, Production of Amended Report**

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (7.08 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That:

1. the House notes the statements by the member for Noosa as the chair and the member for Cooper as the deputy chair of the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee on Wednesday, 17 April, regarding the progress of the committee's work and the obstructions and frustrations occurring in the committee to produce a report;
2. due to the issues outlined in the statements referred to in 1., the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee is instructed to provide its version of the latest report put to the committee for adoption, which failed to pass, to the Clerk by 12 pm, Thursday, 18 April and the Clerk is instructed to cause the document to be tabled;
3. upon the tabling of the document by the Clerk referred to in 2. the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee is dissolved; and
4. the House notes that the ongoing implementation of community safety and youth justice measures will continue to be oversighted by the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee and the Community Support and Services Committee.

In moving this motion, I must say it is disappointing to all of us to hear that the LNP have played politics with the issue of youth justice. It is disappointing but it is not surprising. The Youth Justice Reform Select Committee was established to look into the issues of community safety and youth justice. It was established to ensure bipartisanship with equal numbers of government and opposition members on the committee. The committee was chaired by an Independent member of this House who sits on the crossbench, the member for Noosa. We thank the member for Noosa for the lengths she has gone to in order to provide the opposition with adequate opportunity to engage in this process in a meaningful and constructive manner.

It is clear from the contributions of the member for Noosa and the member for Cooper that there has been extensive work done through this committee, the sort of work Queenslanders were keen to see this House do. I am advised the committee has held 16 public hearings across the state and it has received literally countless submissions. I am also advised by people who watched some of the public hearings that it was quite clear from the outset that the opposition were aiming to politicise the issue and not treat the issue seriously. I note that the member for Cooper has outlined in detail the lengths that they went to in order to consider a report. I understand there were at least four attempts at trying to make that happen and the LNP did not vote to adopt it.

What we are talking about is an interim report, a report to show the people of Queensland that after six or so months this select committee had done some work and had a view on things that matter to Queenslanders. It did not require unanimous agreement but it did require people to act in good faith. However, the LNP could not even bring themselves to work in a cooperative fashion and allow a report to be released.

We all know that reports are released on a range of topics which not all members agree on. That is why statements of reservation and dissenting reports exist. There was nothing stopping those opposite agreeing for a report to be tabled and then articulating their alternative views via a statement of reservation or a dissenting report. That is at the heart of the issue before us: deliberately concealing the matters that were agreed in order to hold the committee to ransom. It is hardly edifying to engage in that sort of tactic in a committee with a responsibility to inquire into the issue of crime. The actions of those opposite speak volumes to Queenslanders.

The member for Currumbin, the member for Lockyer and the member for Ninderry should hang their heads in shame. They are actively, through their actions, delaying reform that could offer justice to Queenslanders. If those members cannot even bring themselves to engage in a constructive manner in a parliamentary committee process, how on earth would they hope to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner if they were to ever form government?

We have already seen earlier this evening their abuse of standing orders to conduct some sport during a debate on these matters. The member for Currumbin is a shadow minister who aspires to be a minister. The conduct of the member is not fitting or becoming of someone who aspires to be a minister of the Crown. Ministers have a duty to be solutions focused, not politics focused. She has been elevated to the shadow ministry, yet her conduct on the committee does not reflect an appreciation of those responsibilities. The member for Ninderry is also a shadow minister who has—

**Ms Simpson:** It sounds awfully like a political statement.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! That sounds like an interjection. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr de BRENNI:** The member for Ninderry is also a shadow minister who also wants to be a minister. I say to this House that the conduct of that member on the information which has been provided to this House would lead this House to the conclusion that they are not even fit to be a shadow minister.

The member for Lockyer knows that I think he is a good bloke, and it is disappointing that he has been led down a particular path by the members for Currumbin and Ninderry to act in a way which is not constructive or conducive to proper committee processes.

This government does not take the moving of this motion lightly. This motion is a serious motion, but so is the subject matter that this committee has been charged to look into. The government acted in good faith by establishing a bipartisan committee to inquire into these matters and has been awaiting its findings for some time. We all now know that it has been delayed a number of times. It is now crystal clear that the LNP opposition have no intention of engaging in this process in a constructive and bipartisan way. It is now crystal clear that the LNP opposition have no intention other than to play politics. They do not intend to work constructively on positive ways forward. The government, in moving this motion tonight, is doing so—

**Mr McDonald:** The ways experts and Queenslanders deserve.

**Mr de BRENNI:** I am not taking the member's interjection. The government, in moving this motion tonight, is doing so to ensure that Queenslanders can see a report from the committee after its months of work. The government then, of course, will review the information that is contained in that report and the recommendations that are proposed in that document and act, where appropriate, to strengthen community safety in this state. As is outlined in this motion—

**Mr McDonald** interjected.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Lockyer is warned.

**Mr de BRENNI:** As is outlined in this motion, there are already two committees of this parliament which have portfolio and oversight responsibilities for the topics in question, that being the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee and the Community Support and Services Committee. These committees will continue to provide oversight of the government implementation of community safety measures via a range of fora including during the upcoming estimates process.

As we know, committees do not just happen; they are simply made up of members of this House. They are supported by hardworking and dedicated parliamentary staff. On behalf of the government, we thank the Queensland parliament, particularly the parliamentary staff who have worked on this committee. We thank them for their effort and for their dedication. We know that there has been an increase in the volume of work. We know that there has been incredibly difficult testimony and issues to work through and witness and we thank them all for their effort and dedication. The work that they have done in conjunction with members of the committee has not been done in vain just because the committee cannot resolve to publish a report.

In particular, we want to acknowledge all the victims of crime who have shared their stories with the committee. Your experiences matter and we are sorry that the conduct of some members of the committee has not met the importance of this moment. We acknowledge all Queenslanders who have engaged with the committee—ordinary Queenslanders, non-government organisations and public servants. The motion tonight will ensure the report—the document as it currently stands—will be provided to the Clerk and will be tabled for Queenslanders to see.

As I have stated before, this motion has not been moved lightly, but the government has continued to wait. As such, I ask members to support the motion before the House this evening.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (7.18 pm): The motion moved by the Leader of the House tonight is a disgraceful attempt at government controlling a narrative that, in the Premier's own words, they had deserted. They had deserted the political space on youth crime. As revealed on 9 News tonight, the Leader of the House has done exactly what he said he was going to do. He was going to come in here and trample the committee process. I want to congratulate the member for Lockyer on his earlier statement in the House tonight. It was to the point, truthful and honest and on behalf of victims of crime in the state. It exposed what the real issue is here: the government did not get their way. That is the reality.

The government wanted a report that gave only their narrative to victims of crime. They did not want debate. They did not want alternative views. They voted against looking at the real issues that caused the youth crime crisis. This is a government that has been in power for nine years and does not want their record looked at. That is what happened in the committee. Our members put forward suggestions.

**Mr Harper:** How many?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I am about to tell you. Our members put forward suggestions such as getting rid of detention as a last resort. How did the government members vote on that? Our members put forward a suggestion to look at the reduction in police numbers by the Labor Party in the past nine years and what impact that has had on the youth justice crisis. How did the Labor members vote on that? Our members put forward suggestions such as looking at the weakening of the youth justice laws by the Labor Party in 2015-16. How did the Labor Party vote on that? I would be interested to know because I suspect they voted 'no' as they do not want the truth revealed.

The Labor Party do not want the truth revealed that their weakening of the youth justice laws in 2015-16 has created the youth crime crisis we have today. They do not want Queenslanders to know that they have reduced police numbers across the state. They do not want Queenslanders to know that a reduction in police numbers across Queensland has led to the youth crime crisis we have in the state now. They do not want Queenslanders to know that bringing back detention as a last resort has led to the youth crime crisis we have today. If they are fair dinkum about being bipartisan, it would all be in the report, then the government makes a decision and then the government makes a policy decision.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** It is in the report.

**Mr Sullivan:** How do you know that?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I can tell you how I know that the government will not make a decision.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! Members, due to the time constraints in this debate I am attempting not to stop the clock. Member for Stafford, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I know they are not going to do anything about it because if they were, they would have done it over the past nine years. This is a third-term Labor government that has run out of ideas. It has run out of solutions for the youth crime crisis. The best they can do is try to get a narrative through a parliamentary committee that they did not quite get across because of our experienced members.


I heard a disgraceful interjection from one member that a former Commonwealth prosecutor was not a barrister. They have no idea what a barrister is and what a Commonwealth prosecutor is—

**Mrs Gerber:** They sat at the bar.

**Mr BLEIJIE:**—and the member sat at the bar. I look at our members who were on the select parliamentary committee. We have the member for Currumbin, a former Commonwealth prosecutor who put members of international paedophilia rings into jail, behind bars. We have the member for Lockyer who was in charge of his local police station before he came to parliament. The member for Ninderry was a detective in the child protection unit. I would put the experience of our members above that of the Labor Party members every day of the week. Do you know what? Victims do, too! They look at the member for Nicklin, the member for Caloundra, the member for Thuringowa and then they look at our members. There is a reason that victims of crime are speaking to the opposition. It is because they trust our members on that select committee.

Our members put forward suggestions because they are Queenslanders' priorities. Because they are Queenslanders' priorities, they are our priorities. Before the end of the year, the LNP will introduce our 'making Queensland safer' laws. At the election, there is a real choice for the people of Queensland: they can re-elect a Labor government that is full of incompetent and inexperienced ministers who have caused the youth crime crisis and nothing will change in the youth crime space other than that crime will continue to go up, more cars will be stolen, more homes will be broken into and more tools will be stolen from tradies' utes; or they can elect an LNP government that, by the end of the year, will put in place the 'making Queensland safer' laws. That will assist the youth crime crisis. Those laws will put victims first. Those laws will get rid of detention as a last resort. Those laws will put victims before offenders and that should have been the heart of what this parliamentary committee was looking at.

This is a disgraceful attempt by the Labor Party to say that the committee did not work in a bipartisan way because the Labor Party did not get what they want and their narrative has been exposed. The Leader of the House said that the report should be given to the Clerk. It is not a report. It is not a committee report. It has not been agreed to. If that report is tabled then so too should draft statements of reservation, statements of dissent, the minutes of the meeting—everything should be tabled. This is a disgraceful attempt, but what else would you expect from a third-term Labor government that is so arrogant and out of ideas? Vote for the LNP in October 2024 so we can introduce the 'making Queensland safer' laws.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (7.25 pm): I will follow the contribution of the member for Kawana with some facts. I asked the member for Kawana about the number of recommendations and when they came into those meetings that were extended and extended. Here is a lesson—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Comments will come through the chair.

**Mr HARPER:** The government members put in 55 of the 60 recommendations. They came in, in two hours, to the final meeting with five recommendations and we agreed with two. They came in with five and we agreed to two.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Ninderry, you were on a warning. You can leave the chamber.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Ninderry withdrew from the chamber at 7.26 pm.*

**Mr HARPER:** Like many members, I come to this place to make a genuine difference. I put my hand up to represent North Queensland and regional Queensland on this bipartisan committee in the hope that we would come together to listen and deliver for Queenslanders and to make our communities safer. I want to thank every single victim, every stakeholder and every community member who gave up their time and shared their stories with the committee. We heard from many Queenslanders. We

heard from victims of crime. We heard from those on the front line. They all desperately want us to put aside our differences and come up with real solutions and plans to make our communities safer. I am sorry that they have all been let down by the LNP.

They have been let down by the LNP and I am furious because I put my heart and soul into this to make my community of Thuringowa safer. I am so disappointed that this committee could not come to a position that worked for all Queenslanders. People in Townsville are crying out for solutions and the LNP in this state is hell-bent on blocking the committee from taking action by hiding the report, the interim report, hundreds of pages and nearly 60 recommendations that they do not want the public to see.

I thank the secretariat and the member for Noosa, who was so tolerant in trying to get people to come together and agree. She put a lot of time and energy into the report and I would say that hundreds of hours had been put in by the secretariat, which should not be overlooked either. There were 25 meetings, 220 submissions, seven months of work and those opposite seem content to sit on their hands and hide the report. The LNP have decided that they would prefer to politicise this work than work in the best interests of Queenslanders.

They are not interested in reaching across the aisle on this matter and they were not interested from the very start. They are not interested in improving the lives of Queenslanders. They are disingenuous. They never wanted a solution. It was in their political narrative to continue their three or four slogans all the way through when we had real solutions on the table. They absolved themselves of responsibility for the victims of crime in this state. I say to the three members of the LNP and whoever their puppetmasters are: hold your heads down; hide your heads in shame. They have let down Queenslanders on one of the most important issues in this state. They have become too accustomed to blocking progress in the state.

Our work to improve community safety was to listen and deliver for Queenslanders. That work is never done. To everyone who shared their stories with us I say thank you. You will be heard. Your work is not in vain because we will make sure that report sees the light of day. I am appalled by the actions of those opposite and hope they will reflect on their behaviour and the reasons they have chosen to be servants of our state. I want to be very clear: I do not agree with all the recommendations in the report, but I certainly tried to take a bipartisan approach and reach across the aisle. That was not reciprocated. I and other government members of the committee decided that rather than having a report that reflects the nuances of the specific views of either party, it was important—in fact it was vital—that we produce an interim report for the public to consider to help to make our communities safer. That same approach was not taken by the LNP.

They have decided, rather than put their own views, ideology and political interests to one side, to prioritise themselves rather than the people of Queensland. The commitment of the members of the LNP on this issue only extends as far as their own political interests. It is all for politics, not for Queenslanders. For them, anything else is a waste of time. I know the LNP will attack me and my fellow committee members on this and I say bring it on because I have a record of standing up for my community in Thuringowa. I was the one who made sure that we got breach of bail as an offence by advocating to ministers to pass that law. I was the one who made sure that ministers got a bill to this parliament—which was agreed to—to make a declaration of serious repeat offender.


**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr HARPER:** Bring it on. I will take that interjection. When the LNP were in power, Sam Cox and the former member for Mundingburra, who cut and run, started a rapid action patrol hub. I did a shift with them in 2016 and they said, 'It is not working.' They only half staffed it with 20 staff. Look away now! I said, 'What do you need?' They said, 'Another 20 officers', so they got 40 in that RAP hub. I then delivered a brand new police station in the Upper Ross, which never had a police station, with 10 staff. I then increased the Kirwan Police Station police numbers from 54 to 74. Now I am delivering a brand new police precinct for Kirwan and a new academy. Why am I delivering a new academy? Because you lot wanted to sell it. That is your history. You sacked police in Townsville. You walked away from the obligations of community safety. You should put your head down, Leader of the Opposition. You are not interested in community safety.

