



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## TUESDAY, 16 APRIL 2024

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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.

### ASSENT TO BILLS



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from Her Excellency the Governor a letter in respect of assent to certain bills. The contents of the letter will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the letter for the information of members.

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

I hereby acquaint the Legislative Assembly that the following Bills, having been passed by the Legislative Assembly and having been presented for the Royal Assent, were assented to in the name of His Majesty The King on the date shown:

Date of Assent: 28 March 2024

A bill for an Act to establish the Director of Forensic Science Queensland and for related purposes, and to amend this Act, the Evidence Act 1977, the Medicines and Poisons Act 2019 and the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 for particular purposes

A bill for an Act to regulate ownership, control and operation of pharmacy businesses, and for other purposes, and to repeal the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2001, and to amend this Act, the Public Sector Act 2022 and the Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018 for particular purposes

A bill for an Act to amend the Casino Control Act 1982, the Casino Control Regulation 1999, the Gaming Machine Act 1991, the Gaming Machine Regulation 2002, the Keno Act 1996 and the Wagering Act 1998 for particular purposes

A bill for an Act to amend the Safety in Recreational Water Activities Act 2011, the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes

These Bills are hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely

Governor

28 March 2024


*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 28 March 2024, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 28 March 2024 [\[559\]](#).

## ELECTORAL DISTRICTS OF INALA AND IPSWICH WEST

### By-Elections and Return of Writs; Members Sworn



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I am advised by the Clerk that the writs issued by Her Excellency the Governor on 30 January 2024 for the election of members to serve in the Legislative Assembly for the electoral districts of Inala and Ipswich West have now been returned. In accordance with standing order 38, I now call the Clerk to read the results of the writs in alphabetical order and table each writ. Each member when called shall then be introduced by members, come forward to be sworn by me and sign the Roll of Members.

 **The CLERK:** Honourable members, the writ for the election of a member to serve in the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Inala was returned on 27 March 2024 with a certificate endorsed thereon by the Electoral Commissioner of Queensland of the election, on 16 March 2024, of Margaret Ellen Nightingale to serve as such member. I table the endorsed writ. I now call the honourable member forward to take the oath of allegiance and of office.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 27 March 2024, from the Acting Director-General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Ms Jess Collins, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, enclosing a copy of the endorsed writ for the election of the Electoral District of Inala [560].

*Tabled paper:* Endorsed Writ for the election of the Electoral District of Inala [561].


**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

Ms Margaret Ellen Nightingale, having waited at the bar of the House, was invited by Mr Speaker to enter the chamber.

Mr Speaker administered the oath of allegiance and of office to Ms Nightingale, who then signed the Roll of Members.

**Mr SPEAKER:** On behalf of the parliament, I welcome to the Queensland Legislative Assembly the new member for Inala. You may now take your seat in the House.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

 **The CLERK:** Honourable members, the writ for the election of a member to serve in the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Ipswich West was returned on 22 March 2024 with a certificate endorsed thereon by the Electoral Commissioner of Queensland of the election, on 16 March 2024, of Darren William Zanow to serve as such member. I table the endorsed writ. I now call the honourable member forward to take the affirmation of allegiance and of office.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 22 March 2024, from the Director-General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Mr Mike Kaiser, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, enclosing a copy of the endorsed writ for the election of the Electoral District of Ipswich West [562].

*Tabled paper:* Endorsed Writ for the election of the Electoral District of Ipswich West [563].

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

Mr Darren William Zanow, having waited at the bar of the House, was invited by Mr Speaker to enter the chamber.


Mr Speaker administered the affirmation of allegiance and of office to Mr Zanow, who then signed the Roll of Members.

**Mr SPEAKER:** On behalf of the parliament, I welcome to the Queensland Legislative Assembly the new member for Ipswich West. You may now take your seat in the House.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!


## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### Absence of Member

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, further to my statement on 5 March 2024, I have received advice that the member for Southport, Mr Rob Molhoek MP, may continue to be absent until 5 June 2024. The member's notification complies with standing order 263A. Should the member require this length of absence, a motion in accordance with standing order 263B will be required to grant a leave of absence for Mr Molhoek.


## PRIVILEGE

### Speaker's Ruling, Referral to Ethics Committee

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 25 March 2024 I received correspondence from the member for Nanango regarding a complaint in accordance with standing order 269. The matter concerned the member being filmed covertly from behind while walking on the colonnade on an unknown date. The footage has since been published on the *Courier-Mail* website. The member has asserted that she was unaware that she was being filmed and that her consent was not sought at any stage of filming or publishing of the footage. I have previously asked, as recently as 5 March this year, all members, staff and guests to respect the privacy of other members, staff and visitors to the precinct

and to not photograph or film others carrying out their duties on the precinct. I am of the opinion that filming a member of parliament on the parliamentary precinct without their knowledge is not only highly disorderly but also a potential contempt. The behaviour is intimidatory and could constitute an improper interference with the member's functions. As I said in my statement on 5 March 2024, I consider secret filming or recording on the precinct a grave matter. As such, the matter is now referred to the Ethics Committee. I remind members that standing order 271 now applies and members should not refer to this matter in the House.

### Speaker's Rulings, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 4 April 2024 the Leader of the House and Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Kawana and the member for Clayfield deliberately misled the House on 19 March 2024 and that the members for Toowoomba North, Mudgeeraba, Kawana, Nanango, Currumbin, Toowoomba South, Surfers Paradise, Everton, Glass House, Chatsworth, Moggill, Coomera and Warrego published a false and misleading account of proceedings before the House on 19 March 2024. The matter relates to variations of the same statement in which the aforementioned members said that there had been no ministerial statements made in the House on 19 March 2024. The statements made in the House to the effect that there were no ministerial statements made on 19 March 2024 were made by the following members: the Leader of the Opposition, member for Kawana and member for Clayfield. The following members made posts on X, previously Twitter, to the same effect: the members for Toowoomba North, Mudgeeraba, Kawana, Nanango, Currumbin, Toowoomba South, Surfers Paradise, Everton, Chatsworth, Glass House and Moggill.

In addition, the members for Coomera and Warrego, whilst not publishing a version of the alleged misleading statement themselves, republished the statements by the member for Kawana and the member for Toowoomba South. I further note that the *Record of Proceedings* from 19 March 2024 at pages 622 to 624 shows that the Premier made three ministerial statements.

I am of the belief that the aforementioned members have misrepresented the situation, both in the House and on social media. I request that the members correct the record in the House at the earliest convenience. I also request that all social media posts incorrectly stating that no ministerial statements were made on 24 March 2024 are removed at the earliest opportunity.


## SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

### Jones, Ms A

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Angilee Jones—officially the Senior Supervisor, Parliamentary Attendants, Chambers and Tours, but who was so much more to all of us—retired from the Parliamentary Service on 12 April 2024 after completing more than 35 years of service. Angie commenced employment in Catering Services on 5 July 1989. Angie undertook a wide variety of roles within Catering Services prior to transferring to the Parliamentary Attendants on 3 March 2003. Angie was promoted to supervisor within the attendants' area in 2014 and then to senior supervisor in 2020, as well as regularly acting in the role of Sergeant-at-Arms. I am sure all honourable members will join with me in thanking Angie for her many years of dedicated service and wish her all the very best for a long and happy retirement.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

### 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 Pallara State School and St Stephen's School in the electorate of Algeester, Earnshaw State College in the electorate of Nudgee and St Joseph's College Coomera in the electorate of Coomera.

## PETITIONS

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

### Cairns, Public Hospital Facility

1,111 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure construction of a new public hospital facility in the southern region of Cairns [\[551\]](#) [\[552\]](#).

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

**Broadbeach Cultural Precinct, Entertainment Stadium**

**Mr Stevens**, from 858 petitioners, requesting the House to exclude the Broadbeach Cultural Precinct from consideration as the site for the 10,000 seat entertainment stadium [\[553\]](#).

**Redlynch State College, Multipurpose Hall**

**Hon. Crawford**, from 1,263 petitioners, requesting the House to build Stage Two of the Multi-purpose Hall at the Redlynch State College [\[554\]](#).

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

**Rainforest, Vegetation**

399 petitioners, requesting the House to call for the total ban of the sale, keeping, growing or removing from our rainforests *Cunjevoi* or *Alocasia brisbanensis*, *Alocasia macrorrhizos* plants across the state [\[555\]](#).

**North West Transport Corridor**

555 petitioners, requesting the House to degazette the preserved North West Transport Corridor as soon as possible and utilise this land for the benefit of the local community by providing schools, a public library, a community centre and parkland [\[556\]](#).

Petitions received.

## TABLED PAPERS

### PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS (SO 31)

The Clerk informed the House that the following papers, received during the recess, were tabled on the dates indicated—

26 March 2024—

- [440](#) Cost of Living and Economics Committee: Report No. 2, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 15 November 2023 and 28 November 2023
- [441](#) Brisbane Girls Grammar School—Annual Report 2023
- [442](#) Brisbane Grammar School—Annual Report 2023
- [443](#) Griffith University—Annual Report 2023
- [444](#) Ipswich Girls Grammar School including Ipswich Junior Grammar School—Annual Report 2023
- [445](#) Ipswich Grammar School—Annual Report 2023
- [446](#) James Cook University—Annual Report 2023
- [447](#) Queensland College of Teachers—Annual Report 2023
- [448](#) Rockhampton Girls Grammar School—Annual Report 2023
- [449](#) Rockhampton Grammar School—Annual Report 2023
- [450](#) Toowoomba Grammar School—Annual Report 2023
- [451](#) Townsville Grammar School—Annual Report 2023
- [452](#) University of Queensland—Annual Report 2023

27 March 2024—

- [453](#) Response from the Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing (Hon. Grace), to a paper petition (4043-24) presented by the member for Surfers Paradise, Mr Langbroek, and an ePetition (4013-24) sponsored by the member for Surfers Paradise, Mr Langbroek, from 2,719 and 2,975 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to ensure the Gold Coast Fishermen's Co-operative retains its current site and current access to waterfront on the Southport Spit
- [454](#) National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) Act 2014: National Energy Retail Amendment (Harmonising the national energy rules with the updated national energy objectives) Rule 2024, No. 1
- [455](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 44, 57th Parliament—Land Valuation Amendment Bill 2023, government response

28 March 2024—

- [456](#) Letter, dated 27 March 2024, from the Auditor-General, Queensland Audit Office, Mr Brendan Worrall, to the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, enclosing an erratum to Auditor-General Report 7: 2023-24—Major projects 2023

4 April 2024—

- [457](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment (Hon. Dick), to an ePetition (4023-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,026 petitioners, requesting the House to address the housing crisis and homelessness by implementing a vacancy levy
- [458](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3950-23) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 716



petitioners, requesting the House to remove any provisions in the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* that permit the use of an electric collar on a dog and implement legislation to prohibit the use of electric or e-collars

- [459](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3949-23) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 753 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the provisions of the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* that permit prolonged unsupervised confinement and/or tethering of a dog
- [460](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3951-23) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 657 petitioners, requesting the House to ban the use and sale of choke dog collars
- [461](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services (Hon. Mellish), to a paper petition (4040-24) presented by the member for Scenic Rim, Mr Krause, and an ePetition (3982-23) sponsored by the member for Scenic Rim, Mr Krause, from 163 and 1,206 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to ensure users of the Cunningham Highway see a long-term upgrade to the Amberley Interchange
- [462](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services (Hon. Mellish), to an ePetition (3997-23) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,231 petitioners, requesting the House to remove the Department of Transport of Main Road's requirement for people with autism and other neurotypes (eg. ADD) to provide a medical certificate in order to obtain their drivers licence
- [463](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services (Hon. Mellish), to an ePetition (4003-23) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 134 petitioners, requesting the House to implement a "Common Good Concession" Go-Card that charges a 50% higher rate than the standard fare as a convenient means by which generous citizens can voluntarily reduce the fare burden for the general public

5 April 2024—

- [464](#) Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee: Report No. 3, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 15 December 2023 and 18 March 2024
- [465](#) Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee: Report No. 4, 57th Parliament—Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024
- [466](#) Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee: Report No. 4, 57th Parliament—Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024
- [467](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services (Hon. Mellish), to an ePetition (4020-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 306 petitioners, requesting the House to double the registration fees for SUVs and 4WDs owned and housed in our major cities

8 April 2024—

- [468](#) Response from the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation (Hon. Linard), to an ePetition (4037-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,068 petitioners, requesting the House to transition Deongwar State Forest to the conservation estate prior to 31 December 2024
- [469](#) Response from the Acting Minister for Police and Community Safety (Hon. Scanlon), to an ePetition (4019-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 2,563 petitioners, requesting the House to legalise non-lethal self defence items such as pepper spray, stun guns, tasers and batons for law abiding Queenslanders

9 April 2024—

- [470](#) Affirmation of appointment as Information Commissioner of Queensland of Ms Joanne Kummrow, dated 5 April 2024
- [471](#) Letter, dated 9 April 2024, from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Hon. Yvette D'Ath, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, regarding an update on the Closing the Registration Gap (CTRG) Strategy and enclosing copies of the CTRG Strategy 2021-24 and CTRG Action Plan 2021-24

10 April 2024—

- [472](#) Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee: Report No. 5, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 29 November 2023 and 13 February 2024

11 April 2024—

- [473](#) Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee: Report No. 6, 57th Parliament—Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill 2023
- [474](#) Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee: Report No. 3, 57th Parliament—Education (General Provisions)(Helping Families with School Costs) Amendment Bill 2023

12 April 2024—

- [475](#) Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee: Report No. 4, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 15 November 2023 and 13 February 2024
- [476](#) Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee: Report No. 7, 57th Parliament—Corrective Services (Promoting Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024
- [477](#) Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee: Report No. 4, 57th Parliament—Environmental Protection (Powers and Penalties) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024
- [478](#) Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee: Report No. 5, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 15 November 2023 and 28 November 2023

- [479](#) Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee: Report No. 3, 57th Parliament—Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024
- [480](#) Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee: Report No. 4, 57th Parliament—Criminal Code (Decriminalising Sex Work) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024
- [481](#) Queensland Theatre Company—Annual Report 2023

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- [482](#) Department of Transport and Main Roads: Master Plan—Priority Port of Hay Point/Mackay, 2023
- [483](#) Department of Transport and Main Roads: Master Plan—Priority Port of Abbot Point, 2023
- [484](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3967-23) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 2,493 petitioners, requesting the House to remove shark nets along the coast and focus on smarter technologies
- [485](#) Public Interest Monitor—Report on inspections under Section 362 of the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* for the period of 1 July 2023-31 December 2023

#### TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

##### STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Work Health and Safety Act 2011:

- [486](#) Work Health and Safety (Quad Bikes) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 15
- [487](#) Work Health and Safety (Quad Bikes) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 15, explanatory notes
- [488](#) Work Health and Safety (Quad Bikes) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 15, human rights certificate

Body Corporate and Community Management and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023:

- [489](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 16
- [490](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 16, explanatory notes

Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023:

- [491](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 17
- [492](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 17, explanatory notes
- [493](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 17, human rights certificate

Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations Act 1991:

- [494](#) Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 18
- [495](#) Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 18, explanatory notes
- [496](#) Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 18, human rights certificate

Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023:

- [497](#) Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2024, No. 19
- [498](#) Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2024, No. 19, explanatory notes
- [499](#) Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2024, No. 19, human rights certificate

Forestry Act 1959, Nature Conservation Act 1992, Recreation Areas Management Act 2006:

- [500](#) Nature Conservation (Fee Waivers) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 20
- [501](#) Nature Conservation (Fee Waivers) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 20, explanatory notes
- [502](#) Nature Conservation (Fee Waivers) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 20, human rights certificate

Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023:

- [503](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 21
- [504](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 21, explanatory notes
- [505](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 21, human rights certificate

Attorney-General Act 1999, Trust Accounts Act 1973:

- [506](#) Attorney-General and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 22
- [507](#) Attorney-General and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 22, explanatory notes
- [508](#) Attorney-General and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 22, human rights certificate

Trust Accounts Act 1973:

- [509](#) Trust Accounts (Transitional) Regulation 2024, No. 23
- [510](#) Trust Accounts (Transitional) Regulation 2024, No. 23, explanatory notes

[511](#) Trust Accounts (Transitional) Regulation 2024, No. 23, human rights certificate

Public Trustee Act 1978:

[512](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2024, No. 24

[513](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2024, No. 24, explanatory notes

[514](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2024, No. 24, human rights certificate

Fisheries Act 1994, Marine Parks Act 2004, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999:

[515](#) Marine Parks and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 25

[516](#) Marine Parks and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 25, explanatory notes

[517](#) Marine Parks and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 25, human rights certificate

Marine Parks Act 2004:

[518](#) Marine Parks (Great Sandy) Zoning Plan 2024, No. 26

[519](#) Marine Parks (Great Sandy) Zoning Plan 2024, No. 26, explanatory notes

[520](#) Marine Parks (Great Sandy) Zoning Plan 2024, No. 26, human rights certificate

Nature Conservation Act 1992:

[521](#) Nature Conservation Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 27

[522](#) Nature Conservation Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 27, explanatory notes

[523](#) Nature Conservation Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 27, human rights certificate

Motor Accident Insurance Act 1994, National Injury Insurance Scheme (Queensland) Act 2016:

[524](#) Motor Accident Insurance (Administration Fee and Levies) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 28

[525](#) Motor Accident Insurance (Administration Fee and Levies) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 28, explanatory notes

[526](#) Motor Accident Insurance (Administration Fee and Levies) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 28, human rights certificate

Legal Profession Act 2007:

[527](#) Legal Profession (Society Rules) Amendment Notice 2024, No. 29

[528](#) Legal Profession (Society Rules) Amendment Notice 2024, No. 29, explanatory notes

[529](#) Legal Profession (Society Rules) Amendment Notice 2024, No. 29, human rights certificate

Gas Supply and Other Legislation (Hydrogen Industry Development) Amendment Act 2023:

[530](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 30

[531](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 30, explanatory notes

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Gas Supply Act 2003:

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Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004:

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[537](#) Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 32, explanatory notes

[538](#) Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 32, human rights certificate

Public Records Act 2002:

[539](#) Public Records (Commission of Inquiry to Examine DNA Project 13 Concerns) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 33

[540](#) Public Records (Commission of Inquiry to Examine DNA Project 13 Concerns) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 33, explanatory notes

[541](#) Public Records (Commission of Inquiry to Examine DNA Project 13 Concerns) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 33, human rights certificate

Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994:

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[543](#) Transport Operations (Marine Safety)(Riverston Bay Marine Zone) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 34, explanatory notes

[544](#) Transport Operations (Marine Safety)(Riverston Bay Marine Zone) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 34, human rights certificate

Electrical Safety Act 2002, Work Health and Safety Act 2011:

[545](#) Work Health and Safety (Codes of Practice)(Solar Farms) and Other Legislation Amendment Notice 2024, No. 35

[546](#) Work Health and Safety (Codes of Practice)(Solar Farms) and Other Legislation Amendment Notice 2024, No. 35, explanatory notes

[547](#) Work Health and Safety (Codes of Practice)(Solar Farms) and Other Legislation Amendment Notice 2024, No. 35, human rights certificate

Heavy Vehicle National Law as applied by the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012 (Qld) and by the law of States and Territories:

[548](#) Heavy Vehicle National Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 36

[549](#) Heavy Vehicle National Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 36, explanatory notes

[550](#) Heavy Vehicle National Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 36, human rights certificate

#### MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—


Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation (Hon. Linard)—

[557](#) Fisheries Act 1994 Marine Parks Act 2004 State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999: Marine Parks and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 25 and Marine Parks Act 2004: Marine Parks (Great Sandy) Zoning Plan 2024, No. 26—Great Sandy Marine Park Zoning Plan: Decision Regulatory Impact Statement, July 2023

[558](#) Marine Parks Act 2004: Marine Parks (Great Sandy) Zoning Plan 2024, No. 26—Statement: Identification of decreases in the level of protection in the Great Sandy Marine Park

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS


### Sydney, Incidents

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.42 am): Queenslanders looked on in horror at the weekend as events unfolded at Westfield Bondi Junction. I know I speak for every person in this House when I express my deepest condolences to all those affected by the horrific and violent attack. I am sending my best wishes for a quick recovery to those impacted in another terrible attack in Sydney last night. These events have rocked the nation and they have reminded us of the bravery our police display every day to keep us safe.


Queensland will provide whatever assistance we can to New South Wales as they progress their investigations. Our agencies, including Queensland Health and the Queensland Police Service, are assisting the New South Wales Police Force with whatever they may need. We know major events such as this often create angst and nervousness in the community, particularly around busy public spaces. As a precaution, the Queensland Police Service has increased its presence at shopping centres in Queensland with additional patrols and business walk-throughs. We must make sure we are doing everything we can to keep the community safe and feeling safe.

We are fortunate events like this are rare in Australia, but that means when they do occur the shock can be enormous. Our greatest asset is our strength and resilience and our ability to come together as a nation to support each other.

### Members for Inala and Ipswich West

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.44 am): Two new faces have joined us here in the chamber today and, while I am on my feet, I would like to formally welcome the members for Inala and Ipswich West. They represent vibrant parts of our great state and I am confident these members will work hard for their communities. I look forward to working with them.


### Farm Gate Pricing

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.44 am): Queensland produce is the best produce. Our apples and bananas taste better, our mangoes and pineapples are fresher and the world wants our avocados and cherry tomatoes. We have so much to offer and yet our farmers sometimes get ripped off in return. The price Queensland farmers get at the gate pales in comparison to how much it costs families to put those same fruits and vegetables on the dinner table. It means farmers and their businesses are suffering while parents turn to cheaper, pre-packaged and less nutrient-dense foods. In fact, ABS statistics from February show Queensland households' spending on food is up 38 per cent when compared with four years ago, yet the same cannot be said for our farmers' profits. We are paying more and getting less. It is this fact that spurred the current Supermarket Pricing Select Committee to shine a light on these dealings and examine what can be done better.


Today I can announce that we will act immediately on sensible proposals to address price transparency. When I met with the QFF and the Fruit and Vegetable Growers they told me farm gate pricing needed to be more transparent. My government will work with growers to capture, analyse and monitor wholesale and retail pricing across fresh food products and will develop a best practice production cost model for Queensland farmers. This information will help our farmers understand their profitability and risk, arming them in their negotiations with retailers like Coles and Woolworths. We will also hold workshops in each major growing region to upskill farmers to better advocate for themselves in those big business talks. It is about equipping farmers with the information and training to get the best deal for themselves, their families and their farms.

We think this will make a difference for farmers like Trevor. Trevor and his wife, Wendy, have a tomato farm just outside of Bundaberg. I met them, along with the local member for Bundaberg, and they told me the price they were offered by supermarkets was so low they would have made a loss picking them and so instead they left them on the vine. I want to thank Trevor and Wendy for their candour and their hospitality. It is their story, and the many just like it, from all around the state that is helping to expose what is happening to our farmers and our families. I want to thank the Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers for their advocacy for farm gate price monitoring. Together with the department of agriculture, this initiative will deliver a practical, meaningful change in the way farmers, growers, retailers and buyers interact and that means a better deal from farm gate to plate.

### Jones, Ms A

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.47 am): On behalf of my government, I join with you, Mr Speaker, in thanking Angie Jones for her service to the Queensland parliament for almost 35 years. Angie was a much loved member of the parliamentary attendant team, ensuring the efficient running of this chamber and she leaves big shoes to fill. We wish Angie all the very best in her retirement.

### Jones, Ms A; Renewable Energy

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.48 am): I want to associate myself with your remarks, Mr Speaker, and the Premier's remarks, about Angie. She did a great job serving all of us. She will be missed.

Our government's vision for Queensland is to deliver the infrastructure our growing state needs, to transform our energy grid to reach vital emissions reduction targets and to deliver a generation's worth of good, secure, local jobs. To drive part of this vision, our government's \$170 million Queensland Critical Minerals and Battery Technology Fund is already having a positive impact on industry.


By 2030 Queensland's battery production is expected to contribute up to \$1.3 billion to the state's economy and generate more than 9,000 jobs. The Critical Minerals and Battery Technology Fund recently invested in Graphene Manufacturing Group. This investment will help establish a \$6.3 million graphene aluminium-ion battery pilot plant at Richlands in the electorate of Inala. These batteries will last longer, charge faster and run cooler. Another great Queensland company, Redflow, is also being supported by the fund to develop its large-scale, zinc-bromine flow battery prototype.

The fund is also helping AnteoTech from Eight Mile Plains in its quest to boost battery performance using silicon anodes. Another way the fund is assisting in our government's vision is by supporting Alpha HPA. Thanks to our fund, Alpha HPA in Gladstone is set to become a major producer of sapphire glass for smartphone cameras and watches. Alpha HPA is producing high-purity alumina.

The federal government's latest *Resources and energy quarterly* forecasts that Australia will overtake China as the world's largest producer of high-purity alumina by 2025. Our government wants Queensland to ride the crest of this wave. This is an industry that will add \$1½ billion to Australia's exports from 2025. Industries such as high-purity alumina manufacturing and Fortescue's electrolyser factory, also in Gladstone, demonstrate our government's vision for Queensland's industrial future.

Ours is not the only vision for our state's future. Federal opposition leader Peter Dutton's energy vision for Queensland is to build nuclear reactors in Gladstone and other regional cities up and down the Queensland coast. Peter Dutton's nuclear obsession would drive up power prices in Queensland and take decades to deliver. The United Kingdom's new nuclear power plant at Hinkley Point is now 14 years behind schedule and its cost has more than doubled to A\$89 billion. Building a nuclear plant of that size in Queensland would more than double state debt. Only the Miles Labor government has a vision for a reliable renewable energy future for our state.


### Gladstone, Electrolyser Facility

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.51 am): The Miles government is delivering Queensland's Big Build for a big and growing state with a big future. We are in the biggest decade of infrastructure delivery in our history, with \$90 billion plus investment over the next four years alone. We are delivering the homes, schools, hospitals, renewable energy infrastructure, roads and transport our growing state needs and we are delivering a generation's worth of good, secure, local jobs now and into the future. Good governments do not just deliver projects like this directly; good governments also create the conditions that key private businesses want to invest and thrive in. That is exactly what we are doing in the fantastic city of Gladstone, for example. I know that the minister and member for Gladstone has been a strong advocate for his community.

Last week, the Miles government held a cabinet meeting at and officially opened Fortescue's Gladstone electrolyser facility. It is the first manufacturing facility in Australia to build hydrogen electrolyzers at a commercial scale and is one of the largest globally—and it is right here in Queensland. The factory itself has the ability to manufacture enough hydrogen electrolyzers to produce over two gigawatts per annum, significantly increasing current global production. Fortescue could have made the significant investment anywhere in Australia—anywhere in the world—but they chose Queensland. A crucial factor was the support the Miles government offered through my department when it comes to things such as a single point of contact for project management and coordination, fast-tracking approvals and provision of trunk infrastructure including roads, water and power, as acknowledged by Cam Smith, CEO of Fortescue Hydrogen Systems.

The facility is the first stage of a wider green energy manufacturing centre being developed by Fortescue on the 100-hectare site located on the Aldoga industrial estate in the Gladstone State Development Area. While there we also announced development approval for the next phase, a 50-megawatt green hydrogen production facility called PEM50, paving the way for construction to begin. Collectively, the two Fortescue projects will generate 240 jobs during construction, 93 ongoing local operational jobs and, as the energy precinct continues to develop, Fortescue estimates more than 300 indirect local jobs will also be supported. It is projects such as this that bring our visionary strategies like the Queensland new-industry development strategy, the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan and the Queensland Hydrogen Industry Strategy to reality. In Gladstone and in Queensland we are proudly cementing our spot as world leaders when it comes to clean economy manufacturing jobs in hydrogen and renewable energy, supporting industries for our regions now and into the future.

### Regional Queensland, Job Creation

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (9.54 am): The Miles Labor government is absolutely delivering good jobs, quality training and opportunities for regional Queenslanders. A good government is one that invests in job-creating industries. It is no surprise that energy and manufacturing go hand-in-hand in Queensland.

Being on a path to a low-carbon future is opening opportunities for our local manufacturers because we know that the demand for net zero supply chains continues to grow in this state. The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is securing our energy transition and creating generations worth of jobs in the sector through a pipeline of projects right across the state. Look no further than Gladstone and Central Queensland. I am always proud to be the manufacturing minister, but last week was particularly great with two major announcements, as we have heard this morning, benefiting Queenslanders in these job-creating industries.

I have said that Central Queensland is the powerhouse for energy generation for this great state and we will be the powerhouse well and truly into the future. I was excited to have the entire cabinet join me in Gladstone last week to officially open Australia's first commercial hydrogen electrolyser manufacturing facility. I saw for myself the 'Made in Australia' stamp on one of those fantastic electrolyzers in Gladstone. This state-of-the-art project is the first stage of Fortescue's green energy manufacturing centre. Thanks to the support of a Labor government in Queensland, soon we will be able to produce more than 2,000 tonnes of green hydrogen each and every year in this state, creating over 240 jobs during construction and more than 300 indirect jobs for local regional Central Queenslanders.

We also turned the sod on the ½ billion dollar solar farm at Aldoga. This project will not only power us towards our 70 per cent energy renewable targets but also deliver hundreds more jobs for Central Queensland now and into the future as well. Unlike those opposite, we are getting on with the

job. We are getting on with creating jobs of the future today, but this is all at risk because of the LNP. They want to cut our tiered coal royalties and our Big Build in Queensland. The LNP will take Queensland backwards, cutting jobs and costing jobs in energy and manufacturing, particularly in regional Queensland. They have done it before and they will do it again.

**Ms Simpson** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Maroochydore, I will decide whether or not this is a ministerial statement. I think we have already covered off ministerial statements this morning.


**Mr BUTCHER:** The Miles government will continue to invest in jobs and growth in our great state because, if we can make it here in Queensland, we absolutely should.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

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

**Mr BUTCHER:** The industry is continuing to grow and this government will continue to support our manufacturers and our workers in these industries.

### Ambulance Service

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (9.58 am): Members of this House have heard me say on many occasions that our health system is under immense pressure. In 2023 our emergency departments saw a record 2.31 million patients. That is approximately 30 per cent higher than when we came to government in 2015. We are not just seeing more patients; we are seeing sicker patients and more patients arrive by ambulance. Ambulance arrivals have increased by almost 40 per cent, with category 1 and 2 patients increasing by more than 60 per cent. Members of this House—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition!

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I would have thought the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Mudgeeraba might want to listen to what I am saying about the demand on our health system.

**Mr Bleijie** Interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Kawana will cease his interjections.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** Members of this House will have also heard me speak about how the Queensland Ambulance Service is the best in this country. We have the busiest service, we have the biggest service, but we also have the fastest service. It is the only mainland service that is free—something that will never change under a Labor government.

It does not matter how many times I repeat these facts, the members opposite continue to try to misrepresent these pressures and the achievements of our amazing frontline health workers. Case in point: in the last few weeks the opposition has attempted to use ambulance lost time as a yardstick to measure the pressures our system is under. Queensland Health and the Ambulance Service collect and publish hundreds of points of data about how our system is performing, but QAS total lost time is not one of them because it does not accurately reflect the treatment Queenslanders can expect in our emergency departments. Total lost time does not account for the massive growth in demand and the almost 1,400 additional paramedics we have employed. Average lost time per ambulance is a far better indicator of a patient's experience because it describes how long a patient may expect to wait at the hospital.

For the benefit of those opposite, I am happy to inform them that anyone can easily determine the total number of lost hours when provided with the average lost time per ambulance. All you have to do is multiply the average lost minutes per ambulance by the number of presentations and divide it by 60. If the member for Mudgeeraba cannot figure that out on her own, I have no idea how she is going to run the health system.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, continue with your ministerial statement, please.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** In line with my commitment to more transparent data and so that those opposite do not have to do grade 5 maths, I table an updated copy of my response to question on notice 44.

*Tabled paper:* Answer to question on notice No. 2024-44 asked on 14 February 2024, revised response [\[564\]](#).

There is also a range of measures that reflect how our system is performing: the number of patients seen within the clinically recommended time frames—that is improving; length of stay in the ED—that is improving; median wait time—also improving. I am very pleased to let the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Mudgeeraba know that preliminary data indicates in the month of March


average lost time per ambulance was down three minutes on the same time the previous year thanks to the hard work of our frontline paramedics, nurses and doctors.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

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

**Ms FENTIMAN:** When I was sworn in as Minister for Health I committed to releasing more transparent, meaningful data about how our health system is responding. We now report on things like tier 3 escalations, the number of long-stay patients in our hospitals and historical trend data on specialist outpatient appointments. I can announce today that from the next quarterly data release we will be publishing average lost time per ambulance.


### Renewable Energy, Code of Conduct

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs) (10.02 am): The Miles Labor government will deliver a future made in Australia right here in Queensland. Labor's Big Build delivers on the nation's most robust pipeline of renewable energy projects, including: the Southern Hemisphere's largest onshore windfarm; some of the largest solar farms in the nation; the Pioneer-Burdekin and Borumba pumped hydros; clean energy hubs across Queensland; CopperString; batteries at all scales; and hydrogen gas peaking generators—100,000 jobs.

To ensure this big energy build remains on track, today I can announce that we will introduce an Australian-first mandatory code of conduct that sets out new standards for social licence, ensuring Queenslanders are full partners in the state's clean energy transition. This nation-leading code will be developed in partnership with local communities, local government, energy, environment and agricultural sectors, ensuring locals benefit first and foremost from developments in their communities. If proponents want to connect to the Queensland SuperGrid they will need to show they can work in partnership with those local communities. I can also inform the House that the Miles government will inject \$20 million through the Regional Economic Futures Fund to ensure communities can engage and share the transition benefits. This seed funding responds to key industry organisations and local governments. Elders and community stakeholders alike will help define best practice.

We have heard regional communities loud and clear. The Miles government recognises and respects that sustainable coexistence is a key to a sustainable transition. We will continue listening to Queenslanders. Working with communities is at the heart of our clean economy transition. We recognise that a trusted independent body can foster those partnerships. Today I welcome news that later this week the Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals will introduce legislation to establish Coexistence Queensland. Coexistence Queensland will work closely with communities, stakeholders and governments at all levels to maintain and enhance Queensland's high standards of cooperation between landholders, resources companies and renewable energy participants. We are doing this because Labor understands that communities are the heart of Queensland's future clean economy.

### Homes for Queenslanders

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works) (10.05 am): Our Homes for Queenslanders plan is the most ambitious of its kind. It is focused on building more homes faster. Our Big Build is a big deal. It is the biggest in the country, in fact. We have set a target to roll out 53,500 social homes by 2046 and we are already delivering. Across this state shovels are in the ground and we are opening the doors to welcome Queenslanders into their new homes.