Not only have we delivered more police for this state and given them the resources when the LNP sacked police—that is their track record; they failed on that—we now have a police helicopter in Townsville. I commend the crew who are doing an excellent job. Community members are telling me that the high-vis policing is making our community safer. The new helicopter is making our community safer.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, I will bring you back to the motion.

**Mr HARPER:** Thank you. I was seeing how much I could get away with. I chaired the Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee and spent a lot of time away from my community. I have put countless hours into the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee along with the member for Hervey Bay and the member for Cooper. We started this with an intent to drive change, to make our communities safer. We were genuine in our attempts to get those 55 recommendations—for the member for Kawana, who could not answer how many the LNP put in. From the start they were never genuine about this. It is all about politics for the LNP. Victims of crime in this state have been entirely let down by the three members on this committee who are disingenuous and who never intended to produce a report. I say: produce the report. Let the people of Queensland see what is in there because there are so many recommendations. It is such a complex issue. We attack it from so many different views—from rehabilitation, to making sure people are accountable, to prevention programs. We put so many recommendations in there and I cannot wait for the public to see the work that the government members and the chair did. From those opposite we see games and extending, never wanting to get to an end point. I am glad this motion has been moved because the people of Queensland deserve our report and they deserve a safer community.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (7.34 pm): I want it on the record that the three LNP members on this committee would not, could not, put their names to a report that recommended media gagging provisions. This report recommended that the media be regulated and gagged in relation to youth crime and reporting on youth crime. The member for Cooper put up a recommendation saying that the Queensland state government look into the impact of media and social media reporting of crime and any impacts it has on encouraging offenders.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Buderim, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Gympie, you are also warned. I will continue to pause the clock and your member will lose time from her speech. I would ask you to remain silent during the rest of the contribution.

**Mrs GERBER:** In the committee comments by the Labor members they acknowledge that traditional news media and social media play a role in the community's understanding and need increasing regulation of the media in relation to youth crime.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Toowoomba South, you are warned.

**Mrs GERBER:** In relation to youth crime, the LNP would not, could not, put their names to a report that was going to gag the media. It is an absolute disgrace to politicise this now and say that it was not a bipartisan committee.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Everton, you are under a warning. You can leave the chamber for an hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Everton withdrew from the chamber at 7.36 pm.*

**Mrs GERBER:** It is an absolute disgrace for this Labor state government to now try to say that the LNP did not participate fully in this process. Further, in relation to the recommendations we put up, we recommended that the Queensland government remove detention as a last resort as an overriding principle in the Youth Justice Act. That was voted down by the Labor members. We recommended that the Queensland government immediately reverse the onus in section 282A of the Youth Justice Act to make the victim register an opt-out system rather than an opt-in system to take the burden off victims. Again it was blocked by Labor. We recommended that the Queensland government urgently reopen the Childrens Court to victims, their families and the media in line with the opposition amendments already tabled in this House. Again that was blocked by Labor. We also moved amendments in relation to victims of crime. Victims of crime appeared at the Brisbane hearing and they were denied an open-floor hearing. We moved a motion that they be allowed time to have an open-floor session and that they be heard. The Labor members blocked the suggestion that victims of crime be heard. They now come into this House and claim that they were completely bipartisan and that they were acting in good faith. The member for Thuringowa expresses how disappointed he is in this process. It is an absolute disgrace that they are now coming into this chamber and pulling this political stunt.

Now they are going to change the voting of the committee so that it is no longer bipartisan. Half of the report was considered and then it was pushed through by the Labor members without the appropriate time for consideration. We requested that time be allowed for the committee members to

fully consider this report because that is what Queenslanders deserve and it was denied by the Labor members. The fact that this committee is now being disbanded is a political stunt by Labor because they want to control the narrative.

**Ms Richards** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Redlands, you are warned.

**Mrs GERBER:** They want to control the recommendations, they want to control the narrative and, guess what? They want to control the media, too! Our LNP members would not, could not, put our name to any provisions that gag the media. Instead of taking real action, instead of actually supporting suggestions that recommended changes to laws to enable real action—the recommendations that the LNP members put through—the Labor members amended them to ask for another review. The review is what the committee was meant to do in the first place. If they want to do another review, why are they disbanding this bipartisan committee? They are disbanding it because it does not suit their political narrative and anything they introduce after this is a complete farce.

*(Time expired)*

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): The House will come to order.

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

**AYES, 49**

**ALP, 49**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Rourke, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

**NOES, 30:**

**LNP, 30**—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir, Zanow.

Pair: McMillan, Molhoek.

Resolved in the affirmative.

## COMMITTEES

### Membership



**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (7.44 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. that the member for Mirani be discharged from and the member for Noosa be appointed to the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee from Friday, 19 April 2024;
2. that the member for Noosa be permitted to attend and participate in any private or public committee business of the Community Support and Services Committee without any voting ability; and
3. that this House notes that the member for Noosa will have the ability to participate in the Community Support and Services Committee to ensure continuity from the former Youth Justice Reform Select Committee.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## ENERGY (RENEWABLE TRANSFORMATION AND JOBS) BILL

### CLEAN ECONOMY JOBS BILL

#### Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from p. 1114, on motion of Mr de Brenni—

That the bills be now read a second time.



**Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (7.45 pm): I rise to give my contribution on these two very important bills in a debate that should not be a cognate debate and that should have longer for debate. Labor often complains that the Greens do not give it credit where it is due, so I will start by doing just

that. The Energy and Jobs Plan that the energy bill legislates has some long overdue and very positive elements. The proposed 22 gigawatts of renewables by 2035 is almost on a par with a plan the Greens brought to the last election of 20 gigawatts by 2030. A 75 per cent emissions reduction target by 2035 is just short of our proposed 75 per cent by 2030. In 2022 the Australian Greens proposed a job-for-job guarantee for coal and gas workers. Now here we are legislating a job security guarantee for some, albeit not all, energy workers in Queensland. Perhaps it is time for Labor to stop calling our policies fairy dust or pie-in-the-sky pipedreams if it is just going to end up adopting them.

Queensland Labor is welcome to keep copying the Greens' homework. Workers and the climate will thank them for it. If they think we will pat them on the back and leave them alone while their targets fall short of what the science demands while they continue approving new coal and gas and while they maintain the privatisation of our energy system, they are sorely mistaken. As it stands, the job security guarantee in the energy bill does not include workers outside of government owned coal-fired power stations, including gas power station workers, those employed at private power stations and resource workers. Of course, there is no plan for resource workers because there is no plan to wean the resources industry off coal and gas.

The government does not even have any time line, plans or targets to get off gas domestically. In fact, the Energy and Jobs Plan includes a new gas plant at Kogan Creek. What is more, perhaps most hypocritically for a government that talks a big game about public ownership, this bill entrenches a partially privatised electricity system that will continue ripping Queenslanders off. The targets in both of these bills are a dramatic improvement on the status quo, but they are not aligned with the current climate science.

In their submissions, the Climate Council of Australia, the United Nations Association of Australia, Lock the Gate, WWF-Australia and the Queensland Conservation Council all proposed more ambitious interim targets and net zero deadlines. The next decade is an absolutely critical time to rapidly reduce emissions. To date, the world is lagging in meeting commitments to reduce emissions, but in the government's own policy documents it sets out that Queensland's emissions have already reduced by 29 per cent since 2005. Are we simply going to sit on our hands for six years? I know we all hope not.

To maintain a target of a 30 per cent reduction by 2030 would be reckless and irresponsible and we should be able to do better than amendments that leave it open for review. We should be making that change now. Not only that, net zero by 2050 is no longer adequate if we want to limit warming to well below two degrees. Both the WWF and QCC point out that net zero by 2038 offers just a 50 per cent chance of achieving 1.5 degrees of warming. The government's targets not only keep us on a path to overshoot Paris Agreement commitments, but they leave out Queensland's most significant contributions to global greenhouse gas emissions, namely, our coal and gas exports.

According to the historically conservative International Energy Agency, not one new coal or gas project can proceed if we are to meet net zero by 2050 let alone limit warming to 1½ degrees globally. When we authorise the plunder of natural resources and the destruction of country here in Queensland to export fossil fuels to overseas resource buyers we are directly causing global warming. It is not that hard to understand. The only purpose of extracting coal and gas is so that it can be sold and burned, and the consequence is the emission of greenhouse gases. It is both illogical and unconscionable to pretend that the continued extraction of fossil fuels in Queensland does not matter simply because they will be burned somewhere else.

Since coming to power Labor has approved 38 new coalmines and there are at least 15 more in the pipeline. Collectively, these projects represent over nine billion tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions across their lifetime. There are currently an estimated 270 billion tonnes remaining in the entire global carbon budget to achieve the Paris target of 1½ degrees Celsius. If this legislation allows nine billion tonnes of that budget to be spent—emissions that can be directly attributed to people sitting in this chamber—what are we doing with this legislation? The government continually refuses to accept this reality, which renders these bills almost useless. For this reason, in relation to the Clean Economy Jobs Bill, I move—

That the words 'now read a second time' be deleted and the following words inserted:

'considered once the Government commits to halt new coal and gas approvals, develop a plan to phase out coal and gas exports, and adopt an emission reduction target of at least 75 per cent by 2030 in line with current science'.

Putting aside the inadequacies of the clean economy bill to address the climate crisis for a moment, I will turn to the public ownership targets in the energy bill. The Greens have long held the view that we should be aiming for 100 per cent public ownership. In 2020 we proposed an end to the privatisation of electricity in Queensland. We proposed bringing existing state owned network and



generation companies under an entity called Energy Queensland as a public authority and reversing Labor's privatisation of retail. In contrast, the best this Labor government can do with the energy bill is legislate the status quo, where almost half of our electricity generation here is privately owned and retailers are privatised across South-East Queensland.

I am still concerned that the definition of 'public ownership' remains unclear, although I appreciate that the minister added some clarity in his second reading contribution. Despite repeated requests, I have not been able to get an explicit assurance from the minister that this definition is not capable of being interpreted to capture power purchase agreements, which any reasonable person would agree is not public ownership. I would appreciate clarification of that specific point in the minister's reply. The Greens are proposing amendments to the energy bill, which I table now.

*Tabled paper:* Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023, amendments to be moved by Mr Michael Berkman MP, accompanying explanatory notes and statement of compatibility with human rights [\[604\]](#).

These would create a long-term target of 100 per cent public ownership of all generation assets with an interim target of at least 75 per cent by 2030. We should ensure that Queenslanders own all of our energy assets. To be clear, 100 per cent ownership of generation does not mean we will buy up everyone's rooftop solar panels or stop community ownership of generation assets. The bill's definition of 'generation assets' makes it clear that we are only dealing with major generation assets in this state and those should be publicly owned. Our amendments also include a target of 100 per cent public ownership of electricity retail by 2030.

When Labor privatised electricity retail in 2006 prices nearly doubled. Retailers have since continued to profit from an essential service that every Queenslander needs—wasting our money on inflated marketing costs and executive bonuses while households continue to struggle to pay the bills. ACCC data on the NEM from December last year tells us that retailers' profit margins grew in South-East Queensland during the 2022-23 financial year to about 4.3 per cent, which is much higher than the national average of 2.3 per cent. Even putting aside the pure profit these corporations are taking in, the ACCC reports that around 10 per cent of your bill is still being wasted on retail and other costs—that is, the expenses that come with treating electricity, an essential service, as a private commodity that requires expensive marketing campaigns as though we were buying a new car or shoes. But electricity is not like those things. It is all the same when you flick on the light switch, and these marketing costs are purely a waste of Queenslanders' money—a symptom of privatisation. We should be aiming for 100 per cent publicly owned renewable energy generation, not a mishmash of public and private and a mix of renewables and dirty polluting gas.

I do support the establishment of the Renewable Energy Jobs Advocate and the Energy Industry Council as well as the Job Security Guarantee Fund to support government owned coal station workers with accessing employment and other supports. I would echo the ETU's suggestion that this should be expanded to at least allow other facilities to apply. The Greens, of course, think that the government should have far greater ambitions when it comes to supporting workers through the climate transition, as I previously proposed in a private member's bill that the government did not support.

On the whole, these bills take significant steps in the right direction. In fact, there are substantial elements of them that I would call ambitious, especially for this Labor government. These bills implement many of the things for which the Greens have been calling for years: more ambitious reduction targets; a greater share of renewables in our energy mix; support for workers as we phase out coal domestically; and a commitment to keep at least some parts of our energy system in public hands. There is no plan for gas, no plan for the resources industry; no support for workers outside of government owned power stations, no plan to phase out coal and gas production and no plan to get to 100 per cent ownership. I urge the government to extend their ambitions on these issues and particularly to support the Greens' amendments. It is about time we reverse the privatisation of electricity retail and brought our energy under—

*(Time expired)*

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): I wish to advise the House that the member has moved an amendment to the second reading question. I will just remind members that the proposed amendment states—


That the words 'now read a second time' be deleted and the following words inserted:

'considered once the Government commits to halt new coal and gas approvals, develop a plan to phase out coal and gas exports, and adopt an emission reduction target of at least 75 per cent by 2030 in line with current science'.

Members can speak to that amendment now. If you have already spoken, you can speak again. You do not preclude yourself from speaking to the second reading debate if you do speak now. If any member wishes to speak, they can now jump.

Division: Question put—That the member for Maiwar’s amendment be agreed to.

Resolved in the negative under standing order 106(10).

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (8.02 pm): I rise to contribute to the cognate debate on the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023 and the Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024. Both bills share similar goals, including to drive increased government and private investment in the state’s renewable energy transition, legislate targets to provide industry and investors with the certainty that they need and to provide support for the thousands upon thousands of workers who will be adversely impacted by this transition.

Both bills legislate targets, with the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill enacting the government’s renewable targets and the Clean Economy Jobs Bill legislating its emission targets. By enacting all these targets for renewables and emissions, the government claims it will provide industry and investors with the certainty they need for their forward plans, except that under the clauses in this bill all the targets are subject to review thereby creating a mechanism by which the government can ratchet the targets up or down to suit its own needs or agenda. I am sure that that is hardly a good way of providing industry with certainty. My main objection to legislating targets, however, is that none are achievable and the costs of attempting to reach them will sabotage our whole economy.

According to CSIRO modelling, renewable energy in Queensland must increase 98 per cent over the next 26 years to reach the government’s target of net zero. What a pipedream. At the bare minimum, that will mean electrifying absolutely everything in the state. Currently, only a quarter of our energy needs are met by electricity, most of which comes from fossil fuels. Referring to the motion that the Greens member moved just now about getting away from coal, I do not think any of us want to have a cold shower in the dark—not at any time. We are not used to that. We are not going to do that.