One of those Queenslanders is Tamika, who last week moved into one of six modular homes in Gladstone with her five-year-old son, Kai. We have partnered with builders right across Queensland and our own public builder QBuild to roll out modular homes. Tamika says that their home will provide the stability they have been looking for. She said, 'Kai is extremely excited. He's been telling everyone about it. I'm trying to tell him, "Hey, we're not going anywhere anytime soon. Just know this is your space and enjoy it."' I look forward to welcoming more people like Tamika, who now hopes to pursue her dream of becoming a cabinet-maker.

Right now we have close to 1,000 homes under construction, including 40 new homes that are undergoing finishing touches on the Sunshine Coast and new homes in Mackay, where I recently joined the Premier and member for Mackay. Queensland is one of only two states in the country to have increased both public and community housing in the last decade. Our Homes for Queenslanders plan shows that only the Miles government will deliver a social housing Big Build. This will be the most




ambitious social housing program in Australian history. It is backed in by the Queensland Council of Social Services, Q Shelter and the Property Council, just to name a few. There are some who do not support our plan and have suggested it is too much. We do not think it is too much to build more homes for Queenslanders. More homes for Queenslanders is the long-term vision we need, and that is what our Miles government will deliver.

While I am on my feet I want to take this opportunity to advise the House that I have issued a proposed call-in notice for a mixed-use development application in Arundel. It is important to note this is a proposed call-in. Any decision will be made on planning merits and in consideration of any representations received during the 15-day period. I have notified stakeholders and will consider a range of state interests, including housing supply, infrastructure and the environment.

Queenslanders have made it clear: we need more homes. To do that, we need to ensure we have diverse and affordable housing supply.

### Public Transport, Emissions Reduction

 **Hon. BJ MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (10.07 am): Jump on board our big bus build. In February I joined the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union and bus operators to announce that we will procure and locally manufacture 400 zero-emission buses in Queensland. This is the single biggest investment in a bus fleet in Queensland's history. Transport emissions in Queensland alone make up 17 per cent of total emissions. This is why we need to act—and act fast. This is exactly what the Miles government is doing.

Our energy transition will not only reduce our transport emissions but also support good quality Queensland jobs along the way. The Department of Transport will partner with the Queensland Investment Corporation to deliver the program. Local bus manufacturing will be boosted through local content requirements that will see the creation of direct and indirect jobs. Local opportunities will be created for small and medium businesses within the broader supply chain.


Bus depots will also go green, with new zero-emission depots to be built and existing depots to be transitioned. Investigations are underway at Toowong and Sherwood in partnership with Brisbane City Council. TransLink already has 75 zero-emission buses being trialled at eight depots across Queensland to help inform the design of zero-emission buses and depots from 2025. Our bus program will deliver cleaner and quieter neighbourhoods across Queensland. We know that Queensland has the capacity to manufacture world-leading products. Whether it is trains or buses, we will make them right here in Queensland, by Queenslanders, for Queenslanders.

It is no secret that projects not only in Australia but also around the world are facing cost pressures. Managing cost increases for our Big Build transport infrastructure delivering across the state is challenging but necessary. Since commencing as the minister, I have asked my director-general to undertake work to improve TMR's delivery of major infrastructure projects and to better manage projects on behalf of taxpayers.

The director-general has commissioned Rodd Staples, an acknowledged leading Australian infrastructure expert, to undertake a review of how TMR manages its projects. Mr Staples has held senior executive roles in Transport for New South Wales for nine years, culminating as secretary of the department until 2021. His review is considering how TMR can better manage costs through the project lifecycle and key risks such as PFAS and environmental approvals. TMR deliver thousands of projects across our state, and we want to make sure Queenslanders are getting great value for money whilst we are also delivering the modernised infrastructure program a growing state needs.

## MOTION

### Suspension of Sessional Orders

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.10 am), by leave, without notice: I move—


That so much of the sessional orders be suspended to enable the member for Inala at the conclusion of the business program motion today and the member for Ipswich West at 3.00 pm on Wednesday to make statements not exceeding 20 minutes noting their elections.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## COMMITTEES

### Membership

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.10 am), by leave, without notice: I move—


- that the member for Hervey Bay be discharged from, and the member for Mount Ommaney be appointed to, the Cost of Living and Economics Committee; and
- the member for Greenslopes and the member for Buderim be discharged from, and the member for Inala and the member for Ipswich West be appointed to, the Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## MOTIONS

### Order of Business


 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.11 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, further to the motion agreed to by the House on 5 March 2024, general business order of the day No. 1 be postponed until such time as the House decides.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

### Absence of Member

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.11 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That this House:


1. notes the statement from the Speaker on Tuesday that the member for Southport has and will be absent from the sittings of the House from 27 February to 5 June 2024; and
2. in accordance with standing order 263B grants the member for Southport a leave of absence from attending sittings and committee proceedings until 5 June 2024.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### Member for South Brisbane, Acknowledgements

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (10.12 am): I return to parliament today after two months of medical leave following a car crash. I have some recovery ahead of me but I am feeling immensely grateful to be back at work, and I have some people I would like to thank. My sincere thanks to all members of the House for supporting the motion for my absence from parliament and thank you to the many members who reached out with support.

Thank you to the Clerk and parliamentary staff who provided advice and guidance to my family and my staff. Thank you for the support from the community of South Brisbane. Thank you to my incredible team in South Brisbane who kept the office running and continued to support residents with care and empathy. Thank you to the member for Maiwar and his team for carrying the load in my absence.


Thank you to Councillor Trina Massey who called the ambulance and stayed with me until help arrived. Thank you also to Kitty Carra, local residents and the staff at the Pineapple Hotel for their help on the night. Thank you to my family and friends and Greens colleagues for their love and support. Finally, and most importantly, thank you to the doctors, nurses, paramedics and allied health workers at the Princess Alexandra Hospital for their ongoing care. I am a product of the public health system and I stand here today thanks to them.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.14 am.

### Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.14 am): My question is to the Premier. In November, the government announced a victim would be added to the Sentencing Advisory Council. Some 138 days later, that promise remains unfulfilled. If crime truly is a priority for the third-term Labor government, why are offenders represented on the Sentencing Advisory Council while victims are not?

**Mr MILES:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question and for his new-found support for this particular body. We do know that the LNP abolished it when in government. They voted against its re-creation in 2016 and now, all of a sudden, they are so concerned about the make-up of the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council—the very council they abolished first and then voted against second. But I can confirm that—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr MILES:** You might want your record not to matter but it does matter, Leader of the Opposition. You cannot abolish something, vote against something and then come in here saying that it is important. Your record, your voting record and your actions in government do matter, no matter how much you want to lie to Queenslanders about your history, about your—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, I will ask you to withdraw that word.

**Mr MILES:** I withdraw, Mr Speaker. As the Attorney has outlined, we have made commitments in law to put victim representatives on the council and we are actively recruiting right now.

**A government member:** Right now?

**Mr MILES:** Right now. There would not be a committee to put them on if those opposite had their way. After having abolished it the first time, voting against it when we moved to bring it back, and—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr MILES:** Yes, it has been a decade but you are all the same people, so it's still your record.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Through the chair, member.

**Mr MILES:** As we have committed, we are recruiting victim representatives to those roles and we will have more to say about it once the recruitment process has been concluded.

### Victims of Crime, Support

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question is to the Premier. As part of the Making Queensland Safer Laws, the LNP will ensure that victims of crime are updated throughout court proceedings and that greater weight is placed on the impact of crimes on victims when sentencing a young offender. Given that the number of crime victims has increased nearly 10 per cent in the last six months, will the Premier admit these laws are what Queensland needs after Labor's changes nearly a decade ago?

**Mr MILES:** I thank the member for Kawana for his question. What we have consistently said is that we will take steps to better support victims and to ensure victims are better informed and engaged in court processes. We have a range of measures rolling out right now to do that. For example, the recruitment process for a permanent Victims' Commissioner is ongoing and underway right now. We have continued and will continue to better support victims.

We have the IMAC meeting every two weeks at the moment to ensure that the voices of victims are central to our policy development process and central to how we respond to crime. We know that supporting victims is absolutely critical to our approach. We need to support victims. We need to provide police with the officers and the resources that they need to prevent crime, to catch criminals, to detain them, when necessary, and to intervene early before criminal behaviour escalates.

We need to invest in programs that ensure that our kids get the best start in life but, when they do go off the rails, that ensure that we are there to put them back on track and, where they fail to take that opportunity, that there are consequences for their actions. The assurance I can give the member for Kawana is that we are very conscious of how important it is to support victims, and we will continue to do so.

## Infrastructure

**Ms McMILLAN:** My question is of the Premier. Can the Premier provide an update on Queensland's Big Build of infrastructure that is delivering a generation's worth of good, secure local jobs, and is the Premier aware of any risks?

**Mr MILES:** I thank the member for Mansfield for her question. It sounds like she might be a bit unwell, so I hope she recovers quickly and is able to get back to work supporting our government's Big Build in Mansfield and right around the state. The Big Build is about infrastructure. It is a massive record investment in infrastructure, but in the process it is delivering good, secure, well-paid local jobs right across our great state. It is the biggest infrastructure investment in history—\$90 billion over four years investing into Queensland communities and Queensland jobs.

What we know is that people are flocking to Queensland. They are coming for the strong economy, the fantastic lifestyle and the vibrant community, but that comes with growing pains and we need to address those. That is what Homes for Queenslanders is all about—making sure that we are building homes for those who live here and those who are moving here.

We know that to deliver on the Big Build we are going to need more apprentices and tradies, and that is why we have made TAFE free and why all of our projects have apprentices embedded in those contracts. We cannot just build houses; we also need the other supporting infrastructure to allow people to live in those houses—roads, electricity, water, sewerage, public transport, schools and hospitals. That is why we have a massive upgrade coming to the Cairns Hospital. It is why we are building the electricity infrastructure like CopperString, connecting the opportunities of the north-west to Townsville where we have region-shaping infrastructure projects like the Rocky ring-road and the Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline. We have a big upgrade to the Mackay Hospital that the health minister and I visited recently. We have the brand new Bundaberg Hospital and the expansion of the Hervey Bay Hospital. We are building trains in Maryborough, not in India. We have heavy rail to the Sunshine Coast and faster rail to the Gold Coast—all enabled by Cross River Rail. We have seven new satellite hospitals as well as all of the extra doctors, nurses, teachers and police officers who will staff those facilities that our community needs.

On this side of the House we believe in building, whereas those opposite have no choice but to cut. They have said they will not fund escalation, they have said they will cut coal royalties, they have said they will build a multibillion dollar stadium, and the only way to do all of those things is to cut our Big Build—the Big Build that Queensland needs.

## Youth Crime

**Mr ZANOW:** My question is to the Premier. On 16 March the people of Ipswich West and Inala sent Labor a message that it needs to listen and fix the youth crime crisis. Will the third-term Labor government listen to Queenslanders and reintroduce detention as a last resort after removing it in 2016?

**Mr MILES:** I thank the member for his question. Again, I welcome him to this House. He represents a fantastic part of our state and I am sure he will enjoy and do a good job of representing them.

The member might have missed the several speeches I made after the by-elections when I indicated very strongly that we had heard from voters in Ipswich West and Inala when we were out doorknocking, on pre poll and on election day. I recommitted our government to working harder on community safety. I can assure the House that we will continue to do so, that we will listen to voters in those electorates as well as right around the state, as well as the other processes that we have underway. The IMAC, as I outlined, is now meeting fortnightly. The acting commissioner has new ideas, and we are pleased to support those because there is early evidence that they are working. We are delivering more police and better police resources, including that new police helicopter in Townsville. We will continue to invest in them and in their work. Of course, we have the select committee underway at the moment and we have said that we will take on board their recommendations and consider those.

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order relating to relevance under standing order 118(b). The question was about reintroducing detention as a last resort after removing it in 2016.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The House will come to order! To your point of order, Manager of Opposition Business, you are correct that the component you just re-read into the record is part of that question. There is also a preamble to that question which I believe the Premier is responding to.

**Mr MILES:** As I have said, we will continue to listen to victims, we will continue to listen to police, we will continue to listen to the community and we will continue where necessary and appropriate to refine our approaches. The early evidence is that initiatives in recent months have turned the corner, but we know that we need to continue down that track to deliver an environment where the community is both safe and feels safe.

### Renewable Energy

**Mr HUNT:** My question is of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. Can the Deputy Premier outline how the Miles Labor government is delivering affordable, reliable renewable energy for Queenslanders, and is the Deputy Premier aware of the risk of alternative approaches?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Caloundra for his question. The Miles Labor government is delivering on our vision for Queensland. We will lower emissions by 75 per cent by 2035 and we will do that by using Queensland's sun, wind and water. We want to make the electrolyzers and the batteries that our nation and the world needs right here in Queensland. Since 2015 we have delivered more renewable energy for Queenslanders, and as a consequence today Queensland has the lowest average power bills in the national electricity market. I am asked by the member for Caloundra about alternatives, and there is an alternative and that is the Queensland LNP's costly, risky and dangerous commitment to nuclear energy for Queensland.

The LNP leader says publicly that he does not support the Queensland LNP's plan for nuclear energy, but behind closed doors the LNP leader plays a different tune. On 16 February the Leader of the Opposition met with Peter Dutton's own Dr Strangelove, Ted O'Brien. What does the LNP leader's diary entry say for that meeting? One word: 'Energy'. I wonder what sort of energy was discussed with Dr Strangelove. Once again, the Leader of the Opposition is making decisions for vested interests and not for all Queenslanders, because last year the Queensland LNP accepted two donations from a company called Tribeca investments. This is a company that describes itself as focused on 'nuclear energy opportunities' with a 'key focus on the uranium sector'. Mr Speaker, you cannot believe a single word the Leader of the Opposition says.

The Leader of the Opposition says one thing to the media gallery on nuclear reactors and then says another thing behind closed doors. The Leader of the Opposition says one thing to the gallery on BPIC and then his frontbench is out there saying something different to construction companies behind closed doors. We know all about that. The LNP leader says one thing to the media gallery on progressive coal royalties and then says another thing to the coal lobby. The LNP leader needs to give real answers to Queenslanders. The LNP leader should reveal his plan to cut renewable energy, to cut infrastructure projects and to cut and gut jobs and services, and he should do so today.

### Miles Labor Government, Crime

**Mrs GERBER:** My question is to the Premier. On Sunday, the Premier told media the Labor government had deserted the field on crime. When did this happen?

**Mr MILES:** I thank the member for Currumbin for her question. I never indicated that was the case. What I had indicated was that we had vacated the political field on community safety, while those opposite were sensationalising safety for political benefit; that we could have argued back harder, that we could have responded more strongly, and that is precisely what we will do. We will continue to invest in community safety and continue to deliver on initiatives that will keep the community safe and make the community safe. While those opposite see crime through a lens of political opportunity, we view it through the lens of making sure the public feels safe.

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Currumbin, you are warned under the standing orders. Members, the level of interjection is too loud. I cannot hear the Premier and I need to hear the response to the question as asked.

**Mr MILES:** I can assure all members that we will continue to listen to our police, continue to deliver the resources that they need, and we will continue to focus on keeping the community safe because to us that is what is most important. While you see crime as your way of going from Premier-elect to Premier, we see community safety as being important for Queenslanders. That is why it is, and will continue to be, a focus of our government. We know that if you want record police numbers, if you want record police budgets, if you want police resources, if you want police helicopters, you want a Labor government. Let us not forget that those opposite skimmed on safety equipment in police

helicopters, those opposite made them pay for their own body worn cameras, while on this side of the House we have continued to invest in more and more police and in better police resources to make sure that the community is safe. While those opposite will continue to exploit safety for their own political interests, we will continue to focus on the safety of Queenslanders.

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Currumbin, thin ice. You are already on a warning.

### Infrastructure Projects

**Mr WALKER:** My question is of the Minister for State Development and Infrastructure. Can the minister advise the House on how the Miles Labor government's Big Build is securing our energy transition and jobs of the future, and is the minister aware of any risky alternative approaches?

**Ms GRACE:** I thank the member for Mundingburra for the question. He is such a strong advocate for the people in the Townsville area who are benefiting so much from our Big Build. It is incredible what is happening in the area with the job opportunities—

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Sorry, minister. Member for Pine Rivers, cease your interjections. Member for Buderim, cease your interjections.

**Ms GRACE:**—and the Big Build that North Queensland is going to benefit from. I come to where the home of the CopperString project is going to take place. It will open up one of Australia's largest renewable energy zones. What members on this side of the House know is that the future for Queensland, for Australia and for the world has to be renewables. It cannot be more of the same, and in our view, on this side of the House, unlike those opposite, it is not nuclear energy either. Which member in this House wants the reactor in their backyard? Which member in this House wants nuclear waste in their backyard? The only people we hear talking about nuclear energy are those opposite. The choice will be clear. On this side of the House, we cannot waste time. We have to send signals to the market that renewables is the way forward. I look opposite, and I see those on the backbench and I see those on the front bench. There is one lonely voice—the member for Bonney. He ploughs away, trying to get them to understand that renewables and climate change are serious, and all the rest are climate change deniers.

We have the private sector picking Queensland to invest in renewable energy: electrolysers in Gladstone; hydrogen in Gladstone; sustainable aviation fuel happening in Townsville with Jet Zero. What a pleasure it was to announce the consortium of Qantas, Airbus, Idemitsu and others, all coming together on sustainable aviation fuels. We will be one of the first in Australia to deliver in 2026. This is the future of Queensland. Nuclear reactors are not the future. The future is emissions reduction, 75 per cent on this side of the House; 70 per cent renewable by 2032; 80 per cent by 2035; a green games, an Olympic City, a state that is sending signals to the market that we are about renewables. We have a Prime Minister who is backing the state. We have a Premier who stands up for what we believe in. The choice is going to be very clear. We cannot waste time in this country and on this planet. Renewables are the future.

*(Time expired)*

### Hospitals, Patient Safety

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** My question is to the Premier. In November, grandfather Wayne Irving died while ramped at the Ipswich Hospital. A report into his death has found a lack of dedicated staff on the ramps on the night he died. With ambulance ramping at record highs after nearly a decade in power, why has the government failed to properly staff Queensland hospitals to help Queenslanders in their hour of need?

**Mr MILES:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. He will have noted that the health minister made a ministerial statement earlier addressing the situation with regard to ambulance services and emergency department pressures. As she outlined, despite record demand, mammoth demand, our hospitals continue to perform better than the average across the nation. Our Ambulance Service, despite being the busiest in the country and the only one that is free in mainland states, continues to perform very well.

The Leader of the Opposition selectively quoted from a report. There is a critical point in that report which noted that the high mortality rate of abdominal aortic aneurysms meant that unfortunately earlier diagnosis and treatment is unlikely to have changed the outcome in the case that the member raised. However, I can assure the House that Ipswich Hospital, the HSS and the health minister will continue to work to improve services, continue to work to deliver even more nurses and doctors and ambos into the field to take care of that community and to meet those continuing increases in demand, and we will continue to support them also with new facilities. We have a big expansion underway at Ipswich Hospital, and we will continue to support that. We will never come in here and criticise them as those opposite do. We will never call them duds. We will never criticise their efforts because we know on this side of the House that they go to work every single day, motivated to take care of Queenslanders when they need health services, and we will continue to back them to do their jobs because they back us each and every day.

### Housing Supply

**Mr SMITH:** My question is of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works. Can the minister please outline how the Miles Labor government is delivering our housing Big Build, and is the minister aware of risky alternative approaches?

**Ms SCANLON:** I thank the member for Bundaberg for the question. I know that, like everyone on this side of the House, he is committed to building more homes for Queenslanders and our big social housing build is about to get even bigger. Last week I signed off on our 'Team Queensland' bid to the Housing Australia Future Fund. This program is designed to unleash the community housing sector to deliver more social and affordable homes across this state. It is a fund that is similar to the Housing Investment Fund that we have here in Queensland that has provided homes for more than 600 Queenslanders, despite what the Leader of the Opposition might say so I will repeat it for his benefit: there are more than 600 people in a home right now because of the Housing Investment Fund. There are hundreds of homes under construction under this one fund alone.

This investment is in no way thanks to the Liberal National Party. Of course, every single one of them in the federal parliament voted against the Housing Australia Future Fund. In fact, the Logan and Gold Coast LNP member of parliament Bert van Manen even said that building more affordable houses would actually 'add to the problem'. That is LNP logic! Whether it is social, affordable or private housing, those opposite oppose it time and again, particularly when it is in their own backyard. They are big on slogans but short on detail. They are out there saying they want to increase home ownership, but in the parliament they literally vote against a program that would do just that.

Queensland wants to be the first state in the country to implement the Help to Buy scheme, but we cannot do that because right now the LNP is blocking it. The opposition leader said in his press club address that he was open to a shared equity scheme but, since the big dogs in Canberra have said they oppose it, he has miraculously gone silent. Even his own hand-picked candidate is undermining him on his one signature policy by describing the shared equity scheme as 'really dangerous'. That is what the LNP's position is on us helping people get into home ownership.

How can you trust the LNP to deliver on housing when the LNP leader cannot hack even the most basic pressure? How will he deliver when he cannot stand up to his own MPs, never mind the resources lobby here in Queensland? We know that the LNP will cut social housing in this state and they will cut progressive coal royalties. We know that because they did that last time, and the Leader of the Opposition promoted the very same bloke to do it all over again.

### Electricity Prices

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My question is to the Premier. The Alinta Energy CEO said that whether we pay through the tax base or pay the large up-front cost, we are paying more for electricity. Given that, will the Premier tell Queenslanders what the impact to their electricity bills will be from the multibillion dollar blowout of the Pioneer pumped hydro project?

**Mr MILES:** I thank the member for Nanango for her question because if there is anyone in this place who knows a thing or two about increasing power prices it is the member for Nanango. Let's not forget that this is the woman who argued in favour of closing down power plants because prices had got too low.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Could I please have your ruling on being referred to as a 'woman' like that?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, member.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** One turn does not deserve another. Member for Nanango, you are on a warning. My ruling is that all members should be referred to as members or by their correct title. Premier, I would ask you to withdraw.

**Mr MILES:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I withdraw. This member of the House argued that power prices were so low that they should close some power plants to put the prices up again. She was a member of a government that delivered an increase in power prices of 43 per cent. This member advocated for the sale of our electricity assets, which would take away the ability that we have right now to deliver rebates on people's power bills.

The member quotes the Alinta Energy CEO on the impact of certain energy plans on power prices. The energy minister can advise the House that our renewable Energy and Jobs Plan has been modelled to deliver lower power prices than there would be without it. I can tell the House that renewables will always be cheaper than nuclear power. We know that those opposite want to replace our pumped hydro schemes with nuclear power plants. We know that nuclear power will cost more than five times more than stored renewables. The Leader of the Opposition might say that is not his plan, but David Littleproud said on television that they will just tell him to do it—

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b).

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, to your point of order, I have been listening to the Premier's response. He is being relevant to parts of the question as I hear it. You may not like the response that you are being given but he is being relevant to the question.

**Mr MILES:** It was David Littleproud who honestly told the people of Queensland that it does not matter what the member for Broadwater says because the National Party will just tell him that he has to do it. Nuclear power will cost more than five times more than stored renewables. It is the most expensive option.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

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

**Mr MILES:** In Queensland, we are already benefiting from the investment certainty that comes with a staged transition to stored renewables. We will deliver even greater certainty this week when we deal with the relevant legislation before the House.

### Health Workforce

**Ms HOWARD:** My question is of the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women. Can the minister please update the House on the Miles Labor government's progress on its commitment to employing more frontline staff and is the minister aware of any risks to this progress?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I thank the member for Ipswich for her question. She has been a huge advocate of the health big build at Ipswich, recently opening a brand new mental health unit and helping us to turn the sod on the huge expansion to the Ipswich Hospital. Queensland Health is a massive organisation. Every day 120,000 people care for Queenslanders—doctors, nurses, midwives, allied health professionals, paramedics, wardies, cleaners and chefs. Every one of them contributes to our public health system, which cares for so many Queenslanders. The Miles Labor government recognises them and celebrates them, which is why we are hiring even more of them.

Since the election, we have hired thousands more doctors, nurses and midwives and hundreds more paramedics. That is backed up by a range of initiatives to help attract even more clinicians from overseas and interstate, including our Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme that has now seen close to 700 clinical staff accept offers to come and work in Queensland Health. As I travel across Queensland, it has been a delight to meet them. They come from as far away as Peru and from just across the border in New South Wales. We welcome them all to our health system. We are putting more solutions and resources on the table, and often those solutions are proposed by frontline staff to help ease the pressure on our health system.

However, what about the LNP? What is their bold vision to help support our hardworking health staff and our health system that they continually remind us is under pressure? If anyone can find out what their plan is, I would love to know it. I thought about asking the hardworking members of our press



gallery whether or not they have an idea, but it seems that they cannot get answers from the Leader of the Opposition. What a performance we saw from the Leader of the Opposition on the news on Friday night. He was sweating and squirming under the pressure from journalists, trying not to reveal what his plan would be to pay tradies and offer decent conditions—the same tradies who are building our hospitals. I have to say that it was painful to watch but, then again, are we surprised? This is the Leader of the Opposition who refuses to say what he would do about anything! We saw him literally running away from cameras the week before at parliament, refusing to say what he would do on the Olympics. Still he has not answered questions about why his party voted against allowing nurses and midwives to prescribe MS-2 Step for women wanting termination of pregnancy. Still he refuses to say what he would do about health, but we know that they will cut. That is their record. They will sell off our satellite hospitals. They will cut frontline staff.

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

**Dr ROWAN:** My question is to the Premier. Parents of Rochedale State School have raised serious concerns after asbestos dust was found falling from the ceiling in their children's classrooms. To allay their concerns, parents want their children moved to other classrooms. Why are children forced to stay in classrooms their parents fear are unsafe?

**Mr MILES:** I thank the member for Moggill for his question. The health and wellbeing of students in our schools is absolutely critical, and that makes the question the member has asked very important. I am advised that there have been three separate clearance certificates issued by independent occupational hygienists with the most recent certificate issued last week. Advice from experts is that all the classrooms are safe for staff and students to return. I am advised that parents have been kept up to date with the situation from the beginning including a meeting just last week, and an inspection of the classroom occurred then as well. The department has also advised they will undertake air monitoring each term, including at the end of week 1, to provide ongoing assurances regarding the safety of the classrooms.

I can give the member for Moggill, all members and indeed the community an assurance that the government and the education department have taken this matter incredibly seriously and are progressing based on the advice of experts.

### **Job Creation**

**Mr SAUNDERS:** My question is to the Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs. Can the minister update the House on how Labor governments are supporting more onshore jobs in Queensland, and is the minister aware of any risky alternatives?

**Mr de BRENNI:** I thank the member for Maryborough for the question because the member for Maryborough knows very well the cost to communities, particularly regional communities, when it comes to offshoring jobs. When the member looks at most of that opposition front bench he sees members who sat in a cabinet determined to sell out Queensland jobs, particularly in his community on the Fraser Coast. He sees an LNP determined to auction off Queensland jobs to the lowest bidders. He saw them exporting jobs and he saw them exporting opportunities from the community he represents and the community that neighbouring electorates represent.

As the member for Maryborough said in his observation about the actions of the LNP, they attempted to make his community the 'Detroit of Australia'. That was a fair observation by the member for Maryborough. What happened in Detroit when the LNP were styling their policies on the actions of that district? Detroit unemployment hit 29 per cent. Houses were on the market for \$500—a family home was devalued to \$500, but no-one could afford to buy one. In 2010 the whole city of Detroit filed for bankruptcy. That was the LNP plan for Maryborough, that was the LNP plan for the Fraser Coast and that was the LNP plan for regional Queensland: offshoring and outsourcing opportunity and jobs, putting corporate profits and overseas shareholders over Queenslanders.

Regional Queenslanders know Labor is committed to a future made in Australia because Labor Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Premier Miles are on the same page: building infrastructure, creating jobs and investing in workers in regional Queensland. In regional Queensland Labor is making sure that Queenslanders are building trains in Maryborough, building batteries in regional Queensland, building the backbones of Queenslanders' homes using sustainable plantation timber. I can announce today that more manufacturing is coming back to Queensland. We have Orrcon Steel manufacturing torque tubes for Australia's pipeline of large-scale solar. Volvo Trucks has announced that it will

manufacture electric trucks here in Queensland because of our policies of renewable energy. Just last week we saw electrolyser stacks being manufactured in regional Queensland, in Gladstone, for export to the world.

Local production, local jobs, local investment: that is Labor's commitment. That is our commitment. That is the member for Maryborough's commitment: a future made in Queensland, a future made in Australia.

### Toondah Harbour Development

**Mr BERKMAN:** My question this morning is to the Premier. Federal environment minister Tanya Plibersek has proposed rejecting Walker Corporation's Toondah Harbour development at Moreton Bay which the now Premier supported as planning minister under a secret agreement with the developer. Will the Premier commit to withdrawing the government's support for any private development on these Ramsar listed wetlands?

**Mr MILES:** I thank the member for Maiwar for his question. Obviously we have seen that draft decision from the federal environment minister and we will analyse it and consider its implications. The member implied that I had played a role as planning minister. From my recollection, my last direct role was actually as environment minister and that related to the marine parks questions. The support that I indicated at that time was based on the support of QYAC and the traditional owners of Minjerrabah. They had indicated they would like to see economic development projects that created jobs. At the time members will recall—

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Sorry, Premier. Member for Logan and Leader of the Opposition, I can see the quarrel going on. You are both warned under the standing orders.

**Mr MILES:** At the time members will recall we were in the process of phasing out sandmining on Minjerrabah after those opposite had arbitrarily extended Sibelco's leases in return for significant political donations. This project and that proposal have a long and chequered history. Clearly, we will accept the outcome, whatever that may be, of the minister's decision under the EPBC Act. As I say, we have a period of time in which to absorb her draft decision and consider whether further submissions will be made. As I say, the assurance I can give is we will obviously accept the outcome and the minister's decision.

### Manufacturing

**Mr CRAWFORD:** My question is of the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing. Can the minister advise the House what the outlook is for Queensland manufacturing, and are there any risks to future growth in the sector?

**Mr BUTCHER:** I thank the honourable member for the question. I know how passionate he is about manufacturing, particularly in North Queensland, and about the support that this Miles Labor government is giving to our manufacturers in that part of the world. There is no greater supporter of manufacturing than this Miles Labor government, so it is no surprise that the manufacturing sector in Queensland is performing extremely strongly. We saw the manufacturing *State of the sector* report released recently saying that our state has outperformed Australian manufacturing in recent years. Manufacturing in Queensland is continuing to grow. We have supported manufacturing in Queensland with over 7,000 jobs created in the sector in Queensland alone.

I want to just touch base. Last week we were in Maryborough with the member for Maryborough talking about the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program. It was great to get out onsite where we are again going to be building trains in Queensland. We are going to be manufacturing those trains here in Queensland. It was interesting to see that we had made a \$40 million investment in the shed that is going to be built for this program. It was good to get out on the ground and talk to the local workers who are doing that work and getting this facility prepared for again manufacturing our trains in Queensland, in Maryborough.

It is interesting to note that when we got back from the trip I received some information that one of the LNP members on the other side of the chamber was also looking to go and visit the facility. It is really interesting that they now want to go out and have a look and see where we are going to be building trains in Queensland. It absolutely blew my mind that they now want to get on board and support train manufacturing here in Queensland.

What is the secret deal of why the member wanted to go out and have a look? Is it to measure it up to see how much they could sell it off for in the future? Is it a way to find out where and how we are going to do this facility? Is it so that those opposite can see how many of those workers who are currently on the ground they will sack as part of this amazing program moving forward?

**Mr Boothman** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Theodore.

**Mr BUTCHER:** We know the track record of the LNP in Queensland. We know it sent train manufacturing overseas from Queensland, and we know that it will do it again tomorrow. We know that in Queensland the manufacturing sector is continuing to grow because it has the backing and support of this government.

**Mr Boothman** interjected.

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

**Mr BUTCHER:** We are ensuring that we get women into manufacturing. It is one of our big strategies in Queensland, giving young women the opportunity to get into the manufacturing sector in Queensland to not only help us make trains but many other products. If we can make it here, we should be making it here in Queensland. The only way that that support will come is through a Miles Labor government in Queensland, not a cutting, sacking, selling LNP government if it gets in in October.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the next questioner, member for Maryborough, I would advise you in future that if you are going to interject make sure you are at least sitting in your chair. You are warned under the standing orders.

Interruption.

## DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I also wish to bring to the attention of the House today that we have a special guest in the public gallery this morning—the Hon. Milton Dick, Speaker of the Australian House of Representatives and the federal member for Oxley. I thank the member for Oxley for coming to the Queensland parliament today. He is doing a great job. I taught him everything he knows!

**A government member:** And he's still doing a good job regardless!

**Mr SPEAKER:** I believe that is a reflection on the chair. Please make Speaker Dick feel welcome.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Resumed.

### Mental Health Services

**Ms BOLTON:** My question is to the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women. Given the tragic events in Bondi on the weekend, can the minister advise what the government has in place for Queenslanders with serious mental health issues to ensure they have the appropriate supports, including accommodation, and systems to alert and intervene when their behaviours indicate a worsening of their situation or condition?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I thank the member for Noosa for her question. Words cannot express how devastating the attack was that we saw play out at Bondi Junction on Saturday afternoon, and of course my condolences go to the friends and families of those who were killed along with everyone else who witnessed the attacks and those in hospitals who are still recuperating.

It is incredibly important that Queenslanders impacted by mental illness or problematic alcohol and drug use or suicide ideation get the right supports at the right time, including in the community. Our investment currently in mental health is the largest it has ever been in Queensland's history because of our mental health levy—a \$1.6 billion investment over five years which has radically transformed how

we are providing mental health services to Queenslanders not only in the community but we are also massively expanding the mental health staff that we have at our hospitals to provide that acute mental health care.

I am so proud that the Labor government adopted all of the recommendations from the parliamentary committee to put in place a mental health levy—the first of its kind in the country to hugely expand the services that we provide. Our \$1.6 billion Better Care Together plan is enhancing and providing more mental health, alcohol and other drug and suicide prevention services. We are delivering: 145 new mental health, alcohol and drug beds over the next five years; 1,400 new mental health, alcohol and other drug staff across services in our hospitals and in the community; and the largest ever investment in youth mental health services with a \$330 million commitment.