According to the CSIRO, renewable energy needs to increase an estimated 70 per cent by 2050. This will require an absolutely massive expansion and doing so will cost the state up to \$14 billion each year between now and 2050, according to CSIRO. How we are going to afford this? The Treasurer spoke to the debt this morning, so I hope this is all being factored in. That cost is commensurate with the Queensland coal royalties that were produced last year, every year for the next 26 years. We will see money ripped out of other vital areas of our economy, such as health and education. What is going on there? It is a basket case.

We will see money ripped out of vital areas and spent on carpeting the bush with industrial-grade wind and solar. This morning I asked the minister about koalas. We have a very unique ecosystem with our animals and they are bringing in this low-frequency stuff to this state. Where are the environmental impact studies? I want to see the studies. I do not want an extinction event. I do not want to see sterilised these areas of remnant vegetation that are on the top of the mountains. Our wildlife will be destroyed if they cannot even communicate because we have resonant sounds through frequencies, EMFs, that will take away the koalas’ ability to communicate, mate and work together. Have we done it before? Absolutely not! Are there any koalas in any other countries that has put this in? Absolutely not! Our animals and our ecosystems are unique to this country. Studies should be done in their absolute entirety to make sure we do not impact on these very precious animals of Australia.

You might think it is a joke. They cannot talk back. They do not have a say here in this House, so I will have a say for them because I know what happens. I am out in the bush all the time. Animals have their own way of communicating, and this is not going to help. They have a hum. It is so funny that all of the stuff that comes in here is all about renewables and pushing the renewables, but what about the impact to the environment?

Meeting these targets will end up driving the state into low productivity, low wages and low quality of life to command and control the economy. There is a reason for that. Show me where the price of power has gone down anywhere where this stuff has been put in. I would love to know. It has not happened and it is never going to happen, yet here we are adopting it. It is nonsense.

Each bill invests enormous centralised power in the relevant minister. All that will mean is reduced transparency and accountability and the enormous centralisation of power in the executive.

Turning to the issue of jobs, the Clean Economy Jobs Bill includes the word ‘jobs’ in the title, but apart from there the word does not appear anywhere else in the bill—nowhere. ‘Employment’ appears just once in clause 6(4)(d). That is because the Clean Economy Jobs Bill is not really about jobs or

employment at all. Everyone knows that a command-and-control economy will never be able to create real jobs—at least, not fulfilling, productive, permanent and well-paid jobs. All of our manufacturing is going overseas. What do we manufacture here to do with renewable energy? Nothing! Nothing! Nothing! That is the trade-off with the so-called energy transition. How much is owned by the state? That is the one thing I do agree with.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ANDREW:** I am not taking any interjections. One thing I agree with the Greens on is that it should be publicly owned. How much of it is? Why is there no transparency on any of the contracts they have with the landholders? Who owns the liability in the end? We have all of these Aboriginal corporations and tribal corporations given security of tenure. Do not worry about this. In my area, the totem of the Widi people is the wedge-tailed eagle. How many wedge-tailed eagles are going to be killed in my area? How many people are going to see all the dead animals and the dead birds as a result of this change? Clean energy of what?

At the end of the day, we are going to wipe out all of our species in those beautiful, pristine, remnant vegetation areas that are built on the top of the hills. It is ridiculous. We have to give it more thought than this. Australians and Queenslanders want more. They do not want all of their mountain tops littered with this rubbish. Who is doing the clean-up? Where is the clean-up money coming from? Where is the smooth transition from coal and being able to store it? What do they do? They go up there to my area and put it all in the back lots so no-one knows about it. At least the Premier had the decency to actually put a moratorium on signing contracts for the Pioneer-Burdekin dam to leave it until the next election. Everyone in this state needs to know what is going on there and the damage that is going to occur.


Not only that, we went there and we saw the way people are being dealt with. They are being singled out; they are having mental health problems because the contracts are changing every day and they are being made to sign the contract on the bottom line. This is what they told us at the meeting. The Premier was sitting there listening to what went on. It is a disgrace and no-one should have to go through it. If it is such a rolled gold project, why can we not do it properly? Why can we not be transparent to everyone in Queensland about what is actually going on? Show them the contracts and what is actually happening.

It is a damn disgrace and I will not put up with it and my people in Mirani will not put up with it. They are fighting back because it is wrong and I am against it. I love my environment. We love the things that we have there. There was a situation where I had to go and get a map out of one of the offices from the hydro project, and they tried to grab it out of my hand because it had a plan B on it that no-one even knows about.

**Mrs Frecklington:** What is the plan B?

**Mr ANDREW:** I take the interjection from the member for Nanango. The plan B was another hydro right beside the other. There was another hydro. They just decided to take the map off me. Do you know what they are going to do? They will put all of this infrastructure in there and they will piggyback on it. That is fair enough, but not in my electorate and not up there at Eungella. It is a beautiful place. It has nature that is not found anywhere else. The people who are up there understand this. We understand it. All of the people from the Yuwibara tribe up there do not want it either. Do the studies. Show everyone the studies. Find out where this actually comes from. Find out what the low-frequency noise is going to do to the animals before we do any of it. Extinction rate events do not constitute cheaper energy prices, and they do not do anything for renewables.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algera—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (8.12 pm): Before I contribute to the bill, I want to say that I feel like we have just stepped into another dimension. The member for Mirani is the only member in this House from One Nation—a party that does not support climate change and does not support vegetation management laws in this state. The member for Mirani is sitting around a fireplace with his tin foil hat on with some koalas and some other animals having a good old chat about how we are going to manage renewables in this state. We know that this side of the House is absolutely committed to renewables and we will continue down that path—the same way that we are committed to addressing the impacts of climate change in this state. We do that through science. I know that the member for Mirani may struggle with that idea also—that science is actually at the heart of how we do these things.

I rise to make a short contribution in support of the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023 and the Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024. I know the member for Mirani was struggling with the idea of where 'jobs' was in the bill, but it is in the title of the bill. In fact, there is a commitment to some 100,000 good, secure jobs. The Miles government has a plan for that as a result of this bill and our plan.

The Clean Economy Jobs Bill aims to support jobs and secure Queensland's economic future by enshrining the state's emissions reduction commitments in law and setting out a structured approach to achieving the targets. The Miles government is taking a considered and collaborative approach to transitioning our economy towards a clean economy future. Our government's emissions reduction pathway will support investment by government and industry, creating, as I said, more than 100,000 clean economy jobs in our communities, including in regional communities.

The LNP are voting against some of this. We know that the LNP are voting against keeping energy assets in public hands. That means that, under the LNP, thousands of Queenslanders will lose their jobs, billions of dollars of investment in renewable energy will be cut and Queenslanders will pay hundreds of dollars more on their power bills.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The speaker on her feet is completely misleading the House. In fact, our amendments keep assets in our hands. Her talking points are a little off.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Member, resume your seat. That is not a point of order. There is a process for that, member for Nanango.

**Ms ENOCH:** The bill also introduces the requirement to set interim targets which will provide certainty and clarity about the pathway to net zero. The bill also requires the establishment of a Clean Economy Expert Panel to provide advice to the Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs, including on the social, economic and employment impacts of actions taken to achieve targets and market and technology trends. The panel will be important to providing confidence to community, business and investors that action to meet the targets is informed by the latest economic and—for the member for Mirani—scientific analysis.

We know that 2023 was the hottest year on record for average global temperatures. Here in Queensland since 2011 we have experienced more natural disasters than any other state, and remote communities are not immune to these effects. In the Torres Strait the effects of rising sea levels are seen with destructive tides and coastal erosion, leaving the communities vulnerable. Our government, in partnership with the Albanese Labor government, has committed \$40 million to a program of coastal protection works across five islands in the Torres Strait. Earlier this year, the \$5 million seawall project was officially opened at Poruma. The project was designed to protect the community's island home and support up to nine local full-time jobs during the construction phase of the project.

Our government accepts the science on climate change, unlike many in the LNP. Those opposite have an appalling track record when it comes to environmental management. While in office, the LNP abolished the office of climate change and the office of renewable energy. They sacked 495 staff from the former environment department. They want to stall action on climate change and they want to take Queensland down a path of nuclear—a path proven to be a prohibitively expensive and lengthy process that would make it impossible for Queensland to meet its emission targets and address climate change. We all know that Queenslanders continue to see the impacts of climate change firsthand. People right across our state were hit hard this summer and that continues to be something that we are addressing right now.

I want to talk about electricity assets. As I said, we already have a plan to create some 100,000 good, secure jobs. By keeping electricity assets in public hands, we can deliver the electricity rebate that provides vital cost-of-living relief to all Queensland households. All of this is at risk under the LNP. We know that they will cut investment in renewables, slash jobs and increase power prices. We have heard from members of the LNP about their lack of support for this bill. We have also heard that there is a lack of support for this bill from the member for Mirani and unfortunately also the Greens. All of that is at risk. That means we need to continue this fight. That is why I support this bill. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (8.18 pm): I rise also to contribute to this cognate debate on the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023 and the Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024. These important pieces of legislation seek to change our energy supply industry for the better and create a way forward for our state's power network. The first bill enshrines key commitments from the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan into law. It will facilitate the building of a clean and competitive

energy system for the economy and industries as a platform for accelerating growth. It will deliver affordable energy for households and business and support more rooftop solar and batteries and also drive better outcomes for workers and communities. The bill will create the infrastructure frameworks needed to build the Queensland SuperGrid, as well as establishing the governance to help transition the workforce and communities.

The second bill will establish targets of emissions reduction, these being 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030, 75 per cent below by 2035 and net zero by 2050. It will also establish a clean economy expert panel to help facilitate this.

The Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee made four recommendations on the first bill and only one on the second. The important thing about all of that is the recommendations were that both bills be passed.

I have never hidden my thoughts on our energy system being kept in public hands, nor my contempt for those who have sought to flog it off. Queenslanders have shown again and again that we want our electricity assets kept in public hands, and our Miles Labor government backs this, so this legislation will enshrine our commitment to public ownership in law. It will require the minister to prepare a public ownership strategy that sets public ownership targets of 100 per cent for transmission, distribution and deep storage assets, and at least 54 per cent for generation assets. These targets are to be achieved by 2035.


The legislation will lock in our government's commitment to ensure workers at our state's publicly owned coal-fired power stations and associated mines have a secure future, choices and opportunities through this energy transformation. It will do this by enacting the Queensland Energy Workers' Charter which is a tripartite agreement between government, publicly owned energy businesses and the union movement which was signed alongside the release of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan.

To give further certainty to the affected energy workers on our commitment to support them, the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill enshrines the Job Security Guarantee in law. It establishes the Job Security Guarantee Fund which will be the mechanism to fund and provide support to these eligible workers. Queensland will need a diverse workforce, skilled tradespeople, technicians and university graduates, and this legislation will make sure that these workers have opportunity for training and skill development in new technologies to help support the estimated 100,000 more jobs in the energy sector and across the Queensland economy by 2040. This includes 64,000 direct and indirect jobs across construction, manufacturing and operations, and 36,000 more jobs in green growth opportunities, including renewable hydrogen, battery manufacturing, resource mining and metal refining. To help facilitate this and build this workforce, we are investing in two new regional SuperGrid training centre and transmission hubs in Gladstone and Townsville.

I should address the elephant in the room as the federal opposition leader keeps banging on about nuclear power plants. I will lay out a few facts from my research. One—it has been said many times and I do not think anyone would disagree—nuclear power is far more expensive than renewables. Nuclear power takes far longer to build. I think this is at the heart of the current push. In the opposition's perfect world, while expensive nuclear is designed and built, coal, instead of renewables, would continue to provide power. That is what the game really is. There has been a lot of talk from the opposition about small modular reactors, in particular a Rolls-Royce one. I understand they are not actually built anywhere yet, and they are about 440 megawatts each. According to the Australian Energy Council back in 2019, the Rolls-Royce company proposed that a 440 megawatt unit would have a reported price tag of A\$2.7 billion. That would mean, just to replace Callide and Stanwell power stations, which provide 3.2 gigawatts of our needs, we would need about seven of these at a cost of around \$20 billion. That is without blowouts, as well as that price being five years old and pre-COVID. So, they are a decade away and, if they are even able to be built, imagine if the opposition wanted to supply the whole state which had a demand record this year of 11 gigawatts, how many would we need then? I also do not know what would happen with the radioactive fuel and waste—how it would be shipped, stored or disposed of. This junk is a lot harder to deal with than the wind and sunshine, coupled with pumped hydro and battery storage which we are bringing in.

If conventional nuclear was considered, it needs massive amounts of water for cooling. I ask: where on our beautiful coastline would that be built? It cannot be near the reef, of course, so the area from Wide Bay to the Gold Coast would be the obvious choice. I do not think any members in this place who live in coastal electorates would step up to say they think this is an option. However, I have heard Amanda Stoker, who is contesting Oodgeroo for the LNP, is keen on having one down Redlands way. I have only heard that; I am not saying that.

We need to treat the opposition's nuclear pipedream with the contempt it deserves. We absolutely do. This is fantastic legislation and I commend it to the House.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (8.24 pm): I rise to speak on this cognate debate of the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill and the Clean Economy Jobs Bill. These bills seek to legislate renewable energy targets, reaffirm a commitment to ongoing ownership of energy assets, establish a Job Security Guarantee Fund, implement frameworks and advisory function for the transition, and establish mechanisms to achieve those targets including plans for sectors of the economy. Both bills have ambitious objectives.

The renewables bill ambitiously claims it will: build a clean and competitive energy system to assist accelerated growth; deliver affordable energy; support more rooftop solar and batteries; deliver better outcomes for workers and communities; and establish frameworks to deliver the government's goals.

The economy bill ambitiously says it will create policy certainty and create more job opportunities in emerging industries and current industries. Of course renewable energy should be part of any energy mix. It is the implementation that matters. The important thing is what is delivered for the financial, social and local environmental cost and whether true energy reliability, affordability and security is really delivered for our communities, businesses, households and workers.

The jobs bill seeks to deliver its goal through central planning. Targets were announced without determining whether they can be achieved and then industry asked to work it out. Part 3 of the bill enables the government, without consultation with industry, to set emission reduction plans for specific sectors of the economy. This is fraught with unintended consequences. AgForce warned the committee—

It is risky to assume that by simply imposing mandatory emissions targets industry will be able to conform within the stated time frames.

AgForce went on to outline it is dangerous and unrealistic and will result in our farmers' inability to produce the food we rely on and significantly harm our sector and the state. It said they will detract from investment, reduce competitiveness and the ability to decarbonise, and will have negative effects on supply chains that could run counter to the creation of more job opportunities.