As I mentioned before, we have opened the new mental health facility with 64 beds at Ipswich Hospital. We have announced \$67 million for new and enhanced child youth acute response teams across the state and committed to increasing women-specific mental health supports for women and girls across the state. We are also investing \$34 million to hire 23 additional frontline staff and open seven new crisis support spaces over the coming months. I am also working very closely with the Minister for Housing and the Mental Health Commissioner to look at what more we can do to provide supported accommodation with people living with mental ill health. We do know that there is a huge crossover between people who are sleeping rough or homeless who experience mental ill health and we will continue that work, but none of this investment would be possible without the mental health levy. I note that the Leader of the Opposition and those opposite did not support it at the time and I would urge them to come forward and say that they do support our mental health levy and our huge investment in mental health.

### **Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line**

**Mr SKELTON:** My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Can the minister update the House on the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line project, and is the minister aware of any risky alternatives?

**Mr MELLISH:** I thank the member for his question. He is an outstanding community advocate. The Miles government's commitment to the Sunshine Coast direct rail is the single largest investment in public transport ever made on the Sunshine Coast. It is a region-shaping project that will benefit all Queenslanders, whether it is getting home or on holidays faster. If you travel by Sunshine Coast direct, you can save at least 45 minutes each way during peak hours. It will also unlock critical housing supply and take cars off the Bruce Highway.

Like light rail on the Gold Coast, we are staging the delivery of this project starting with stage 1 between Beerwah and Caloundra whilst at the same time undertaking market soundings for the Caloundra to Birtinya section. We are also protecting the corridor all the way to Maroochydore. We are fast-tracking \$5 million in funding to lay the foundations for this transformational rail project. Our project team is getting on with the job with geotechnical investigations and environmental surveys between Beerwah and Birtinya. This project will be a huge engineering feat in tough terrain. We are also kickstarting industry engagement and getting construction companies ready to bid to build the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line, and I know that the member for Caloundra as well as the member for Nicklin are very excited. Businesses are encouraged to register for the upcoming industry engagement sessions via a new online industry portal. I could not be prouder of our commitment to this project and the way we will deliver it.

We have a detailed plan and we are getting on with its delivery. The LNP has 'political will' and a more than \$6 billion black hole in its budget on the Sunshine Coast direct rail. If the LNP is to fully fund this project across all stages before 2032 that will mean that other critical projects across the state will have to be cut. The department has also advised me that it cannot be built all the way to Maroochydore before the Olympics, and that is before you factor in coal royalties which the LNP refused to commit to, effectively robbing Queenslanders of billions of dollars. The LNP needs to come clean to Queenslanders. Which projects will it cut to fund its unfunded commitment? Which critical upgrades in services will it prune? It is time for the Leader of the Opposition to come clean with the people of Queensland. We know those opposite have a list and they need to tell Queenslanders what is on it. When the Leader of the Opposition talks about productivity—I think he mentioned it about 20 times in the Friday afternoon interview—that means cuts. When the member for Chatsworth talks about pruning, that means cuts. The LNP wants to cut transport projects and it wants to cut transport jobs.

### Asbestos Register

**Mr MICKELBERG:** My question is to the Premier. The Labor government cut the monthly release of the asbestos register, including for schools. Can the Premier explain why the third-term Labor government does not believe that parents need to see this data monthly, as it was reported for more than a decade?

**Mr MILES:** I thank the member for Buderim for his question. As I outlined in my response to the member for Moggill, we take risks to the health and safety of school students incredibly seriously. In that instance the department has sought repeated testing, repeated inspections and repeated expert advice. It has undertaken to continue to do so, including again at the end of this week. The role of the education department in taking care of young Queenslanders while they are at school is incredibly important. We take it incredibly seriously and we will continue to ensure that the Department of Education is doing everything that it can to keep those students safe.

### Police Service, Recruitment

**Ms PEASE:** My question is of the Minister for Police and Community Safety. Can the minister please update the House on how the Queensland Police Service recruitment campaign is progressing, and is the minister aware of any risky alternatives?

**Mr RYAN:** Speaker, you and I have known a number of members for Lytton over a period of time but I do have to say that this is the best member for Lytton that the Queensland parliament has ever seen—Paul Lucas is ringing right now, I think. What a great question from a great member and a great advocate for the Queensland Police Service. Everyone knows that our government's support and record when it comes to the Queensland Police Service is outstanding: a huge budget—a record budget—and a record commitment to the front line. Because of the efforts of the Queensland Police Service, backed in by the government with \$90 million worth of incentive and recruitment strategies, we are now seeing the Queensland Police Service as one of the few police services in the world that is turning the corner on recruitment. There are over 2,000 applicants in the recruit pipeline—a record number of recruits at the academy right now; almost 700. In fact, 144 of them started last week. Special constables are coming through. There is international interest, interstate interest and university student interest. We were just out the front of the parliament providing information to QUT students about the incentives on offer. We have a record of commitment to the Queensland Police Service because we have a commitment to community safety and we will back the Queensland Police Service 100 per cent.

Whenever it comes to questions about resourcing for the Queensland Police Service those opposite run 100 miles. The architect of the 1,000 police number cut in the last election is back in the role of shadow minister for police. When questioned about police resources the Leader of the Opposition does not answer. He does not provide any details. Why? Because they have a plan to do what they do every time, which is to turn their back on the Queensland Police Service and not provide the resources that they need. When they were last in government and the Queensland Police Service needed a police helicopter they provided no funding. When the Queensland Police Service wanted to provide integrated load-bearing ballistic vests, a piece of safety equipment for police officers, the then government, the Newman government, provided no resourcing. When the Queensland Police Service needed money for extra patrols in safe night precincts, there was no money from the Newman government. On the other hand, we have backed them every single time: funding for body worn cameras, funding for ballistic vests, funding for safe night precincts, funding for the front line, funding for a record number of police. This government will always back the Queensland Police Service and we know that those opposite will always turn their back on police.

### Queensland Rail, Long Distance Train Services

**Mr LISTER:** My question is to the Minister for Transport. Has Queensland Rail stopped serving Queensland made wines to long distance train passengers and is instead now using wine from other states?

**Mr MELLISH:** I thank the member for the question. I can advise the member that I have not had any wine on Queensland Rail trains since becoming the transport minister. I have been fairly busy with the job. I am happy to come back to the member on this question. Queensland's agricultural products are very important to our state's growth. That is very much an operational matter, but I will come back to the member on this matter. I am glad he is focused on the big issues in transport.

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Southern Downs, you will direct your comments through the chair.

## Social Housing

**Mr RUSSO:** My question is to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works. Can the minister update the House on how the Miles Labor government is boosting Queensland's social housing Big Build and is the minister aware of any risky alternatives?

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

**Ms SCANLON:** I thank the member for Toohey for the question. We will leave no stone unturned to deliver more homes for Queenslanders. We know this is a plan that the LNP have suggested is too much. My question to the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP is: which part of the plan is too much? We know they do not support the Help to Buy scheme, they do not support investment in social and affordable housing, they do not support QBuild as they axed 1,600 construction workers when they were last in government, they do not support renters as they axed funding to Tenants Queensland, but what I learnt today is they also do not support modular homes. We have learnt today that the member for Burnett has said that modular homes in regional Queensland are too much. At least the member for Burnett is willing to say what the LNP's position is out loud, just like he did last time when he said that he wanted to break the back of Queensland workers' wages and conditions. It is about time the Leader of the Opposition said whether or not he supports Homes for Queenslanders because all we know is they will cut.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The period for question time has expired.

## MOTION

### Business Program



**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.14 am): I move—

1. That, in accordance with standing order 172, the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill and the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be treated as cognate bills for their remaining stages; and the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill and the Clean Economy Jobs Bill be treated as cognate bills for their remaining stages, as follows:
  - (a) second reading debate, with separate questions being put in regard to the second readings;
  - (b) the consideration of the bills in detail together; and
  - (c) separate questions being put for the third readings and long titles.
2. Notwithstanding anything contained in the standing and sessional orders:
 

The time limits and order for moving the second reading of the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill and the Clean Economy Jobs Bill (cognate debate) shall be: Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs—45 minutes, followed by the Leader of the Opposition or nominees—45 minutes;
3. The following business will be considered this sitting week, with the nominated maximum times as specified:
  - (a) the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2), a maximum of 1 hour;
  - (b) the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill and the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (cognate debate), to be completed by 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 16 April 2024;
  - (c) the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill and the Clean Economy Jobs Bill (cognate debate), to be completed by 1.00 pm on Thursday, 18 April 2024; and
  - (d) the Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, to be completed by 5.57 pm on Thursday, 18 April 2024.
4. The following time limits for the bills listed in 3. apply:
  - (a) the minister to be called on in reply:
    - i. for the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2), 10 minutes before expiry of maximum time;
    - ii. for the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill and the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (cognate debate), by 6.50 pm on Tuesday, 16 April 2024;
    - iii. for the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill and the Clean Economy Jobs Bill (cognate debate), by 12.50 pm on Thursday, 18 April 2024; and
    - iv. for the Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, by 5.47 pm on Thursday, 18 April 2024.
5. If all stages of the bills listed above have not been completed by the specified times, Mr Speaker:
  - (a) shall call on a minister to table any explanatory notes to their circulated amendments, any statement of compatibility with human rights or any statement relating to an override declaration
  - (b) shall put all remaining questions necessary to either pass that stage or pass the bill without further debate

- (c) may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill or motion to complete the requirements of the motion
- (d) will complete all stages required by this motion notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders.

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, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Nightingale, O'Rourke, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

**NOES, 40:**

**LNP, 34**—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir, Zanow.

**Grn, 2**—Berkman, MacMahon.

**KAP, 2**—Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.


Pair: Mullen, Molhoek.

Resolved in the affirmative.

## ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF INALA

### First Speech

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the honourable member for Inala, 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.

 **Ms NIGHTINGALE** (Inala—ALP) (11.20 am): Mr Speaker, I rise in this House today for the first time honoured to speak as a representative of my community, the electorate of Inala. I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, the Yagara and Turrbal peoples. I pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging. Let me also pay special respect to Uncle Albert Holt, a Queensland great whose contribution to our community in Inala has been enormous and whose legacy of dedication is an example to us all.

I stand here on the shoulders of giants, coming to this place following in the footsteps of over 30 years of representation by the Palaszczuk family: the former premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, and former minister, Henry Palaszczuk. I thank them for their many years of service to our community. The Palaszczuk story is the Queensland story, it is the Labor story, it is the Inala story and that is my story too.

I am a product of the Inala community. I am so proud and privileged to stand in this place today as an example of how a girl who grew up with social and economic disadvantage, being raised by a single mother who relied on social housing, can become the advocate for her community. Like many communities across our state, Inala is diverse with 33 per cent of residents born in non-English speaking countries. We are a vibrant melting pot of cultures, identities and traditions. It is a place where diversity is not merely tolerated but shared and celebrated, where the strength of our community lies in our ability to come together to support one another and to strive for a better future.

Inala is home to the largest Vietnamese community in Queensland. The Vietnamese Tet Festival stands as a testament to the uniting and unifying power of cultural festivities. I was delighted to attend this year's festival. I want to thank Dr Bui and the Vietnamese Community in Australia, Queensland chapter, for their decades of work not only in organising this event but for all their work in our community. I also want to thank my friends Phuong Nguyen and Tuan Le for their ongoing assistance in ensuring that language is no barrier to engagement.

Yet for all its vibrancy and resilience, Inala, like many other communities, faces its share of challenges: suitable housing accessibility, the impacts of the cost-of-living pressures, economic inequality and the community not feeling safe. These issues are priorities that demand our collective attention, our unwavering resolve and our steadfast commitment to address. Only a Labor government has the resolve, vision and commitment to address these problems. I am passionate about chipping

away at and changing a system stacked against the most vulnerable and those without power, money and influence. I am a Labor member because I know that these are the values of our movement and that these are the values of our Premier, Steven Miles. I believe that affordable housing is the basis for good health, safety and educational attainment. I believe in free education, free health care and the dignity of work. I believe in a collective society uplifting those doing it tough.

Communities such as Inala most deeply feel the impact of decisions made by governments. With 40 per cent of the electorate falling into the lowest relative socioeconomic disadvantage quintile, I know a lot of families in Inala are doing it tough. I have heard their voices through the result of the by-election. I thank them for placing their trust in me. I will work tirelessly every day to make the lives of the people of my electorate better. The people of Inala rise each day with a determination to deliver and provide for their families. I rise here today with the same drive and determination to deliver the services and support they need.

Growing up in Inala I witnessed firsthand the resilience, strength and compassion that define our community. It is a place where neighbours look out for one another, where diversity is not only embraced but also celebrated and where the bonds of solidarity transcend the barriers of race, religion and background. I have had the privilege of living, working, learning and volunteering across this community. It has been home to four generations of my family. Some of my earliest memories are of being at the home of my grandparents, surrounded by trees and catching crayfish in the clear creek that ran through their property at Ellen Grove, the suburb that sits at the southern end of my electorate. I have seen many changes since my grandparents built a small kit home on an acreage block in Lovat Street in the sixties. There were no services and public transport is still a challenge there.

Ellen Grove now encompasses parts of Carole Park and has seen much development with high-density dwellings slowly swallowing the acreage sites. The suburbs of Richlands and Doolandella have also seen developments of high-density dwellings. Once farmland, over time we have seen the change from farmhouses to townhouses. Whilst new housing is desperately needed, so too is the need for infrastructure and services to support these new developments. Richlands is also where I went to school. Hello to the former students and staff of Richlands State High School, my high school. I look forward to seeing you all at our 35-year reunion this year at the Lions Soccer Club.

I would like to acknowledge the member for Mansfield, Corrine McMillan, who served the school community of Glenala State High School as principal. I thank her for her contribution to our community. That great high school was formed through the merging of Inala and Richlands state high schools. Although the old site on Poinsettia Street is no longer Richlands high school, the same driveway is still there—only now it leads to the Inala Community Hub and Inala Wangarra Inc, two of the many great community associations that service my electorate. There are still students, only now they attend the Inala Flexible Learning Centre. The walk to Darra Station from Inala, passing the Richlands drive-in and crossing Ipswich Road, happens now only in our memories thanks to upgrades to Ipswich Road and a train station at Richlands that is now bursting with commuters.

The suburb of Inala is where most of my friends lived, where I played in their yards and spent endless hours at the skate rink. There are many families in Inala who still live in the same house, some who have lived there for more than 70 years, such is the sense of belonging in that place.

Between Ellen Grove, Richlands and Inala sits Forest Lake. This is where I have lived with my family for nearly 20 years and where I, along with my husband, Jason, have raised our children. It is where I was privileged to serve as president of the P&C in Forest Lake State School. As the suburb name suggests, homes are nestled amongst trees and the lake, although man-made, is the heart of the suburb. Along the edge of Blunder Creek, which borders the electorate, is the small part of Oxley that sits within the Inala electorate. Nearby to Oxley is the suburb of Durack where the new multicultural festival is hosted by Inala Community House.

At the eastern edge of the Inala electorate is Wacol. It was here that I began my career training as a psychiatric nurse at the then Wolston Park Hospital. My journey as a mental health professional has shaped my perspective in profound ways. I have had the privilege of walking alongside individuals and families in their darkest moments, witnessing the courage and resilience that light the heart of the human spirit. I have seen the devastating impact of mental illness, addiction and trauma, but I have also seen the transformative power of compassion, empathy and support.

This was especially true when I was working in the Barrett Adolescent Centre. It was an inpatient unit with an attached school, and it provided wraparound mental health treatment for some of the most vulnerable young people in the state. Tragically, the decision made by the Newman government at the time to close the centre as part of their broad cuts to frontline services resulted in the loss of three



young lives. It was this firsthand experience of the damage that can be done when governments fail to understand the importance of frontline services that prompted me to join the Australian Labor Party to do what I could to see a Labor government elected and see the wrongs of the Newman government righted. This will always be a reminder to me of what is at stake.

The Barrett Adolescent Centre Special School continued, led by principal Kevin Rodgers and later Deborah Rankin. It was here I saw the value that continued engagement with education can have in changing the trajectory of vulnerable young people. It was a desire to do what I could to keep students in school that prompted me to return to study and become a teacher. I was fortunate to return to the Barrett school to teach. I thank the parents for entrusting me with their children and I thank the students for their bravery. It was an honour to teach you. You are seen and you are heard in this place. I also thank the wonderful staff, whose team culture is second to none and whose work is life-changing.

It is in this role that I have seen the impact of the former government's cut to TAFE, removing the opportunities for many students in my community to access further training and enter their chosen career. Fortunately, thanks to the Labor government I have seen TAFE reinstated—now with over 75 free TAFE courses—to not only give our young people a start in their careers but also adults who are retraining to meet the priority skills needs of our state. As an educator, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of education and the boundless potential that resides within each and every one of our students irrespective of their background and circumstances. It is this belief in the inherent worth and potential of every individual that has guided my journey thus far, and it is this same belief that will guide my work in this esteemed chamber.

Having dedicated my life to public service, I have been privileged to witness the extraordinary courage and strength of the human spirit. From the depths of despair to the heights of triumph, I have stood alongside individuals and families in their moments of greatest vulnerability offering solace, support and a guiding hand. It is this commitment to serving others and to lifting up those in need that has guided my path to this place and will continue to inform my actions as I serve and represent the people of Inala.

No member of this place can say they got here truly on their own. It takes the collective effort of supporters, volunteers and family tirelessly working behind the scenes. I want to whole-heartedly thank my team of supporters, volunteers and my family. My deep gratitude is sincerely offered to you all.

Thank you to my husband, Jason, for your endless love and support. To my daughters, Lavender and Lily: you are my reason for everything. You inspire me every day and I am so lucky to be your mum. Thank you for sacrificing so much to support me on the journey to this place.

As a mother to two young women it is not lost on me that there have been fewer than 100 women elected to the Legislative Assembly of Queensland since its establishment in 1860. I commit to ensuring that the voices of women continue to be heard in the halls of decision and power. I acknowledge the great work of the former premier and member for Inala, Annastacia Palaszczuk, and her achievements in this space and I thank her for her support of me.

I also want to thank my mother Noelene, who sadly passed away just over a year ago; my brother Peter, who is watching from home; and my other family who live across the seas.

Although my family is small, I am part of a much bigger family: the Australian Labor Party. Although my thanks to this family goes beyond that which I can list here, I would like to especially thank my branch, the Inala branch, and the many volunteers from local branches and those who volunteered for the first time. It was an immensely hot and humid campaign. Despite that, you were there for me and the people of Inala.

I also want to note on record the sincere support and dedication of my union, the mighty Australian Workers' Union, under the strong leadership of Stacey Schinneri—thank you. I would also like to thank Josh Milroy and the Transport Workers' Union, the Plumbers Union and the Queensland Teachers' Union for their support of me and the campaign.

To Sam, Stacey, Michelle and the other volunteers from the Oxley crew: thank you.

Thank you to Riley Williamson for your ongoing friendship, your counsel and your support throughout this process.

Chris Hancock: you were my rock throughout the campaign, and I could not have done it without you. Thank you for going above and beyond every day. I will forever appreciate it.

I want to thank Jon Persley for his friendship and unwavering support; Les Bryant, the former councillor and stalwart of the branch; and thank you to Henry Palaszczuk. I continue to learn from you and your legacy.

From the party office, thank you to state secretary Kate Flanders, assistant state secretary Zac Beers and Bella Scattini, my friend and great support. I will be forever grateful for your commitment and dedication.

Thank you to my caucus family, in particular the Deputy Premier and Treasurer Cameron Dick. Your wisdom, strong leadership and support means a great deal. Knowing that you were always there to help truly helped.

To my neighbouring members the member for Jordan, Minister Charis Mullen; the member for Mount Ommaney, Jess Pugh; the member for Bundamba, Minister Lance McCallum; and the member for Ipswich, assistant minister Jen Howard: thank you for your support of me and my campaign.

Of course I must thank Premier Steven Miles for his dedication to my campaign and the people of Inala. He was on the ground with me talking to locals, and I never once doubted his commitment to ensuring the best outcomes for us all.

To Milton Dick, the federal Speaker of the Australian House of Representatives, who is a shining example of strong representation as the federal member for Oxley, of which the electorate of Inala is a part and whom I am privileged to call my dear friend: I truly could not have done this without you, Milton. Thank you for being such a positive force for me personally and the Labor movement and an inspiration to us all. I feel very lucky to know you, to have your support and to follow in your very big footsteps as a community advocate.

Thank you also to Rachel Bailey and my new office staff Felicity Crompton, Aaron Bui and Archer Skinner; to my friends Amanda Krarup, Bec Andersen, Georgia Stafford and my honours club of Yvonne, Manda, Erin, Rin and Bec. Difficult times always reveal true friends, and I am truly grateful for your friendship and continued support through all the highs and lows.

I am humbled by the responsibility and trust the people of Inala have placed in me to be their advocate. I am fiercely committed to: being a strong voice for Inala; bringing my experience, both personal and professional, to advocate for what is needed in my community; balance interests, priorities and resources; work productively with others in this place to bring about the best outcomes for the electorate of Inala. As I do so, I feel the immense privilege and responsibility that rests with me and others in this place to keep those we represent in mind at all times and in all things. Let us not forget that true progress is not measured solely by the number of bills passed or speeches delivered. True progress is measured by the tangible impact we make on the lives of those we serve, by the positive changes we effect in our communities, and by the legacy of hope and opportunity we leave for future generations.

It is my solemn pledge to the people of Inala that I will work tirelessly day in, day out to address these challenges head on, to champion the causes that matter most to our community, and to ensure that the voices of the marginalised, disenfranchised and vulnerable are heard loud and clear within this place.


**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

## **LAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2)**

### **Second Reading**

Resumed from 21 March (see p. 907), on motion of Mr Stewart—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (11.39 am): Firstly, I would like to congratulate both the member for Inala and the member for Ipswich West on winning their by-elections. I also congratulate the member for Inala on her maiden speech.

The Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) is a comprehensive bill. It is 120-pages long and incorporates amendments to many acts. The minister could have ensured that there was more opportunity to scrutinise every clause and every detail. However, in typical Labor form, they are doing what suits them and have dumped a huge bill into this House.

The bill includes amendments to the Place Names Act 1994 that the government claim will broaden considerations to reflect contemporary issues and make decision-making processes more flexible and transparent. The proposed changes will reduce the public consultation time on a proposed name change from two months to one. The bill will allow the minister to delegate. Allowing the minister to pass the buck to the chief executive is completely inappropriate in this instance. The minister needs to step up and be held accountable. Ministers are elected by the people and should be responsible for these decisions, not unelected bureaucrats. The cutting of consultation time for proposed name changes is another example of the Labor government stripping Queenslanders of the right to have their voices heard. For communities, placenames are more than just a name. They are a sense of identity. They are part of history and a part of culture. It is only fair that the community be given fair consultation time.

The amendments also have considerable cost implications for local governments as trustees of state land. In its submission, the LGAQ's recommendation 10 is that the state government should provide funding to assist local government with associated costs. The LGAQ's recommendation 11 is that the state government provide funding to offset costs that result from the renaming of recreation areas. We all know the mess that the government made with the renaming of Fraser Island to K'gari and the significant cost implications that came with that. The opposition supports these recommendations from the LGAQ to ensure that councils are not unfairly burdened with the cost of changing a placename. We will be opposing the clauses in this bill that amend the Place Names Act.

The member for Burdekin was going to talk further about this issue during consideration in detail. He took this photo, which I will table on his behalf, at the Mackay airport the other day. It is of the main gate to a flight to Brisbane, except there is one problem: the gate does not say it is a flight to 'Brisbane'; it says 'Meanjin'. This is a sinister attempt by a big corporate that has lost touch with mainstream Australia, and this government is trying to further enable those actions with this proposed change.

*Tabled paper:* Photograph depicting an airport gate sign [\[565\]](#).

Imagine you are a tourist. You rock up to your plane, thinking you are heading to some great place in Australia, whether it be Brisbane, Gladstone or another part of this great state. When you go to board your plane you see a sign with a completely different destination, but you have no idea where that is. I can only imagine the confusion, especially for tourists who do not have English as their native tongue and who struggle with our language, which, as tourists, is completely understandable. The attitude of our airlines and big corporates in relation to this is disgraceful. The fact that the government wants to further enable that is a disgrace.

If the Miles Labor government cares about democracy then the business motion should be amended to give us the right to vote on this legislation as we wish and to outline more of our concerns with this issue. Most likely, in a further assault on democracy, we will not be given that opportunity, which is why I just tabled that photo on behalf of the member for Burdekin. He was going to put more on the record in consideration in detail but it looks like we are going to run out of time. We are concerned that Labor will use this legislation to further their sinister moves to push for divisive name changes even when Queenslanders absolutely reject them.

In Queensland there are over 26,000 reserves with a total area exceeding one million hectares. Local governments and state government agencies are the primary trustees that manage trust land. Many community groups are also direct trustees or manage those facilities on behalf of local government. These include show societies—of which I have 19 in my electorate, the most of any member of parliament in Queensland—sports clubs, RSLs and children's playgroups. We have a couple of great community groups, show societies, RSLs and playgroups, such as the one at Calliope, across the great electorate of Callide.

I do note that there are issues with managing land as trustees, and the North Burnett Regional Council has been dealing with some of these. As a council that is significantly underfunded by the Miles Labor government, it has to make drastic decisions to save on costs as well as to pass costs on to groups that manage trustee land. That makes the operations of groups such as show societies and other clubs less viable, taking key facilities and services out of the communities. That is the cost of the Miles Labor government to Queenslanders.

The bill will enable the minister to dedicate reserves for any purpose to address a community need that is in the public interest. The bill will provide for pastoral term leaseholders to diversify how they use their land by removing the limitation that prevents supplementary purposes being added. The department advised this will support leaseholders to be more resilient following natural disasters or poor

seasonal conditions, and that is certainly a move that is worthwhile. We should be doing everything we can to ensure that government gets out of the way and lets business do business, whether that is in agriculture or other industries.

We want to see the processes for community groups become less burdensome, but there are no guarantees that that will be the case. I call on the minister to ensure that these changes are applied in ways that are of significant benefit to communities and, of course, with appropriate consultation.

The bill introduces mandatory payment of local government rates and charges for petroleum, gas, geothermal and greenhouse gas resource activities similar to mining leases. These charges will apply retrospectively. Amendments will allow non-payment of rates to be considered in the renewal processes for a resource authority and will provide the minister with the discretion to use security payments to offset unpaid local rates and charges.


The resource industry supports one in six Queenslanders' jobs, generates 82 per cent of the value of Queensland's exports and contributes \$1 in every \$4 to the state economy. It is important that any changes to tax regimes for industry in Queensland are done without scaring off investors. If only the Treasurer and Deputy Premier considered this. Maybe he should have actually consulted with the Minister for Resources before imposing the highest mining taxes in the world.

With regard to these amendments, it is clear that something needs to change to crack down on rogue operators who have abused the system and failed to pay councils their dues. There are no provisions for how these rates and charges will be determined and no statutory constraints on the power of local government to determine rates and charges. Councils certainly need autonomy in doing this. However, concerns raised by the QRC in their submission included the significant sovereign risks that this will place on resource operations in Queensland and the negative effect this will have on growth and competition in the resources sector. I suggest that that comes on the back of their other concerns about sovereign risk, which is now considered a part of Queensland thanks to the highest mining taxes in the world that came with this Labor government.

Queensland does not have a limit on the extent that rates can increase. The QRC has cited examples of possible rate increases of up to 743 per cent over a three-year period. For this to be determined, it is imperative that the state government consult with local government to develop a fair, sustainable and equitable system. There is currently a Queensland government guideline on equity and fairness for Queensland local governments to refer to when determining rates. This is merely a guideline that sets out an acceptable minimum standard for rates. The QRC has outlined concerns with the current system that local governments are not upholding the principles of the guideline, that there is an inability to appeal rates issues and that unreasonable increases are occurring without jurisdiction.

In their submission, the LGAQ recommended that a local government advisory panel be established as part of the Department of Resources. It is suggested that that panel be made up of experienced council representatives, including land management officers. The opposition certainly agrees with this recommendation.

I congratulate all of the new mayors and councillors across Queensland who have recently been elected. It certainly is a privilege to serve in all facets of community and society. I look forward to meeting all of the councillors and mayors across the electorate of Callide in the near future. As the debate has been guillotined and more members will not be able to speak as they wish, I place on the record that we will be opposing the Place Names Act if Labor affords us the opportunity to do so.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (11.49 am): I rise to speak in support of the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2). I will be focusing my contribution on the bill's proposed amendment to the Place Names Act 1994 to update its provisions for more efficient processes and to align with societal expectations on the naming of public places. To hear the member for Callide's contribution has made me think about a couple of things that have happened in the past and I wonder whether he supports the idea of these items being of cultural significance and historical significance to him.

In 2020 our government worked with Darumbal people to rename the offensive Black Gin Creek to Dundula, meaning gum tree in the language of the local Darumbal people. Darumbal elder Aunty Sally Vea Vea spoke of the history behind the name Black Gin Creek, and I hope the member for Callide is paying attention. She shared the painful reminder that the place held for Darumbal people. She was reported to have said that places called 'Black Gin Creek' were areas commonly known to be places

where Aboriginal women were raped and murdered by non-Indigenous men. Is that the culture and the history that the member for Callide believes should be protected? They were his words. They are the words that the member for Callide was focused on.

**Mr HEAD:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence to that imputation and ask that the member withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): I might need to get advice on that. Sorry, member for Callide, I did not hear that it was directed to you. Member for Algester, you will need to withdraw.

**Ms ENOCH:** I withdraw. When speaking about places like Black Gin Creek in Central Queensland that was renamed, Aunty Sally Veve Veve said—

They are places that hold memories of terrible pain and suffering not just for Aboriginal women but also Aboriginal men, because these things happened to their family and they are not forgotten.

These elders understand this. We see the name Black Gin Creek in different places across Queensland. If that is the history and the culture that some members opposite believe should be protected, then I think they need to have a good look at themselves.


This bill makes public consultation on a place-naming proposal more inclusive and efficient. For example, the bill removes the requirement for place-naming submissions to be in writing. The place-naming process will be more accessible, including for those with certain disabilities or for whom English is a second language. We know from the experience I have just shared about Aunty Sally Veve Veve that that same group, Darumbal, were able to recently see some changes to two mountains in Central Queensland. One was renamed Baga, after formerly being known as Mount Jim Crow, which was thought to be in reference to US racial segregation. The other was renamed Gai-i, after formerly being known as Mount Wheeler, named after Trooper Frederick Wheeler who historians have linked to several massacres in the district. This a history that some of those opposite, including the member for Callide given his contribution, believe should be protected.

**Mr HEAD:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I again take personal offence to that imputation and ask the member to withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Algester, it would facilitate the debate if you could withdraw.

**Ms ENOCH:** I withdraw. I think everybody in this House agrees that some of these very offensive and racist placenames represent a certain time in history and a culture that should not be of this time. That is why this bill is so important. The story, unfortunately, is not confined to just one location. We are seeing stories right across the state where groups of people have to be reminded of a very terrible history every day. They have to be reminded of massacres. They have to be reminded of women being raped and murdered. They have to be reminded of that by these names. That is why this bill is so important and that is why I support this bill. I commend it to the House.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Before I call the next speaker, I will read out the list of members who are on a warning. They are the members for Nanango, Mudgeeraba, Currumbin, Kawana, Broadwater, Logan, Theodore and Maryborough.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (11.56 am): While not belittling the bill or its multiple facets, I am going to confine my contribution to a really positive part of the bill. In the last sitting week, the minister was quite gracious in acknowledging the work that has been done to save issues around tenure in state government buildings.

It is stated that the policy objectives of the legislation are to improve regulatory efficiency and ensure the administration of state lands and buildings is responsive to community needs. As I said, I will be limiting my comments to the provisions that will allow sensible changes in dealing with government assets, in particular tenancies and usage. I want to make special mention of the staff, parents, students and the board of Goora Gan Steiner School based in Agnes Water. This school is led by an amazing person, Melissa Thomson, who has navigated a pathway for the school's secure tenure. Goora Gan Steiner School is located by the beach in Agnes Water with a focus on holistic education and cultural diversity. It is an accredited P-6 primary school and is the first school of its kind in the Wide Bay. The school was founded in 2015 with a blessing of Goora Gan elders, and we all know of Uncle Merv's strong connection with this school.


As enrolment numbers grew, the school was fortunate to relocate in March 2019 from its founding location to its current beachside place at the Agnes Water surf club. The Goora Gan school continues to inspire students to become compassionate, critical thinkers through innovative teaching methods. I have had the privilege of visiting and working with the staff on many occasions, and I am always extremely impressed with their welcoming and inclusive environment. They have come a very long way in a short period of time and I am proud to have such a wonderful school in the Burnett electorate.

I want to publicly thank the minister and the department for the work they have done in addressing our concerns. It is a real pleasure to work in a bipartisan way in this place to achieve positive outcomes through legislative reform. We have made sure that the winners are our community and particularly young people in this education environment.

The legislation will provide flexibility to reflect changing community needs, with more than 21,000 state land reserves being managed by trustees for a variety of community purposes. In many cases, they reflect a narrow, prescribed purpose limiting their use. I am sure many people in this place have had a similar outcome. What we have asked for over many years and what I have spoken about in this place is that, when the minister is confronted with an unforeseen community need that is not compatible with the Land Act, decisions could be made in the best interests of a community.

The Agnes Water surf club is a state owned building located on Springs Road, Agnes Water. The Agnes Water Surf Life Saving Club still holds the lease to the building, which runs until 2037. The earliest records available relate to the lease starting in 1997, which we believe is when the surf club moved to its current location. This school now has 71 students who have secure tenure. We did have real fears that this building would be vacant after the sublease issue could not be resolved. It is important that we look at this school and the lease going forward. To explain it a bit further for those who are not familiar with it, the tenure was not in keeping with educational facilities.

In conclusion, I want to make sure the minister and the department get the acknowledgement they deserve. I pay tribute to the Goora Gan Steiner School for the work they are doing. We want to thank Surf Life Saving Queensland for their cooperation in making sure the secure tenure was allowed for this educational facility to continue.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (11.59 am): I rise to speak in support of the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2023. In Queensland, the Land Act is the primary legislation for allocating and creating interests in state land and for the management of that land. Given my background as a planner before this life in politics, I am a big believer in the importance of land and its stewardship, care and maintenance as well as upholding good sustainability principles in the way that we manage our land. Land plays an important role in our economic development. I am really pleased that this bill will make some important changes—albeit, some might say, vanilla or boring changes—to an act that some might not see as the most important act that we have debated in this place, but I think it is very important for all Queenslanders to consider the way we manage our land in this state. State land is important to Queensland. It plays an instrumental role in supporting economic growth and community activities.

I am particularly pleased about the provision in the bill that enables the minister to dedicate a reserve for a purpose other than a community purpose, having regard to community need and public interests. Reserves form part of an important tenure in Queensland. Being able to dedicate a reserve for a purpose other than a community purpose will allow more flexibility to have regard to community need and public interest.

I also highlight the provision enabling a pathway to freehold conversion for non-Indigenous deeds of grant in trust. The amendments provide a process for initiating freehold conversion, but freehold tenure itself is not guaranteed. It is an important part of the provision that freehold tenure is not guaranteed. Tenure conversion will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will require a most appropriate tenure evaluation under section 16 of the Land Act, which includes having regard to the objectives of the act. The objectives of the act provide that land must be managed with consideration for and balancing of the cultural values of the land. I also support the provision that will replace the existing list of specific community purposes under the Land Act with six categories of community purposes. That will allow more flexibility around the types of community purposes than the existing list provides. That flexibility is going to be important for community purposes and state land into the future.


The bill amends the Place Names Act 1994 to provide clarification and broaden place-naming considerations to reflect important contemporary issues. The bill will reduce the regulatory burden associated with the naming of a place and will make the decision-making process more inclusive,

flexible, objective and transparent. The amendments will enable the prompt removal of place names that are offensive or harmful to a community, or part of a community, supporting the proactive implementation of outcomes from other government initiatives and policies such as Path to Treaty.

The bill achieves its objectives as well by amending the resource acts to insert some new provisions to make the payment of applicable local government rates and charges as mandatory conditions of a resource authority. I am incredibly pleased that the resource authority and the payment of rates are going to be inextricably linked and that resource companies will be required to pay those local government rates. The provisions will also be amended in each act to allow the minister to use the resource authorities' security payments to remedy unpaid local government rates and charges.

I acknowledge the member for Lytton. When reading through the transcripts of the inquiry hearings, I was really pleased to read her questions to the Resources Council and the Local Government Association of Queensland, particularly with respect to the payment of local government rates. We hear the Resources Council squealing about paying too much in royalties and paying too much in rates. These are all ways in which the resources operators can contribute back to our local communities. To claim that rates are too high is a little bit rich coming from some of those big corporations.

The amendments to provisions in each act will allow the minister to consider non-payment of local government rates and charges during the renewal process for the resource authority. I wholeheartedly support this. If you do not pay your rates, you should not have the authority to mine or have that resource authority in Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (12.04 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I will be making it short today because this bill has been guillotined, as we know, which makes it difficult to go into some of the complexities in the bill. I start with placenames. For me, the issue is not so much that we should not be looking at some of these names. For example, in Toowoomba we have Table Top, referred to locally as Meewah and I do not think anybody has any strong objections to having a discussion about renaming it Meewah. However, at the moment, if people go up there and hurt themselves then someone has to call a helicopter. If that is not the registered place for the helicopter to arrive at or if the name is not gazetted on the map and the change has not been made through a proper consultation process then there is an issue.

When we were looking at the Second Range Crossing infrastructure, a committee of interested stakeholders was set up. I was one of those people. We discussed and debated whether one of the bridges should be called Giabal-Jarowair Bridge, marking the local custodians of the land in that area. We did that and that was great. There is also Multuggerah Way. Multuggerah was an Aboriginal warrior who showed people up the range and the viaduct was named after him. Those are important things that should mark a place and the history that belongs to all Australians. Undeniably, Australia's history is Indigenous. If you go back to pre-colonial times then, obviously, it is an Indigenous history. There was some dispute about one of the bridges which I wanted to be called Ugarapul, but it is called Helidon Spa Bridge because there was some debate amongst various local groups as to whether or not that is actually their territory. These things are far from settled.

For me, the most important thing is that if we are going to consider changing placenames then it should be done in a sensible way, with stakeholder consultation and with adequate compensation to local councils that might have to remake maps, change websites and print new signs, incurring a great deal of cost. It should not be done at the whim of a bureaucrat or at the whim of a minister. It should be done with the local community's consultation, support and understanding as to why that is particularly important. The minister previously spoke about renaming some placenames that I would support because I think they are offensive and should be renamed. However, that also needs to be done cautiously because, if they do mark a massacre, perhaps the name should be kept so that the massacre is noted as part of the history. However, I am not the person to decide that; that should be for the local community and the local groups that are affected by that placename.

For me, it is all about consultation. There are several elements of this bill where the consultation has been poor, where stakeholders have not been adequately engaged and where government is trying to centralise control. Over and above that, we then find that the debate on these issues is being curtailed in this place. Either we have a functioning democracy or we have a dictatorship. I believe that correct stakeholder engagement, correct processes, genuine consultation over a period and public debate should be held on matters that are important, whether they be historical or future looking such as how we are going to treat a placename going forward. It is important that we consider it.

I now go to the second part of the bill to do resource extraction and various people not paying appropriate rates. I think we all agree that fair and reasonable rates should be paid by someone who has been given a right to extract resources out of Queensland. I do not think anybody disputes that. It is a matter of what is fair and reasonable, what is decent consultation and what is appropriate so that it does not create a sovereign risk. We want people to invest in our resource extraction. We want people to come to Queensland and see us as a jurisdiction where they can do business. Unfortunately, on several occasions now, without consultation, without discussion and without looking to long-term future consequences this government has made decisions that increase our sovereign risk.

We all know that government controlled elements affect our rating in the Fraser Institute—an institute that rates resource jurisdictions against each other for sensible investment—and that Queensland is dropping down that list based on government controlled legislation. What I am saying is: yes, those landholders who have been given rights to extract or explore should pay the appropriate rates. I do not think anybody can dispute that. It needs to be done in a sensible way. It needs to be done with good consultation so that it does not create a sovereign risk that means that people do not want to invest in our local communities.

The one thing that would be worse than not being paid rates from someone who is there and having to mount a long process to get those rates out of them, would be to have nobody willing to invest in those areas at all because it is seen as just too risky. 'I will go to another jurisdiction such as West Australia or South Australia' that is much higher—in the 20s above us—in terms of the ratings from the Fraser Institute. We do not want them to go there. We want them to invest in Queensland. We want our local councils to be able to have appropriate rates and charges. We want to be able to get royalties out, but it needs to be done in a consultative, sensible way, and that is the flaw of this government. It does not want to consult; it does not want to listen; it does not want to understand. It just wants to tell, dictate and go for short-term politicisation so that it can grasp onto power. That is the reason I find some parts of this bill very difficult to support.


With that, so that others have a chance to speak, I will cut my contribution short because the Labor Party does not want everybody to speak. I do not know why they want to get up and speak; they should be busy letting the members who do not want to speak from the opposition bench speak.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Member for Logan, was that you interjecting?

**Mr POWER:** It was not.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will take your word on that.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (12.11 pm): I rise today in support of the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2023. I am delighted to rise after listening to the contribution made by my colleague, who was also on the committee, in respect to the consultation for the bill. It is disappointing to hear the member go on and on about consultation and how we do not do enough consultation. I recall many instances in this House where all the opposition have done is complain about the fact that we do consultations. Again, what is it that you want—do you want consultation or don't you? This bill required a significant amount of consultation and I participated in that. I would like to comment on the information that he was giving in regard to the payment of rates, and I will address that later in my speech.

I would like to point out that there are more than 21,000 state land reserves managed by trustees for a variety of community purposes—for example, parks, public halls and sporting grounds. We all have plenty of those in our own electorates. Under the current regulatory framework, these lands have a narrowly prescribed purpose which limits how these trustees must use the land. I have a prime example. I have a rugby club, the great mighty Bugs—a wonderful club. They have a great facility on the bay and it is a wonderful spot. Last year, our Bayside Community Fund wanted to host an event at the clubhouse. They could not do it. It required a large amount of paperwork for them to be able to do that because they had to apply for permission to use the park or the rugby fields for an alternative use, and this bill will address that. That is a good story for all of our communities across Queensland.

It will mean that we can make better use of land that is in state hands—which as taxpayers we all own—in a more user-friendly way that makes it easier for us to go about our business. We will be modernising the administrative framework to give users of this state land more agency to make those




decisions, which will benefit the entire community and those particular community groups. I think that is a significant achievement of this bill. I know that in my community it will make a very big difference. The amendments in the bill will support trustees, most of which are government departments, local governments or statutory bodies, to manage trust land in the interests of their communities.

The Land Act has not necessarily kept pace with the contemporary needs of the state and it imposes restrictive limits on how state land can be allocated and used. The government must be able to handle freehold land efficiently to deliver critical priority projects and to provide for changing community needs. This bill will cut red tape by reducing the duplication of existing decision-making around land use. Again, we consulted with the community and this is the feedback we received. We are removing the requirement for the Department of Resources to consider the most appropriate use of the piece of land and instead trustees can simply rely on the planning framework and other relevant laws that already govern land use.

Another significant community benefit is that the bill will allow for the diversification of leases for pastoral purposes. This will give pastoralists the opportunity to establish complementary uses for their land like glamping or farmstays. This great initiative will support a supplementary income and provide a steady income stream for those pastoralists.

As we have heard, the bill will also enable recreational names to be changed more easily and it will improve the resources regulatory framework to ensure the mandatory payment of local government rates and charges to support our regional communities. As all of us have said, including my colleague, the member for Keppel, the rates that are paid make a contribution to the lifestyle and the betterment of the communities that we all live in. If resource companies have not been paying local government rates to the communities they are operating in, this can now be taken into consideration if they make other applications for further mining. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (12.16 pm): I rise to make my contribution on the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2023. The Greens will not oppose this bill. It makes a raft of changes to detailed land tenure provisions that are not, on their own, problematic. But the impact of these changes will be dictated by the government of the day, so I am compelled to speak on this bill because frankly I do not trust in this government, and certainly not those on the opposition benches, to protect and promote the use of public land for purposes that genuinely enrich our local communities and the lives of residents. Instead, time and again, governments led by the two major parties have sold out their local communities and residents so that private companies can reap enormous profits from public land.

The government admits that the changes, intended to streamline the grant of unallocated state land, would make it easier to repeat the handover of public land to multibillion dollar corporations for example—even where those companies are criminally implicated gambling corporations like Star Entertainment Group across the way here. We are told to just trust that there is some undisclosed public benefit to a mega corporation occupying beautiful riverfront land here in our capital while it leaches off our communities. If this is the kind of ‘essential project’ that is expected to benefit from removing limitations to granting land in freehold title, then I think we all have reason to be seriously concerned. That project should never have been approved but, at the very least, Labor should have cancelled Star’s licence after the revelations of its role in criminality, money laundering and corruption. If they care about public confidence, they should release the details of the deals with Star and its consortium partners, including the casino licence—the 99-year lease—community impact statements, consultation reports, cost benefit analysis or business case and probity checks.

The bill broadens powers and erodes checks and balances in relation to the authorised use of land so that the minister may dedicate reserves for any purpose to address an apparent community need that is in the public interest. The state or statutory bodies can approve use of trust land that is inconsistent with the dedicated purpose without ministerial authority. That is accompanied by the codification of the general practice to include economic considerations as part of an assessment of public interest. That in itself begs the question: whose economic benefit are we talking about? Because right now it does not feel like the wallets of everyday Queenslanders are a priority to the major parties. We instead see state and local governments championing the interests of private corporations, including by handing over public land that should be open and available for use by all Queenslanders.

I am reminded of the debacle in relation to the old Sandgate fire and rescue station that was promised to the local community back in 2021 and now, at a sale price well below its valuation, has been turned into a flooring showroom by the Catholic Church and will generate income for the parish. Do we really trust their judgement on what is in the public interest? When is it appropriate to override

the dedicated purpose of land held in reserve for the benefit of the public, on trust for the public? Is this really about coffee carts on sports days or is it just going to be manipulated to the advantage of corporate interests and major donors?


Another useful example in this context is the failed zip-line project on Mount Coot-tha that would have seen 28 hectares of vital inner-city bushland cleared. This is land that, under a deed of grant in trust, is to be used as a site for a public park and for no other purpose whatsoever. That is stipulated in the DOGIT for Mount Coot-tha. Mount Coot-tha is an iconic part of Queensland's capital, providing habitat for a raft of species, beautiful walking trails and opportunities to engage with nature as well as having cultural significance for First Nations peoples. This speech was written before it featured in what might be the ultimate episode of *Bluey*. I am really glad Mount Coot-tha finally got a guernsey on that most iconic of shows.

It was only the sustained and concerted efforts of the local community that prevented the disastrous zip-line from going ahead, but it should never have been on the cards. Now the mountain is at risk again with the LNP-led Brisbane City Council granting approval for a permanent commercial outdoor light-and-sound show in the Botanic Gardens. The Lumina Night Walk, as it is being called, would have major ramifications for the flora and fauna that rely on the gardens and local residents who live in the surrounding area. Local communities should not have to fight tooth and nail to preserve public land for public purposes and prevent the inappropriate privatisation of those vital spaces.

Speaking of vital and important places, I turn to the changes the bill makes around naming processes, including a restructured and broader list of issues to be considered when making placename decisions and dispensing with consultation in certain circumstances, especially when it relates to discontinuing the use of a name that is distressing to a community. We unreservedly applaud these changes, especially where they will enable the effective change of placenames that are racist and inappropriate, and a shift towards using Indigenous placenames where appropriate, which is a vitally important step in the service of truth-telling.

Finally, I have to comment on the amendments to the resources legislation that stipulate that the payment of local government rates and charges is a condition of various resource authorities in line with the current approach for mineral resource authorities. These are important amendments that we are very glad to see, but it is absolutely emblematic of the attitude of the petroleum and gas industry in this state that they are even necessary. The exploitation of state resources is not a right, as the fossil fuel industry has boldly assumed for generations now. The operations of those industries have come at an enormous cost, including the desecration of lands and waters without free, prior and informed consent of First Nations people and the manifold impacts of climate change both now and into the distant future. The payment of local government rates and charges is the absolute bare minimum and so, too, is the payment of royalties commensurate with the harm done and the benefit obtained by these mega corporations from supposedly state resources.

Increasing royalties on the super profits of coal companies alone, as the government has done, is just not good enough. In 2022 the state government neglected to reform the royalty structure for the gas industry which, like the coal industry, was experiencing enormous windfall profits from LNG exports that reached record highs in 2022-23. IEEFA estimated that the government could have gained nearly \$5 billion in extra royalty revenue annually from the gas and LNG industries if it had adopted a scheme similar to that applied to the coal industry. We say the government could and should go even further and triple gas royalties and raise the royalty rate for coal and petroleum including LNG to a flat 35 per cent. It is indefensible for this government to throw its hands in the air and say, 'We couldn't possibly build more public housing, implement a rent freeze or fully fund our health or education systems, provide free breakfasts and lunches at school or free and frequent public transport because we don't have the money for it.' Raise royalties, make them fair across the board for the entire resources sector and fund the things Queenslanders need for a good life.

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (12.25 pm): I rise to support the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2023 and I commend the department and the minister for their work on this important legislation. The key objectives of the bill are to improve regulatory efficiency and to ensure that the administration of state land and the place-naming framework remain contemporary and responsive to community needs.

Queensland is a big state and state land makes up about 60 per cent of it. Queenslanders are doing a lot on this land from economic productivity to primary production and community spaces, and Parliament House itself sits on state land. The bill contains a series of streamlining amendments that

clarify policy, making it less complex. Specifically, the bill amends the Place Names Act, which has been mentioned by a number of members in this place, and it will introduce some new rules about naming places in Queensland. That is good because change in this area is really needed. It is something that we have to respond to for changing community expectations, in particular where placenames are offensive.

Members in this House might not know—and I am sure the member for Callide is probably unaware—that since 2015 the government has changed five highly offensive placenames with 10 others being discontinued. I had a look at the list of those placenames and, frankly, they were really quite disturbing. It is disturbing that they have remained in place until recently. There can be no argument that those 15 names were offensive. They contained what were, in effect, racial slurs. I commend the minister and the department for going through the extensive process to change them, and it was an extensive process. That is also part of the reason why we are bringing forward this bill. I say: well done, Minister.

In response to some of the statements made by the member for Callide, who raised concerns about the cost and the time in consultation, I would encourage him to have a look at the names that we have already changed in Queensland. I would challenge him to highlight which name he believes he would not change.


**A government member** interjected.

**Mr MARTIN:** I cannot imagine he would. I do not think he would remain the member for Callide for very long if he did, frankly. I think his contribution in this place has been certainly under par.

I also want to respond to his comments that were not really a blistering attack on corporations; it was more of a jelly arm sort of attack. The member for Callide's big complaint is that apparently an airport boarding screen said 'Meanjin' and not 'Brisbane'. I do not know about other members in this place but every time I buy a ticket to get on an aeroplane I know where I am going. It will say 'Brisbane' on—guess where? The ticket that has been purchased! If people do not use a paper ticket, they can always log into the app where it will say 'Brisbane'—in case they go to the Mackay Airport and perhaps forget where they are going. I found that contribution particularly confusing. In addition, usually whenever I have seen the name 'Meanjin' it is right beside the name 'Brisbane' or perhaps the screen flashes from one to the other. It was certainly an unusual contribution.

I also say to the member for Callide that, now he has taken a stance of attacking the big corporations, maybe the LNP can stop taking donations from the big end of town. I do find it ironic that the LNP are certainly happy to support big corporations when it comes to reducing wages—that is fine—when it comes to offshoring manufacturing—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Order! Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time allocated for this stage of the bill having expired, I call the minister to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals) (12.29 pm), in reply: I thank all honourable members for their participation in this debate. I am pleased that these important reforms have broad support from all members who have spoken on the bill and I extend my appreciation for this endorsement. However, I found it absolutely astounding that the member for Callide complained about the bill being too big—120 pages worth of work. That is the first time I have heard of any member in this House complaining that the bill was too big and that in fact the Labor Party has done too much, so I will take that as a compliment rather than as an attack.

Sixty per cent of Queensland is state land administered under the Land Act and this land is allocated for a range of purposes from leases, permits and licences and it is trust land reserves and deeds of grant in trust. As many honourable members have noted throughout the debate of this bill, the amendments in this bill modernise the state land framework, making it responsive to contemporary and evolving community needs and ensuring it is administratively effective. The government consulted widely on the Land Act components of the bill prior to its introduction. This consultation included industry groups such as AgForce Queensland, the Queensland Farmers' Federation, the Queensland Law Society and the Local Government Association of Queensland, or LGAQ. I understand the Department of Resources also met with representatives of the Brisbane City Council to discuss matters raised by that council during the inquiry by the Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee.

I am pleased that the Department of Resources will convene a Local Government Advisory Panel in partnership with the Local Government Association of Queensland. This panel will be an important forum for local governments to work with the department on the bill's implementation, whether they be large South-East Queensland councils or remote area councils from the far west to the far northern parts of Queensland. State land is an important resource to support the delivery of infrastructure such as Queensland's Big Build. The bill will also support the countless other initiatives that support economic and tourism development, First Nations outcomes and social and affordable housing occurring right across Queensland.

This bill removes regulatory duplication from land allocation decisions, supports appropriate diversification on state land and gives trustees greater autonomy to make decisions about the use of land. It should not be necessary for my department to require that another department use land for a public purpose. Efficiency for Queensland taxpayers is what I want to see more of. This bill is removing duplication and saving taxpayers' money.

There are more than 26,000 reserves in Queensland with an area exceeding one million hectares. Some 94 per cent of trustees responsible for managing these reserves are local governments or state government agencies. These reforms will support local governments as trustees of state land to respond to their communities and I look forward to hearing about the various initiatives that make better use of our reserves for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

A core objective of the bill is to give local government trustees the tools and decision-making authority to administer trust land in the interests of their communities. I note the general support indicated by the member for Burdekin and many other members in the debate for simplifying the approval process. Councils will be able to get on with using reserves to enhance their local communities. It is appropriate that we trust local governments to act efficiently, effectively and responsively to address the wishes of the communities in which they work. Some local governments will be eager and quick to start using their new powers under the bill while others will need more support. Importantly, the bill does not oblige local governments to utilise the additional powers and autonomy. Existing processes in the Land Act will remain for those councils that wish to involve the state in the management of land that they manage.

During the debate the member for Burdekin raised concerns about the risk of possible fires associated with electric vehicle charging infrastructure and community batteries on state land. I thank the member for Burdekin for providing an example that perfectly illustrates one of the many worthwhile policy problems that the bill addresses. Safe and efficient infrastructure is undoubtedly a matter for government. However, trying to use the Land Act to address safety issues regarding how electric vehicles are charged makes little sense. The location and safety of electric vehicle charging stations is best left to other regulatory instruments of government and not the Land Act.

I welcome the support from those opposite for the additional flexibility that the bill provides for holders of pastoral leases to add additional purposes to their leases. This will enable the diversification of farm income for these leases by removing any unnecessary and unfair restriction. By amending the Land Title Act, the bill ensures that land set aside as freehold for public purposes during subdivision does not revert to unallocated state land. Land that is allocated rather than unallocated is land that can work productively for Queensland. This measure will commence by proclamation to ensure that local governments and industry have time to adapt to these changes. Local governments will still have access to sufficient land for infrastructure networks.

The bill makes several changes to the Place Names Act to make it modern, flexible and efficient. I thank the member for Algeester for her emotional contribution today. She actually taught me some history about some of these names, but I am again astounded by the member for Callide's contribution. There is a list of 41 offensive names, and I am happy to table that if necessary but I think it is in our information.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Place names proposed to be changed without section 9—Place Names Act Public Consultation' [\[566\]](#).

After a quick calculation, there are 16 'Black Gin Creeks' that we want to change and there are seven 'Gin Creeks' that we want to change as well as various other names right across regional Queensland. I encourage any member that if they want to look at those names I do not think there would be too much opposition to what we want to do, but the member for Callide's contribution astounds me. I have provided this parliament with a list of measures that will help decision-makers navigate

through sometimes complex and emotive naming issues. Under the proposed framework, decision-makers can turn their mind to socio-economic impacts, appropriate consultation periods and processes and the need for any transitional arrangements.

The member for Burdekin sought advice on what constitutes 'substantial interest' to the community or to any particular part of the community in deciding not to publish a placename proposal. Examples where substantial interest may be considered in determining not to publish a proposal might include minor changes to the boundary of a locality or a placename proposal dealing with a remote place. The views of key stakeholders, including the relevant local government, will be sought prior to deciding whether to use this provision. The member for Burdekin also sought advice on what would trigger the minister to release an unpublished proposal. This is a safeguard measure allowing the minister to ensure that the community is not being denied the opportunity to have input. As an example, a local government may advise the department that a placenaming proposal may have a level of sensitivity or awareness that would make an open consultation on the naming proposal beneficial.

I want decision-making to be more objective and transparent. These reforms I have described separate the roles of the minister and the chief executive to remove any potential conflict of interest. The decision-maker will no longer be responsible for developing a proposal. This is not about the minister abdicating their power, as the member for Burdekin has claimed, but is about providing better governance through more transparent decision-making processes. I reassure the parliament that this is not about politicising the decision-making process. Rather, it recognises the importance of government commitments and initiatives that promote an inclusive Queensland. The bill supports accountability, reduces duplication and provides for better governance by allowing the delegation of a minister's power, but only to another minister.

To support local governments and regional communities, the bill amends resource acts to ensure that resource companies pay their local government rates and charges. Many resource companies do the right thing, but there are instances where that goes unpaid. These amendments make the payment of those rates and charges mandatory conditions similar to the provisions of the Mineral Resources Act. Let me be clear: we are not changing the local government ratings framework. It is necessary for local governments to continue to have autonomy and flexibility to develop their own rating systems.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Under the provisions of the business program motion agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, the question is that the bill be now read a second time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

### Consideration in Detail

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time allocated for this stage of the bill having expired, I now put all remaining questions. In accordance with sessional order 4, the House must now consider clauses or remaining clauses, schedules and any amendments circulated by the minister in charge of the bill.

Question put—That clauses 1 to 131 and schedule 1, as read, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 131 and schedule 1, as read, agreed to.

### Third Reading

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

### Long Title

Question put—That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## HOUSING AVAILABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY (PLANNING AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT) BILL

## BUILDING INDUSTRY FAIRNESS (SECURITY OF PAYMENT) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill resumed from 11 October 2023 (see p. 2913) and Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill resumed from 14 February (see p. 144)

### Second Reading (Cognate Debate)



**Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works) (12.42 pm): I move—

That the bills be now read a second time.

Following introduction, the bills were referred to the former State Development and Regional Industries Committee and the Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee for consideration. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committees for their detailed consideration of both bills. I would also like to thank the organisations and individuals who made submissions to the committee and participated in the public hearings. The committee made five recommendations in relation to the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill. The committee's first recommendation was that the bill be passed and I thank the committee for their support. Today I table the government's response to the committee's report. I propose to move some amendments to the bill during consideration in detail to address the committee's recommendations and respond to feedback received through submissions to the committee's inquiry into the bill.

*Tabled paper:* State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 51, 57th Parliament—Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill 2023, government response [\[567\]](#).

The committee's second recommendation was that my department consult on amendments to the planning regulation and supporting instruments outside of the local government caretaker period. The government supports this recommendation. The local government elections have concluded and consultation on these amendments will begin shortly.

The committee's third recommendation was to clarify arrangements for state facilitated development in cases involving decisions by the Planning and Environment Court. The government supports this recommendation and I will move amendments during consideration in detail of the bill to ensure that state facilitated development decisions do not conflict with court decisions on the same application. An amendment to the bill will prevent duplicate applications and allow new or substantially different applications to use the state facilitated development pathway.

The committee's fourth recommendation was to reduce the review period for urban investigation zones from five years to two years. In response to matters raised by the committee and key stakeholders, including the Local Government Association of Queensland, regarding the proposed urban investigation zones, I will be moving amendments to remove the urban investigation tool from the bill. Removing this tool will enable additional consultation with councils and industry to identify the best mechanisms for supporting local governments in planning for growth areas and managing out-of-sequence development in their communities.

Finally, the committee's recommendation 5 asks that I clarify whether the amendments related to dual heritage places will sufficiently protect local heritage values. The aim of these provisions is to streamline heritage assessments by avoiding duplication and inconsistencies between state and local governments without undermining local heritage values. In cases where a local heritage place is also listed as a Queensland heritage place, known as dual heritage places, both levels of government may assess cultural heritage values leading to duplicate assessments and potential conflicts. The policy intent is for the state to take the lead in assessing and deciding heritage matters for dual-listed heritage places. I will be moving an amendment to the bill to clarify the roles of state and local government clearly in the assessment process.

I turn now to the detail of the bill and, firstly, the new acquisition and easement tools. This bill enables the state to acquire land or create easements for essential development infrastructure like water, transport, parks and community facilities. This can only occur where necessary for development and after all reasonable attempts to obtain owner agreement have failed. The new acquisition and

easement tools empower the state to address housing supply barriers caused by land fragmentation by acquiring land or creating easements for essential infrastructure. This supports coordinated developments where negotiations with landholders have stalled.

This bill establishes a new streamlined alternative assessment pathway for state priority developments with a current focus on expediting the supply of affordable residential housing. As stated in the committee's report, the new state facilitated development pathway has received broad support from the housing and development sector, including Q Shelter, the Planning Institute of Australia, the Property Council of Australia and the Urban Development Institute of Australia. Further clarification is needed on the criteria for declaring a state facilitated development, which will be outlined in the planning regulation.

This bill makes various operational amendments to the Planning Act aimed at enhancing planning efficiencies in Queensland. This includes establishing a head of power for the planning regulation to declare that a material change of use of a premises is 'temporary accepted development' for a set period of time, allowing specified premises to operate without development approval for a limited period. This measure is intended for urgent needs like disaster response with the understanding that the use is temporary and will cease after the designated period. Applicants may seek development approval during this period which, if granted, nullifies the temporary status.

This bill seeks to improve the operation of development control plans, an historic planning tool under the repealed Integrated Planning Act 1997. This bill amends the Planning Act to allow for development applications within a development control plan area to be made, assessed and decided against the Planning Act. In response to a Planning and Environment Court judgement in 2022 the bill confirms that development approvals previously granted in a development control plan area remain valid. This bill simplifies the planning minister's authority to direct local governments to amend local planning schemes without prior notice. Ministerial directions must align with regulation, be consistent with state interests and undergo sufficient public consultation. Amendments to the minister's guidelines and rules will streamline this process intended as a last resort after collaborative efforts with local governments. This bill enhances the applicable event and temporary use licence framework introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, offering increased flexibility. This includes the ability to revoke a declaration, extend licence periods or cancel licences once the event concludes.

This bill modernises and streamlines urban encroachment provisions to reduce regulatory burden and enhance business certainty for key employment generating activities affected by increasing urban development. The bill provides amendments to improve the registration and re-registration process and the public consultation requirements for making the amending registration are clarified. The bill removes the requirement for public notices in newspapers, allowing electronic submissions, suspending appeal periods and clarifying owner consent for state reserve development. It also makes minor changes to the Economic Development Act 2012, Integrated Resort Development Act 1987 and the Sanctuary Cove Resort Act 1985 eliminating the need for thoroughfare closure notices in newspapers, redirecting them to body corporate websites.

I would like to address some issues raised in the LNP's statement of reservation. The LNP raised concerns across several areas of the bill, including consultation, the state facilitated development process, urban investigation zones, alignment with the South East Queensland Regional Plan and dual heritage matters. This bill and the tools contained within have undergone extensive stakeholder consultation. Additional public consultation will commence shortly on the detailed aspects of the bill outlined in the planning regulation and related instruments. This consultation is taking place after the local government caretaker period and election, underscoring the significance of stakeholder input in shaping these planning reforms.

The committee made one recommendation in relation to the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The committee's recommendation was that the bill be passed and I thank the committee for its support and note there is no need for a government response to be tabled. I turn now to the detail of that bill. Firstly, the bill will amend the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act to clarify which subcontractor parties are beneficiaries of a trust. The amendments move away from the present concept of 'protected work' and instead focus on protected parties and their licensing requirements. By aligning the trust account framework to the long established and well-understood licensing requirements, the amendment will assist industry to better understand which subcontractors are protected by the framework.

The amendments also simplify the trust record keeping requirements. We heard from industry that the current prescriptive process limits flexibility for software and business systems. The amendments will allow for more practical and outcome-based requirements to be prescribed via regulation and guidelines.

The bill also simplifies the independent review requirements for trust accounts. Currently, trustees are required to engage an independent auditor to carry out reviews of retention trust accounts. To make this review process easier and more cost effective, this bill will empower other appropriately qualified professionals, such as qualified accountants, to carry out this function. We are also streamlining the review process to maintain a reasonable balance between rigour and the workload associated with a review.

Finally, the bill clarifies several transitional areas in response to industry queries. In particular, the bill confirms that, as new phases of the trust account framework roll out, they will not apply retrospectively. I am pleased to say that industry is largely supportive of these amendments. In fact, many of the improvements were identified by industry as part of the ongoing monitoring of implementation of the framework.

The bill also formalises key actions taken in response to the QBCC governance review and refocuses the QBCC on licencing and compliance so that it can be more efficient and effective in enabling industry and protecting consumers. These amendments include confirming the new seven-member board size and providing for the publication of the board's conflict of interest register, changes that are already in place from an administrative perspective, as well as transferring responsibility for setting licensing qualifications under the Building Act and the Plumbing and Drainage Act to the department.

The bill will also make some minor amendments to the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act, Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act, Building Act, Plumbing and Drainage Act, Architects Act and the Professional Engineers Act to clarify existing provisions, support industry and consumers, facilitate information sharing between agencies and improve regulatory processes.

I would like to address to issues raised in the LNP's statement of reservation. The LNP raised broad concerns around the construction industry, housing, the extended rollout of the trust account framework and the effectiveness of the framework. I take the opportunity to note our investment in the construction industry through our free TAFE and apprenticeships programs and our commitment to delivering more homes for Queenslanders, including building one million new homes by 2046.


I am also pleased to report to those opposite that this bill is all about supporting industry and continuing the ongoing rollout of the trust account framework. Trust accounts work. Since the framework was introduced in 2018, more than \$25.1 billion has been secured for subbies under more than 1,400 contracts. The LNP had two reservations directly related to this bill: first, that including GST in the money set aside for subbies would burden businesses; and, second, that there is a need for more software to support industry compliance.

In relation to the first, GST was always intended to be included in the money set aside for subbies. This bill simply confirms that original policy position. Without the GST component, there could be a shortfall in secured funds. In relation to the second direct reservation, I remind the LNP that this bill enables more software development. The department is already engaging with over 30 software providers to support the development of new software solutions and will continue to do so as this bill is implemented.

Today marks a significant milestone for Queensland. With new easement tools and streamlined state-led assessments, we are removing barriers to housing supply, especially for affordable homes where they are needed most. This government is taking decisive action to build more homes faster, aligning our Homes for Queenslanders Plan and the South East Queensland Regional Plan with legislative reforms in the bill for debate today.

While we action these plans, we are sticking to our principles. We have always said that people should be paid for the work that they do. We will keep making sure tradies building homes for Queenslanders—and larger scale projects—get paid for their efforts. With this bill we are not just supporting tradies; we are making sure the whole construction industry has simpler, clearer processes for payment so that everyone is better off. I thank all those who contributed to the committee process for each of these bills. Together, we are unlocking opportunities and building better communities across Queensland. I commend the bills to the House.



 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.54 pm): A priority for any government should be to ensure Queenslanders have a safe and secure roof over their head, but, after the Labor government for nine years, that is not the case for many Queenslanders. Unfortunately, the housing crisis became worse under the Labor government and its policies. As I will explain during my contribution today, we only need to look at this particular bill and the amendments being rushed in to try and correct mistakes made by the former minister who, incidentally, is now Premier of the state of Queensland. Premier Miles introduced this planning bill into the House against all the advice from the stakeholders involved with housing and planning, but minister Miles—at the time responsible for housing and planning requirements—decided to proceed and introduce the bill. Now, unfortunately for this minister, this minister has to come in here and try to clean up the mess. In the past nine years haven't we seen Labor ministers coming into this place time and time again to clean up their mess?

If only the Labor government had listened to the LNP members on the parliamentary committee who said that these issues were going to be issues. The Labor members of the committee rejected those issues and said the bill should be passed. I congratulate our LNP members on their statement of reservation because they highlighted this issue and implored the government to put these issues on ice and delay them. The member for Lockyer, Mr Jim McDonald, and the member for Burleigh, Mr Michael Hart, signed a statement of reservation which particularly expressed concern about the urban investigative zone which the minister is now basically omitting from the whole bill. I will get to this in a minute.