Canegrowers said the government imposing a plan with set targets will not benefit the industry and will most likely lead to an increase in costs and reduced competitiveness.

The Queensland Farmers' Federation submitted that unachievable and unrealistic blanket targets will add another cost burden to farming, threatening global competitiveness and viability, and have unintended outcomes with negative outcomes for industry, regional communities and the environment.

Across the board, the constant complaint is the government's lack of consultation. It has form in treating consultation as a box-ticking exercise. Stakeholders do not trust government assurances they will be consulted.

It is telling that a government-dominated committee made three recommendations regarding the renewables bill about additional consultation, the disposal and replacement of renewable infrastructure, and that the Main Roads Department consider upgrading relevant supply chain infrastructure such as bridges and roads. The issues are not new.

I am concerned for my community that these issues remain outstanding, despite being frequently raised with government. For several years, I have raised concerns that the Mary Valley roads need upgrading to deliver the proposed pumped hydro scheme, the disposal of damaged solar panels and the continual lack of adequate consultation with the community. There are years of examples of complaints from many regional and rural areas. These issues should have already been addressed in the legislation. To have not done so means the government is not listening.

For many city members, the most renewable infrastructure they see are rooftop solar panels. Gympie has so much more, with plenty of existing and proposed projects—solar farms, a wind farm and the proposed Borumba pump hydro scheme. Renewable projects are transforming the landscape. Solar farms replace prime agricultural farms, valuable forests are being transitioned into a wind farm, and the proposed pumped hydro scheme will share the water which already supplies the agriculture, industrial and domestic users in our region. More powerlines will crisscross the landscape to transport energy to the grid.

Many in my electorate feel the government is often evasive, lacks transparency and has ridden roughshod over them. Locals said they felt dismissed and ignored when raising their concerns. These projects create years of stress and strain, and communities should not be dismissed with lip-service consultation. Consultation must be a two-way street.

The very real and legitimate concerns of residents should be listened to and taken into consideration. AgForce submitted concerns about renewable companies approaching its members in—  
... an unduly alienating manner, causing friction in farming families and regional communities as a consequence of the divisive and disrespectful sales-type tactics ... ignoring such activities could have long-term consequences for a fair and just transition.


From the start, the proposed Borumba pumped hydro scheme caused great angst. Many learned about information sessions after the events. People were justifiably worried about high-voltage powerlines running across their properties. Rural landholders were concerned about the spread of declared weeds because energy providers have a poor record in managing this serious issue. Small landholders were worried about the impact on property valuations. The government boasts about the project, yet it refuses to release the business case and knows that it is still subject to federal government environmental approvals. Borumba is estimated to cost \$14 billion, yet without a business case or a detailed analytical study these figures are elastic. They cannot be trusted.

The government has history in not delivering projects within budget and overseeing massive cost blowouts. For three years it conducted secret discussions about the Forest Wind farm in the Toolara and Tuan forests. It said nothing until six days before Christmas in 2019. Connection to the Woolooga Substation requires more transmission lines running across properties. Consultation was conducted under COVID-19 restrictions over the summer holidays. There was short notice for community meetings. Some 226 large windmill turbine structures will be erected in an area with a current plantation licence which was sold by the Bligh Labor government in an asset sale. They will be clearly visible from the Great Sandy Straits. The government made only an in-principle commitment to 'no net loss of forest production'. After pushback, I am advised that the project owners aim to replace the loss of trees elsewhere.

People are sceptical about government claims about time lines, costs, power-generated job creation and their power bill costs. When four days were still left to comment on the developers' EPBC Act submission, parliament was told that the windfarm project 'marked the successful completion of the detailed assessment stage'. When asked last June about the planning and environmental assessment's time line and completion, Premier Miles said the project was still 'dependent on environmental social assessments due for completion in late 2024'. That makes it five years since the public first learned about it and eight years after the government started its secret meetings.

The Woolooga Solar Farm was claimed to power 63,000 homes and save 350,000 tonnes of carbon a year. Some suggested that its power would run pumps for the hydro scheme, yet last year the government announced on behalf of two private companies that 138,000 tonnes, or 40 per cent of the total output, will go towards producing beer. In 2022 the Auditor-General told a parliamentary committee that there needs to be more transparency about how these renewable targets are calculated. Recommendation No. 3 notes further consideration is needed about the end of life of a project which includes how to decommission a project and recycle equipment.

Two years ago the QAO warned about this in the project costs, saying that 'the end of life is an issue at an entity level. They have to make good the land. I am assuming it will come at a cost.' There is also an environmental cost. In December 2022, a major hailstorm destroyed thousands of solar panels at the Woolooga Solar Farm. It reportedly caused between \$23 million to \$28 million of damage and 68 truckloads were needed to replace the damaged panels. I observed thousands of panels being replaced at the site with pallet after pallet of new panels waiting to replace the damaged ones. Residents were concerned that the waste would either be buried, causing environmental damage, or shipped interstate to be out of sight and out of mind. Renewable energy cannot be just about virtue signalling for the government's members. The government clearly needs these projects, and so much more, from sectors like agricultural industries to meet its legislated targets. It must also recognise that the price it is imposing is massive social disruption, community upheaval, physical change and economic restructuring, risking the viability of the agricultural sectors. I urge support for the LNP amendments.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (8.34 pm): I rise to speak to the cognate bills, the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023 and the Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024. The Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee in its report No. 1 of the 57th Parliament tabled in this Assembly on 1 March 2024 and report No. 4 of the 57th Parliament tabled in the Assembly on 5 April 2024 has recommended to the Assembly that these bills be passed.

The purpose of the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023 is to enshrine key commitments from the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan such as the following into law: build a clean and competitive energy system for the economy and industries as a platform for accelerating growth; deliver affordable energy for households and businesses and support more rooftop solar and batteries; drive better outcomes for workers in communities as partners in the energy transformation; create the infrastructure frameworks needed to build Queensland's SuperGrid; and establish the governance and advisory functions for a smooth, coordinated transformation to support workers and communities.


The main purpose of the Clean Economy Jobs Bill is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Queensland by stating specific emissions reduction targets. By legislating the targets, the bill aims to create policy certainty to attract investment in new industries in decarbonising the state's existing industries and support the creation of more job opportunities in Queensland's emerging clean economy industries and existing industries.

By establishing a new act enshrining Queensland emissions reduction targets in law, the state aims to achieve a 30 per cent reduction below 2005 levels by 2030; 75 per cent below 2005 levels by 2035; and net zero emissions by 2050. The committee found that generally stakeholders supported the objectives of the Clean Economy Jobs Bill and they supported the legislating of targets as a means for Queensland to establish its emissions reduction commitments and to demonstrate Queensland's intended contributions to national and international objectives that are aimed at halting climate change and its impacts.

Sector plans will be a key component of Queensland efforts to achieve its emissions reduction targets, with the establishment and operation of an advisory panel called the Clean Economy Expert Panel. This will be a significant step in driving emissions reductions. The panel will provide a clean avenue for the government to hear the latest scientific transformation research and experience. The minister, in his first reading of the proposed Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023, spoke to the spirit of Queenslanders and our collective use of natural resources when he said—

Queenslanders have always used our natural resources to be bold and visionary and world beating. From producing the mighty industrialised mineral exports, our manufacturing, our agriculture and the processing of our commodities, including coal, copper, aluminium and sugar, we have built cities, towns and communities across the most decentralised state in the nation.

In closing, I want to make some comments about the contribution by the member for Nanango. It would appear that the LNP are voting against keeping energy assets in public hands. We have been down this path before and it will put thousands of Queensland jobs in jeopardy. It will put at risk billions of investment dollars in renewable energy and put upward pressure on electricity bills. The Miles government's plan will create hundreds of thousands of good, secure jobs and keeping electricity assets in public hands allows the Miles government to provide necessary cost-of-living relief to all Queensland households. All of this is at risk under the LNP. They will cut and sell our valuable assets and bring into jeopardy the cost-of-living benefits that the Miles government will always provide to Queensland households. Do not forget that the Leader of the Opposition was part of the Newman government which was proposing to privatise our energy assets. The sale of our energy assets would again be in jeopardy under the LNP. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (8.39 pm): You cannot grow up, as I did in Tasmania in the eighties, against the backdrop of the Franklin River debate and not have a strong and clear position around environmental protections. It is one of the reasons I am a member of the Labor Party, because only Labor has the willingness to act on the critical issues concerning the environment. I speak of issues like decarbonisation, waste reduction, biodiversity preservation and cultural heritage recognition. It is only Labor that has the ability to form government and to introduce legislation and actually create climate action.

I am not going to stand here and say that our government's environmental record aligns perfectly with mine at all times. It does not. Queensland is a large and diverse state and the things we want in Ashgrove or Paddington are not always commensurate with what the people in Gladstone or certainly Callide want, so we sometimes see that compromised position play out in policy. However, the reform that the Miles government has undertaken including this bill, which is our plan to decarbonise Queensland, is one to be immeasurably proud of.

The Clean Economy Jobs Bill will support jobs and secure Queensland's economic future by enshrining the state's emissions reduction commitments in law. These legislated targets will support Australia's commitments under the Paris Agreement with the long-term goal being to arrest global average temperatures. These targets are for the state to achieve 30 per cent reduction below 2005 levels by 2030, 75 per cent by 2035 and net zero emissions by 2050. Formalising Queensland's




emissions targets in legislation will not only safeguard Queenslanders' way of life; it will simultaneously advance the mutual interests of protecting our planet for future generations while protecting the Queensland economy and unlocking thousands of new job opportunities. This coordinated climate action will create secure and safe job opportunities in Queensland's emerging clean economy industries like hydrogen, critical metals and minerals, and advanced manufacturing, especially in Queensland's regions where that social licence to proceed with the decarbonisation of our state is not just desirable but necessary. Importantly, formalising Queensland's emissions reduction targets signals to investors that Queensland is open for business in new industries and indeed carbonising the state's existing industries.

It is no secret that my electorate has a high percentage of people who value environmental reform, and I appreciate that there are political parties who continue to focus their criticism on the government's policies. I urge my residents to consider that there are far greater risks to climate action in Queensland, and that is in fact the LNP. I would be extremely concerned if the LNP were to win government at the next election. During this debate the LNP has stated they will vote against keeping energy assets in public hands, which would mean that under the LNP billions of dollars of investment in renewable energy would be cut, thousands of Queenslanders would lose their jobs and Queenslanders would ultimately pay hundreds of dollars more every year in their power bills. That is the alternative government. That is the real risk. I encourage my constituents to keep that mind.

The Miles government will deliver investment in affordable, reliable and publicly owned renewables. Our plan will: create 100,000 clean and secure jobs, keep electricity assets in public hands and deliver electricity rebates that provide vital cost-of-living relief to all Queensland households.

I want to acknowledge and thank the many and varied stakeholders who have not only contributed to this remarkable milestone but also have met with me and briefed me on their areas of specialisation. I have met with numerous conservation groups, youth policy movements, transport advocacy groups, scientists, agronomists, unions and educators about the urgent need to lock in these legislated emissions reduction targets. I give a special acknowledgement also to the Labor Environmental Action Network, LEAN, who are a powerhouse in the Labor movement in their advocacy for environmental reform. I am a proud member—in fact, I am the patron—of this wonderful coalition of the willing. On that, I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (8.44 pm): Again, in a cognate debate with more bills lumped together, it makes it very difficult. I will focus on the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill. According to the government, the bill is the key next step to deliver the Energy and Jobs Plan through legislation, aiming to enshrine key commitments from the plan in law, create the infrastructure frameworks needed to build the Queensland SuperGrid and establish the governance and advisory functions for a smooth, coordinated transformation that ensures workers and communities are supported. That is certainly something that we in the KAP do not support. Through the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan the government have outlined that they believe this is an ambitious but credible pathway to transform the state electricity system to deliver clean, reliable, affordable power for generations. They are lovely flowery statements.

Finally, apparently this pathway will see the state achieve 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030, 70 per cent by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035. As a member of the KAP, I can simply say this is not for us. I know I speak for many North Queenslanders in saying this is not for us. This is a perpetuation of the things that are devised here and the ideologies that are rife here. People who sit out in the regions will look back at this. Those opposite laughed at the member for Mirani and they might laugh at some of the things I want to say. However, I assure them that there are people out there who are laughing at members in here. They keep mentioning the word 'science', and I am no climate scientist. I am happy to sit here and debate anyone on it, but I am not a climate scientist. These are the things I have been fed in this House before.

I was told there were problems with vegetation management when no-one has ever measured the regrowth of vegetation in this state. They were saying there was a problem but they could not even tell us about regrowth. They sat in here and told us—and told the rest of the world—that the Great Barrier Reef was dying when we had two record years of coral growth. We sat in here at that very time and heard how it was dying and we had to save it, so we had to change these draconian laws related to the farming industry.

KAP brought into this House a proposal for a four per cent mandate for ethanol. If someone came along with a policy that could reduce vehicle emissions by 30 per cent in petrol driven cars in Queensland at no cost to the consumer, would the government not go for it? Why would they not push

it? On numerous occasions KAP has attempted to bring in the mandates but we are always told, 'You can't force drivers to choose their fuels. They must have a choice.' However, they did not give us a choice on renewables. They forced us down this road.

The thing that really interests me in all of this is, 'What is the life cycle costing on this?' I can tell honourable members now that electric vehicle experts at QUT would say that in terms of the life cycle, something driven on biofuels would have a much lower carbon footprint, if that is what is important to people. We never hear about these things. I am not too sure how many in this House have been to see the footings of a new, big wind tower. I have seen the amount of concrete and resources that go into these things; it is pretty scary. We are only scratching the surface on this issue. We are only seeing a fraction of what is going to roll out.

Here is the other clanger. When producing electricity, the generation needs to be close to the consumers to prevent transmission losses in the network, which will always be a problem. All of our prime agricultural farming country is located along the coast where our big populations are. The government will not be able to roll out more of these types of things without increasingly using prime agricultural land. They cannot reach those numbers without using more of this agricultural land. Agriculture is one thing we do well.

We have a global competitive advantage in biomass. However, we have not moved one bit towards biofuels or biomass. Everyone in this House should go to the Manildra factory in Nowra if they want to see environmental innovation at work. They claim to have zero emissions. That could be done throughout our sugar industry. We could have four or five similar facilities. I can tell honourable members what we have seen since we have been here: one has closed in Queensland, the Dalby ethanol plant. The government had an opportunity to save it, but it has now closed. That is what it has done. They could have put true environmental action in place, so pardon me for looking at this with extreme cynicism.