As I said, unfortunately the housing crisis has worsened under the Labor government. Record numbers of Queenslanders are living in their cars, tents, parks and under bridges. The Labor Party would have us believe that COVID caused this housing crisis. It did not. COVID did not cause the housing crisis; the Labor government caused the housing crisis because of nine years of inaction and bad policy framework and settings and, I might add, incompetent ministers, including the Premier, anointed by the union movement, who was the minister responsible for planning and state development and could not get this right. As I said, before being anointed by union officials as the Premier, Steven Miles was the minister directly responsible for planning, local government, state development and infrastructure. Is it any wonder that we now have an issue with not enough housing, not enough land and lots released for building, not enough infrastructure to go with the houses that need to be built and local governments basically saying through the LGAQ that this bill should not be passed? Who is to blame? It is Premier Steven Miles and the Labor government.

Premier Steven Miles was the minister responsible for all of the issues—state development, lack of infrastructure, not consulting with the Local Government Association of Queensland and local governments and planning. Premier Miles was the minister responsible for all of that. If anyone in the Labor government could have done something about the housing crisis, it would have been minister Steven Miles. He had all the powers at his disposal to do something about the housing crisis, but he did not.

**Mr Stevens:** The buck stops with him.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. The buck stopped with Premier Steven Miles when he was the minister responsible. Premier Steven Miles as minister failed Queenslanders. He failed the homeless. Labor failed Queenslanders. This is a housing crisis like none other: working families unable to secure rentals; working families unable to pay for rentals; Queenslanders struggling to pay their mortgage; Queenslanders struggling to pay for electricity to have the lights on their houses; Queenslanders unable to afford the rental increases; and, of course, the most vulnerable in our communities pushed back even further by the Labor government and its policies.

The Australian dream of owning your own home looks further out of reach than ever before for many Queenslanders. People, including those in the younger generation, are losing hope that they ever will be able to afford to buy their own home in Queensland. If it is Labor Party policy just to have everyone renting and in social housing then that is not aspirational. There should be a choice for many people. Those vulnerable in our communities need a roof over their head through social housing. Those who aspire to home ownership should be given every opportunity to live that dream, but, unfortunately, that dream is further and further away because of the Labor Party and its incompetent ministers.

People are losing hope. This bill we are debating today does not give hope. Why could the Minister for Housing not even speak for 30 minutes on the two bills we are debating today—the housing availability and affordability and planning bill and the QBCC bill, being debated cognately—or bring herself to talk about the biggest issue facing Queenslanders: the housing crisis and the cost-of-living crisis? If I were that minister, I would be ashamed of the Labor Party's record.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Member for Kawana, can I ask you to move that debate be adjourned?


**Mr BLEIJIE:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I heard the members interjecting. It is lunch time. That is their priority.

Debate, on motion of Mr Bleijie, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

## MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

### Miles Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Today we witnessed the Premier attempting to distance himself from the failures of the government he has been front and centre of for more than nine years. Today the Premier admitted he has deserted the field, but he could not answer when and he could not answer why. Today Queenslanders were given a myriad of reasons why they deserve better than this government. In one hour during question time Queenslanders were given a myriad of reasons why this government is rotting before their eyes. I want to begin my contribution with health, because based on the words of the Premier and the health minister it is clear they have given up on healing the Queensland Health crisis.

The Premier made the same excuses and again refused to acknowledge that things have got worse year on year. Year after year this government has failed on every major metric. There was a damning report into the death of Wayne Irving. Rather than offer sympathy and sorrow, the Premier chose apathy and excuses. During one of the most devastating times of their lives when the family needed leadership, the leader of this state chose to cherry-pick elements of the report. The report has highlighted how deep the Queensland Health crisis is and the pressure our hardworking staff are under. That report states—

The lack of dedicated nursing and medical oversight of patients on the ramp increases the reliance on QAS for patient monitoring and escalation of concerns. The review team was informed that a dedicated nurse on the QAS ramp is allocated when resources allow; however, this is not a funded or legislative position and therefore it is not always available.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. The House will come to order. Leader of the Opposition, you have the call.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Every time there is a tragedy in Queensland Health we hear the same excuses. The only thing that changes is which minister will be delivering the excuse. It has been nine years and things have got worse. Despite repeated excuses, things have got worse in the last year. There is a grieving family that does not need excuses; they need leadership. That is what we are going to give this family. We are going to make sure that the death of this wonderful family man, who was embedded in his community, is not going to be in vain. The Premier attempted to justify the death based on elements of the report.

Mr Deputy Speaker, as you would know, our hardworking doctors and nurses do their best and they are heroes. Every day deaths occur in hospitals, but we would not be discussing this death if Mr Irving had not died on the ramp. That is the point. That is the bit the government refuses to listen to. That is how badly broken the system is: he died on a ramp. Today in a childish display the health minister tried to say, 'The shadow minister should calculate it.' The minister changed the metrics because she did not have the ticker to release that it was the worst year on record for ambulance lost time. There were 162,000 lost hours in 2023. Do members want to know what that included? That included the three hours when Wayne Irving lost his life. He was one of those involved in those 162,000 hours. He died alone and he died in pain. His death is not going to be in vain.

The government has to acknowledge what is in the report. It makes sobering reading for anyone who believes that government should and must do better. This side of the House believes that family deserves so much better. At that hospital, ambulance ramping is 60 per cent. You have a nearly two in three chance of being ramped. On the night Wayne Irving died there were people who waited seven hours. That report makes really sobering reading for anyone. I can only imagine what it does to that family.

We have also seen the consequences of this rotting government when it comes to education. Today parents from Rochedale State School called out the fact they have not been listened to. Today I spoke with one parent whose child is in a classroom where there are concerns about asbestos and another parent whose child is not in the classroom. Both of them feel a sense of profound anxiety for their decisions: one because they made the decision to send their child into that classroom as the child is not coping with what is going on at the school; the other because they made the decision that their child is not going to be educated today because they do not want to put them in that classroom. Those parents do not believe they have been listened to. Today the shadow education minister took up the fight on their behalf. I am not convinced the answers were forthcoming, nor were they straight. It is up to the education minister to explain whether or not those parents have been listened to, whether or not the classroom is safe for the kids to go into and whether or not the children, teachers, cleaners, parents and students have been treated with the respect they deserve.


So it was in relation to tourism when a local member asked a question on behalf of the growers in his community who produce some of the best wines in the country. Instead of a straight answer such as, 'Thank you, member, I will have a look at that because that is a really important issue,' they got some childish rant about the fact he has not been on a drinking expedition on a train. That is the level the government has reached in this state.

In relation to energy, the shadow minister simply asked how it could be that there is no correlation between the capital and the cost of payback. Either the Premier does not understand the most basic economics or he is just running a cover-up job because they know they do not have a cost, a delivery time frame or what it means to consumers because of a thought bubble when it comes to energy policy.

Finally, on youth crime the Premier said he deserted the field but then said he was referring to deserting the political field. We have heard a lot about the faceless men of the Labor Party, but when that comment was made there were a lot of faceless people on the backbench because heads went down. There was not one set of eyeballs looking up because they know in their hearts that they have a leader who is not up to it. He can barely admit there is a youth crime crisis. He cannot admit that a government he has been front and centre of created the youth crime crisis nine years ago. Today, 138 days after the government said they would put a victim on the Sentencing Advisory Council, the government could not even put their hand up and say, 'Sorry, that was an announcement; we did not follow through.' No, we had to get a childish response about a past decade.

This is a government rotting before the eyes of Queenslanders. This is a government that cannot be trusted for anything they say because, right now, they will do and say absolutely anything to cling to power. They know that they have created a health crisis, a youth crime crisis, a housing crisis and a cost-of-living crisis that Queensland is ground zero for. The LNP has put forward solutions for every one of those crises. When it comes to the youth crime crisis, if the government changes in October then by the end of the year the Making Queensland Safer Laws will be enacted and at the centre will be the removal of detention as a last resort, which is a policy the government has flipped back and forth on based on the political polling of the day. This is a bad government. This is a third-term government. If Queenslanders give us their trust, they can show Labor the door in '24.

## Health System

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (2.10 pm): The Leader of the Opposition has talked about giving up. He has completely given up having any ideas, any policies or any solutions for the challenges that Queensland is facing. Talk about giving up. He talks about a Queensland health system under pressure but does not have one idea for helping those frontline staff that he says he wants to listen to.

It is absolutely disgraceful for the Leader of the Opposition to come in here and talk about the tragic death of Wayne Irving and the clinical review into his death that the HHS has been working on with the family but not actually say what the clinical review found. The clinical review confirmed that an earlier diagnosis or treatment may not have changed the clinical outcome for Mr Irving.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! Member for Mudgeeraba!

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. The House will come to order. Member for Mudgeeraba, I was repeatedly calling you. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** Mr Irving suffered from an abdominal aortic aneurysm—an uncommon but highly fatal condition. The review, however, did find that the Ipswich Hospital could have done much more to make his last moments far more comfortable and also could have provided services for his family, such as social workers. It made five recommendations. It recommended updating policies around the administration of opiates to patients on the ramp, improving social work availability after hours, using the case as a case study in triage training and introducing a medical commander and ramp nurse role, which this government did last year, with an immediate injection of \$20 million into that very busy hospital. I want to thank Wayne Irving's family for the work they have done with the Ipswich Hospital and the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service. Their advocacy has been impressive.

This government is actually putting solutions and dollars on the table. We have not just provided a medical commander role for Ipswich Hospital; they have been rolled out across the state because frontline doctors and nurses have told us that that will help with the pressures that we are seeing on our emergency departments. For the Leader of the Opposition to come in here and say on every measure that Queensland Health is worse than the years before is absolutely untrue, and I will be writing to the Speaker about his misleading the parliament.

On every measure, the Queensland health system is doing better than every other state and, on almost every measure, we are doing better than we were this time last year. We lead the nation when it comes to elective surgery. Our long waits have reduced by 43 per cent. Our ED seen-in-time is better. Our 24-hour stays are down. Clinically recommended timeframes in terms of when patients are seen is improving. Thousands more patients are off the stretcher within 30 minutes because of the solutions we have put on the table.

What has the Leader of the Opposition said he will do? 'We are going to put doctors and nurses back in charge.' The doctors and nurses are the ones who have suggested the medical commander roles, the nurses working with our paramedics and all of the other initiatives, like our satellite hospitals. Those opposite have never supported the satellite hospitals and are probably planning to sell them off if they get into government. Those satellite hospitals are already doing what we said they would do—that is, reducing the pressure on our emergency departments.

The other thing that is under threat by the Leader of the Opposition is our health big build. How many health infrastructure projects did they do when they were in government? Zero. With the unprecedented demand that we are seeing in our hospitals, how would we be going with the zero extra beds? We on this side of the House have a health big build delivering the infrastructure, new hospitals, expanded hospitals and more beds, and we are also employing thousands more frontline staff.

**An opposition member** interjected.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Gregory, you are warned under the standing orders. I have attempted to get your—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** My deep apologies. I mistook the Western Queensland accent. Member for Callide, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** How much pressure would our system be under right now if those opposite had had their way, with no beds and no infrastructure and having sacked the nurses, the doctors and the allied healthcare professionals? We would have no satellite hospitals. We would have no mental health care levy, which is absolutely boosting frontline staff and resources to those suffering mental ill health in this state. It would be a complete disaster. It is all at risk if the Leader of the Opposition gets to be premier because those opposite have absolutely not one plan for health and we know they will cut, sack and sell because that is what they do.

### **Miles Labor Government; Police Helicopter**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.16 pm): According to the Labor minister, everything is beaut in Queensland. Housing is great. Cost of living is great. Go to a hospital, wait a year for a hip replacement. The Minister for Health thinks it is all good. That is not the story Queenslanders are telling us. Queenslanders who cannot get a roof over of their head are not happy with the Labor government. The great news is that, in 192 days, Queenslanders can show Labor the door. They can pass judgement on this Labor government. They can pass judgement on Premier Steven Miles. They can pass judgement, just as the good people of Ipswich West passed judgement on the Labor Party and elected Darren Zanow as the local member. Congratulations.

They can pass judgement on the Labor Party and say to the Labor Party that Premier Steven Miles is just not up to the job. He was the minister responsible for most of the crises gripping Queensland at the moment. Despite what you see, these Far North Queensland MPs and Sunshine Coast Labor MPs have all of a sudden had an epiphany of police helicopters. The Far North Queensland Labor MPs say one thing in Far North Queensland and another here. I was surprised to see the Far North Queensland Labor MPs—

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I will get to you in a minute, mate.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Members will use correct titles.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I was surprised when I saw the members for the Labor Party in Far North Queensland all of a sudden say they will petition their Labor government for a police helicopter when only two short years ago the member for Barron River, who was a minister of the Labor government, said, 'It would be a big waste of money to have a police helicopter in Cairns.' He was a minister who sat around the cabinet table and did not want a police helicopter. What has changed all of a sudden? A few months before an election he is saying, 'Let's tell our community that we now want a police helicopter in Far North Queensland.' Queenslanders can see through it. They can see through the Labor government's deliberate deceit of Queenslanders who are trying to con their way to an election victory in October 2024.

I read today that the members for Nicklin and Caloundra have also launched a petition for a Sunshine Coast police helicopter. It's like the *Oprah Winfrey Show*—helicopter for you, helicopter for you. There are no police on the ground—reduced police numbers on the beat—but, do not worry, we will have the police helicopters up in the sky. We all know that when the member for Nicklin gets on Facebook he says some odd things and then deletes them, but we have a copy of a comment he made recently. He was talking about youth crime and in response to a constituent said—

I think you know that I don't determine the narrative. It is always an election issue because of ... I will leave that.

I am not sure what that means. He continued—

I am a great supporter and believer in not only those programs but also social cohesion. That is belonging and contributing. I put my efforts in all areas.

Here he goes—

It is beyond my control and I would prefer if elements that inform the public actually did their jobs we would not have this conversation. It's a shame that a certain profession has disregarded its role as the fourth estate.

Where have we heard this before? He is blaming the media. Here we go again. The Labor Party always think it is someone else's fault. Just as the member for Capalaba said the youth crime crisis was a media beat-up, so too does the member for Nicklin. On one hand he is blaming the media for beating up youth crime, but on the other hand he has launched a petition for a police helicopter. Which is it? Is it an issue in his electorate? If it is not, why does he want a police helicopter? We know it is an issue on the Sunshine Coast and all around Queensland. That is why Queenslanders are showing Labor the door in '24.

In relation to the member for Caloundra, we reflected last sitting that he was debranding from the colours and everything of the Labor Party. I thought I had seen it all before with the member for Caloundra in purple, but the member for Caloundra is now in blue. I table a copy of a photo where the member for Caloundra is handing out how-to-vote cards for an LNP councillor on the Sunshine Coast.

*Tabled paper:* Extract from a social media account, dated 4 April, depicting the member for Caloundra, Mr Jason Hunt MP, and Division 2 Caloundra Councillor, Mr Terry Landsberg [568].

This councillor said in his public disclosure that he is a member of the Liberal National Party in Caloundra, and Jason Hunt was handling out his how-to-vote cards. Not only has he abandoned the Labor Party; he has now abandoned his union and he wants to join the LNP—but we reject it because Kendall Morton will be a fantastic member for Caloundra. She knows what her community wants. That is why she is going to be a strong advocate for the people of Caloundra. She does not need to switch colours and put out how-to-vote cards. Queenslanders will show Labor the door in '24 because this is a bad Labor government.

*(Time expired)*

## Miles Labor Government, Gladstone



**Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (2.21 pm): As I have said today already, what is happening in Gladstone really sums up what we are about as a government here in Queensland. We are creating the jobs, we are delivering the infrastructure and we are welcoming new industries with open arms in Queensland. There is no magic wand. We just roll up our sleeves, we stick to our plan and we work in partnership with all industries to stimulate jobs and investment here in Queensland. While those opposite are getting bogged down with their same tired old lines around nuclear energy, we are just getting on with it with our \$62 billion Energy and Jobs Plan here in Queensland.

I am proud to be the member for Gladstone at a time when we are seeing major investment come to our city. We have our clean energy projects, our \$89 billion Big Build, projects like the Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline, major school infrastructure upgrades and community spaces like the Auckland Hill redevelopment. It is all happening in Gladstone.

This is about sustainable growth and the infrastructure to go along with it at the same time. Our government will do the hard yards for our community. We have established new social homes with the purchase of 34 new units in the Gladstone CBD and we are also establishing six modular homes in the region. We heard the story today from the minister about that lovely mother and her daughter moving into one of those homes. This is all part of the Miles government's record investment in social and affordable housing and our record Big Build.

I want to make sure that everyone has a roof over their head and a place to call home as Gladstone continues to grow during the big announcements that we are making. This government has a plan when it comes to more home ownership, more social housing and better rights for renters here in Queensland. I look forward to working with our newly elected and re-elected councillors to open up opportunities for new private sector investment in the Gladstone region so we can get more homes on the ground for those people coming to our fantastic city.


As we heard this morning, last week we saw the opening of Australia's first commercial hydrogen electrolyser facility. Fortescue's presence in Gladstone is expected to generate 240 jobs during construction and 93 when the electrolyser is operating in situ. We also saw ACCIONA commence construction of its Aldoga Solar Farm in Gladstone. This important project promises over \$150 million in local content and up to 350 jobs during construction. One of the most exciting things about that project is the \$120,000 a year they will give back to our community to make sure they are part of the social fabric of the Gladstone region when they are building these large-scale infrastructure projects.

There is a really positive feeling in and around the Gladstone region at the moment. There is a commitment to realising our city's potential and working together to get it done. I have always said that Gladstone is the industrial powerhouse of this state, and last week's announcements certainly demonstrate that we are on track in Gladstone to stay that way with the job-generating industries of the future.

This is all at risk under an LNP government. As I said this morning, I was down in Maryborough last week. Under the watch of the last LNP member for Maryborough, the government stopped building the trains there. Who can forget the federal LNP that dared let the car industry leave Australia? Guess what? They did; they left! I have said this before. The last LNP candidate who ran against me wanted to sell the state owned Port of Gladstone. The LNP do not believe in Aussie jobs, they do not believe in Queensland jobs and they do not believe in Gladstone jobs.

We are a party that believes in good secure jobs. We believe that making things in Queensland makes sense. We are rolling out the welcome mat to the likes of Fortescue in Gladstone, just like we are making trains in Maryborough and the Boxer military vehicles in Ipswich. Those opposite are happy to wear the hi-vis and pose for the photos, but their only record when it comes to manufacturing is slashing government programs and seeing jobs leave Queensland. I notice them all walking around with their little book that they hold. If you read their pretty little blue book—and the shadow minister for manufacturing should read it again—there is not one mention of the word 'manufacturing'. I look forward to seeing Gladstone continue to be the engine room of our state economy. I will always back our industries to make sure they succeed not only in Queensland and not only in Australia but also on the global stage.

## Cost of Living, Electricity

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.26 pm): It is just like the health minister: 'There's nothing to see here.' We have just heard from the minister and member for Gladstone, who must be so concerned about securing his seat. If everything is okay in Gladstone and all the money is being funnelled into Gladstone, it is certainly not getting funnelled anywhere else in the state. Why did the minister have to go on local ABC Radio and say he was going to resign as a minister if maternity services did not get reinstated in Gladstone? Why did the maternity services ever shut down in the first place? That is what I would say.

Let us talk about political spin because that is what we heard this morning right here in the chamber. Treasurer Dick came in here with a straight face and tried to say that we have the cheapest electricity bills in the nation. Tell that to the people whose electricity bills are going up year on year on year—at 19.9 per cent, three times the national average. It is the worst increase in the nation. Yet we have Treasurer Dick saying, 'Nothing to worry about here.'

Let me tell the House about a nice couple from Buderim. They have the same usage, just like everyone else, and they are not sure whether they should turn off their fridge at night. They are living through heatwaves yet are turning off their air conditioner. These are elderly people. Their bill has gone up 31 per cent in one quarter. Yet we have this government whose heads are so far in the clouds or somewhere, but in the wrong spot—

**Mr Nicholls:** In the sand.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** In the sand; I will take that interjection. Their heads are so far in the sand that they believe that the cost of living is not hurting. There is a cost-of-living crisis in Queensland and there is no bigger cost-of-living increase than in electricity prices. I asked the Premier a simple question in this House today. I know the energy minister certainly cannot answer it, but I asked the Premier what the increased cost of the Pioneer-Burdekin project would do to people's power bills, including that couple in Buderim, when those billions of dollars get put on that?

**Mr Last:** A pretty fair question.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** It is a fair question; I will take that interjection. What did we get? We got absolute crickets and waffle. It is a fairly simple question. We know that the Premier could not answer the questions that were put to him when he was up at Eungella. He could not answer them. He is certainly not able to answer my questions about how much it will cost.

It is interesting to note that the Premier has time to answer questions on—where? On the *Betoota Advocate*. I will quote the Premier on the *Betoota Advocate* because he was able to answer that question when the *Betoota Advocate* guys were saying, 'Premier, I don't think that there are many jobs in renewables, are there?' Do you know what the Premier said? 'You're right. There's not heaps of jobs in renewables.' Unbelievable! It has taken this Premier nearly a decade—

**Mr Last:** And then he laughed, remember.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Then he giggled. Of course he giggled; he is Mr Giggles. The Premier, after a decade, does not believe that the increase in power prices is because of the inaction from his government. We also have no clue as to how much extra this rush and cost impost for deep storage projects, like the Pioneer-Burdekin, will cost people in regards to their electricity bills.


Let's have a look. I spoke about the Alinta Energy CEO and his scathing address. He went as far as to say, 'Politicians need be to be more up-front and honest with Australians about the impact of net zero by 2050 on their hip pockets.' The CSIRO said, following their survey of Australians' attitudes to the transition and different types of energy, 'It is important to note that 64 per cent of respondents do not want to pay more for their power bills.' Of course! One hundred per cent of people do not want to pay more for their power bills.

The Premier knows there will be an increase in power bills because of the deep storage that he will not talk about. He knows there is going to be an increase. People do not want to have to pay. They are already hurting because of the cost of living. They cannot afford the electricity bills they have on their kitchen tables right now, let alone the impost from Pioneer-Burdekin. Why doesn't the Premier just be honest with Queenslanders?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next speaker, member for Nanango, you used an incorrect title. I ask you to withdraw that. I ask members to only use correct titles in this chamber.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I withdraw.

## Liberal National Party, Renewable Energy

 **Hon. LR McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (2.31 pm): It is a pleasure to follow the shadow spokesperson for energy because there is no clearer contrast between Labor's plan for our clean energy future and the national nuclear nightmare that is being pushed by radical Liberals and Nationals. From Fukushima to Three Mile Island and Hinkley Point to Chernobyl, the Liberals and Nationals will ignore the risks to both our communities and our power bills because they are completely beholden to their own vested interests.

The LNP nuclear nightmare is being spearheaded by their federal leader, Peter Dutton, or as I like to call him, 'Peter Duttonheimer', in a reckless campaign to nuke Australia's energy system and send power bills for our homes and businesses through the roof. He made this crystal clear recently in a speech to the Council of Small Business Organisations Australia. As revealed earlier today, it seems that the LNP Leader of the Opposition here in Queensland could be in on it, too. His diary confirms a meeting about energy with a nuclear proponent. Was it a secret LNP briefing on nuclear energy? While the details of that meeting remain hidden by the LNP, one thing is crystal clear: they are extremely tricky with words and evasive in providing answers of any substance or any detail on policy. The LNP are as toxic as a drum of nuclear waste, and Queenslanders simply cannot trust them. We know that there is no-one in the state LNP, from the leader down, who will stand up to Dutton and stick up for Queenslanders. They will simply do as they always do—lie down and do as they are told.

More and more Queenslanders are voicing concern over this LNP nuclear nightmare that is aimed squarely at our suburbs, our workers and our agricultural food bowls. The LNP's plan for nuclear power is not only expensive and dangerous but also, by the time it is built, too late for our climate. Not only has nuclear power been outlawed across the country, and not only has the CSIRO, our national science agency, declared it the most expensive and slowest to build, but the LNP themselves cannot even agree on in whose backyards they will build nuclear reactors.


In a recent article in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, LNP MPs were asked where would the nuclear power stations go and if they would be happy to have one in their electorates. Not many were. Ted O'Brien and Llew O'Brien are not willing to entertain them yet on the Sunshine Coast or in Wide Bay. In fact, the majority who were asked said, no, they did not want them in their own backyards.

Nuclear energy is such a bad idea that the LNP cannot even convince themselves on it, although Michelle Landry is apparently happy for one to go in at an unused coal-fired power station in probably another waste of taxpayers' money in Collinsville. However, I am not sure how the rest of her community would feel about it.

Under the LNP it is not a matter of if, but when, nuclear energy will be driving up costs for our homes and businesses. Renewable energy is the cheapest, cleanest and most secure form of new energy generation. That is why the Miles Labor government is all in on investing heavily in new wind, solar and storage projects that will power Queensland for generations to come. Queenslanders simply cannot risk the alternatives of political extremes. Labor is the only party with a real plan to take real action on clean energy and climate change. The LNP do not support coal royalties and cannot deliver a clean energy transition, nor the jobs and new industries that come with it. They would rather back expensive, privatised nuclear energy with environmentally damaging nuclear waste. Make no mistake, the LNP will make their plan to cut renewables a reality because Peter Dutton will make the Leader of the Opposition and the state LNP deliver nuclear power instead.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Welcome back to the member for South Brisbane. You have the call.

## Gabba Redevelopment

 **Dr MacMAHON** (2.36 pm): On Saturday, it will be exactly three years since the Labor government publicly announced that the Gabba stadium would be torn down and rebuilt for the 2032 Olympics. The state Labor government and the LNP Brisbane City Council had signed us up for the Olympics without any detailed planning and with no evidence to show it was feasible and affordable. Images in the media in April 2021 showed Raymond Park ripped up for a warm-up track and East Brisbane State School wiped out so that the Gabba stadium could host athletics for the Olympics. There had been no community consultation with affected communities prior to this announcement. However, within weeks, a huge community campaign kicked off and has been going hard ever since. I want to give a big public shout-out and congratulations to community groups Rethink the Gabba, Friends of Raymond Park, East



Brisbane State School P&C and many incredible local residents in Woolloongabba, East Brisbane and Kangaroo Point. After nearly three years of campaigning, the Gabba plans have been shelved and Raymond Park is safe.


At the heart of this campaign has been the community voice, front and centre. The government never asked this community if family homes could be sacrificed for a warm-up track. The government never asked locals if one of the only sizeable public parks in the area, servicing thousands of residents, including those in apartments and high-rises, could be ripped up. The then minister for education never asked if local kids should be taken out of their school and sent outside of the catchment in order to make space for a multibillion dollar Olympic stadium, and the Premier never asked Queenslanders if we wanted a giant white elephant stadium—a monument to this government's out-of-touch priorities and an abhorrent waste of money, particularly when so many ordinary people are struggling with the cost of living.

Because the community was never asked, we had to tell them. There were huge community meetings, protests, community events and movie nights. The Rise Up festival in Raymond Park showcased how important the park is with a day full of music and celebration. Community reps took the campaign to the media, doing interviews and live crosses for TV. We gathered in the hundreds in the park and outside the school to demonstrate how important these places are and how angry the community has been. Local residents wrote letters and had meetings with government representatives and ministers. Community reps presented at committee and Senate hearings to fight for the park and school. Thousands of people signed community petitions and wrote to the government. Friends of Raymond Park banded together with parents from East Brisbane State School founding Rethink the Gabba, drawing together a huge coalition of community members with a common interest in fighting for our community and our precious community places. The campaign was hard and at many points, this community was treated as expendable and unimportant but the community kept at it together, knowing that the fight for Raymond Park and East Brisbane State School was the right thing to do. They did it—they have stopped the Gabba rebuild and saved our beautiful Raymond Park.

After years of doubling down, blowing out the budget into the billions, ignoring experts and denying the community a say, the Labor government have finally pulled the plug on their ill-thought-out and ludicrously expensive plans for the Gabba stadium. They would have saved a lot of heartache and millions of dollars in public money had they bothered to talk to the community first. However, the fight for East Brisbane State School continues. While the closure is no longer imminent, the school is still potentially at risk of future upgrades to the Gabba stadium. Kids, parents and staff are still facing uncertainty about the future of a state school in a fast-growing neighbourhood. Parents have told me that they are still being stonewalled and are struggling to get information.

I know this fight will continue and this community has shown just how strong ordinary people are when they work together. To this incredible community: you have reminded the government that they cannot ignore everyday people and that things like state education, green space and investing in the community need to be put first. You have made it clear that when communities and important places are under attack, everyday people will not just slink away. People will band together and fight using every tool they can find. You have demonstrated just how strong everyday people are when they work together.

### **Mackay Community Cabinet**

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.41 pm): The recent Mackay Community Cabinet was a great success. People from my community had access to Miles government ministers for three days across a wide range of events and announcements, and health was high on the agenda. The Treasurer visited the construction site of the new Moranbah hospital. The health minister officially announced the opening of the brand new state-of-the-art Sarina Hospital and at the Mackay Base Hospital we celebrated the start of construction of two new wings that will offer an additional 120 beds. The new children's and women's health units will be incorporated into those two new spaces. All of that is in addition to the multistorey car park that is still in the planning and consultation phase. Spending hundreds of millions of dollars on new health facilities across the Mackay HHS footprint is only possible because of the Miles government's progressive coal royalties and that policy is at risk from those opposite. Many members in my community have connections to the coal industry. It is fantastic to see everyone benefiting from the rich resources that are in our backyard—not just the multinational mining companies.

There are huge housing pressures in my region. We need more homes for those who need support with social housing and those who want to rent or buy in the private sector. Minister Scanlon and Premier Steven Miles joined me at a North Mackay site that will host seven new social housing

homes. Ethan, a young apprentice from QBuild, met us on the site. He is one of the many apprentices and trainees that QBuild is supporting to be a part of our skilled workforce that will deliver homes and infrastructure for all Queenslanders.

Some of the best youth in Queensland live in my region and there are some who need guidance to make good choices about education, health and future work. The team from Youth Justice are making real changes to the lives of young people in Mackay. Minister Farmer and I met with the Youth Justice co-responder team that is working with the police. They work together on the streets to target young people who are at risk of offending or reoffending. It is better to keep young people out of the youth justice system.

It was fantastic to meet up with a great asset for Mackay, Patrick Thaiday. Patrick works his magic on children to help them to be proud of their First Nations culture and to walk through life as proud children who are making good life choices. As a bonus for the community, we were entertained by Patrick's students who performed dances. He was excited when Minister Farmer joined us to let him know that he was successful as a grant recipient for his community culture program.

Premier Miles announced that 20 new police officers will be deployed to the Mackay police district for police uplift operations. Those officers will be used for targeted programs and to keep our community safe. Minister Linard announced a further extension of areas on our tropical islands to be included as national park. Those areas not only protect our natural environment but also help to build on ecotourism. We love our local islands.


All three regional mayors attended and networked at our town hall meeting, where the deputations for each of the ministers were booked out. Some people had heard on the radio that the meetings were taking place at the turf club and, even though they did not have a booking, they showed up hoping to have a few minutes with the Premier or a minister. No-one was turned away and there was standing room only for the town-hall style Q&A session. Unsolicited feedback is always the most authentic. Kylie Porter, the CEO of GW3, wrote to Premier Miles and copied me in. I will share a little bit of her letter—

I appreciate these events are logistically challenging. However, the opportunity it provides for community and industry to engage directly with Cabinet and key department executives, right here in-region, is invaluable.

I observed a packed function room that was buzzing with the discussions of locals engaging directly with Ministers and key decision makers on the widest of subject matters. These discussions may not have taken place otherwise; either due to travel and cost constraints—

*(Time expired)*

## Education

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.46 pm): Queensland's state education system is in crisis under this third-term state Labor government. Queensland students, parents, teachers and principals remain deeply concerned about this Labor government's reporting and management of asbestos incidents in our schools. Last month an asbestos incident was reported at Rochedale State School, with subsequent testing revealing that, of the 89 samples that were taken, 14 positive results were returned across multiple classrooms. It is abundantly clear that, despite the temporary rectification works being undertaken, parents remain deeply concerned about the adequacy of those works and the sealant, and the timelines for the full rectification of the asbestos affected classrooms. This latest incident is off the back of other significant asbestos management and rectification issues, including at Sunnybank State High School and other schools on the Gold Coast.

The Liberal National Party has been raising Labor's problematic asbestos management in schools for years, including during the 2021 budget estimates hearing where it was revealed that Labor failed to maintain the monthly reporting of asbestos testing via the asbestos incident sample testing register and releasing that online. I table a copy of an ABC online article dealing with that failing at the time.

*Tabled paper:* Article from ABC News online, dated 11 October 2021, titled 'Delay in asbestos reports for Queensland state schools blasted by opposition' [569].

Also on our education system, the Liberal National Party has recently revealed that more than 12,300 teachers and teacher aides have resigned from their roles over the four years since 2020. For Queensland teachers, that represents a 55 per cent increase in resignations since 2020, whilst for teacher aides there has been an almost 80 per cent increase in resignations in the four-year period from 2020 to 2023. That is nothing short of a damning indictment of Labor's failed teacher workforce strategy. Queensland's teacher workforce crisis is one wholly owned and created by the state Labor government. Indeed, as one headline declared last week, this is a 'Labor teacher crisis'.

It is important to remember that, at the last Queensland state election in October of 2020, Labor went to the people of Queensland and promised to deliver 6,190 new teachers and 1,139 new teacher aides over the current electoral term. Labor's promise was unequivocal and gave every school community, every teacher and every teacher aide the right to believe that this promise was for the delivery of teachers on top of attrition and not simply to replace those teachers and teacher aides who would be resigning or retiring. What is more, according to the latest available public sector workforce profile, as of March 2023 Labor have only been able to deliver eight per cent of their election commitment.


Our dedicated teachers and teacher aides are leaving in their thousands because they are overworked, under-resourced and not respected by the state Labor government. Our teachers and staff deserve to feel safe and respected in their workplace and yet when asked whether they believe that the wellbeing of staff is a priority at their school, there has been a shocking 15 per cent decrease since 2014 according to the latest School Opinion Survey results. If the Labor state government actually took the time to listen to teachers, just as the Liberal National Party does, they would discover that a key driver for teacher resignations is Labor's broken student behavioural management framework and increasing assaults and workplace violence in our schools, and we will come back to the fact that this Labor government has not been listening to frontline teachers and principals. Every teacher, parent and student is right to be alarmed, and on average there are more than 47 student suspensions and exclusions each and every school day as a result of weapons and drug incidents in our schools.