This is an anti-coalmining bill. You cannot reconcile this against the benefit we have gained from the coal industry. This can do nothing but attack the future viability of the coal industry. I do not think there are too many electrical engineers or experts in the field. I do not know how the government is going to achieve the dispatchable base load in the future without these coal-fired generators as it seeks to phase them out. It can throw these hydro batteries it wants to talk about—

**A government member:** Storage.

**Mr KATTER:** Exactly; I take the interjection on storage. They are not electrical engineers and nor am I. Pardon my cynicism but you cannot do this without dispatchable base load, and it is not done anywhere else in the world. Members talk about countries in Europe, but those countries are still connected to nuclear and the grid. They still take advantage of dispatchable base load even if they do not want to. It plays a role in the stabilisation of their grid so it cannot be removed.

Earlier, someone asked who would want a nuclear power station in their backyard. We do not mind. People in the north-west know what large dispatchable base load can mean. They know it links to their prosperity. In North Queensland, we know that you need this stuff to get by. There is an intrinsic affinity with knowing what we have to do to move forward in the economy. I saw the 40 or 50 megawatt station at Mount Isa. I did not go to the opening, but I have driven past it to make a video. Probably two or three people are working there. I do not know where the transition jobs are. I know that for Mount Isa there were no local jobs in the construction of it. They tried to switch on the second half of it and it shut down the town for five hours—another blackout, such as we get.

Earlier, the member for Hill mentioned that we had all these arguments about the privatisation of power when Newman was in. We had a big flush of Labor Party members talking about privatisation. There is all this talk about selling off the power stations, but aren't we privatising our power generation in Queensland through this? I will give members a picture of what that looks like. With the Diamantina Power Station in Mount Isa, we have had four or five blackouts in the past 18 months. That is very significant, but they say, 'It's is not really our problem.' However, we are off the grid so it is a pretty big issue. You can lose control over the autonomy with the new mining customers. The critical minerals that members keep talking about do not just happen; you have to provide some affordable energy. Diamantina is saying, 'If you want to come and talk to us, then you'll have to pay an exorbitant amount for your electricity and you will have to take a 10-year take-or-pay contract.' That is what happens when you privatise the electricity industry.


I can tell members what happens when the asset stays in your hands. I think this might have happened under the Labor Party when Peter Beattie was in government. In Townsville, Sun Metals Zinc got a four- or five-year guarantee on what they would pay for their power. You can do that when

you own the assets. You will get that price. Twenty or 30 years later and still there are hundreds of people working at Sun Metals Zinc because the government played a role in controlling the market in these things, but is divulging itself of this.

I will pay the government some credit on CopperString. That only took 15 years of advocacy. That transmission line is in the hands of the government. It will play a role. I can tell the House that it is not about enabling renewables; it is about connecting the industrial might of the North West Minerals Province with the grid and providing affordable electricity to the North West Minerals Province. It is ridiculous to talk about any of this stuff if you do not have the minerals to do it. The North West Minerals Province had among the highest industrial electricity energy prices in the world, so it was done to resolve that issue. While CopperString will play a role in renewables, that was the main driver from the start. The cost has blown out to \$5 billion. If you do that around the rest of Australia then the cost will be put back onto electricity bills. It must. That is a pretty scary prospect because we already have extraordinarily high energy prices. What could happen there scares us.

We certainly will not run from the nuclear argument. If you are serious about reducing carbon emissions then that has to play a role. At the federal level they say that it is too expensive so why would you bother allowing it into this country. That is a silly argument. You do not say that you cannot do it because it is too expensive. Wouldn't you let the market decide that? Isn't that the role of the market? Unless you have a fundamental ideological block against it—and I still would like to know what that is—it would be, of course, one of the most sensible ways to address this.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Before I call the member for Miller, I remind the following members that they are still on a warning: the members for Greenslopes, Gregory, Burleigh, Kawana, Bundaberg, Maroochydore, Lockyer, Stafford, Buderim, Gympie, Toowoomba South and Redlands.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (8.54 pm): I rise with pride to support the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill and the Clean Economy Jobs Bill. This is about the government's very strong record in facilitating Queensland's energy transformation to clean energy. I was very proud as the first energy minister to bring the first renewable energy target into this chamber. The government has advanced that because we are ahead of our target by two years under the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. What we are doing today is legislating the emissions reductions target. Why? Because we are serious about it and we want to send out clear market signals to ensure more clean energy infrastructure is built. Of course, we do not trust any future government to wriggle out of it, go in the opposite direction and take Queensland backwards. We want to see it locked in and that is what this legislation is about.

While we are setting targets for 2040 and 2045, the legislation will allow us some flexibility in the decade beforehand. We know the market will move in all kinds of directions so there needs to be flexibility. Certainly there is flexibility and agility in the emissions bill. We will see annual reporting and we will see an infrastructure blueprint. This is good policy from the Miles Labor government, which is serious about transforming our energy sector to clean energy, while we get a lot of the 'same old' from the LNP. Everyone heard the comments of the member for Nanango. They are so far behind on the energy debate that it is embarrassing. They talk about base load. It is not about base load; it is about dispatchability. If you read a briefing paper from eight years ago then you would know that. Apparently the opposition has not worked out that it is about dispatchability.

This bill looks at locking in the public ownership of our energy assets, which is something that has been instrumental in our ability to facilitate this transformation. When we came to power, there was four per cent clean energy in Queensland. Not a single large-scale energy project was facilitated under the Newman government, in which David Crisafulli was a minister. There was not one project while the whole country was starting to move into clean energy. Now the percentage is in the high 20s and accelerating because this government is committed to acting on climate change. However, this is not just about acting on climate change; it is about acknowledging technology. The member for Traeger talked about ideology. It is not ideology; it is technology. It is new technology. It is useful and it is cheaper in terms of people's bills compared to coal fired, gas and nuclear. It makes economic sense.

It is embarrassing that this is an area that is contested when in many other countries it is not contested between the major parties or even the minor parties. They know that energy transformation is essential to a modern economy. Germany is a good example of that. Former chancellor Angela Merkel was a conservative leader for more than decade. She was a formidable leader. She led the energy transformation as a right-wing party leader. Sadly, in Queensland we are still having a silly partisan debate about it.


We still hear comments from the LNP that undermine the energy transformation. We know their record. Two words you will never hear the opposition say in this place are 'strong choices'. They do not want to talk about it. They failed to privatise our assets but we know that they keep undermining at every opportunity, even from opposition. We see them trying to undermine the pumped hydro aspect of the Energy and Jobs Plan, which is a fundamental part of providing storage for increasing levels of renewable energy. With pumped hydro, you have storage and dispatchability absolutely sorted as your clean energy increases year by year and the frequency control and the system remain stable. It is a fundamental part of the system. For the opposition to continue to undermine the pumped hydro part of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is an embarrassment. It shows that they do not understand and they are not committed. We know that they will just go back to the old world and that the state would go backwards.

The member for Traeger raised the nuclear issue. The opposition leader said no to that, but we know he is weak. When it comes to the treaty, he made it a personal principle to get the opposition to vote for treaty and they did. No-one made him do it. No-one twisted his arm. He said that it was a matter of personal principle and then he folded as soon as Peter Dutton picked up the phone. That shows how weak he is. We know with nuclear that is exactly what will happen. If Dutton ever got to power he would roll over the top of the weak Leader of the Opposition, the member for Broadwater. We know there is no spine there, no courage or metal. We know what would happen.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Member for Miller, I think the term you have used is unparliamentary. I would ask you to withdraw.

**Mr BAILEY:** I withdraw. The member for Traeger talks about the size of wind turbines. We know they are big, but that is not an argument. We have ships, we have skyscrapers, we have A300s. They are all useful things. Are wind turbines useful? Yes, they are. Can they coexist with other industries? Of course they can.

I am very proud of a government that is committed to the energy transformation here in Queensland. It deserves support. It is easy to undermine it and white-ant it like the LNP do. It is easy when you are in the Greens party to say it should have been done yesterday and why don't we do more. That is easy and lazy; it is another thing to do it. This government is doing it. These bills will go down in history as important bills in the energy transformation. I support the Premier and the minister all the way and I am proud to be part of a government that is facilitating the energy transformation in Queensland. We have made a lot of progress and there will be a lot more progress because of these bills.

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (9.00 pm): I rise proudly to support the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill as well as the Clean Economy Jobs Bill which will do so much for this state. I would like to associate myself with the comments of the minister, as well as the previous speaker, in terms of the transformational nature of these two bills. The Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill builds on the next key step in delivering the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. The bill enshrines Queensland's renewable energy targets. It establishes targets for the proportion of energy to be generated from renewable energy sources: 50 per cent by 2030, 70 per cent by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035. These are big goals and they are important goals, but we are proud to set our plans big. To implement those commitments, under the plan the bill also creates reporting and review mechanisms to track progress against the targets so that we can get it done.

Importantly, the bill also cements a longstanding policy position of this government—public ownership of our energy assets—which is so important to the transformation, both in terms of energy and the jobs that we need. The bill requires the publication of a strategy, with public ownership targets of equal to or more than 54 per cent of generation assets, 100 per cent of electricity transmission and distribution assets, and 100 per cent of deep storage assets. That is a lot of figures, but it means a lot. It is about the future of our environment, the future of our energy market and the future of power bills for families all over the state. I will be proud to look back in 20, 30, 40 years, when my kids are hopefully paying energy bills themselves, and think about the role we played as a parliament in setting that scene.

Part of how we got to where we are, both with the plan and with the bill, is genuine engagement with stakeholders, with our public ownership GOCs, with workers and their representatives, with industry. It is really important that we could bring people together to make it happen because it is a win-win-win. We are helping to make a cleaner environment, which we all know is important in tackling climate change. We are making sure that there is genuine and legitimate transformation of the workforce to make sure we have the skilled workforce that we need for this new industry. At the end of the day, at home when you turn the lights on, or the dishwasher or the washing machine—as I do


regularly—you know that your bills are going to be cheaper because all the research shows that the future for cheaper power prices for households is in renewable energy. I am proud to play a small part in that.

In terms of jobs, the research has shown that it will equate to effectively 100,000 jobs in this new industry, which is hugely important for our kids and important for people in similar industries who want to transition and skill up to make the change. In terms of cost of living, independent modelling has been undertaken for the plan that we have already released and it shows really clearly that lower wholesale electricity prices will flow to lower retail bills. Queensland's public ownership position also supports electricity bills. It allows the government, through our publicly owned assets, to ease these pressures. This builds on the Queensland government's investment of over \$1.1 billion to provide households and small businesses with direct energy bill relief in 2023-24 and that adds to the Australian government's contribution of a further \$330 million under the national Energy Bill Relief Fund.

Those opposite have been cock-a-hoop about this. That is because we know what they want to do. We heard earlier in the week that the meeting between the Leader of the Opposition and the leader of the federal opposition was about energy. We know their future is nuclear. What they will not do is tell Queenslanders what their plan is and where it will be. Are they going to support Peter Dutton's plan to put a nuclear power plant on the Esplanade in Cairns, on the Strand in Townsville, at the port in Gladstone, at the Brisbane port, on the Sunshine Coast or the Gold Coast? I cannot even tell my community that they are not going to put it on the Kedron Brook or the Schulz Canal that run through my community. That is how ridiculous the position of those opposite is. They will not tell us where things are going. They have an opportunity to rule it out, but we know that Mr Dutton is running the show.

**Mr O'Connor:** We have!

**Mr SULLIVAN:** I will take the interjection from the member for Bonney: 'We have ruled it out.' Just like the member voted for treaty and then voted against it, you twisted on a dime. We cannot trust those opposite at all. That is their record. I commend both bills to the House. It is only a Labor government that can be trusted on the environment, on energy and on jobs.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (9.06 pm): I rise in support of the Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024, a bill that will set up Queensland's economy for the next 100 years and beyond. It will secure jobs in our regions, including the region that I represent in this place, in both existing industries and new ones. It is a bill to protect our spectacular and wondrous Great Barrier Reef. I am the daughter of an energy worker. I often joke about being a power station kid. Born in Kingaroy while my dad was working on the construction of Tarong Power Station, our family moved to Biloela a few years later during the construction of Callide B and finally to Rocky during the construction of Stanwell. I am the child of the coal-fired energy generation. At the time Queensland's population was growing so we needed the energy network to expand. It was the Queensland energy revolution of the eighties and nineties.

I remember as a small child the first time I visited Stanwell Power Station where my dad worked and I saw those massive water coolers and that amazing place that was responsible ultimately for keeping our lights on. It was a very memorable experience. It is a real honour and a privilege to be in this place tonight, working as part of the Miles Labor government team to deliver the next energy revolution for Queensland—the next generation of jobs, the next generation of electricity supply and the future of our regions.

This bill is important. It is important to the energy workers of Central Queensland. It guarantees security for their future. It is important to the economic growth of Central Queensland. I make no apologies for standing up for workers. I will absolutely always stand up for Central Queensland workers. I stood up for the mine workers at Oaky North coal mine after international mining corporation Glencore locked 190 workers out of their workplace for over 200 days in what was the longest lockout in Australia's history. I stood up to Aurizon against job cuts. I stood up for better 'buy local' policies that support local workers and I have fought hard against the casualisation of the workforce.


I was at Stanwell Power Station last year with the Premier and minister meeting with coal-fired energy workers and unions when we released the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. Until that day there had been so much worry and anxiety amongst energy workers about their futures. We have seen coal-fired power stations close down in other states. Privately owned energy companies are closing because they are not profitable, but here in Queensland, because our electricity assets are in state hands, we can make the commitment to convert all of Queensland's publicly owned coal-fired power stations into clean energy hubs by 2035, backed by a Job Security Guarantee for workers.

This is a \$62 billion plan with 95 per cent of clean energy infrastructure investment to be in regional Queensland. This is not just a Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan; this is a Central Queensland energy and jobs explosion. When we talked that day with the workers and the unions about this plan, there was relief. There was a united sigh of relief in the room. There were smiles, optimism and hope for the future. I will always stand up and fight for the future of energy workers in Queensland, and that is exactly what this bill will achieve. This bill will provide the framework to investment certainty to make this happen—to provide high-paying, generational, clean energy jobs across the state. It will provide the opportunity for more young people to stay living in the regions where they grew up, to have exciting careers in energy, creating a better future for not only Queensland but also the world. It is only Labor that is committed to delivering cheaper and cleaner energy and secure jobs for the future with this bill. Only Labor will keep energy assets in public hands.

The LNP is voting against keeping energy assets in public hands. That means that under the LNP thousands of Queenslanders will lose their jobs. Billions of dollars of investment in renewable energy will be cut and Queenslanders will pay hundreds of dollars more on their power bills. Those opposite will sell off our assets, cut jobs and invest billions of Queenslanders' taxpayer dollars into expensive and unreliable nuclear power. In contrast, the Miles Labor government is delivering investment in cheap, reliable, publicly owned renewables. The Miles Labor government plan will create 100,000 good, secure jobs. By keeping electricity assets in public hands, we can deliver the electricity rebate that provides vital cost-of-living relief to all Queensland households.

All of that is at risk under the LNP. They will cut investment in renewables, slash jobs and increase power prices. I challenge the Leader of the Opposition to come up to Central Queensland and hold an energy forum. Come and talk to the people, the workers, the unions and come clean about exactly what the plan would be. When he was a Newman government minister, the member for Broadwater, David Crisafulli, was one of the biggest cheerleaders for privatising our energy assets. By voting against this bill he is telling Queenslanders that he will try to sell them again.

The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan will deliver more reliable, affordable power and a pipeline of well-paid secure jobs for Queenslanders now and for generations to come. The LNP will cut our Energy and Jobs Plan, making electricity more expensive and leading to thousands of job losses. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (9.12 pm): I rise to speak in the cognate debate on the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023 and the Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024 and in support of the amendments moved by my colleague the member for Nanango. Despite the best efforts of those opposite, the member for Nanango spoke about the impacts of renewable projects on people who live in regional Queensland. I am also happy to speak on behalf of those people, particularly those who live in my electorate. It is ironic that during his introductory speech the member for Springwood referred to jobs in regional Queensland, investment in regional Queensland and the fact that regional communities will 'thrive and prosper under this government's plan'. The irony is that under this government those communities are struggling under 28.7 per cent increases in their residential electricity bills. It is in regional Queensland that farmers have seen a 52 per cent increase in electricity bills in just 18 months. It is about time we looked at some of those facts because all we hear from those opposite during this debate is how much cheaper power has become across Queensland.

The fact is that I have had farmers in my area now going back and buying diesel pumps because they are cheaper to run than electric pumps. I have had farmers bring their electricity bills into my office and lay them out on the table to see clearly in black and white just what has happened with their power prices over the past 12 months to two years. I can assure members that those prices have gone through the roof. This Labor government would have us believe that under their watch power has become cheaper. What a load of garbage!

The cheapest form of power, of course, was that generated by base load power stations, and that is why we needed Callide C to come back online. Sure, we need an energy mix. I am the first to admit to that, but not at any cost. We are in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis underpinned by skyrocketing power prices, but this government has the blinkers on.

Then there is the Job Security Guarantee which will, according to the government, ensure a secure future for the people who currently work in publicly owned coal-fired power stations. As usual with this government, the devil is in the detail. As revealed in the explanatory notes, the definition of an 'affected energy contractor' and a 'prescribed facility' will be prescribed by regulation, meaning that the eligibility for this scheme will not be scrutinised by this parliament. What must be on the public record

is that the jobs threatened by this bill cannot and will not be replaced by jobs in renewables. The member for Springwood said that there will be no or very few jobs in coal-fired power stations by 2035 due to renewables. The fact is that once those projects are up and running there are few jobs on offer.


I have a number of solar farms in my electorate. I visit them. I can remember sitting in this chamber and listening to the former premier and to the former energy minister talk about the hundreds of jobs that were going to be created in the renewable energy sector. When I visit those solar farms there are one, two and, in one case, three permanent employees. Where are these hundreds of jobs that those opposite keep talking about? Where are they? When I visit these solar farms that are scattered right throughout the electorate, there are very few permanent jobs attached to those particular projects. What has been more galling for me—and I have spoken about this previously in this place—is solar farms are being constructed on prime agricultural land. Prime agricultural irrigated farmland in my electorate now has solar farms built on it, meaning that that land will never ever return to production.

This government is asking Queenslanders to blindly trust them. Yet it is this government that will not tell Queenslanders how much the Pioneer-Burdekin hydro project will cost. With a project that is a pie in the sky and highlights what a farce it has become, we have a Premier and a Treasurer who cannot even agree on the cost of this project. There is a mere difference of some \$6 billion. What I could do with \$6 billion in my electorate! I ask each and every member sitting in this place tonight: if someone were to come and drop a \$6 billion cheque in their hands tonight, what could they do with that in their electorates? Yet this mob would have us believe that they are all across the detail and that this project stacks up. Is it any wonder that people are sceptical about their ability to deliver these projects on cost and on time?

The amendments moved by the member for Nanango are about transparency, about ensuring more workers are covered by the Job Security Guarantee and about ensuring targets are regularly reviewed. I have a very simple question for the minister—that is, at the moment how many solar and wind farms are currently turned off or operating at reduced capacity in Queensland? How many are turned off or not operating at full capacity because of the oversupply? There is a massive oversupply during the day. We know that. I am getting calls about this every day of the week. I had a call last week from a resident in Normanton who is absolutely fed up with the constant power outages in that community. He asked the question: we have a solar farm down the road that is turned off. Why is that solar farm turned off? It is a good question. It was one I would like the minister to answer during his summing up.

I think Queenslanders deserve to know the answer to those questions. We have all of these renewable energy projects across the state, and we all assume they are out there and they are working at maximum capacity. That is clearly not the case, and that defies logic when our power prices are going through the roof. This government can hand out all the rebates they like, but the fact remains that Queenslanders are sick and tired of seeing their power bills go up. As usual, it is regional and rural Queenslanders who are bearing the brunt of it. I do not know how many times I have had to say in this place that residents, business owners, farmers and community organisations are seriously hurting. In some cases these power prices are the difference between them staying afloat and going bankrupt. They are feeling the pain and there is no relief in sight.

The only thing we can be sure of is that under the watch of this incompetent government there is only one way power prices are going, and that is up. They keep trotting out these tired old lines about nuclear power. We are sick of the spin, we are sick of the lies and it is about time this Labor government owned up to the fact they have mismanaged the power supply in this state. The more important question is at what cost will that be to Queenslanders going forward?

 **Hon. LR McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (9.21 pm): I rise to proudly speak in support of these incredibly important laws. I do so because of what they mean both to the Queensland of today and the Queensland of tomorrow. Our future generations will benefit from the decisions taken in this parliament in relation to these laws and the legacy this will leave—a legacy that is proudly left because of Labor.


Put simply, these bills lock in our renowned Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan; lock in over 100,000 new, good jobs; lock in tens of billions of dollars in investment in clean energy; lock in cleaner, cheaper energy for our homes and businesses; lock in an energy system that will remain owned by the people of Queensland; lock in surety for existing energy workers and their communities; lock in clean, reliable and affordable energy for generations; and lock in new industries and continued competitiveness for our existing industries by cutting emissions by 75 per cent by 2035.

These bills are for every Queensland, our industries and our economy. They leverage our state's natural advantages to build a clean and competitive energy system for the economy and industries as a way to accelerate growth, deliver affordable energy for our homes and businesses, support more rooftop solar and batteries, drive better outcomes for workers and communities as partners to take up the myriad opportunities presented by the energy transformation and take the real action on climate that Queenslanders and Australians have overwhelmingly voted for. Under the Miles Labor government we have already seen so much progress. Since 2015, we have seen 54 new large-scale renewable projects that have delivered over \$11 billion in investment and over 8,700 jobs in construction alone. That has avoided over 15 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

It is clear that Queensland is a clean energy superpower with world-class solar and wind, has the ideal geography for large-scale pumped hydro, has the critical minerals below the ground that make the renewable energy technologies we need to decarbonise and, most importantly, has the public ownership of our energy system to make it happen. Is it any wonder that our plan and these laws are not just being celebrated around the world but right across our local neighbourhoods in Ipswich. That is because our commitment to public ownership includes Wivenhoe pumped hydro and the Swanbank Clean Energy Hub in Bundamba. It is because of public ownership that we can deliver meaningful cost-of-living relief through energy rebates to our homes, to our vulnerable community members and to small businesses.

It is Labor that reopened Swanbank Power Station, it is Labor that brought back our Swanbank workers, and it is Labor that is investing over \$300 million in a big battery at Swanbank as part of South-East Queensland's very first clean energy hub to secure a bright future for our workers and their families and clean, cheap power for homes and businesses. I want to acknowledge the mighty trade union movement for their 'Not for sale' campaign and for saving that power station and so many other of our energy assets from the threat of privatisation.

While that was then, we know now that the LNP wants to cut clean energy projects. We can see it in this debate. We have heard from the shadow energy minister that the LNP will be opposing one of the bills that locks in public ownership and that locks into legislation the jobs guarantee that will protect energy workers in our energy communities. There is only one reason they are doing that, and that is because if given the chance they will sell off our assets again. They have done it once and they will do it again. Labor will always protect our energy assets, and I proudly commend these bills to the House.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (9.27 pm): I support these bills for a couple of simple and key reasons: first, they take real action on climate change; second, these bills are helping us look after workers; third, because we are keeping these assets in public hands; and, fourth, because we are going to deliver even cheaper energy.

When we were elected in 2015 there were a couple of big challenges in our community: unemployment was high; public services like health, education and many other parts of the Public Service had been gutted and demoralised; and community services had been gagged and defunded. We rose to those challenges. We got more Queenslanders into jobs. We rebuilt our health, education and public services. We ungagged those community services and we listened to them even when they did not agree with us.

Another big issue for the people in my community that has been consistent throughout the entire time I have been representing them is the need to respond to climate change. I have seen that debate evolve over time. People reject the extremism of gluing yourself to the road and all of those extreme actions that disrupt people's lives. They reject the LNP's approach of burying your head in the sand and pretending there is no problem here. They want a sensible plan that is taking real action on climate change, and that is what these bills are delivering.

When I was first elected I had fairly serious doubts that anybody could really take on the issue of addressing climate change. I thought it would be almost impossible. I did start to think about the global action that was taken in the 1980s and 1990s to address the hole in the ozone layer, and that gave me hope that, if they put their heads together, the global community could rise to the challenge and our state and our country could make a real contribution in this area.

One of the first people I ever heard talk about climate change as an issue was the Premier. That was many years ago when we worked together at the Queensland Public Sector Union, which is now the Together union. At the time, the Premier led a debate in our union and I admit I was one of the many union members who was confused as to why workers should spend their time organising efforts in response to this issue. He was ahead of the pack on this issue and I think now most workers would



understand why it is fundamentally important that we take action on climate change. We know the impacts of climate change will fall most heavily on those people on lower incomes and those people who work for a living.

When we were elected, only seven per cent of Queensland's energy was generated by renewable energy. Now we are sitting at around 27 per cent and the speed of the introduction of more renewable energy is increasing every day. We will hit our targets but these bills will lock that in. This is real action on climate change and the people in my community overwhelmingly support this action and these bills.

Of course, not everyone is committed to clean energy. Proton Pete Dutton is dictating to his LNP colleagues that nuclear is the way forward. I heard him with my own ears—

**A government member:** Duttonheimer.

**Mr KELLY:** Duttonheimer; I will take that interjection. I heard him with my own ears, sprouting about it on the ABC the other morning, but, of course, he was only sprouting about how great it was. He was not actually giving us details. He was not saying where they are going to build it or how much it was going to cost. He did not say how we would have the capacity to even build these things, how long they will take to build or how we would manage the waste. It was just lots of thought bubbles about this being the way forward. That is because his party contains the member for Callide who, in his opening speech to this parliament, sang the praises of retaining a system of generating energy that we know is ultimately damaging our planet even though we have other ways to generate energy, look after workers and deliver cheaper energy. His party controls him. His party is moving further to the right.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr KELLY:** I have heard the LNP members—there is one of them carping on right now—such as the member for Bonney saying that they are ruling it out. Unfortunately, they voted in this chamber for the Path to Treaty. It was the chamber in Cairns, actually. Then they turned their backs on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Queensland. Nothing they say can be trusted. You cannot even trust them when they vote in this place.

The second reason I support this bill is because it looks after the workers. I am proud to be part of the Labor Party that will always stand up for workers. We know things change in industries, but the changes being faced in this industry are significant and seismic. We need to make sure that we look after not just the workers but also the communities the workers come from. This Miles government plan will create 100,000 good, secure jobs. Public ownership is the next reason that I support the bill.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Order! Pause the clock for a moment, please. Members on my right and members on my left, there is too much conversation. Please keep quiet or take it outside.

**Mr KELLY:** To be fair, it has been a long day. I can understand it, but I am almost there. Of course, I support this bill because it is key to allowing the Miles Labor government to deliver investment in cheap, reliable and publicly owned renewables.

Of course, the LNP are voting against keeping energy assets in public hands and that means, under the LNP, thousands of Queenslanders would lose their jobs, billions of dollars in renewable energy would be cut and Queenslanders would pay hundreds of dollars more on their power bills. Everything that we are working for in these bills would be at risk under an LNP government. They would cut investment in renewables, slash jobs, increase power prices and sell out to their mate Proton Pete Duttonheimer on nuclear energy. I support these bills because they take real action on climate change, which people in my community absolutely support.

**Mr Boothman** interjected.


**Mr KELLY:** I am not taking the member for Theodore's inane and ridiculous interjections. I would seek your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker, because he is such an effective speaker! In fact, if I did not have my hearing aid turned up I would not know he was interjecting.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Greenslopes, you have the call. Member for Theodore, your interjections were not being taken until they were being taken. Members, please keep the interjections to a minimum, especially if they are not being taken.

**Mr KELLY:** If you want to interject, you might want to speak up a bit. You might want to have a bit of passion and belief. The member might want to have some passion and belief in his interjections, but he just sits there mumbling away pretending that he cares about the issues but all he says is, 'Mmm, mmm, mmm!' He does not really believe anything he is saying. He probably came in here and voted for Path to Treaty, but he probably just mumbled his way through that because he did not believe in that.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Greenslopes, direct your comments through the chair, please.

**Mr KELLY:** All he could do was just mumble away because that is all the LNP can do. If you actually believe in something then you have to stand up and proclaim it. I believe in these bills because they will allow us to provide cheaper energy, look after workers and take real action on climate change. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (9.35 pm): The member for Greenslopes is obviously on a roll today. I cannot believe how delusional the member for Greenslopes and the member for Bundamba are about what is happening in what they call a transition of power. I must admit, I missed the member for Greenslopes's first point but I caught the other three, which were about jobs in renewable energy. Today we have already heard one of their ministers tell us there were 10 jobs in a 1,000-megawatt solar farm going forward. However, what will happen to the hundreds of jobs that are in the coal-fired power stations that the member for Greenslopes and the member for Bundamba want to close down? What will those people be trained as? Baristas, maybe! They will go from a \$200,000 job to a \$30,000 job making coffee. Is that what members opposite really want to see happen here? That is what will happen as a result of this transition.