Literacy and numeracy outcomes of Queensland students are suffering under this state Labor government. We know this because, by the Labor government's own school education performance metrics, which are reported in the Department of Education's annual report, not a single target for reading, writing or numeracy across years 3, 5, 7 and 9 has been achieved in the last two years and outcomes in Indigenous communities are even worse. It is also clear that the Labor government failed to consult properly on key educational reforms prior to Labor introducing its recent legislation, and we have seen some embarrassing backflips by the state Labor government in the last couple of days.

Finally, on educational infrastructure, the Labor state government, supported by the Greens political party, refuses to build an additional high school to service families and students in the electorate of Moggill. I know there are many members in this House who need additional investment in their school infrastructure. This is a government of chaos and crisis. Apart from the education crisis there is the youth crime crisis, the hospital and ambulance crisis, the housing affordability crisis and the cost-of-living pressures that everyone is facing across Queensland.

Queensland desperately needs a state government that is focused on the right priorities when it comes to the needs of Queenslanders and particularly Queensland schools. In October 2024 it is the time for Queensland parents, teachers, teacher aides and principals to finally show Labor the door in '24.

### Riverway Drive

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.51 pm): It gives me great pleasure to stand and update the House on one of my favourite projects in Thuringowa. The Upper Ross is one of the biggest growth areas in the electorate of Thuringowa.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr HARPER:** Yes, I can hear whispers of 'Riverway Drive'. Everyone will know that I fought hard when I was first elected. No LNP candidate, past, current or future, can ever deliver what I have already delivered in terms of the stage 1 duplication of Riverway Drive. That has been an enabler for around \$50 million worth of private investment in new shopping centres and things we have never had before, providing young people with jobs in my electorate, either at the new shopping centre or at any of the adjacent stores. It was a pleasure to cut the ribbon on that and get the commitment in 2020 for stage 2.

I am happy to provide an update to the House that stage 2 has gone to tender. I am aware that four major companies have put in bids for that tender and I am looking forward to the outcome, of seeing who gets it and that they do a cracking job. I doorknocked the entire Upper Ross area in the lead-up to getting the \$95 million commitment for the Labor government to deliver stage 2. Currently, stage 1 finishes at Allambie Lane and 25,000 cars are still using the single lane after that all the way up to Dunlop Street in Kelso, where I live. I proudly travel that road every single day.

I know that making safer roads and busting congestion are all important. I cannot wait for the hundreds of jobs that will be created with stage 2. We have had challenges along the way because it was delayed. A legacy of the former Thuringowa city council was the placement of the main water

pipeline under Riverway Drive. We all remember that in 2020 a section of that pipeline broke and the people of Townsville could not use washing machines and they were restricted in toilet flushing and all kinds of things.

Seventy-five per cent of Townsville's water travels nine kilometres from the Ross River Dam through that pipeline under Riverway Drive to the Douglas Water Treatment Plant. We had to put in additional money along with the former city council—and I want to acknowledge former mayor Jenny Hill. The state government went halves with the former mayor; we put in \$33 million to deliver that new pipeline on the other side of the Ross River, away from urban encroachment so we will never again have issues with that pipeline. Nine kilometres of that pipeline have been laid. They just have to do the tie-ins to the end between the Ross River Dam and the Douglas Water Treatment Plant and we can finally get on with construction of stage 2. I know a lot of people who live in the area are keen to see it. It will be another job-generating infrastructure project; it will be another part of our Big Build.

If we use the recent completion of the ring-road as an example—stage 5 of the Townsville ring-road goes through Thuringowa—additional ramps have been added to it and that has enabled two major developments with nearly 2,000 homes to be built, and we need more homes. We have CopperString, we have Lansdown, we are going to be manufacturing batteries and all kinds of things with the critical minerals that will open up in the north-west. We have the largest defence space in the nation taking on another section from Darwin coming down, so we need more houses. As I drive home along Riverway Drive I can see those developments taking place right now.


In contrast, the former member for Thuringowa, Sam Cox, at the time I was first elected promised to deliver stage 1—and I do not know how because it was half the cost of what was eventually needed to deal with this pipeline—only if we sold the Townsville port and the north-west rail line all the way out to Mount Isa. The people of Thuringowa saw through that and kicked him out. They said, 'No, that's not going to happen.' We wanted to keep our assets in public hands and we did. Our port is expanding as we speak. There is more investment into the area. We know those critical minerals of the North West Minerals Province will help as will the Lansdown production and manufacturing of a number of products that we will export to the world.

It is our Labor government that is investing in major infrastructure, in trunk infrastructure. I cannot wait to get the minister, the Premier and everyone else up there to cut the ribbon on Riverway Drive stage 2 when we finally open it.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): The time for matters of public interest has expired.

## STATE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND METWAY MERGER AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (2.56 pm): I am pleased to present a bill for an act to amend the State Financial Institutions and Metway Merger Act 1996 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Cost of Living and Economics Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* State Financial Institutions and Metway Merger Amendment Bill 2024 [\[570\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* State Financial Institutions and Metway Merger Amendment Bill 2024, explanatory notes [\[571\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* State Financial Institutions and Metway Merger Amendment Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[572\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the State Financial Institutions and Metway Merger Amendment Bill 2024. It is fair to say many Queenslanders are suspicious of anything that banks do. That is why when Suncorp announced the proposed sale of its banking operation to ANZ in July 2022 our government took the position that Queensland should get the best possible results out of the proposed merger. We cannot stop the banks doing what they are going to do but if we can apply leverage, we can try and secure the best possible benefit for our state. I said at the time we would drive a hard bargain. That is what we have done and that is what this bill delivers.

The State Financial Institutions and Metway Merger Act 1996 currently includes an obligation for the banking division of the Suncorp Group to maintain a head office in Queensland. While this bill will remove that obligation, it will replace it with head office requirements for Suncorp Group Ltd, ensuring

Suncorp's insurance business and corporate services functions will be headquartered in Queensland. This is an important point. While the existing act secured the headquarters of the banking division, it did not clearly apply those requirements to the other parts of the business which, frankly speaking, are the more significant and more valuable components of the business. Accordingly, the bill will secure the ongoing benefit to our state of having Suncorp, a globally recognised insurer, headquartered here in Queensland.

However, ensuring Suncorp retains its Queensland headquarters is not the end of the story. I am pleased to inform the House that in June 2023 the state finalised negotiations and signed agreements with ANZ and Suncorp to secure a package of benefits aimed at supporting high-value jobs and maintaining a strong financial services sector in Queensland. As a result of those negotiations and in addition to head office commitments in the bill, Suncorp will ensure Queensland truly remains their home with a commitment that for a period of 10 years more people are employed by Suncorp Group's insurance business in Queensland than in any other state or territory in Australia.

Suncorp will continue to invest in its world-leading disaster response capability to support customers and communities impacted by major weather events and natural disasters. This includes the design and fit-out of a fully functional mobile hub that will be deployed to rapidly assist recovery efforts in affected communities all over the state. Suncorp has further committed to expanding its regional presence through the establishment of a new hub in Townsville with up to 120 new jobs. Furthermore, ANZ has indicated its commitment to the state by growing its banking presence and new lending in key Queensland industries including green Olympic Games infrastructure, renewable energy and housing. ANZ has also committed to investing in a new tech hub in the south-east for technology specialists in digital cloud services and data. ANZ will hire or place 700 people in the tech hub over the next five years. These commitments have been formalised through contractual arrangements with the state.

I will now discuss key aspects of the bill in more detail. The bill will amend section 64 of the State Financial Institutions and Metway Merger Act 1996 to specify that the constitution of Suncorp Group Ltd—meaning the insurer, not Suncorp Bank—must at all times require the registered office of Suncorp to be located in Queensland, at least one member of the board of directors is to be ordinarily resident in Queensland and the head office of Suncorp is to be located in Queensland. The head office is located in Queensland only if the principal operational office of the chief executive officer is located in Queensland; the chairperson has an office in Queensland; each 'group corporate services activities' is wholly or partly performed in Queensland; and the usual location for the holding of Suncorp board meetings is in Queensland.

The definition of 'group corporate services activities' has been modernised and defined in the bill. This will more accurately reflect Suncorp's Australian business and is a significant enhancement of the old provisions that applied to the banking division only. The definition of 'group corporate service activities' includes the following: first, the chief executive's office; second, financial reporting, business development and management of capital investments and financial performance; third, risk management and compliance; fourth, legal and company secretariat; fifth, internal audit; sixth, technology and transformation strategy and management; seventh, human resources; and, eighth, corporate affairs and government relations.

To strengthen the head office requirements, Suncorp will also be subject to new reporting obligations under part 6 and new part 6A of the bill. Under part 6, Suncorp's chief executive officer will be required to provide the Treasurer with an annual certificate. That certificate must state that throughout the previous financial year Suncorp complied with the head office requirements and part 6A of the act and it does not propose to act in a way that would contravene the head office requirements or part 6A of the act. Amendments to the act and Suncorp and ANZ's contractual commitments are subject to the completion of the proposed transaction, including approval from the federal Treasurer and the passage of this bill. Following the federal Treasurer's approval, the bill will commence on a date to be fixed by proclamation. If the federal Treasurer does not approve the transaction and the bill has already been passed, it will not commence.

I know many members will be concerned about the competition policy impacts of this merger. This is a matter for Commonwealth law and there has been extensive examination of the proposed merger by relevant authorities. Members will be aware that on 4 August 2023 the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission made a determination to deny authorisation for ANZ to acquire Suncorp Bank. However, following an appeal by Suncorp and ANZ, on 20 February 2024 the Australian Competition Tribunal overturned the ACCC's determination and granted approval for the transaction to

go ahead. I think this detailed and contested assessment should give members confidence that these competition policy impacts have been exhaustively assessed. This bill recognises the decision of Suncorp to sell its banking division to ANZ, but more importantly it ensures Suncorp's home remains here in Queensland where it belongs, delivering significant new jobs and investment. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (3.04 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Cost of Living and Economics Committee

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Cost of Living and Economics Committee.


## HOUSING AVAILABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY (PLANNING AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT) BILL

## BUILDING INDUSTRY FAIRNESS (SECURITY OF PAYMENT) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from p. 960, on motion of Ms Scanlon—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (3.06 pm), continuing: With your indulgence, Madam Deputy Speaker Lui, I want to correct the record given Mr Speaker's statement that he made to the House this morning and withdraw those comments that I made on that particular day and apologise to the House. What I should have said—and I will correct the tweet—is that 18 out of 19 lazy ministers did not do ministerial statements but acknowledge the Premier did do three ministerial statements on that day, so I correct the record, apologise to the House and I will be making sure that my social media is updated to show that 18 of the 19 Labor ministers refused to make ministerial statements on that particular date. Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

In terms of disclosure under standing order 260 with respect to the planning bill that we are debating today, I want to put on the record that, pursuant to that standing order, four years ago my wife and I lodged an application with the Sunshine Coast Regional Council for a rezone. I understand that the Sunshine Coast Regional Council still has not assessed that but has put it in its planning scheme amendment for assessment. I just want that on the record as a matter of interest.

As I was saying before the break, the housing crisis we are seeing in Queensland is like none other—working families unable to secure rentals, Queenslanders struggling to pay their mortgages, Queenslanders unable to afford rent increases and of course the most vulnerable in our community pulled back even further. As I also said, the Australian dream is moving further and further away for many Queenslanders and is out of reach under the Labor government. People are losing hope. In particular, young Queenslanders are losing hope that they will ever be able to own, let alone afford, their own home. People are looking to the state government for answers. I am afraid that the Labor government has lost the capacity to fix the housing crisis. If people are looking to the state Labor government for answers to the housing crisis then they are looking in the wrong direction. The state government has not only lost the capacity to deal with the housing crisis; it has lost the will to fix it. It is in panic election mode and we see it on a daily basis with the housing chaos and crisis unfolding before our very eyes.

Premier Steven Miles wants to know who caused the housing crisis. He need only look in the mirror. As I said, he was the minister responsible for planning, he was the minister responsible for local government and he was the minister responsible for infrastructure. If anyone was going to do anything about the housing crisis for the Labor Party in the past nine years it would have been Minister Steven Miles who had responsibility for the housing issues that we are now facing in the state, but he failed to do anything. Now he is trying to make everyone believe that he is a new person, he had nothing to do with the past nine years of the Labor government and everything will be fixed under his watch. He appointed a superportfolio ministry to deal with all of the issues, yet what do we have? Only a few months before the election thousands and thousands of Queenslanders are living in their cars, under bridges, in tents and in our parks. That is not a Queensland that anyone should be proud of. It is not a Queensland that anyone else in any other jurisdiction would look to and say, 'Let's follow the lead of Queensland.' Every day of Labor inaction adds to costing Queenslanders their homes, their finances and their mortgages, and that is without mentioning electricity prices, as I did earlier.

In his contribution today the shadow minister for housing, the honourable Tim Mander, will speak about housing statistics. For many years he has been talking about the need to work with the not-for-profit sector, the community housing sector—which this Labor government has refused to do for nine years—to add more homes to the social housing register. This government has not been adding homes; they have been adding people to waiting lists.

**Ms Scanlon** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The minister is interjecting under her breath. The reality is that we are in a housing crisis and the government has been in power for nine years. Before the election they will have been in power for nearly 10 years. They are expecting to go to the election and say to Queenslanders, 'Trust us. We are going to fix all these issues,' when they have had 10 years to fix the issues that Queenslanders know the Labor Party created. There was a total lack of consultation on this bill that I acknowledge the minister did not introduce: the Premier introduced one of the bills when he was the minister responsible. The honourable members for Lockyer and Burleigh in their statement of reservation—a very good statement of reservation—highlighted the very issues that Queenslanders were talking about before this government realised it was a problem and before this government had to make all these amendments the minister is having to make today. The submitters criticised the consultation process. I refer to the statement of reservation where the Council of Mayors said—

Housing supply, diversity and affordability requires evidence-based solutions, and it is important. To avoid knee jerk reactions which undermine State, regional and local government planning policies.

For the last few years the Labor government has had a kneejerk reaction when they get a bad headline and they think they need to fix it. We were calling for housing providers to get together. The Labor Party denied it was an issue. Then we had a housing summit. What came out of that was that everyone will be able to have a granny flat in their backyard. What they did not tell Queenslanders is that it was going to be subject to each council's planning regulations. The shadow housing minister has asked on multiple occasions how many people are now living in granny flats who were living illegally in granny flats beforehand. They cannot tell us because they do not know. It was a kneejerk reaction. Everything they have tried to do over the last two years of the housing crisis is to get bad headlines out of the media. They think the issues will go away. Queenslanders know the issues will not go away.

In Ipswich the government has put up a billboard saying how they are building all these houses and it is literally metres from where people are living in their tents in a park under a bridge. The hide of the Labor government to put a billboard above these people who are homeless saying housing is not a problem in Queensland, look at our bright smiling faces.

**Mr McDonald:** It's insulting!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection. It is insulting to the people living in their tents under the billboard where the government is saying, 'Don't worry. Everything is right in Queensland.' They have not only said that in relation to housing, they have said it in relation to health and law and order. It is not alright and Queenslanders know it is not going to be alright. I will quote from the submission put in in relation to the planning part of the legislation we are debating today—

In addition, the LGAQ is extremely disappointed with the lack of consultation associated with the Bill in its current form. The Bill is proposing substantial, state-wide amendments to the planning system which will affect all local governments and many Queenslanders.

The LGAQ is saying that the Labor Party introduced this legislation and they did not even consult the bodies before they introduced it. Do members remember who the director-general of Minister Miles's department was at the time? It was the so-called independent Mike Kaiser—the same Mike Kaiser who advised Steven Miles, the minister at the time, to knock down the Gabba and spend \$1 billion, then \$2.7 billion. Remember Mr Miles saying, 'I got wrong advice at the time.' What is the excuse for this? Did he get wrong advice again when introducing this bill? Was he relying on the advice? If he was, he appointed Mike Kaiser as his director-general. It was a promotion. He is the senior public servant across all of Queensland. The LGAQ goes on to state—

The LGAQ has previously raised concerns with the quantum, scale and pace of amendments being made to the planning framework by the State Government, particularly since late 2022.

...

The introduction of the Bill to further amend the planning framework is yet another example of rushed regulatory amendments that have not undergone a rigorous regulatory impact analysis ...

They go on to say—

Due to our substantial and material concerns, the LGAQ cannot support the Bill in its current form, ...

The peak body that looks after the local governments that are responsible for planning and housing in all our shires and councils is saying this bill should not go ahead. The opposite is true on the LNP side. We want to work with local government. We do not want to be big brother to local government. We want to work with local government to achieve success in the housing sector. There will not be coordination and cooperation with local government if they are treated with disrespect and disdain, like the Labor Party has treated them. That is coming through from all the submissions.

The bill says the urban investigation zones will help solve the housing crisis in Queensland, yet every submitter said it will have a detrimental impact on the housing crisis and we will have fewer homes being delivered than will be required. Again, there was no consultation. Who in government came up with this idea? Who was the minister? It was the bill of Minister Miles, now the Premier. Did he come up with this urban investigation zone? Effectively the submitters to the committee say that going by the process you have to go through via the legislation it would take three years before councils declare one of these urban investigation zones an actual zone. That is not an immediate solution to the housing crisis. Worse, what would actually happen is that the minute this bill was introduced, developers who have land could put in applications to develop and have their applications lodged and get various approvals through the process before this urban investigative zone was even commencing in this legislation in a few years time—and they will review it in five years. The Labor Party members on the committee realised this was an issue but, instead of having the courage to say 'get rid of it' like our members did in their statement of reservation, the Labor Party members on the committee said, 'Proceed, but maybe have a different review; maybe three years not five years.' What an absolute joke.

This is the problem when you have a government that has been in power for nearly 10 years—that is so focused on winning elections they have forgotten about the people who need a roof over their head. All they are concentrating on is making it look like they are doing something in this space. Parliament is having to waste all this time. I do not think when the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation) Amendment Bill goes through it will avail Queenslanders of any more homes. I do not think when this bill goes through it will make affordability any less of an issue for Queenslanders. The question is what are the Labor government doing? It is always a kneejerk reaction.

**Mr McDonald:** It is just in the timing.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection from the member for Lockyer who has been interjecting on me all contribution. I suspect he wants to be quoted in my speech in *Hansard* so I will take the interjection from the honourable member and again acknowledge the great work that he did on the committee and in the statement of reservation, as did the member for Burleigh. As the member for Lockyer pointed out to me, the UDIA in its submission also said—

Much of the proposed amendment is valuable and supported by the industry on the grounds it has potential to boost housing supply, however we strongly recommend against undertaking the proposed legislative change regarding Urban Investigation Zones and altering the purpose statement of the Emerging Community zone. These changes that would reduce the ability to bring forward housing supply would come at a time when the housing system can least afford ...

They are saying this bill will make housing affordability and availability in Queensland worse. The government has come in here without any notice—I think substantial amendments were issued during question time—and said the minister will move an amendment that gets rid of the urban investigation zone and they will further consult with the LGAQ and stakeholders.



**Mr Minnikin:** Why didn't they do that the first time?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Exactly! Why did they not do it before they put the bill in? The way this Labor government operates is to come up with a harebrained idea, like an urban investigation zone, introduce it into parliament, have it go through a parliamentary committee process—where have we seen this before?

The education bill is another example. Members opposite have said that they are going to change the education bill despite introducing it only a matter of weeks ago. It is a game. Why? It is the crisis and chaos of the Queensland Labor government that cannot steer the ship straight at the moment and Queenslanders are paying the price. Queenslanders know that Premier Miles is not up to the job. Now the minister will be forced to move an amendment to get rid of the urban investigation zone and to further consult with industry, which they should have done. There are further amendments with respect to the heritage issues that were also raised by the LNP members of the committee. Again, the government has had to fix their bill. They have had to listen to what stakeholders, particularly local governments, are saying about the dual heritage issue. Members opposite are taking on board some of those comments. Again, why did the government not undertake that particular consultation earlier?

Today, the minister has circulated amendments. Amendment No. 40 states—

**65A Regulation about particular conditions**

- (1) A regulation may provide that a development condition imposed on the following development approvals may relate to the provision of an affordable housing component on the premises the subject of the approval—
- (a) a development approval given or changed by the chief executive under 6A;
  - (b) a development approval given for an application that—
    - (i) specifically proposes the provision of affordable housing component; and
    - (ii) complies with the criteria prescribed by the regulation.

Aha! That is the key: 'prescribed by the regulation'. Where is the regulation? The minister now says that they are going to consult on the regulation. Has it even been drafted? Where is it? They have had a chance to move the amendment. By the way, if my honourable colleagues the Greens look at page 3 of the explanatory notes to the amendments they will see how rushed these amendments are. The second last paragraph states—

This section is also intended to apply to a Queensland heritage place that is also a local heritage place.

They cannot not even spell because it has been so rushed. I assume it means 'heritage place' but it is 'a local heritage'. It has been so rushed that they cannot even get the documents right. This is the government of the day. Because it is so rushed they are making mistakes. They are making mistakes because they are in constant chaos and crisis.

The minister's amendment No. 40 states—

- (3) In this section—
- affordable housing component** means a component of the development that—
- (a) involves housing that is affordable for particular types of households; and—

Without explanation—

- (b) complies with the criteria prescribed by regulation.

Again, what is the regulation? Today members of parliament are being asked to vote on a bill that relies heavily on an afterthought and regulation when we have not been given the courtesy of receiving a copy of the regulation and we have not been briefed on the regulation. We are being asked to vote with the Labor Party, as in, 'Trust us, we'll do it and we'll get it right.' I do not trust the Labor Party. Based on our experience of the past nine years and the housing crisis, I do not trust the Labor Party at all. I do not trust the Labor Party when it comes to regulation. They cannot expect members of parliament to come in here and vote for particular provisions of a bill that will have substantial impacts on the housing industry and stakeholders, relying on a 'trust' factor. I do not trust the Labor Party, I do not trust the Labor government in Queensland and I certainly do not trust the new Premier who is responsible for the housing crisis in Queensland.

The Greens talked about clarification that the declaration of 'state facilitated development' does not override a decision of the Planning and Environment Court, despite the bill specifically mentioning that the Planning and Environment Court was one of the elements of the provision. Again, we have a bill that is being heavily and substantially amended because the government has not been able to get this right. I am at constant pains to point out that the reason the government cannot get it right is

because it has stopped listening and consulting. The people who have the answers to a lot of these housing issues in Queensland are the very people who put in submissions saying the bill should not go ahead or, if it does go ahead, that it should be substantially amended. The government is amending a few elements of it but not necessarily addressing all of the concerns of stakeholders.

We talk about a housing crisis in Queensland. As I have said, it is a sad state of affairs when, only across the road from here, people are living under bridges. We see that all across Queensland. Members of parliament and shadow cabinet travel around. No matter to which town or city across Queensland we go, the feedback from people is that the cost-of-living crisis is real, the housing crisis is real and the Labor government has no real solutions on the table to address those particular issues. As I said, we have had nine years of neglect under the Palaszczuk Labor government followed by the Miles government. There are thousands and thousands of people living without a roof over their heads and it is a different homelessness crisis. It is not the homelessness crisis we have experienced in the past. These are families with double incomes who can afford to rent but cannot get a home. They cannot find a rental property. They will go to see a rental property and 50 people will apply for the same property because over the past nine years the Labor government has not invested enough in supply. What is the biggest solution to the housing crisis? Supply, supply, supply! Under this Labor government, supply has been going backwards.


The government is making a lot of announcements but, as the shadow minister for housing quite rightly articulated last sitting when he went through all the government announcements, there are a lot of 'might', 'could do', 'should do', 'would do', 'maybe', 'perhaps', 'it might be likely this will happen'. There are no solid solutions in terms of what will happen. It is all about what could, should or may happen under the Labor government. Under the Labor government we know that, year on year, building approvals have gone down by over 31 per cent from 2015-16 versus 2022-23. The Premier often jumps up in this House and says, 'Oh, you can't rely on those statistics.' We will rely on them because they are the ABS statistics and I do not trust the government statistics. From what we have seen with ambulance ramping and health data, they try to hide whatever they can to make themselves look good. I will not trust the government's own data. I will rely on the ABS statistics.

I will rely on Queenslanders giving us feedback as they did in Ipswich West. For nearly a full pre-poll day I stood with Mr Darren Zanow, the newly-elected member for Ipswich West. The feedback we were getting was twofold: one was on youth crime and the second was on the housing and cost-of-living crises. People were breaking down in the polling line as they talked about how they cannot afford groceries and they cannot afford rent, let alone mortgages. Those people were talking about renting. They would love to own their own home but that dream is just so far away from them under the Labor government. That is why they resoundingly voted for the LNP in Ipswich West with a 22 per cent swing on two-party preferred. That is why in Inala the Labor Party lost 30 per cent of its primary vote. Inala is no longer a safe seat for the Labor Party. It was the safest seat in Queensland. That message should have been heard by the Labor government, but it was not because today all we hear is excuse after excuse.

Queenslanders know that the only chance they are going to get to live the Australian dream and to own their own home is to vote out the Labor government. It is as simple as that. The plans we have put in place over the past few years are about partnering with the community housing sector and the private sector and making sure that there are more land releases available. Those are the solutions to the housing crisis. The Labor government, through its planning scheme amendments involving local governments, will say, 'Oh, well, the answer is density.' The state government just wants to densify everything. Even in my electorate of Kawana it is all about densifying the beaches and killing the loggerhead turtles. One of the largest nesting areas of loggerhead turtles is in Kawana and I will fight against that every single day of the week. I will go into battle every day of the week for our Kawana loggerhead turtles. The Labor government wants to densify that coastal beach area. Does the Labor Party not understand that to actually build high-rise units in Queensland costs about a million dollars? Developers cannot afford to build those units. Members of the Labor Party say, 'Oh, it is going to be affordable living.' How can we have affordable living in a high-rise complex when it costs developers and builders a million dollars to build? They say, 'Oh, the answer to this is just to densify everything.' They cannot afford to build them.

Before I close, I come to the crazy cuckoo Greens' amendment that I have just seen circulated. The Greens are proposing that if anyone builds, for instance, a 100-unit development then at the end of the development 50 per cent of the units or houses have to be gifted to the state government. That is communism. Do the Greens think builders are going to build them? It is going to be worse, but guess

what? That is the Labor Party's position because they do dodgy deals with the Greens come election time. They will support that in each seat. The Labor Party will support that position. It does dodgy deals with the Greens and takes their preferences to stay in government. The only way to fix the housing crisis is to show Labor the door in '24 and elect an LNP government.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (3.29 pm): I rise to speak in support of both of these bills. Homes for Queenslanders is building more homes for more Queenslanders. These two bills provide strong and crucial support for the nation-leading Homes for Queenslanders program. Homes for Queenslanders is the most comprehensive policy-in-action plan to deal with a social and economic problem I have seen in over 20 years of public life. Each time you look at it you see some other initiative that you know is nation leading. I would remind people that there are five pillars: building more homes faster; improving our planning system to deliver more quality homes in the right locations; supporting Queensland renters and helping first home owners; boosting social housing to reduce housing stress and protect vulnerable Queenslanders; and moving towards ending homelessness by providing more funding for homelessness services and help for vulnerable people.

The LNP may talk about homelessness, but some of us go out there with service providers and spend time amongst people living in those areas. Those service providers now have 20 per cent more funding to go out and work amongst those people who are living rough. From what I have seen when I have gone out there, each one in my area has offered an alternative. 'What can we do for you?' 'We have this for you; we have that for you.' Everyone out there has options, and that is coming through the Homes for Queenslanders plan. I want to compliment all of the housing ministers who have contributed to this bill. I also want to compliment the Premier on this groundbreaking policy action.

As we have heard the minister say today, it is an ambitious plan to build more homes faster. It is the most ambitious housing program ever in Queensland's history. What have the LNP said they would do about housing? We have heard absolutely nothing about what they would do. We heard about what they think is wrong. We have heard about what they do not like, but we have not heard one iota of what they would do. They offer nothing. They previously said they want to offer hope: they want to use the hope of Queenslanders to suck them in and get them to vote for them. At the end of the day, the LNP offers nothing on housing and they never have. All they have done is cut, sack and sell. They have a disgraceful record on housing in Queensland. I challenge the member for Kawana to show me your policy.

**Mr Crandon:** The only record is \$16 billion sold by your mob. That has made that clear. Nobody sold anything at all. You lot sold \$16 billion worth!

**Mr WHITING:** Show me the policy!

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Order!

**Mr WHITING:** You have no policy!

**Mr Crandon:** You lot sold \$16 billion worth!

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Coomera and member for Bancroft, I will not tolerate arguing across the chamber. I will ask for disciplined behaviour.

**Mr WHITING:** I do apologise, Madam Deputy Speaker.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Coomera, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Bancroft, you are also warned under the standing orders.

**Mr CRANDON:** I am sorry, Madam Deputy Speaker, I said nothing.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You are being warned for your earlier conduct when you were arguing across the chamber. Member for Bancroft, you have the call.

**Mr WHITING:** As I was saying, Homes for Queenslanders is a great program. We have a target of one million new homes by 2046. We have set a target to roll out 53,000 social homes by 2046. As we heard this morning, there are 1,000 new homes under construction by the Miles government right now. Homes for Queenslanders is building modular homes through QBuild and in partnership with the private sector. I would remind people that the last time the LNP was in government they sacked 1,600 people from that state government agency. As we also heard this morning, we are one of only two states that has increased the number of public and community houses in the last 10 years in Australia. I want to begin my comments in relation to these bills at the end: the statement of reservation by the LNP on one of these bills. They said—


There is little evidence from the inquiry that this Bill will assist the current issues of Housing Availability and Affordability ...

It is clear that these bills will help the building and construction industry and the state government to put more roofs over the heads of Queensland families.

I will conclude by talking about the building industry fairness bill, which has the project framework. This particular framework is one of the best things we have seen to support housing and the housing industry within Queensland. Robert Pearson from Master Electricians, which represents all of the sparkies and contractors, said—

We commend the Queensland government for its proactive response towards security-of-payment issues ... Queensland is the only jurisdiction, at both a state and federal level, to have decisive legislation action to genuinely prioritise the welfare of construction subcontractors. Queensland has become a national leader in security-of-payment laws, setting a commendable precedent for other Australian states ...

I commend these bills to the House.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (3.36 pm): If the member for Bancroft would like his dummy back, I think I saw it flying across this way somewhere—

**Mr WHITING:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Member for Burleigh, I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr HART:** I withdraw. What a mess these two cognate bills are. They are in such a mess that the minister now responsible is going to have to come in here and remove a big chunk of the bill that was put forward by our incompetent Premier when he was the minister responsible for this. It is quite easy to see that we have a Premier without real-life experience except politics—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Burleigh, please get back to the long title of the bill.

**Mr HART:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I am speaking to the bill. The minister who introduced this bill has no life experience, no business experience and then tries to tell the industry how they should work. We have an issue with the performance planning scheme on the Gold Coast. It is leading to increased height levels over 50 per cent above the town plan which all of the people in local areas have agreed to. The performance outcome that the government wants to get to is affordable and available housing, as per the name of this particular bill, but it is not actually leading to that. In my suburb alone a developer just applied for an extra two storeys on a building where the starting price is \$5.5 million per unit, and they are allowed to because of the perform planning scheme. Those units are going to be worth at least \$10 million each and there will be two of them. How is that going to make for affordable and available housing for people on the Gold Coast? Those people cannot afford that.

**Dr Robinson:** Only Labor ministers.

**Mr HART:** I take the interjection from the member for Oodgeroo: probably only ministers in this government can afford those sorts of things. It has been passed on after the Premier messed up the introduction and it has been given to someone with even less life experience, the member for Gaven, to fix that problem. That member's claim to fame is that she rents a property. That is the member's only claim to fame. She has come in here today and said she is going to axe half of this bill.

The report that the committee put out—and I am on the committee, member for Logan—

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Logan.

**Mr HART:** This report is not a reflection of how all of the committee members felt about this particular bill. It is a reflection of the government members. The government members would not have a clue on how to ask a hard question. All they do is back the bills the government that gives them and they stop the LNP members from asking the hard questions. Then they come in here and selectively read from the evidence that we were given at the hearings that we held.

This bill gives the minister the power to override decisions of local government. We already saw the current minister come in here today and say that she is looking to call in a development on the Gold Coast that the Gold Coast City council unanimously decided to reject, and this minister is going to look at calling in that particular development. This legislation will give her even more power to override the councils left, right and centre. That is exactly what the government will do.

Why are they doing that? They are doing that to shift to local government the blame for their own failures.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr HART:** We have failed ministers sitting in the back interjecting but, at the end of the day they are attempting to shift—

**Mr BAILEY:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I find the comments from the member for Burleigh personally offensive and I ask for them to be withdrawn.

**Mr HART:** I do not remember mentioning the minister directly, but he is obviously accepting that I did so I withdraw.

**Mr BAILEY:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The member for Burleigh made a direct reference to me only one minute ago. Now he is saying he cannot remember doing so. It was clearly a reference to me, which is why I took the point of order. I find it personally offensive. I ask for it to be withdrawn. If you do not want your speech interrupted then do not contravene the standing orders.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Miller, direct your comments through the chair. Member for Burleigh, have you withdrawn?

**Mr HART:** I did withdraw, Madam Deputy Speaker. The government had what I would call a housing talkfest because the outcomes were insignificant. They then established a committee to reference some of these changes. During the evidence, the committee heard that the people who attended and spoke to the government about the possibility of the changes knew nothing about some of the things that were in this bill, including the Urban Investigation Zone. That is an issue. If this had been put in place, those developments would have been locked up for five years. The committee's response was to say, 'Let's not lock them up for five years. Let's review it in two years.'

As the member for Kawana said, the reality is that it would have taken three years for these things to be put in place anyway so they just were not going to work. We had submitters telling us they were not going to work. We had the LGAQ telling us that they were not going to work, but the government were pig-headed enough to go on with that particular part of the legislation. Now they have changed their mind. Now they are coming in here and chopping a great chunk out of this bill. During the evidence we were given, we were told that some of the members on that committee were sworn to secrecy to the point where they could not talk to their own members about what was discussed at the meetings so they could not, in fact, get feedback from the councils and then pass it on to the government. That is how secretive this government is.

I have used a fair bit of my time and I also want to talk to the building industry fairness bill. I was the shadow minister for housing when the original bill was introduced in 2017. At the time of the debate, three years later in 2020, I said that this would not work. I said that the LNP wanted to see all subbies paid on time every time, and that is what the government was spruiking at the time. We said that we did not think this would work but that we would give it a chance. We thought that, more than likely, we would be back here tweaking this legislation every couple of years, and here we are. We are back now tweaking this legislation.