The members opposite say that everybody who loses their job under this plan will be retrained, apparently. They are going to be retrained to be whatever they are going to be. Maybe they will be members of parliament on the other side. Who knows? The member mentioned keeping the assets of Queensland in government hands. Who were the only ones who sold Queensland assets? I can tell you it was not the LNP.

**Mr Power:** \$10 billion.

**Mr HART:** I take the interjection from the member for Logan, who spruiks about \$10 billion but cannot prove that. At the end of the day, that is not true at all. The only entity—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Order! Pause the clock for a moment. Members, I am trying to allow the member on his feet to make his point, but I am struggling to hear it against all of the interjections. Could you cease interjections, please.

**Mr Skelton** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Nicklin, you are warned.

**Mr HART:** The only entity that sold assets in Queensland is the Australian Labor Party. In 2010, they went to the election saying that they would not sell assets and then they sold \$16.5 billion worth of Queensland taxpayers' assets. They basically told a mistruth to the people of Queensland. They may want to come in here and accuse us of doing the wrong thing by the people of Queensland, but we went to an election telling them what we would do. They did not elect us and we did not do it. Who is right and who is wrong here? I can tell you who is wrong at the end of the day.

The fourth point that the member for Greenslopes mentioned was that renewable energy is cheaper. How is that working out for the people of Queensland right now? Any of the members opposite who are not delusional will have heard from their constituents that electricity prices are going up. The real cost of electricity is going up.

The government can subsidise all they want, but that is not doing anything for the real price of electricity in Queensland and the people out there know that. They can see that. The government are giving a subsidy to some people, but there are a whole lot of people out there who are not getting the subsidy and they are hurting. There are a whole lot of businesses out there that are really hurting at the moment because of higher electricity prices. If the minister for manufacturing really wanted to take note, he would be out there having a look at what the high price of electricity is doing for our manufacturers. Quite frankly, we will end up with no foundries in the future because they will not be able to afford to operate.

Let us have a look at this bill. For those members opposite who do not understand this—and I suspect the Minister for Energy does not understand this—the Australian Energy Regulator allows people like Powerlink and Energex to set their regulated asset base, which is the amount they can

recover from consumers. Typically, over a five-year period that has been \$2 billion or sometimes a little bit more than that. With the plan that this government has put in place, that recovery could jump to \$60 billion or \$70 billion quite easily. How does that come about?

The explanatory notes to this bill talk about requiring another 2,000 kilometres of cabling. We already know that CopperString—which is about half that length—is costing \$5 billion, so you can assume that twice that would cost \$10 billion. We already know, according to the minister's own explanatory notes, that they need another 22 gigawatts of power. We know that typically renewable energy costs \$2 million a megawatt to produce; that is the capital cost involved. That is another \$44 billion. We know that Borumba has already been priced in at \$14.2 billion—that is the government's own figures—and something that is twice the size of Borumba apparently is only \$12 billion. That will double or triple. We are looking at \$100 billion here before we turn around. That is what this government's radical ideological plan is going to cost the people of Queensland.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr HART:** I am not voting for that, member for Logan. That is in this bill. That is what it is going to cost—\$100 billion. We operate in a regulated asset base, as I said before, under the AER and typically we recover \$2 billion to \$3 billion over that five-year period. We are now going to recover \$60 billion or \$70 billion over that five-year period. In terms of electricity bills, half of that is from the regulated asset base of Powerlink, Energex and Ergon. That is 50 per cent, members. Are you listening to me? It is 50 per cent.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr HART:** Typically, they are not listening.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Direct your comments through the chair, member for Burleigh.

**Mr HART:** Mr Deputy Speaker, they are not listening. They do not want to know what the real numbers are here. They do not want to know how this is going to impact the electricity prices of regular Queenslanders. They think this is funny. At the end of the day, 50 per cent of people's electricity bills are recovered from the network in distribution costs. The Labor Party are looking for a multiple of 30 times that in these two projects alone—30 times that. People out there can expect their electricity bill to increase by a factor of 10 or 20. If the member for Pine Rivers thinks that is funny, I can tell the member for Pine Rivers that the people in her electorate will not appreciate that at all. Their businesses will close down and they will not be able to afford their electricity bill, and the member for Pine Rivers finds that funny.

This government are completely incompetent. They have no idea what they are doing here. The Minister for Energy does not seem to care about how much money he spends on behalf of the Queensland public. He does not seem to care how much this will cost the Queensland public. He is happy for the Queensland public to pay more for their electricity, and all he offers in return is a subsidy that is being paid for by borrowed money. That is why the Treasurer of this state is saying that we can expect to see far more debt in this state over the next few years. If we continue down this path, people in Queensland will not be able to afford their electricity and businesses will close. The only way to fix this is to elect an LNP government in 2024.


*(Time expired)*

Debate, on motion of Mr Hart, adjourned.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I notify members that it is time for the automatic adjournment in accordance with the motion agreed to by the House earlier this evening.

## ADJOURNMENT

### Carina Leagues Club

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (9.45 pm): As patron of the Carina Leagues Club, I would like to congratulate the chief executive officer Wade Core, the general manager Adam Wiencke, the board of directors, management and staff for being named Club of the Year at the 2024 Clubs Queensland Awards for Excellence. With so many great sporting clubs in Queensland, it truly is a remarkable achievement by the Carina Leagues Club.

By way of background, like many other clubs in Queensland, the Carina Leagues Club commenced from very humble beginnings. This innovative club has been able to build strong patronage and community support, donating in excess of \$25 million to local sporting clubs over the last 25 years.

Known as the first club in Queensland to be granted trading hours from 10 am to 11 pm, it continues to be truly progressive and certainly has not been one to rest on its laurels. With its state-of-the-art facilities throughout the outstanding food and beverage venues, entertainment and gaming, it is always filled with plenty of atmosphere. The club plays an invaluable role in support of our local community—whether it be contributions to the rebuild of the Carina Leagues junior football clubhouse or the Camp Hill Carina Welfare Association to build a gymnasium or donations to various schools and sporting organisations.


The Carina Leagues Club states that their staff are their biggest asset. It aims to create an inclusive and positive environment for all the team. Programs include the in-house training, professional development, holistic offerings and awards nights that ensure that the team members feel valued and appreciated. One such strategy that they have implemented is the ‘walk of fame’—a 10-metre wall displaying framed photos of staff with their names and favourite pastimes. This has been so successful that it has now been adopted by many other clubs across Queensland. The club is continually developing ambitious concepts for the future, and a \$15 million expansion plan will ensure that the club’s journey continues and they can provide a must visit destination for families and patrons for years to come.

As stated previously, this club is at the heart of the Chatsworth community and provides outstanding facilities for members and guests while supporting sporting and community partners. From footy games at the Carina Leagues Club as a young boy, to Friday night dinners at the restaurant to watching State of Origin matches on the big screen, I have many special memories and am very proud to be the club patron and state member.

While I am on my feet, I refer to the Speaker’s statement on 16 April concerning correspondence from the Leader of the House. This was the first time this matter had been drawn to my attention. In response to his request, I correct the record and advise that I should have ensured the post referred to the fact that 18 of the 19 ministers did not make ministerial statements on the day in question. I will remove the social media post.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): I note that that great club also supports many sporting organisations in my electorate, and we are very appreciative of that.

### **Banyo Level Crossing**

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation) (9.49 pm): Our Miles Labor government’s Big Build is delivering vital infrastructure to secure the future of our state and is providing a generation worth of good, secure jobs for Queenslanders. For my community in the Nudgee electorate, there are few infrastructure projects more important than addressing the issues of the Banyo level crossing. As locals in my community are only too keenly aware, traffic congestion and, most importantly, safety have been a problem at the Banyo level crossing for years—decades, in fact. As is the case with most level crossings, these problems cannot be solved without the cooperation of both the Brisbane City Council and the state government. Of course, while the state is responsible for the rail corridor, the trains and the train station, the roads in question leading in and out of the crossing are in fact Brisbane City Council roads. Despite years of attempts on my part to put politics aside for the benefit of my local community and to work with the local LNP councillor on a solution, he has unfortunately never come to the table and been willing to do the same.


These are just some of the examples of the advocacy and engagement that I have engaged in over the years for my local community: a letter to the local councillor, a letter to the Lord Mayor, a newsletter to my local community, emails to locals, emails to the councillor, extensive social media postings about the issue, information from doorknocking sessions, speeches made in the House here, and newsletters. These are just some of the things that I have done to try to have this discussion fruitfully for my community. Despite this being the first thing I raised with the local councillor when he was elected in 2016, we are still locked in this ridiculous political argument about the fact that council will take no responsibility. My community deserves better.

Of course, we went it alone at a state level. I acknowledge the former transport minister and the funding he gave to do a precinct study to improve safety at the crossing. That precinct study should have been joint. The Lord Mayor said no. The local councillor would not commit to it. We have finished that precinct study and now have a number of options that would also improve the safety for my community. Still the local councillor, who has been returned, will not cooperate. He will not talk about the issue. It is not their responsibility; it is ours.

The LNP have never turned up for my community—not at a local level and not when they had the chance, from 2012 to 2015, to actually advocate for and solve this issue. The people of the Nudgee electorate deserve better than the LNP. They deserve better than the current councillor. It is only a state Labor government that will fight to resolve the issue.

*(Time expired)*

### **CEO Sleepout; Member for Southport; Surfers Paradise Electorate, Police Resources**

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (9.52 pm): I rise to speak on two issues. The first is a charitable one. I want to acknowledge a group of Gold Coast businesspeople who are here for the CEO Sleepout dinner, promoting the CEO Sleepout. They are being hosted by James Lister, the member for Southern Downs, who does not have a great connection with the Gold Coast, but he has obviously been seconded to do the job. Welcome, James, and welcome to all those business leaders who would normally be hosted by Rob Molhoek. It gives me a chance to send a shout-out to Rob Molhoek, on behalf of all the House. Today it was announced he will not be back until June. Sam O'Connor, the member for Bonney, and I visited him last week in hospital. I know all our good wishes go out to him. He has been a great supporter of the CEO Sleepout for many years, and I know that many of his friends and supporters are here.

I really want to speak about the lack of police presence and continuing traffic issues affecting residents in my electorate of Surfers Paradise. It is fortuitous that the general manager of the *Gold Coast Bulletin* is here because I will refer to two articles from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*. The first is dated 3 April 2024, by Keith Woods, titled 'GC cops divert to hotspots'. In the article it was revealed that between 20 and 30 officers per day are being sent from the Gold Coast to take part in crime hotspots of Logan and Ipswich. In the article, Superintendent Peter Miles said that 44 per cent of crime is 'committed by offenders who do not live in this district'. I table that.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 2 April 2024, titled 'Operation Whiskey Legion: Gold Coast police sent to Logan and Ipswich' [\[605\]](#).


I table an article titled 'Surprise blitz' subsequently written by Keith Woods also just before Easter.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 23 March 2024, titled 'Surprise blitz an Easter hint: Foretaste of what's to come' [\[606\]](#).

Our local residents throughout Main Beach, Surfers Paradise, Broadbeach and the more western parts of my electorate like Sorrento, Bundall, Benowa Waters and Clear Island Waters, where I live, are begging for more of a police presence. It has not been there since COVID. We do not see any traffic actions. People cannot remember last time they were stopped for drink-driving tests. Of course, bad people know that these things are not happening either, so they come out. Forty-four per cent of crimes are being carried out by people who are not from our electorate.

There was a road safety blitz prior to Easter with an extraordinary number of suspected drink-driving, drug-driving, driving without a licence, and suspected possession of illegal drugs. Our police need the resources to engage. When we hear that 20 to 30 are going to Logan and Ipswich under the new program which is called Operation Whiskey Legion, it means that our police service is not being resourced in the way it needs to be. Particularly, many of the businesspeople and local residents of Surfers Paradise will attest to the fact that the noise from illegally modified exhaust pipes comes right up through the high-rises across Surfers and Broadbeach. With seemingly no police action, it is very frustrating. I asked a number of questions on notice about actual details of police actions. The police minister refused to answer. The Gold Coast deserves better.

### **Correction of Record; Pine Rivers Small Business Awards**

 **Hon. N BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.55 pm): I would like to make a clarification regarding a private member's statement I delivered during the last sitting. On 21 March, I stated that I had been told that the member for Burdekin had asked about surplus firefighters during his visit to the Cairns Fire and Rescue Station. I table an email my office received from QFES staff following that visit.

*Tabled paper:* Email, dated 19 February 2024, from Chief Superintendent, Fire and Rescue Service, Far Northern Region, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, regarding a visit from the member for Burdekin, Mr Dale Last MP [\[607\]](#).


The email clearly states that the member asked the chief superintendent during the visit, 'What are you going to do with the surplus staff with the new region?' This information was further clarified during a meeting with the chief superintendent and senior QFES staff. I wish to clarify that I should have said in my original statement that the member had asked the chief superintendent about surplus staff

during his visit to the Cairns Fire and Rescue Station. Firefighters are, of course, the largest contingent of the paid QFES workforce. I wish to further clarify that my statements regarding the member for Burdekin drawing up a list of staff to sack is my opinion based on that information, and I still hold that opinion. However, given I expressed my opinion regarding LNP cuts as a fact, I unconditionally withdraw.

I would like to update the House about the fantastic Pine Rivers Small Business Awards which are running again in 2024. Nominations are presently open. It is a fantastic opportunity for us to recognise the amazing contributions that our small businesses make. Nominations are open for only a couple more days until the 20th. I am encouraging my community to nominate their favourite small business in the categories of: trades and services; wellbeing, beauty and hairdressing; cafes, restaurants and bars; retail and sales; social enterprises; agricultural; and Best Small Business Newcomer. From here, we will have a finals process for real heavy-hitting voting. We know it is hotly contested between 21 April and 12 May. Then on 28 May, we will be welcoming our fantastic small business minister, Lance McCallum, into the electorate to partake in a presentation where we will give awards to the winners in each of those categories across the Pine Rivers community.

We know our small businesses make a tremendous contribution right across the Pine Rivers electorate, be it a social, economic or cultural contribution. This is an awards process that I kicked off over COVID because it acknowledges that small businesses throughout our community were doing it particularly tough. Last year, we received many thousands of votes. Already we have received hundreds of nominations for the awards. It will be a fantastic way to celebrate our community.

### Senior Citizens' Services; Sunshine Coast, Crime

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (9.58 pm): Helping the elderly and seniors in our community to connect with essential services and support is very important. That is why it is an honour to table a petition on behalf of the LNP candidate for Cairns, Yolonde Entsch, who is doing an outstanding job advocating for her community. The Cairns and District Senior Citizens Association launched this petition after the Council of the Ageing lobbied the member for Cairns, Michael Healy, without success. Yolonde has championed the issue, calling for the installation of an accessible bus stop at 271 Gatton Street, Westcourt to support senior and elder community members.


*Tabled paper:* Nonconforming petition requesting the installation of a bus stop and shelter at Westcourt [608].

Currently for them to catch a bus to the Senior Citizens Association, which provides support, care and connection, would see them endure long walks in the extreme tropical heat and all sorts of weather. Getting a taxi is not an option that the majority of people can afford, and they should not need to. Cost of living is a huge issue for all areas of our communities, but the senior and elderly face more challenges when they need that support, so public transport with an accessible bus stop matters. It would also help those seniors and elderly living next door at Mercy Place Residential Aged Care. I thank Yolonde and the Cairns community for their hard work to raise this vital issue and request that the transport minister listen, intervene and make it happen to ensure there is a bus stop and bus service supporting our seniors and elderly who rely on the Senior Citizens Association or who live next door in Gatton Street, Westcourt.

I also wish to address the serious issue of crime that is affecting my constituents on the Sunshine Coast. Crime in the streets and unfortunately in home invasions is increasingly hurting many Queenslanders and many people in my electorate. The Labor government, with their weak laws, simply are not listening. We have seen about 322 fewer police than at this time last year. Labor members think crime is a media beat-up, but I am finding that there are more and more home invasions that do not make the media because, unfortunately, they are becoming too common. This is unacceptable. In one incident that happened in my community recently, an elderly couple went into their garage and someone followed them into their garage and invaded their home. In the same street—I believe at two o'clock in the morning—there was another home invasion on the same night and an attempted break and enter. This is being repeated over and over again. Crime has increased: up 90 per cent for unlawful use of motor vehicles in the Maroochydore division; up 29 per cent for unlawful entry; up 19 per cent for other theft; and 132 per cent for assault since Labor came to government. This is unacceptable. This is why we need the right priorities and the right laws under an LNP government. Show Labor the door.

*(Time expired)*


### Rockhampton Electorate, Crime Prevention

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (10.01 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker Kelly, as you would be aware, community cabinet was held in Rockhampton last month. Our Premier, Steven Miles, and ministers held cabinet meetings and met with organisations and individuals to discuss concerns. To combat crime the Miles government announced extra police allocations, with an additional 26 police positions to be based in the Rockhampton area between now and midyear and an additional 10 police vehicles. I am proud to say that these allocations are part of the biggest investment in the Queensland Police Service in 30 years. The Queensland Police Service has determined that the extra police positions will be allocated to the Yeppoon, North Rockhampton, Emu Park and Rockhampton police stations and for the Capricornia police district domestic and family violence and vulnerable persons units.

The Queensland Police Service is currently undertaking its largest training and recruitment program in its history, with over 500 police recruits currently at Queensland's police academies and over 2,000 applications in the police recruitment pipeline statewide. Additionally, high-visibility policing operations continue to support public safety in the greater Rockhampton area. More than 8,700 proactive activities including crime hotspot patrols, business and shopping centre walk-throughs, service station drop-ins, bail compliance checks and community engagement are being conducted by police and police liaison officers during the first year of an extremely high-visibility police operation. The patrols under Operation Whiskey Unison are in addition to the coordinated day-to-day police operations and paroles conducted by frontline police. The ongoing high-visibility patrols have resulted in people being arrested for 379 charges for drugs, weapons, property crime and bail offences. The rapid response team Taskforce Guardian has also been deployed to Rockhampton three times since May last year.

Our government backs police 100 per cent. That is why we are seeing a record investment and the aggressive recruiting strategies that police are employing to put more police in the community. Like everyone in my local community, I greatly appreciate the efforts of our local police officers and the duties which they undertake each and every day to support community safety.

### Great Artesian Basin

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (10.04 pm.): I rise to talk about the threats to the Great Artesian Basin. I am talking about an asset that is 65 million megalitres—that is oceans of water underground. It has been touted as one of the greatest, if not the greatest, potable water source on the planet. It is a natural pristine waterway worth \$13 billion a year to the state economy, yet at the moment Glencore is proposing to pump CO<sub>2</sub> into it. There would certainly be a lot of people in this room who would say that it is just pumping in CO<sub>2</sub> like we do with soft drink bottles—except for the fact that there are some scientists saying that it could activate lead and arsenic in the water. This is not just about Glencore pumping their waste in there; it is about them then doing it for every other coalmining company. The perverse nature of this is that we pay them for the privilege, so they get carbon credits. We pay them to dump industrial waste from their process of coal-fired power which will risk this asset that underlies \$13 billion to the Australian economy, and predominantly the impact will be on Queensland. This will risk that.

At this point I come back to the precautionary principle. Remember those words that we use a lot in this House—the precautionary principle? We brought in all of these draconian laws for the sugarcane industry in terms of reef regulation laws based on this precautionary principle. We cannot show that there is any nitrogen on the reef or any silt, but on the precautionary principle we cut their use of fertiliser just about in half, by 40 per cent. That was the precautionary principle. We keep applying it every time we try to build a dam or a river—do anything in the environment. We apply it except for this. I cannot help but wonder because this stuff affects people out there. We are so often forgotten out there in so many other areas. It is not hard to think, 'This just doesn't matter, let's dump it and let's use our climate change ideologies. Let's apply that and park our guilt over the Great Artesian Basin and threaten that area,' and a lot of people here do not think that that is a problem. I just cannot believe that it has even got this far. I cannot believe it got through Canberra and it is up here. I want to table this petition from the Queensland Farmers' Federation with 15,000 signatures.

*Tabled paper:* Nonconforming petition regarding carbon and capture storage in the Great Artesian Basin [\[609\]](#).


There is a petition in my name and we have already managed to get 10,000 people to sign it in one week. AgForce and a lot of farmers have contributed and now have a \$2 million war chest to fight this. They should not have to. This is a natural pristine waterway. Glencore is an altruistic mining

company that just sent 1,200 copper mining jobs offshore when they did not need to. We are letting them dictate what goes into this aquifer and risking this \$13 billion because they said it was all right and that they have done some desktop modelling on this and it is all right. If we cannot stop this, I do not know what the hell we are doing here in parliament talking about environmental assets.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): I will just take some advice before I call the next speaker. Member for Traeger, you used some unparliamentary language. I would ask you to withdraw please.

**Mr KATTER:** My apologies, Mr Deputy Speaker. I withdraw.

### **Supporting Teenagers with Education, Mothering and Mentoring, Funding; Nicklin Electorate**

 **Mr SKELTON** (Nicklin—ALP) (10.07 pm): I am pleased to correct the record and say that there has been no cut or cessation of departmental funding for the Supporting Teenagers with Education, Mothering and Mentoring, STEMM, as mentioned last week by the local LNP. This is an important program that is run by the Burnside State High School and local community groups. Participants in this program obviously have enough on their plates to deal with without the irresponsible scaremongering of the LNP. Their conduct is disgraceful and I call on them to apologise to the participants, teaching staff and community for any stress this behaviour has caused. The department continues to provide funding for the teaching staff of the program. This is now provided as part of the school's regular staffing allocation. I am proud of the Miles government's record investment in education in the region—unlike the LNP's track record, which includes cuts to services, sacking public servants and selling off our assets. They owe it to the people of the Sunshine Coast to be up-front and honest about their intentions instead of playing these political games.

Last Friday it was a pleasure to welcome the Australian Surf Life Saving Championships, or 'Aussies'—and I thank the sports minister for allowing me to represent him—to the Sunshine Coast. There were a record 8,100 participants from clubs across Australia. I thank the organisers and participants for bringing this event to us and for supporting our local businesses.

On Saturday night I attended the presentation night for the Cooroy-Eumundi Cricket Club, the mighty Cougars, of which I am proud to be patron. The night was wonderfully emceed by Phil Giblett—aka the Gelding—and his assistant Dean Christensen. They are magnificent sledgers, as you can imagine and I do not know what the Gelding is about.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Nicklin, normally you would seek permission from the Speaker if you are going to use a prop of any description. I have not been able to hear what the contribution is about. Is it related to some sort of charity?

**Mr MILLAR:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. A couple of terms ago I was wearing—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Resume your seat, member for Gregory. Member, I am seeking clarification. Is the contribution in relation to some sort of charitable or sporting activity?

**Mr SKELTON:** Yes, this is the baggy green of the Cooroy Cougars cricket club.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Resume your seat. Did you have a point of order, member for Gregory?


**Mr MILLAR:** Mr Deputy Speaker, as much as I appreciate the Cougars and the cricket club, when the Blackall Magpies won their grand final I brought in a scarf and was told I could not wear the scarf. As much as I would like the member to wear the Cougars baggy green, there is a precedent. I just want to point that out.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Resume your seat and I will take some advice. We have ranged over many areas of the standing orders tonight and parliamentary practice. It is practice that members seek permission from the Speaker before they use a prop or anything of that nature. I will ask the member to continue his contribution without the baggy green of the Cooroy Cougars.

**Mr SKELTON:** My apologies. Thank you to the executive committee president John Hope, vice-president Dave McVey and treasurer Fiona Gardiner. The division 4 team won the one-day championships and the division 6 side took out the two-day championships. The under-17 side was overall champion. The club champion this season is Tim Marchisio. Club person of the year was a tie between Owen Morley and Josh Shooter. The club volunteer award was awarded to Katrina McKenzie. The women's side was ably captained by Amanda Tie and the women's champion player is Kayla Nailer. The most coveted prize, though, is the awarding of the green 10-year jacket. This year Mitchell Kneale and Dylan Evans reached that milestone and were presented with their jackets by the members of this exclusive club. Congratulations to all on a magnificent and terrific season. Go Cougars!



### Member for Nicklin

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (10.12 pm): With contributions like that from the member for Nicklin is there any wonder that their local community is embarrassed to have him as their representative? Is it any wonder they are embarrassed that he has only just blown in, moved in and does not know what is going on in his community? The member for Nicklin is a disgrace.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): I am going to take some advice.

**Mr Skelton** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Before I go back to the member for Buderim, I believe somebody used some extremely unparliamentary language.

**Mr SKELTON:** I withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Buderim, in the interests of getting us all home, I ask you to move on with your contribution.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I will continue with my critique of the member for Nicklin. The people of Nicklin can judge him by his actions. This is the standard of the member they have representing them. This is the standard of the Labor members of parliament.

There is no police officer in Kenilworth. What have we heard from the member for Nicklin about it? Nothing! Instead, what does the member for Nicklin do? He goes on Facebook and abuses local business owners raising concerns about their community. Let's compare and contrast that with the LNP's candidate for Nicklin, Marty Hunt, a man who has served that community for over—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Resume your seat.

**Mr MILLAR:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Before I deal with the point of order, member for Maryborough, you used extremely unparliamentary language. I would ask you to withdraw.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I withdraw.

**Mr MILLAR:** That was my point of order.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members, we are almost there. I will start warning and removing people. I remind the House that many people are under a warning in this chamber already.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Marty Hunt is a man who has served the community of Nambour for over 25 years, 17 years as a police officer—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers and member for Townsville, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr MICKELBERG:**—running the PCYC. What did Marty Hunt do when he lost the last election in 2020? He went back to the Police Service to serve his community as a school-based police officer in Nambour. That shows the calibre of Marty Hunt compared to the calibre of the man we just heard speak in this parliament.

**Mrs McMahon** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Macalister.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** On 26 October, the people of Nicklin will have the opportunity to judge this blow-in from Brisbane against a dedicated community champion like Marty Hunt—

**Mrs McMahon** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Macalister is warned.

**Mr MICKELBERG:**—and I will back Marty Hunt in every week because I know Marty Hunt has the interests of his community at heart. I know Marty Hunt cares about the people of Nambour, Mapleton and Kenilworth and he knows what is going on in his community.


What have we heard from the current member for Nicklin about the issue of the duplication of Sunshine Coast rail right through to Nambour? Bear in mind this is a Labor government commitment that they said would be done. They committed to it in 2018 and they have still not laid a single piece of

line. What have we heard from the member for Nicklin? Bear in mind it is his community that is missing out. Nothing, not one word! What have we heard from Marty Hunt? He has been tirelessly campaigning for his community and tirelessly fighting for the issues that his community cares about.

The people of Nicklin will have their say on 26 October and I am confident they will judge correctly. It is time to show Rob Skeleton the door in '24.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, you will use the correct title.

### Veterans

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (10.16 pm): I might raise the tone. I am a very proud veteran. I trained initially as a Morse code operator in the Royal Australian Corps of Signals. The only problem with that was I could not take Morse code to save my life. The Army looked at my six-foot, three-inch frame and decided that armoured vehicles was the obvious career choice for me. I am glad that they did because I ended up in the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment and was transformed from a Morse quambie into a gentleman of the cavalry. That is why I will make every effort I can to assist veterans wherever possible.

To that end, I would draw everyone's attention to a funny sounding word, SMEAC—situation, mission, execution, administration/logistics, and command and signals. A few members in the House will be familiar with this acronym. It is used in the military during order groups to ensure consistency when passing on orders to our military personnel. In Caloundra it now has a different meaning. SMEAC is the name of a group of veterans who are about to do something wonderful in my community.

Following a successful grant from the federal Labor government, SMEAC is going to transform how we understand veterans' hubs. Some years after discovering the recently closed and disused school camp Koongamoon on the shores of Ewen Maddock Dam in Landsborough, a group of veterans who already had plans for a hub of their own found the answer to their prayers. Accommodation buildings, administration facilities, industrial kitchens and a spacious mess facility—all of these things will be taken over by SMEAC soon. Thanks to these veterans, Camp X-Ray Koongamoon will now become a veteran reintegration hub on a grand scale.

Lord knows it did not happen overnight. This is the culmination of years of work by this dedicated band—blood, sweat, tears of frustration and no small amount of colourful language. To that end, I thank Minister Glenn Butcher—himself no stranger to colourful language—and his staff who helped the SMEAC crew fight through the barbed wire entanglements of bureaucracy. They got there in the end and, as we speak, buildings are being gutted and rebuilt for one purpose, and that is for the benefit of veterans. Veterans, in the words of SMEAC, are warriors who need a hand up, not a handout.

So great has been the reach of SMEAC that James Blundell recently dedicated all the royalties from his new song *Almost Anzac Day*—honourable members can hear it on YouTube—to those amazing folks. Stomps, Nick, Whitey, Akkers and Matty: I salute you. Whether it is skilling vets for employment, providing advocacy for those who need it or just providing company for other vets who understand, you are getting it done at last.

The House adjourned at 10.19 pm.

### ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Head, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Mullen, Nicholls, Nightingale, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Zanow