The member for Bancroft selectively quoted one of the defenders of this bill who spoke at our public meeting, but he did not mention the Master Builders. This is a direct quote from Mr Bidwell of the Master Builders—

We cannot stress enough the chaos that will ensue when project trust accounts are required for contracts down to \$3 million and then \$1 million next year. They are an unnecessary and complex overlay on top of the many security of payment measures already in Queensland legislation and there is no evidence that they have made a scrap of difference over the past six years. In fact, there have been recent builder insolvencies and, despite there being project trust accounts, the subcontractor had not been paid for their work. There are alternatives but the government at every turn has chosen to ignore the industry's input and continue down this path...

Why do we have these project bank accounts in place? Why do we have billions of dollars tied up in accounts if they do not work? What we are hearing, over and over again, is that they do not work. Companies are going into liquidation and the subbies are not being paid.

How many hundreds of times has the minister stood in this place and said that this legislation will lead to subbies being paid on time every time? It has been a complete abject failure. Because these ministers do not have any business experience, they do not understand that locking up someone's GST for a period without their being able to claim an input credit severely impacts their cash flow. They completely ignore that fact because they do not understand how business works.

Everything this government does leads to worse outcomes for the housing industry. We have seen it around the changes to rental reforms where the rights of property owners have been taken away and those property owners have pushed back by saying, 'I do not want to own this property anymore. I do not want to be in the rental industry anymore.' As a result, 56,000 of those people have abandoned rentals in Queensland.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (3.47 pm): First off, I have to apologise to the member for Burleigh because I too must be someone without any life experience if we go along with his vicious attack on the minister that, based on her age, she has no life experience. Therefore, I must apologise to the member for Burleigh. I simply would have no experience. I would not have any experience despite all of those Queenslanders who come into my electoral office facing vulnerability. I did not hear the member for Burleigh talk about everyday Queenslanders. I heard him attacking the government, attacking the Premier and attacking the minister. I heard him talk about developers. I heard him talk about big industry. I did not hear him talk about the vulnerable people in his electorate who come and sit down and say, 'Can you please help me find a house?' I did not hear that. In the contributions that we have had so far from those opposite, we have heard very little about the face of vulnerability and very little about their wanting to accept the reality of the pressures that are pushing down on the private market because of COVID that have led to those new faces of vulnerability.

The member for Kawana tried to say that COVID has had no impact on the pressures on the housing market right now, but we know for a fact that COVID is the No. 1 reason the private market collapsed not just in Queensland or across Australia but also across the world. The price of steel, the price of the resources and the price of labour have all gone up but fixed contract prices were already locked in. That is why we have seen the private market collapse. State governments are there to provide social and affordable housing. It is this government that is putting forward policy documents and the legislation to back up those policy documents to help support the private market so that we can get more housing supply and more homes for Queenslanders.


We are not hearing that from the LNP. We are not hearing any policy solutions. Instead they want to come in and avoid any relevance to the bill and just attack members of the government. They are not actually interested in the members of their community. They are not actually interested in those facing vulnerability. I did not hear the member for Kawana name any of those people he spoke about who were living in tents, but I can name the people who come up to me when I go down to my local community centre and say, 'Tom, I just want to thank you and your office. You got me a house last week. Thank you for intervening and making sure we got accommodation.'

That is what Homes for Queenslanders is. It is an ambitious target but it is ambitious because we on this side of the House believe that all Queenslanders should have the ambition of owning their own home or at the very least having a safe place to call home—not just a building, not just a roof with four walls but a place to call home. We are seeing that. It was wonderful to be with the Premier only weeks ago to officially open two new modular houses in Bundaberg. It was disappointing to see the member for Burnett attacking the construction of those homes in a press release. He has come out today and is already attacking our plan for modular housing across Queensland. That means he wants a slower delivery of housing in Queensland and he wants to see those families not have a place to call home.

We know the record of the LNP. We know that after their time in government there were 428 fewer dwellings than when they got in. They reduced housing by over 400. In Bundaberg social housing went backwards under the LNP. They come in here and they are fascinated by October. All they talk about is what is going to happen in October, yet they will not put a policy forward for Queenslanders to consider in October. What are they hiding from? We know what they are hiding from. They are hiding from real Queenslanders because they are not talking about them.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SMITH:** Even now they are trying to interject a personal attack on me while I am talking about the people in my community who I personally stand up for. I do not care about personal attacks from the LNP. I care about the mums and dads, the pensioners, the everyday workers and, yes, the people who are homeless in my community. I go down there, I talk to them, I stand up for them, I fight for them and through my office and the department we get them housed. We will never ever stop doing that because that is what we believe on this side. Personal attacks on a minister's age and personal attacks on industry experience is what the LNP stand for. Meanwhile here we are putting Queenslanders in a home.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (3.52 pm): I am pleased to be able to rise on these two important bills for Queenslanders. Unfortunately, I do not share the zest that the government has in these bills. In fact in relation to the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill, I would argue that the only place affordability and availability is going to be achieved is in the title of the bill.

The LGAQ, which represents 77 councils across Queensland, and the Council of Mayors (SEQ) made submissions and gave evidence on the housing availability and affordability bill and they said that this bill will not assist in the supply of housing to vulnerable Queenslanders. We know that there are more than 20,000 Queenslanders without a roof over their heads right now. As the UDIA said, when there is a housing crisis, governments should not change the rules and make it harder because every time there is a change it complicates things. They said that governments should just get out of the way of industry and let them move on with the supply.

We have talked about this many times in this House. What the government need to do is get out of the way and support the private investment in housing supply. They need to unlock some of the opportunities for improved zoning across South-East Queensland as well as the rest of the state so that when more responsible zoning is available to the developers they will lead a pathway of supply. Right now, there are 97,000 lots and 94,000 multiple dwellings actually approved but not activated under the current approval system. That is simply because they do not meet the demand and meet the supply. There are plenty of developers and councils out there who want to be able to unlock that land and provide a pathway of supply.

Zoning is one thing, but the other thing—as our deputy leader and leader have quite rightly said—is having a pathway of infrastructure that is well coordinated between Transport and Main Roads and local government. I note that the shadow minister for main roads, Steve Minnikin, is in the House here today. He has talked to me about making sure there is coordination between Transport and Main Roads and local governments so that infrastructure is delivered and those potential land parcels are unlocked. We have heard announcement after announcement over the last four or five years about some of the opportunities to the north of Brisbane and in South-East Queensland yet nothing has eventuated.

One of the important things a government must do is actually not think they have got all of the solutions, as we are seeing in these bills, particularly the housing availability and affordability bill. They cannot just say, 'We know what's best,' and put things on the table without consultation. That is one of the key things we heard over and over again from the stakeholders, whether it be local government, the UDIA or others. They said there was a lack of consultation regarding the proposed changes. Some of the proposed changes were talked about in one of the Growth Areas Advisory Committees. However, the people who were participating in that committee had to sign confidentiality agreements. We heard that they were so fearful of what they could or could not do that they were not even consulting with the member councils. That is certainly something that was very restrictive in the open dialogue to see improvements.

I actually feel sorry for the government members of our committee because they were presented with a bill that had so many flaws in it and unfortunately the government were not going to listen, as we have seen with the bill coming back into the House. I do note the amendments to make sure that urban investigation zone is removed because that was just going to be a farce. If land parcels were locked up and the development of those opportunities was pushed out, it was going to create even more confusion for Queenslanders, local governments and the development industry.

As I said before, governments cannot just think they are going to be able to provide all of the solutions. In fact what they should do is talk to industry and get out of the way of that private investment—those mums and dads with houses and investment opportunities, whether it be the granny flats they talked about at a Housing Summit or seeing parcels being unlocked. There are so many opportunities that the private sector would be able to do. However, what we heard over and over again was that there is a lack of confidence from the private sector to invest in solutions, whether it be home-based solutions like a second dwelling at your home or unlocking land parcels. We heard that the industry was so concerned with the changes the government was making and the instability this government had created that they did not have confidence to invest in those areas of supply.

As I mentioned before, we have about 20,000 people who are homeless. This is not something that has just happened overnight. This government have been in play for almost 10 years. They are coming up with some solutions that they think are right, but thinking you are right is not the way to be successful in government. The local governments which are responsible for the planning legislation and unlocking a lot of these parcels have a lot of different opportunities and ideas that they would be able to do if they worked collaboratively with the state government. Unfortunately, we did not see that.

I note the time is progressing. I wanted to talk to the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill—


**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr McDONALD:**—because I get excited—I take the interjection from the member for Nanango. I get excited talking about local government and the supply opportunities they present. In regard to the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, we submitted a statement of reservation to the committee report because the only people who actually felt the system was good were the government members of the committee and those tradespeople in industry who had the perception or thought that it was a comfort for them to have that security of payment system; those who felt it was a bit of a security blanket for them to know that they would be paid. However, let's drill down into the detail of it.

I note Paul Bidwell of the Master Builders Association gave some great evidence and told us about the failings of the system in that head contractors can make deposits into the scheme that meet a contract and, up until the day that that contract is finalised, can withdraw those funds after being receipted to tick that box. A head contractor can make a deposit and then, all the way up until the last day of that contract, actually withdraw that money so that if the subcontractors to them go bad, they will not get paid. We heard a number of times that where contracts are good, there is no problem, and that is the case for most situations. There can be no problems with hundreds of thousands of transactions every week across the state but, where a head contractor falls over, we heard that this security of payment solution is actually not working and many subcontractors were not being paid.

We offered a number of suggestions in order to fix that bill. Unfortunately, as I said, I feel for the government members on the committee. They heard the same submissions that we heard and had the same opportunities to fix both of these bills. A couple of those amendments have come in at the last moment, but it certainly is not progressing any meaningful solutions to housing availability and housing affordability. One of the reasons this government has ended up where they are is they simply are not listening to Queenslanders.

I note my colleague from Ipswich West, Darren Zanow, joining us here. Congratulations to Darren. This is my first opportunity to place on record my congratulations for the wonderful result in Ipswich. Being out there with Darren and many others listening to Queenslanders' concerns on youth crime and housing is just one of the things that the LNP has done, and will continue to do, to get the right priorities for Queensland.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (4.02 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill 2023 and the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. These bills are critical in responding to the current housing challenges and unlocking barriers to delivering more homes for more Queenslanders, including for First Nations communities.

We know that housing inequity disproportionately affects First Nations Queenslanders. Addressing this is critically important to our combined effort to close the gap on disadvantage. Target 9 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap addresses the need for secure, appropriate and affordable housing for First Nations peoples. We know that in Queensland, First Nations people are: twice as likely to live in severely crowded homes than non-Indigenous Queenslanders; six times more likely to experience homelessness than non-Indigenous Queenslanders; more than 10 times more likely to live in social housing than non-Indigenous Queenslanders; only half as likely to own their own homes as non-Indigenous Queenslanders; and five times more likely to experience financial stress than non-Indigenous Australians.

The Miles government is driving progress to improve housing outcomes for First Nations Queenslanders. Yesterday, as part of the broader conversation about housing, I was pleased to join the Minister for Housing, Aunty Mary Doctor, chair of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland, and residents from Umpi Korumba to help launch *Our place: a First Nations Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2024-2027* which was co-designed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland, the peak body for housing. Our place action plan is backed by an initial \$61 million investment which will provide pathways to help First Nations peoples into home ownership and provide opportunities for the First Nations building and construction industry. In response to calls from Indigenous community housing organisation, we have committed to funding a program to help them maintain and upgrade homes.

The Miles Labor government is determined to close the gap. All of this is under threat from those opposite. It was the members opposite who sat silently as the federal LNP cut funding for remote Indigenous housing, for instance. We need to continue the work to deliver more housing for Queenslanders, and that is what this bill does.




These bills will provide the state and local governments with the necessary tools needed to intervene and respond to the key challenges affecting the delivering of housing, allowing a more agile response to growth pressures throughout the state. The bill provides a streamlined assessment pathway to deliver development that is a priority to the state, such as affordable housing. It also provides easement and acquisition powers for the planning minister to deliver critical development infrastructure. This is an important inclusion for the many families now calling Pallara in my electorate of Algester home. Over the past nine years, Brisbane City Council has approved thousands of new homes in Pallara, putting many pressures on local infrastructure, including our ability to expand the primary school which at the moment is seeing a new stage of expansion being planned right now.

An objective of the bill is also to improve the operation of the Planning Act 2016. The Planning Act has been in operation since 2017 and has proven to be effective and robust. As planning practices modernise over time, the legislation requires amendments to support its continuing operation. The bill will improve processes for applications for temporary use licences, representations made on approvals under the Planning Act and notice processes for amending the minister's guidelines and rules and the development assessment rules. With newspaper circulation on the decline, the changes will allow for greater flexibility in processes for submissions, public notification and, of course, record keeping. This is particularly important for ensuring the voices of regional Queensland and discrete Indigenous communities are heard.

The Miles Labor government is also supporting stability in the building and construction industry with the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. A stable industry is critical to supporting the Homes for Queenslanders plan. With these amendments, the Miles Labor government is committed to creating a safer, fairer and more sustainable building and construction industry as set out in the *Queensland Building Plan 2017* and the *Queensland Building Plan Update 2021*. We are listening to industry and making it easier and more cost effective to comply. We are ensuring that industry can get on with delivering Queensland's Big Build, including in remote and regional areas and in Indigenous communities.

It is time the LNP came clean with Queenslanders on their plan and whether they are to repeat their brutal cuts to housing and Indigenous communities if they happen to sneak back into government with One Nation support. I commend these bills to the House.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (4.07 pm): I have listened with interest in the last couple of hours to the debate and, given it is a cognate debate, I would like to limit my contribution to specifically the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill 2023. I note that some of the speakers have actually referred to some personal comments—they can speak and do what they want—but I will be referencing Jane and Kurt a bit later in my contribution because, to me, that is the actual human face behind this particular bill in my electorate of Chatsworth.

I note that the bill was introduced by the Deputy Premier on 11 October last year. I note the objective of the bill is to amend the Planning Act 2016, to optimise the planning framework response to current housing challenges through a suite of new tools, and to improve the operational and process aspects of the Planning Act and, furthermore, to the Economic Development Act 2012, the Integrated Resort Development Act 1987, and the Sanctuary Cove Resort Act 1985 to ensure operational efficiencies in the Planning Act also apply to other planning legislation and to the Planning and Environment Court. I am also aware that the amendments require the Planning and Environment Court Act and the Environmental Offsets Act 2014 to give effect to the changes in the Planning Act. There is a fair bit of legislation that needs to be looked at, but, at the end of the day, what we are really debating here, I believe, are people and the need to put a roof over their head.

The government has stated that the bill has been influenced by the learnings from the development of Caboolture West, which was originally flagged as an urban growth area in the 2009 regional plan but is yet to see any significant development. I would hope that the government would learn from the mistakes of the past when it comes to urban growth and planning matters. I cite specifically what has occurred in the last 2½ decades in Ripley Valley and Yarrabilba where, as great as the communities are, they have always lacked decent transport connectivity and transport corridors from the get-go. It has been a retrospective job over many years to try to get these areas of urban planning connected with adequate transportation. I would hope that along the way, in addition to the housing bill, that this issue is taken on board because it is pretty obvious from a development perspective—my profession prior to the honour of serving in this chamber—that unless you have connectivity, the housing is only one part of the puzzle.

I note that the bill seeks to allow the state to take land or create easements for development infrastructure for planning purposes. That was the point I have just made. It is crucial for adequate transport planning to be done well and truly in advance. Also, it introduces a state facilitated application process to provide for the streamlined assessment of development applications for matters of priority to the state—for example, affordable housing. In terms of some of the operational amendments, the bill seeks to clarify provisions and to address operational issues and inefficiencies around the planning minister's powers and processes: temporary accepted developments; removing duplicate assessment relating to a Queensland heritage place that is also a local heritage place with a dual listing; and other temporary use licences to try and streamline some of the growing red tape.

The Development Control Plans, DCPs, were created in 1990 to manage large-scale development and have been maintained, in effect, through a series of transitional provisions in successive Queensland planning legislation. In fact, one of the noted cases that is often cited in the Planning and Environment Court is the judgement in JH North Lakes Pty Ltd v Moreton Bay Regional Council [2022] QPC18, the North Lakes judgement, which found that the development assessment in DCP areas must be repealed planning legislation under the Integrated Planning Act which presents risks to previous approvals and applies an outmoded assessment and decision process that is unfamiliar, complicated and does not function as intended.

Given I only have 10 minutes for this contribution, I would like to introduce Kurt and Jane who are members of my community. Sadly, they, too, like 20,000 other Queenslanders, are desperate for a roof over their heads. How do I know Jane and Kurt? They have been living in their cars on Stanley Road next to the cricket oval. Occasionally, like any member of this chamber would do, as a very small token—I think I have mentioned this previously—I have done a coffee run to give them a little bit of dignity in the morning. What they really want is not a cup of coffee—a flat white—from their local member; what they really want is a roof over their head.


I urge members who have made contributions today to take stock of the words they have contributed today and bring it back to what this is really all about—giving people the dignity of having a roof over their head. The problem is this: we have a big disconnect between what is warranted and what is promised by this government and what is actually delivered. Now that can be applied to a range of different portfolios, particularly the portfolio that I am privileged to shadow, transport and main roads, but this bill goes very much to the heart of Maslow's hierarchy of needs—shelter. This is in relation to one of the aspects of human dignity that I think is at the very core—providing people with the opportunity to live in a house, no matter how humble: some place that they can call their own.

The reality is that this particular legislation is rushed. I have tangible proof and it is the amendments in my hand to the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill. The amendments have only been circulated this morning. The reality is this legislation has not been comprehensively thought through, and who pays the price for that? The people of Queensland, particularly those who are looking to try and get a roof over their head.

The committee made five recommendations, but, at the end of the day, what is at the very heart of this debate is the simple fact that Queensland is in a housing crisis. Most members here know that in the particular areas that they represent there may have been—it is true—known areas throughout the state where there has always been the occasional tent and occasionally people doing it rough. No-one is that ignorant; no-one is that naive. I put it to members that I do not think there would be one person in this chamber who could honestly say hand on heart that things are better today than what they were nine years ago.

The simple reality is this: you do not need to do an economics masters next door to know the fundamental equation when it comes to supply and demand. It has been said by many contributors to this debate already. There is a distinct lack of housing stock; there is a distinct lack of supply. I have been very privileged in my past to develop a range of different asset classes, whether they be shopping centres, truck stops, industrial sites or commercial buildings. I have never developed a residential subdivision, but I do know that the fundamental premise is this: you allow generally five per cent for a margin, seven per cent for preliminary and you look for a general return on equity of around 15 per cent. We need to make it easier for developers to be able to get product to market. In other words, get subdivisions actually out of the ground, furnished with bitumen surfaces, make them available and then build the great Australian dream. The reality is this: talk is cheap. This is a government that, before the next election, will be just shy of a decade in office. I would ask every member on the government side to hand on heart look in the mirror and ask: is housing availability and the number of people living in tents better or worse than what they were?

I will end on this note. I have been privileged to be asked to be one of the CEOs for the Vinnies CEO Sleepout in a matter of weeks time. Other members would have been, as well. The reality is there are so many people who want to be involved in that charity because they know there is a housing crisis.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (4.17 pm): What a day! The land bill this morning, housing, planning, building—it is Brittany's day in the chamber; it is a planner's day. It is all right in my wheelhouse and I am very excited to debate this legislation today. Although, I cannot believe those opposite are resorting to personal attacks, alleging that we do not know what we are talking about when this is, ultimately, right in our wheelhouse. We, as Labor members in this place, believe in the importance of housing. We believe in the importance of housing as a fundamental human right—that it is connected to our everyday lives. It not only provides essential shelter but also plays a significant role in our quality of life and economic prosperity whilst supporting the long-term growth of our cities and regions.

More than 125,000 additional people each year are choosing to call Queensland home. This growth is coming when the housing market is already strained. To ensure we maintain our great Queensland lifestyle we need to plan for this growth. We need to be able to pull the new levers in the planning and development system to deliver more homes where they are needed faster. If we plan ahead and plan well, growth will not only deliver more homes but also bring other opportunities like more jobs, more infrastructure and more services sooner.

At the Queensland Housing Summit, the government made a commitment to introduce legislative changes to the planning framework to remove barriers to the development of new housing and we are delivering on that commitment. The Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill amends the Planning Act 2016 to optimise the planning framework's response to housing challenges. This bill makes various operational amendments aimed at enhancing planning efficiencies in Queensland. This is about using all of the levers at our disposal to break down the barriers and help build more homes sooner. Planning is absolutely the key tool used by state and local governments to deliver connected, livable and sustainable communities across Queensland. Yes, this bill will ensure the framework is responsive, efficient and effective in removing barriers affecting housing and land supply in areas where growth should be occurring with quick and targeted intervention.

Planning does matter. This bill will give planners and developers more freedom to address the housing challenges as we see huge numbers of people moving to Queensland. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the planners in Queensland for all of their work day in, day out. They are passionate about making a difference and making life better in Queensland. I also want to thank the Planning Institute of Australia for their leadership and expertise in developing so many of the amendments that we are debating in this place today and for their detailed and thoughtful submissions. I speak of planners like the great Phil Heywood, who made a very detailed and thorough submission to the committee, Nicole Bennetts, Sean Cullen, Shannon Batch and our very own State Planner, Tess Pickering. I thank them for the work they do to help make Queensland a better place to live, work and raise a family.

With new easement tools and streamlined state-led assessments, we are removing barriers to housing supply, especially for affordable homes where they are needed most. This government is taking decisive action, aligning our Homes for Queenslanders plan and the South East Queensland Regional Plan with legislative reforms in this bill to deliver homes faster. That is contrary to the LNP's unfounded claims, such as those made earlier today in this place by the member for Kawana that this bill will not make any difference. What would he know? I can tell honourable members, with certainty, that the bill's measures are designed to expedite housing projects and tackle barriers that hinder housing supply, demonstrating a clear commitment to improving affordability and accessibility. This bill will make a difference. It will deliver houses faster.


The bill introduces significant amendments to the Planning Act, including a new assessment pathway designed to prioritise affordable housing developments. Additionally, it grants the planning minister the authority to acquire land or create easements to facilitate critical infrastructure needed to support housing projects. I am pleased that this bill removes the requirement for public notices in newspapers, allowing electronic submissions, suspending appeal periods and clarifying owner consent for state reserve development. These changes directly address the challenges of housing availability and affordability by streamlining approvals and ensuring essential infrastructure can be delivered efficiently to support housing development.

We are tackling housing challenges head on, but those opposite have nothing to add. They have no innovative ideas to expedite projects and boost housing supply. They just come in here to whinge and whine and, yet again, have nothing constructive to offer as to how to improve housing affordability—

**An opposition member:** You haven't offered anything constructive for the last nine years.

**Ms LAUGA:** Is that something constructive that you might have to offer? I do not think it was—still nothing. Those opposite just come in here to whinge and whine and have nothing to add. Now is the time for substance, not whingeing and whining. They should propose solutions, join our efforts to expedite housing projects and remove supply obstacles or get out of the way. That is what a good opposition does and it is what Queenslanders expect.

Today marks a positive step forward for Queensland. Yes, there is more work to be done, but the LNP need to stop their whingeing and get on board with making positive change for Queensland's future. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (4.23 pm): I rise to speak on the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill that is part of the cognate debate and I will say a few words about the housing bill as well. I also refer to the Speaker's ruling this morning. I acknowledge that there was one ministerial statement and not 18 ministerial statements, so I apologise for misleading the House. I put that on the record.

The Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill brings some issues to light that we have not spoken about for a while, that is, the make-up and operations of the Queensland Building and Construction Commission, the QBCC.

**Ms Boyd:** Oh God!

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection. We are talking about so-called reforms of the QBCC, and the member for Pine Rivers interrupts with a sigh because she obviously wants the old ways that were in place to remain. What were those old ways?

**Mr Smith:** You know the old ways.

**Mr MANDER:** I take the interjection from the member for Bundaberg as well. What are they addressing? This is what they are addressing. The QBCC Board was stacked with Labor Party wannabes and has-beens. Those are the people who were on the board of the QBCC. The former head of the Queensland Labor Party was the chair. The former Labor minister for housing and public works was on the board. A current senior executive of the CFMEU was on the board. There was another union official from the fire protection industry on the board of the building regulator. One of the reasons we are here today is because of the Varghese report, which looked at some of these issues. They were told, time and time again throughout that review, that there were unbelievable conflicts of interest. The board was stacked with Labor Party stalwarts who were seat warmers and nothing more than that—

**Mr Lister:** Stooges.

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection from the member for Southern Downs. They proved to be totally and utterly ineffective. There were 10 members. Not all of them fell into that category but the majority of them did. This bill addresses some of those issues. That was the make-up of the board and the composition of those on the board.

The other issue, as I have already mentioned—and I want to be a bit more specific—is the conflict of interest issue. A person on the board was the head of a fire protection organisation and also the head of the union or association that was responsible for those workers. He was promoting laws that would benefit his organisation and his members to the detriment of small business owners. I had tens and tens of small business owners in the fire protection sector—

**Mr Skelton:** He can't count to five. Is that a hundred, 10 by 10?

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection from the genius from Nicklin. Every now and then we hear a murmur. The only time we hear from the member for Nicklin is late at night on Twitter or Facebook and it is incredibly entertaining. We love it. Small businesses in the fire protection industry—people who had been in the business for 40 and 50 years; tens and tens of years in the industry—were suddenly told that they were no longer qualified to do their job and, in fact, that they had to get a qualification. Where would they get the qualification from?

**Mr Bennett:** From the union.

**Mr MANDER:** Exactly. I take the interjection of the member for Burnett. They were to get it from the union-run colleges. That is where they would get it. Once again there was a circular economy to promote the trade union movement. We know what those opposite owe the trade union movement. We know what the Premier owes the trade union movement to be in the position he is in: payback after payback. What is happening here is that amendments are being made to address some of those conflict of interest issues that were very apparent and also to try to improve the capacity and the effectiveness of the board. We still need to work out whether those amendments will be effective. At least this is a start.


The other thing that has changed here—and this is again related to what I just said about the fire protection industry—is that this bill will change who prescribes the technical aspects of a licence. Who should do it? Should it be the QBCC or should it be the department? The Varghese report said that we need to get away from the situation where the QBCC is both prescribing and regulating. There should be a delineation between those two roles, and that is what is happening now with it going back to the department, so it is very clear that the QBCC is all about regulation.

The other issue that was canvassed in this bill was project bank accounts. Everybody on this side of the House believes that subcontractors should be paid, should be paid on time and should be paid progressively. If it all goes a cropper, there should be some sort of security for our subcontractors so that they get the money that they deserve for the work that they have put in and the services that they have provided. The construction sector has had questions about project bank accounts. It is worried about how bureaucratic they are, it is worried about how inflexible they are, it is worried about how costly they are and it questions their effectiveness. It questions whether they do secure subcontractor payments, because there have been examples where companies have fallen over and the money for subcontractors has fallen through and not been paid despite having project bank accounts.

This bill makes it a little bit more flexible with regard to some of the requirements that are asked of contractors and clarifies which subcontractors are covered in the supply chain and whether GST should be included in retention payments. Again, the building sector disagrees with that. It thinks that GST should not be included. It believes that that affects its cash flow, which is hard to argue with, so it is important that we get the framework right and I think the jury is still out with regard to whether the framework is right at this stage.

The changes that have been brought in as a result of the Varghese report were necessary because of the dysfunction of the QBCC. Week in and week out we heard controversy after controversy, and some of these issues have now been addressed. There is plenty more to happen. As the shadow minister, I still get six, seven or eight QBCC issues in a week from both consumers and builders. People are aghast that it takes on average 26 weeks for a building inspector to come out to see their property after a report has been made, so that is one of the primary roles of the QBCC not being fulfilled.

I have to agree, just to digress for a moment, with some of the previous speakers on the other part of this cognate debate that after 9½ years this government now believes it is addressing the housing issue when we have had nothing but crisis and chaos in that period of time. The rental situation in this state in terms of both cost and availability is the worst it has ever been. It has never been more expensive to build a home and it has never been a worse time for our most vulnerable people who find themselves sleeping in parks, sleeping on park benches, sleeping in cars and sleeping on people's lounges. It is not good enough.

 **Hon. LR McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (4.33 pm): I rise to speak in support of these important laws—new laws from the new Miles Labor government which is committed to delivering for Queenslanders today, tomorrow and well into the future. Queensland is in the biggest decade of infrastructure delivery in our history. It is Queensland's Big Build and it is all go. We are getting to work right across our great state to build more available and affordable housing to help ensure that every Queenslanders has a safe, secure and affordable place to call home.

It has never been a more important time to put considered, evidence-based reform to the issues that are addressed in these bills, because keeping up with housing demand is a major challenge. We do not just need more housing; we need different styles and types of housing to suit the different needs in our community given the changes in our households, lifestyles, communities and indeed our climate, and we need this quickly. The Miles Labor government's Homes for Queenslanders plan outlines an orchestrated approach to fast-track one million new homes by 2046, including 53½ thousand new social

homes. This bill further delivers on those commitments under pillar 1 to simplify and expedite the supply of housing. Through these bills the Miles government is taking decisive action, aligning our Homes for Queenslanders plan and the South East Queensland Regional Plan with legislative reforms in these bills to help deliver homes faster.

It goes without saying that a big build of housing needs a big battalion of Queensland workers, and right now the Miles Labor government is providing free TAFE for Queenslanders who want to have a go at a great career on our Big Build. There are over 200 supported qualifications in construction and civil engineering, furnishing, manufacturing, utilities, information technology, mining, automotive and electrotechnology, just to name a few. Our Big Build is delivering new jobs that require highly skilled workers for long, rewarding careers. The Miles Labor government is backing Queenslanders with the qualifications for these good jobs, and that includes locals in Bundamba. Bundamba locals and locals right across Ipswich can enrol right now in courses like a Certificate III in Carpentry for free, and we need them to. We need more skilled workers than ever to help deliver local housing builds in our community.

I am advised that from 1 July 2015 to the end of last year 365 social and affordable homes have been delivered in the Ipswich region, 68 homes are currently in construction and a further 104 homes are under contract to be delivered, and there is more on the way. In fact, in Bundamba in just the last few years alone we have delivered three new social housing complexes in Redbank, a new social housing complex in Bellbird Park, a new social housing complex in Goodna which had residents move in just before Christmas last year, and another recently completed social housing complex in Redbank Plains. Whilst we are getting on with our Big Build that is delivering more social homes, that Big Build comes with a big risk—that is, the LNP. The LNP wants to cut coal royalties, which will mean cuts to our Big Build and it will mean cuts—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Member for Bundamba, I have been listening closely. Can you explain how this is relevant to the bill?


**Mr McCALLUM**: Because there will not be enough revenue to deliver Homes for Queenslanders, social homes—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Member for Bundamba, I do not think revenue is in the bill. I draw you back to the bill please.

**Mr McCALLUM**: Indeed, Mr Deputy Speaker. To quote from the LNP wrong priorities document—Only an LNP Government can provide certainty—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Member for Bundamba, I have just drawn you back to the bill. If you cannot come back to the bill, I will sit you down. I ask you to come back to the bill please.

**Mr McCALLUM**: Only a Labor government has a plan to deliver more houses for Queenslanders and get them into safe and secure housing as quickly as possible. That is what we are committed to. That is what we are delivering. I commend these bills to the House.

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (4.40 pm): I rise to speak to the so-called Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill, a bill that is in no way about housing availability or affordability. It would be more accurate to call this bill the 'Open Season for Rich Developers Bill' or the 'Favours for Labor's Developer Mates Bill'. This bill takes powers that the government already has to take land, override planning laws and fast-track the planning process—powers that currently are only used for public benefit like building public housing—and it duplicates those powers, not for public benefit but for the benefit of rich private developers. The bill goes as far as allowing the minister to compulsorily acquire land and gift it to developers. Nowhere in the bill are these powers limited to a public benefit requirement, a requirement to build housing that is genuinely affordable or even a requirement to build any housing at all. Instead, these powers could be applied to any and all kinds of private development: casinos, marinas, luxury hotels or high-end retail. It does not seem that Labor is interested in housing the Queenslanders who cannot afford housing at the moment; Labor is more interested in looking after their wealthy mates and big donors.

If Labor cared about affordable housing they would be building enough social housing. Despite having the power to acquire land and build public housing, and a record \$14 billion surplus to do it, Labor is not building enough public housing. In the past eight years Labor has added just 1,800 homes to the public housing stock. That is 220 homes a year. Compare that to the nearly 25,000 applications for social housing—over 40,000 people in dire straits, many of them in tents, cars, insecure housing and unaffordable rents. Instead, this bill gives developers tax cuts, handouts and a pen to write their

own planning rules. Then the government is telling ordinary people who are struggling to afford housing that these for-profit entities—developers—with their fancy boardrooms and expensive lunches with politicians, who exist to make themselves as much profit as possible, will build affordable housing out of the goodness of their hearts. It is a fantasy that the real estate industry, that makes more profit the more expensive housing is, will make housing more affordable if we simply give them more money or more control or cut regulation.

The bill introduces a new approvals pathway for developments under the Planning Act and state facilitated developments. There is almost no limit on what can be a state facilitated development so long as the development is for an urban purpose. Within 11 days of application a private developer can receive priority status, be given immunity from a lot of planning regulations and have its entire approvals process largely hidden behind closed doors. What will constitute a priority is entirely up to the government and its developer mates. We know what Labor's priorities are. Just look next door: the \$3.6 billion Star casino being built on public land that Labor has given away in a secret 99-year lease; the previous plans to spend \$2.7 billion to knock down the Gabba stadium and East Brisbane State School to build what would have been one of the world's third most expensive stadiums—at least that was the plan until the community spent three years saying no; or the government's approval of Walker Corporation's plan to build shopping malls, yacht moorings and expensive apartments on 40 hectares of Ramsar listed wetland at Toondah Harbour; and its handout to developers to build luxury apartments like the one the Premier owns that is listed for a whopping \$850 rent per week. Remember that just a few months ago the Premier said that it is affordable for a nurse to pay \$520 of their weekly wage to landlords like him. I will be very interested to see just how many state facilitated luxury apartments end up in the property portfolios of Labor and LNP politicians.

This new pathway is supposed to make it easier for developers to obtain approval. Are developers really struggling to get things approved? Let us look at the data. Last year the Brisbane City Council received 5,785 development applications and issued 5,100 approvals. There is hardly a bias against approvals. The only people holding back supply of housing are the developers, who know that they can make more money the more scarce and expensive housing is. I refer members to a quote from the founder and director of property developer Meriton who laid out his strategy explicitly. He said, 'I am holding a lot more than I am selling at the moment, and as the value of property goes up the value of what I have kept rises'. Developers know that, as long as the government continues to drive up property prices with \$39 billion a year in tax breaks for rich investors, it is more profitable to hold onto land—to land bank—than it is to build housing.

The bill also gives the minister the power to acquire land and gift it to developers. The only requirement is that the minister is satisfied it is necessary for development infrastructure. The rationale for this is a review of under-utilised urban sites which that a lack of infrastructure was a barrier to development. However, the review has not been made public for scrutiny. It is not clear how a power to acquire and gift developers more land fixes this problem. There are also no safeguards on this power. There is no public benefit requirement, as I have mentioned. There is not even a requirement that these developments would include housing—nothing. It is just as likely that these powers will be used for fancy shopping malls, like the one the government has already approved at Toondah Harbour, than it is for housing. The government could stop outsourcing housing to for-profit developers and instead invest in beautiful, publicly owned and managed housing.

Finally, the bill amends the Planning and Environment Court Act to remove community appeal rights for state facilitated developments. Why would we want pesky local community members getting in the way of generous gifts to wealthy developers? We could already have thousands of new homes built by the government for ordinary people to rent and buy, facilitated under existing government powers—powers that this government does not use or rarely uses because Labor is not interested in building enough social and affordable housing. If Labor built social housing at the same rate as the Australian government did in the postwar period then we would have built 46,000 social homes since 2015. Instead, the actual number is about 5,000. Rather than doing that work, the government's solution is to gift land to developers, abolish consultation, cut the community out and turn neighbourhoods into development free-for-alls while showering them with handouts.

We know how these laws are going to play out because they are very similar to existing laws the state government already uses to ram through controversial projects for developers. These are priority development areas, or PDAs. Just look at the Toondah Harbour PDA. For three years Labor has used a PDA to support Walker Corporation's application to dredge 40 hectares of Ramsar listed wetland in order to build marinas and luxury apartments for yacht owners that are well beyond the budget of most

of the people impacted by the housing crisis. It is no surprise that Walker Corporation is strongly supportive of this bill. This bill is essentially PDAs on steroids. This bill will be the birth of 100 Toondah harbours. With cash-for-access meetings continuing and loopholes for developer donations to the major parties, communities across Queensland can have no confidence that these powers will not be used to further shut them out and advance the interests of big developers.


There are plenty of things that the government could be doing to actually make housing more affordable. We have been calling for things like vacancy levies, inclusionary zoning, freezing rents, expanding QBuild and building tens of thousands of new, beautiful, affordable public homes. This bill is a ruse by Labor and their mates to say that the only way to make housing more affordable is for developers to make more profit. The Greens will be moving amendments to this bill—which I would like to table now—that say that in order for a development to become a state facilitated development private developers need to enter into an agreement with the government that actually benefits Queenslanders.

*Tabled paper:* Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill 2023, amendment to be moved by Dr Amy MacMahon MP [573].

*Tabled paper:* Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill 2023, explanatory notes to Dr Amy MacMahon's amendment [574].

*Tabled paper:* Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Dr Amy MacMahon's amendment [575].

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (4.49 pm): I would like to make a contribution to the cognate debate on the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill and the building fairness bill. I would like to focus my contribution on the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill, although I do note that the building fairness bill does address two recommendations from the QBCC *Governance Review* report, completed in 2022, which found, amongst other things, that the role of the QBCC had expanded its scope, at times to the sacrifice or to the detriment of deficiencies. We would all have constituents who have stated to us that at times they have found the QBCC process to be too complex and would like to see it move faster with greater decisiveness. This bill will implement those recommendations that the QBCC refocus its regulatory role on licensing and compliance—two of its critical areas—which I support wholeheartedly.

The need for more housing is an issue facing every Australian and, in fact, most global jurisdictions right now. Of course, Queensland is no exception. Queensland has some unique challenges. We are the fastest growing state in the nation. As others have reflected, more than 125,000 additional people every year are choosing to call Queensland home. In the south-east corner alone, the population will grow by a further 2.2 million to six million by 2046, meaning almost 900,000 extra homes will be required.

It is my concern that the demand will be felt acutely by those who are already on, or who will be pushed onto, the social housing waiting list. As QCROSS, Tenants Queensland and the Services Union highlighted last year in their Town of Nowhere campaign, over 150,000 households in Queensland have an unmet need for social and affordable housing right now.

The opportunities coming Queensland's way over the next decade are phenomenal: additional infrastructure investment through the Olympic and Paralympic Games and the thousands of jobs we are creating for young people and regional Queensland, particularly through our uplift in manufacturing and renewable energy. To seize those opportunities, we must have the right mix of housing that is designed well in locations where people want to live. We need diversity of housing and affordable options—one- and two-bedroom homes—so that people can grow and age in community and all people can live in community, including those living with disabilities, both physical and psychosocial, who we know have unique design needs. We need solid infrastructure not just so that developments can gain approval through local government but so that once they are approved people are proud to live there and want to work with their neighbours to create a community.

The legislative tools provided for in these bills include the ability for the state to acquire land to create easements for development infrastructure, infrastructure such as sewerage and water, transport and parking, parks and community facilities. As QShelter highlighted in its submission—

Access to ... fragmented land ownership and the inability of community housing providers ... to obtain land of a sufficient size ... or to provide ... infrastructure ... is one of the largest barriers to developing affordable housing.

The proposal to streamline that acquisition process is critical. So too are the amendments to provide the authority for inclusionary zoning, an approach which requires or incentivises developers to ensure a proportion of a residential development includes a number of social or affordable homes. I



was disappointed to read the opposition's comments that this bill will do nothing for housing affordability. It demonstrates how incredibly out of touch they are. The Planning Institute of Australia expressed their support, stating—

... planning does play an important role in ensuring the next wave of housing commences down the supply pipeline in the medium term. Good planning assists in addressing current and future housing needs and ensuring that communities are provided with accessible and secure housing ... essential facilities, services and infrastructure.

While the Australian Institute of Architects stated in their submission—


The benefits of inclusionary zoning are well documented ... the opportunity to support skills and capacity building across the housing industry, improved environmental outcomes in residential housing stock, including social and affordable housing, and local employment and training opportunities.

It seems everyone understands the value in this bill apart from the LNP.


The inclusionary zoning policy has so much promise for Queensland. It means that electorates like mine, where the median price for a home in areas such as Ashgrove and Bardon is around \$1.6 million, will have the opportunity to safeguard a proportion of homes for key workers on lower incomes who otherwise find property prices and rents prohibitive.

Cumulatively, these two bills will absolutely accelerate reforms across key areas of planning, unlocking land and scaling up infrastructure while also progressing a safer, fairer and more sustainable building and construction industry. I commend the bills to the House.

### Speaker's Ruling, Amendment Out of Order

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the next member, the member for South Brisbane has circulated an amendment to the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill 2023. The proposed amendment would create a condition that a minister could only declare a development a state facilitated application where inter alia half of any proposed housing development is transferred to the state and for industrial, sporting, recreation or commercial developments half of the total area of land is transferred to the state.

Applying the Deputy Speaker's ruling on 11 May 2023, pages 1,377 to 1,380 regarding the South Brisbane Planning (Inclusionary Zoning Strategy) Amendment Bill 2023, the proposed amendment is a revenue amendment. Although the amendment does not cause a compulsory acquisition, it still effects the imposition of levies, charges or fees which are akin to taxation in their effect and characteristics which is a charge upon the people as described by *Erskine May*, 25th edition 2019. I therefore rule that the proposed amendment is out of order.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (4.55 pm): Mr Speaker, I note your presence in the House and I want to refer to your statement this morning about correspondence that you received from the Leader of the House. This was the first time this matter had been brought to my attention. I have removed the social media post as requested by you. In response to your 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 also note that the Leader of the House's strategy that day was an abject failure. By drawing attention to it, I do not really know what he is trying to achieve today. I move on to the cognate debate and, as I say, I note your instruction this morning.

I rise to speak on the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill 2023 and the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. Firstly, I turn to the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill 2023. Of course, we know Queensland is in the grip of a housing crisis created by Labor's insufficient planning and delivery of new housing in our state. With over 20,000 Queenslanders currently experiencing homelessness—and despite the Miles Labor government holding three housing forums—it was disheartening to see tent cities lining Musgrave Park recently as I made my way to the Greek Club for the celebration of the 203rd anniversary of Greece Independence Day. I refer to and table an article from news.com dated 6 December 2023 titled 'Disturbing sight in Brisbane park amid "housing emergency"'. This article highlights the increase in people living in tents along the Brisbane River, with Paul Slater, the founder of Northwest Community Group, saying there has been a—

"sharp increase" in the number of tents in the city, including nearby Musgrave Park, over the past two months as more people are squeezed out of the rental market and grapple with cost-of-living.

The article continues with Mr Slater saying—

It's one of the biggest emergencies. There is no emergency accommodation available. If you call the homeless hotline ... they will tell you that there's nothing available in the whole of Queensland.

*Tabled paper:* Media article, dated 6 December 2023, titled 'Disturbing sight in Brisbane park amid "housing emergency"' [576].

One only needs to look at the skyrocketing rents to understand the severity of the situation, particularly in my electorate of Surfers Paradise with some of the highest rents in Queensland and the nation. Of course, the alienation and demonisation of landlords through bad Labor legislation is helping to fuel the housing crisis. I table an article recently in the *Sunday Mail* from Haesley Cush, the auctioneer, who says—

Setting more rules, more compliance and penalising landlords is not going to get us more properties. Private landlords are the fastest solution and right now they are selling their properties to home owners. Robin McIlwain, one of our top agents in Toowong, shared that in July to December 176 units sold, 156 were rentals and only 20 were bought by investors! Landlords are not the problem, they the solution...

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Sunday Mail*, undated, titled 'Cush for Comment: Market insights from the guy with the gavel, Haesley Cush' [577].

I note the comments of the member for South Brisbane constantly demonising and alienating landlords, as have those opposite with the legislation they brought into this House. To hear those opposite suggest that, having increased public housing numbers by 1,800 over the past eight years and that suddenly they are going to magically do a million by 2046, just shows what a joke it is on the other side to just keep saying these things and saying 'because we say it will happen' when it is obvious that is not going to happen.

I also refer to an article from the ABC Gold Coast dated 15 January 2024—and I table that—titled 'Median Gold Coast rental prices soar to \$850 a week, \$680 a week for a unit'.

*Tabled paper:* Article from *ABC News* online, dated 15 January 2024, titled 'Median Gold Coast rental prices soar to \$850 a week for a house, \$680 a week for a unit' [578].

The article highlights that it costs more to rent on the Gold Coast than in greater Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. I refer to Lillian Reed, a disability support worker who lives with four other people in a four-bedroom house. She said—

I need to be working six days a week (to afford it) and our rent has increased by \$110 in the past year, so it keeps creeping up.

The statistics speak volumes, with building approvals plummeting by a staggering 31 per cent under the Palaszczuk, now Miles, Labor government's tenure as revealed by ABS data comparing 2015-16 to 2022-23. This bill appears to be less about fulfilling the crucial need for more homes for Queenslanders and more about deflecting blame onto local governments for its housing shortcomings. I note that this is the 14th amendment to the Planning Act 2016 since the Labor government assumed office.

The LNP opposes the clauses regarding the proposed urban investigation zone, UIZ, with local governments fearing it may trigger a flood of premature development applications and cause landowners unjust penalties due to incomplete local planning processes. There is little evidence from the inquiry that this bill will assist with the current issues of housing availability and affordability. We believe that this bill appears to be a tactic to redirect responsibility from the state Labor government onto local governments while also granting the state authority to override the longstanding and reliable planning practices of local governments.

I will move to the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. Whilst these amendments are largely technical in nature, some sectors of the industry hold concerns over the effectiveness of the legislation. There is limited evidence that the building industry fairness framework will help the sector and reduce the number of unpaid payments to subcontractors, and there are arguments that the project trust account framework will impede development and construction across Queensland.

I refer to another article from the *Australian Property Investor Magazine* dated 5 October 2023—I table it—titled 'Queensland building legislation labelled "not fit for purpose"'.


*Tabled paper:* Media article, undated, titled 'Queensland building legislation labelled "not fit for purpose"' [579].

In the article Paul Reid, head of strategy and operations at IPEX, said that after six years since its introduction the legislation is not fit for purpose. The article states—

... Paul Reid ... said the rules governing construction industry payments and projects funds were overly complex, contained too many loopholes ripe for exploitation, and encourage behaviour that runs contrary to the stated objective of protecting subcontractor payments.

It should be noted that changes to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991 were spurred by concerns over corruption after it surfaced that certain members of the QBCC board were allegedly manipulating licensing regulations for personal and union gains. The actions and moral turpitude of the now former minister who appointed Labor and union allies to the QBCC Board, thereby giving them undue influence over policies, has inflicted irreparable harm on the organisation, essentially transforming it into an extension of his political agenda.

The opposition will not oppose the bill, which seeks to address the findings of the review that Minister de Brenni was forced to call following Labor's manipulation of the QBCC for political gain. Queenslanders deserve better than being treated as pawns in Labor's political manoeuvring.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (5.03 pm): I start by welcoming the new member for Inala. It is nice to have another nurse in parliament. Perhaps if we have another opportunity this nurse will also vote for nurse-to-patient ratios and then there would be two of us in this House to vote for nurse-to-patient ratios.

Member for Surfers Paradise, that was very interesting. You are concerned we are going to override local governments' longstanding and reliable planning practices. Would those be the longstanding and reliable planning practices that have led to a shortage of housing in this community? I will get back to that in a minute.

To be lectured to by the Greens in relation to housing when in Canberra their party is teaming up with the LNP to block housing reforms that would be of significant benefit to low- and middle-income earners is absolutely shameful. They would block reforms that would lead those people becoming home owners. We are the party that believes in getting people into homes.

I certainly support the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill and the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, but I will probably just talk about the first one. You would have to be seriously out of touch if you did not know that housing is one of the major issues facing our community. Whether you are someone who is trying to rent, someone who is trying to own a house, someone who is seeking to live in social housing, someone who is experiencing homelessness or, heaven forbid, an investor, there are challenges across all of those spaces.

We have faced challenges in this state before. When we were elected to government we faced a couple of big challenges: unemployment was high; there was no meaningful action on climate change; public services had been gutted and demoralised; and community services had been gagged and defunded. We rose to those challenges by getting more Queenslanders into jobs, rebuilding our health and education public services, helping community services get back on their feet and listening to them, even if at times they did not agree with us. As I said, housing is another major issue.

The housing minister is to be commended for the work she has done to date on the Homes for Queenslanders policy. The name of one of these bills says what this legislation is about: housing availability and affordability. This bill will enable pillar 1 of the plan to be enacted. It will facilitate an increase in the supply of housing. When you increase supply, you stabilise prices for homebuyers and renters, making it cheaper and easier to rent or buy a house or unit.

At the last council election I heard the Greens going on about their housing policies. When it comes to supply and demand they showed a really large degree of ignorance. When I look at the amendments they have brought today, I can see they are going to continue to put forward policies that will not only fail but will make things worse.

**Mr Power:** Much worse.

**Mr KELLY:** Much worse. I agree that it is very tough at the moment for anyone who wants to rent or buy a house, particularly first homebuyers, but I do not agree with the policy solutions being put forward by the Greens. I was called a greedy 'expletive' landlord multiple times by one of the young enthusiastic volunteers because I was asking him to explain their policies to me. He kept telling people that they were going to quadruple rates for landlords who increase rents. I can take being called names by an enthusiastic young volunteer, but it is pretty much irrelevant whether or not I am a greedy 'expletive' landlord. It does not change the fact that if you increase a landlord's rate it is highly likely they will pass that expense on to tenants in the form of an even greater rent increase. Given that a landlord knows this is going to happen, they will increase the rent by the same amount they were going to increase it plus the expected rates. The young Greens enthusiast could not seem to get his head

around the fact that his signature policy, which was being pitched to young renters, would actually push their rent up. If you want to change the market for rental properties for first homebuyers you have to do what is happening in this bill and you have to increase supply.

The amendments put forward by the member for South Brisbane, even though ruled out of order, would have decreased supply. Who is going to want to invest in property development if you simply have to hand over half of that property to the state? How will you make a block of 100 units financially viable? Let's leave aside the reality of having to convince a bank to give you the money to do this. Let's continue in the Greens' fantasy land for a minute. How would you make those units financially viable if you have to hand 50 per cent of them over to the state? The only viable solution is to charge even more money for the 50 per cent of the properties that you retain, thus pushing up prices. Let's be realistic here: if these amendments were to be accepted and were to pass, developers would stop developing, supply would fall and prices would increase. At least the Greens are putting forward ideas, albeit it bad ones that will do the opposite of what they are saying.

When I read the statement of reservation from the LNP I get a whole lot of negativity and not a whole lot of solutions. Once again they are pretty good at those three-word slogans, but when you ask them for the next three words what do you get? Nothing.


**Government members:** Crickets.

**Mr KELLY:** Crickets. When you ask for policy ideas what do you get?

**Government members:** Crickets!

**Mr KELLY:** Nothing. Crickets. This bill will do what it says on the box. It is going to increase housing availability and thus increase affordability.

Sure, the Greens will say that they care about renters or homebuyers but, if that were really true, why would they be blocking the reforms that they are blocking in Canberra? They say that we do not care about renters or homebuyers. That is completely untrue. When you critically analyse the policies that they put forward, they actually will make things worse. At least they have policies, unlike the LNP. You would think that, after 10 years in opposition, those opposite could come up with something other than three words followed by nothing and crickets. I support this bill. I will be talking to the people of Greenslopes about what Labor is doing to tackle the challenges in housing. If you want more affordable housing to rent or to buy, support this bill and vote for Labor.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.09 pm): Before I make a contribution on the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill 2023, I just want to refer to the Speaker's statement earlier today concerning correspondence from the Leader of the House. This was the first time that this matter had been drawn to my attention. In response to the Speaker's request, I correct the record and advise that I should have referred to the fact that 18 of the 19 ministers did not make ministerial statements on the day in question.

I just want to make a quick contribution to this debate because Queensland is in the grips of a housing crisis. There is no doubt about this when we look at the failings across three elements—that is, a failure to deliver infrastructure to open up opportunities to get young kids in the market and ensure that there is an available rental pool, a failure to deliver social housing on time and on budget and a community housing sector that is hungry to do so much more.

For the last nine years, Queensland is the only state where community housing has actually gone backwards. It is a sector that offers so many opportunities to people who are struggling to put a roof over their head. When I see how long it has taken the Housing Investment Fund to unleash money that was announced—we have a multibillion dollar fund that was announced years ago—and there still is not a single Queenslanders living in a dwelling that was built by this fund, that tells you everything you need to know. Announcements do not house people; attention to detail and delivery does.

What is not being debated today shows what happens when a government just does not consult. Increasingly, we are seeing a real bullish approach to consultation from this government. We have seen it twice this week where, to the great credit of third parties and unions, the government has caved on legislation that it had said was so very important and so essential. But in the shadows of an election those opposite will do and say anything. I say to those groups that it is not the end of the road. If this government was to return for a fourth term and 14 years in office, I can assure you these things would be back on the agenda. It is merely just trying to find a way to convince Queenslanders, to scare them one more time, for one more term. We have seen it before and it is being played out right now.


I will pick up the member for Greenslopes on some of his comments. Again, it is a war on councils. It is a war on landlords. They are at war with themselves. Increasingly, this is a government that is just looking to blame others, and that is what happens when governments have been in power too long. When governments reach an expiry date, they no longer try to find solutions; they try to find a way to blame others.

It cannot be that every council in the state—all 77—have got it wrong with planning. It cannot be. There must be one common factor. I will tell members what the common factor is—it is a state government that has withdrawn powers from council. It is a state government that has withdrawn infrastructure funding for councils. It is a state government that has made planning schemes overly convoluted and has not partnered with infrastructure plans that embed with them to open up new opportunities.

Housing stress, mortgage stress and, indeed, rental stress is a thing right across Queensland. It is real in my electorate of Broadwater. There was a report recently which showed some of the highest rental stresses in the state and it shows that it has happened right across the board—south-east, north and west. People are under immense stress and it is because of the lack of supply. You can mouth the words about needing more supply but, if you are at war with councils, if you are at war with landlords and if you are at war with developers, you will not increase that supply. If you announce housing investment funds that do not deliver new supply, you will not increase supply. If you say to the community housing sector, 'We think you are really great,' but then you do not give them the opportunity to deliver new stock, you will not increase supply. We are living through that at the moment.

If we are to get on top of the housing crisis, four things need to occur. Firstly, there needs to be proper infrastructure and proper planning to open up the opportunity for young people to get in the market, and we have named the first ever shadow minister for home ownership. We have a vision to go from the last to the first when it comes to home ownership in this state. In the process, we will develop opportunities for people to rent affordably and to save up for that first home. Secondly, we have a plan to unleash the community housing sector, to treat them as equal partners and to get them to increase their stock—they do a great job. Thirdly, every single cent from the Housing Investment Fund will be used to deliver new stock, new supply, to put downward pressure and to stop that feeding frenzy that we are seeing at the bottom of the market.

There is a fourth thing that needs to occur too—the people of Queensland have to change government in October. After a decade of excuses, Queensland does need a fresh approach and it does need a better way, and we are committed to making sure that the Queensland housing crisis becomes a thing of the past. We are committed to making sure that every Queenslander can have the opportunity to own a home and to putting downward pressure on rent so we can bring the community housing sector back so social housing will be delivered on time and on budget.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (5.15 pm): It was interesting to hear the member for Broadwater defend local government. No doubt he will be inviting Paul Pisasale back, as he did as the local government minister. He had set Paul Pisasale up as a model for local government. The very man who set up so many things in local government pretends that he is going to turn over a new leaf in government and change the very structure of the local governments that he put in place.

We have already spoken about the vital need for good planning and, in a growing area like Logan, we know that we need to work together. We need to work together with Logan City Council and others in order to put in place new houses for young families who are striving and aspiring to do better. I know that we need to site new homes and actually put the facilities in place. I have already spoken about how they did not build ambulance stations or schools—all of that was forgotten but we need that investment as well.

I want to speak about a threat—that is, the threat to young people and housing by the Greens. The Greens have never met a housing project they did not like. It does not matter if we put forward a housing development and impose conditions that cost Queenslanders. They represent some of the areas with the best public transport closest to jobs, perfect for walking and cycling. They should be screaming out for the creation of new housing in those areas. Instead, they fight new housing every step of the way. I understand they live in attractive and wealthy areas near the universities and with some older houses, but they advocate in a reactionary way for no change. They hate positive moves that create new housing on the very same blocks. They must know it would mean fewer kilometres driven and less energy used, but they continue to campaign against it. Why do they do it? I think it is for cynical political advantage.

Turning to the amendments that they have put forward, they have campaigned against new housing once more. This time, they have not been banging tambourines in street theatres or standing up in front of developments. It is something much more insidious—a huge Greens tax on housing. Members would be aware that the Greens' housing tax was previously introduced in its own bill but was rejected as a taxation measure. This is not just an ad hoc thought that they have thrown in at the last minute. This is straight out of the Greens' politburo where they want to put this tax on ordinary Queenslanders attempting to buy a house. It is also attached to the clauses to do with state development but we know that their plan, because they have put it into this House before, is to have this tax attached to all housing. Let's have a look at it.


They want to see a tax where, if an ordinary family wanted to take one house block and put two houses on it—that is, a duplex or two separate houses—they would have to give up one in taxation. That is the craziness of the bill they have put forward. They are cynical enough to pretend this would be for the developers, but we all know that this distorting tax on housing would almost 100 per cent be passed through to home buyers if it was ever in force. We need Queenslanders to know how this would work. If a family wants to build two houses on a single development, that family would have to give up one of those houses, defeating the very purpose. That is not a tax on one of those houses; it is to give up an entire house to the state.

The Greens housing tax is going to directly hurt young families buying their first house. Effectively, this Greens political party housing tax means that the already high prices for housing would effectively double for new house buyers and it would supercharge the market for existing housing. Under these circumstances, every member of the House would know that anyone preparing new housing blocks, a new unit block, a townhouse or even a duplex would look at the Greens new 50 per cent housing tax and simply give up or create new homes in another state. It would double the costs and crash the supply of housing.

We have two choices about what they are doing. Either the Greens know what they are doing and they actually want to destroy planning and accommodation for housing, or else they magically think they can create housing through taxation on these investments. We know this would make it impossible for new homes to be built for young people and it would put it out of the reach of those saving for their first home.

Never in this place have we seen an amendment that is more irresponsible and more destructive to housing than this amendment. It effectively kills all but the rebuilding of a single family house on an existing single block. It ends the already difficult task for young couples or families buying a house. It would contribute to urban sprawl, not decrease it. It would dramatically inflate the value of existing housing. If passed, it would be the single greatest transfer of wealth to those who already own houses and away from those who do not own houses, as new housing in Queensland would simply not be built. As I said at the beginning of this speech, this is not the first time this has been introduced. It has previously been introduced, so this was not dashed off in five minutes as a mistake; it is actually the Greens' housing policy to hurt young families, to hurt young couples, to hurt a single person trying to get their first house.

I know that some misleading social media post will be created about this amendment, but they will not explain that it is a 50 per cent tax on housing, they will not explain how much this helps the wealthy who already have equity, and they certainly will mislead those who do not own housing. They will not explain how it would kill supply, increase rents and stop young Queenslanders who have an aspiration to one day own their own home. I condemn the Greens' policy and I condemn the LNP, which actually gave preferences to elect the Greens in this place. I condemn this shameful policy.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.22 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the cognated debate on the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill 2023 and the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. Like others, I also must make reference to a statement made by the Speaker earlier this morning concerning correspondence from the Leader of the House. Like others, this was the first time that matter had been drawn to my attention. However, as requested, I correct the record and advise that I should have referred in my social media post to the fact that 18 of the 19 ministers did not make ministerial statements on that day in question.

Before I turn to my contribution on these bills, I want to say that I find it quite interesting that we have just listened to a contribution from the member for Logan that was almost purely Greens bashing. It is a rather interesting situation for a member for Logan to be concerned about the Greens. The irony

as well is that he, like everyone else on that side of the chamber, will not hesitate to take their preferences at the coming election in October. They talk about how members of the Greens get in here; we know the preference deals that Labor do with the Greens every single time. It was very much a fake argument with feigned concern from the member for Logan and those opposite about the Greens because they will get back into bed with them the minute there is an election preference deal on the table. The people of Queensland need to be alive to the fact that they say one thing in here and take preferences outside of this chamber.

I was going to talk about how I am concerned that, whilst these bills try to suggest that they will address the housing crisis, I think all they really do is address a political challenge the government is facing by naming them as they have—the housing availability and affordability bill. I was going to unpack that a bit more but what I will do is refer all of my constituents to the contribution by our leader of the LNP, the member for Broadwater, because I think he said it as succinctly as needed to be said. It was a brilliant contribution. He unpacked why we have got to the situation we are in when it comes to housing stock availability and affordability and what we in the LNP in particular are offering to turn that around should we be given the opportunity to govern after the election in October.

I want to unpack a couple of matters in the housing availability and affordability bill that pertain to the electorate of Glass House specifically. One of the new changes is around growth area tools. It is actually stated in the bill that this has been influenced by learnings from the development of Caboolture West. As I have explained before, the Caboolture West development sits entirely within the southern and western boundaries of the electorate of Glass House. This is an area that has long been planned for development. Back in 2009 it was first identified in the regional plan as an area for urban growth. True, it has come as a surprise to some in my part of the world, particularly those in Moorina, that there will eventually be a city the size of 70,000 people going into that Caboolture West area, but it has long been on the books and long been in the regional plan.

What concerns me with some of these elements in this legislation is that we have had similar growth areas on the regional plan since 2009 and they are actually going gangbusters. There are two just outside the northern boundary of the electorate of Glass House at Caloundra South and Palmview which are going at a rate that even the developers could not anticipate. They were achieved using existing legislative and regulatory provisions so I am really struggling to understand what the difference is in Caboolture West compared to Caloundra South, Palmview, Springfield and the likes. There is an element in here where we are talking about what were previously called development control plans, DCPs, and, yes, they played a part. We know that priority development areas, PDAs, have also worked well.

I reflect on some of the comments of the leader of the LNP, the member for Broadwater, who said that in those instances, certainly in Springfield, there was a willingness on the part of the then state government—and in many of these cases it was a Labor government—to actually work with councils to achieve these development outcomes. What I suspect has occurred at Caboolture West is an unwillingness to do that. They literally hung the then Moreton Bay Regional Council out to dry and have not been willing to sit down with them. By expecting a council—albeit the third largest in Australia and one of the fastest growing—to negotiate with some 12 different developers to master plan a city the size of 70,000 people without the support and meaningful contributions of a state government, it is no wonder that it has taken 15 years to even turn a sod.


Ironically, I head out there next week to meet with the developers of Lilywood, the first suburb to be developed out there. It has come about because the state has finally made contributions around trunk infrastructure. I point out that at one point the CEO of the then Moreton Bay Regional Council was a former senior state planning departmental official, Greg Chemello. If anyone could have sat down with the state government and worked it through, it would have been Greg and we could have had progress on Caboolture West far sooner.

The other thing I will say about Caboolture West, given its reference in the legislation, is that significant contributions from the state government are still needed to assist the City of Moreton Bay in delivering the infrastructure required to move people about that burgeoning city. I think particularly of Buchanan Road, a vital east-west linkage that will connect the Bruce Highway with Caboolture River Road and ensure that, until the Bruce Highway Western Alternative is ultimately built, people can get out to the main north-south trunk routes of the railway line at Morayfield, as well as the Bruce Highway also at Morayfield. Other infrastructure around public transport needs to be put in place. There are schools that need to go in. There needs to be provision made for hospitals to service a city of 70,000

people. Satellite hospitals are not going to cut it in Caboolture West. Again, we need the state government to step up and take an active role in working with the City of Moreton Bay in delivering Caboolture West.

There are also changes being made to the Queensland Heritage Act, as I mentioned, around development control plans. I want to touch briefly on urban encroachment. These look particularly at hard-to-locate, impact-generating uses that produce noise, dust, aerosols, fumes, light or smoke. They have been in our framework since 2009. We need to look at ways that we can still site hard-to-locate industries. In my electorate, one of the hardest yet probably one of the most necessary are our poultry farms. We have seen a huge growth in the consumption of poultry across South-East Queensland and Queensland. That poultry has to come from somewhere. We have had longstanding businesses, particularly Woodlands, that operate in the electorate of Glass House and urban encroachment is now impacting on their operations. Despite the fact that they were there first, they are now getting complaints from new residents who did not potentially do the due diligence that they needed to understand that they were purchasing in a development that is adjacent to a poultry farm and with that comes noise, machinery operation and smell. I believe it is beholden on the state government to work with councils around urban encroachment on those hard-to-place businesses. It is not just heavy industry in the likes of Narangba and so on; it also includes intensive agriculture like those poultry farms.

I conclude where I began by saying that I am still concerned, despite all of these changes. Sure, we will support them because we need to see action taken when it comes to housing availability and affordability, but I do not believe these will change that much. I still wonder why this government has not been able to achieve the outcomes they should have achieved, given previous governments have using pre-existing legislation.

 **Hon. C MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (5.32 pm): I rise to speak on the cognate bills, but wish to focus my remarks on the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill 2023. I begin by commending the Minister for Housing on the significant policy work through our Homes for Queenslanders policy and the legislation before us that seeks to increase housing supply and provide for additional social and affordable housing.

In particular, I will refer to the matter relating to development control plans. It is not an area that most members have spoken about, but it is particularly important in my local community. Development control plans were created in the 1990s to manage larger-scale developments and have been maintained through a series of transitional provisions in successive planning acts in Queensland, and these include the Springfield Structure Plan in the Ipswich City Council area, Mango Hill Infrastructure DCP in the Moreton Bay Regional Council area, and Kawana Waters DCP1 in the Sunshine Coast regional area. Of course, Greater Springfield is an important part of the Jordan electorate and, as the local state member, I have a very strong interest in the continued success of this growing community.

Greater Springfield is somewhat unique in Queensland. It is a master planned community developed by a single master developer. The unique nature of how Greater Springfield has been developed has been with the continued focus on how we preserve the Springfield Structure Plan, which was approved in 1997 and is part of the Ipswich Planning Scheme. The Springfield Structure Plan was originally prepared as a development control plan under the now repealed Local Government (Planning and Environment) Act 1990. I have previously called the Springfield Structure Plan 'the great survivor'. It has survived not one, but three planning acts: the Integrated Planning Act 1997, the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 and most recently the Planning Act 2016. With each act, the Springfield Structure Plan has been included in grandfathering provisions which seek to continue the recognition of the development of Greater Springfield. However, the 2022 legal matter, JH Northlakes Pty Ltd v Moreton Bay Regional Council, found that development assessments in DCPs must be made, assessed and decided using the former Integrated Development Assessment System, or IDAS as it was called, which was created under the now repealed Integrated Planning Act 1997. Of course, this judgement has raised some real concerns in relation to previous planning approvals which may have been made since the repeal of the IPA. Therefore, the bill seeks to validate previously granted development approvals in DCP areas and ensures there is a modern assessment framework by applying the development assessment process under the current Planning Act.

Much has changed since the 1990s, including the community's expectations regarding development. This has been particularly exemplified in the recent approvals of what is known as the Cherish land in the suburb of Springfield. This large tract of land has been earmarked and zoned for residential development since 1997 in the Springfield Structure Plan and in the Ipswich Planning




Scheme. It is also contained within the urban footprint in the SEQ Regional Plan. Until now, the owners of the land have not sought to develop this site and, naturally, residents who have moved to the area since this time have assumed that the land was part of a conservation area. This is in fact not the case and has led to some significant concerns in relation to the development of the site. Because of the historic legacy planning through the Springfield Structure Plan, the state government is not able to intervene and prevent development from occurring on this site. The matter has now been referred for a decision under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act—the EPBC Act—and is currently before the federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for assessment.

Whilst I certainly have sympathy for the local residents who live near and around the development site, including myself and my family, I am also very cognisant that planning is really important given the significant economic investment that was made at the time of the structure plan approvals, including major infrastructure delivery, including water, sewerage and roads. Of course, we also need more housing supply, and this will help. Where possible, I have encouraged the developers within the Springfield Structure Plan to carefully manage the environmental impacts of their developments whilst also seeking assurances regarding revegetation and additional voluntary measures.

I was pleased to see that, in relation to the Cherish land, the recently approved precinct plan by the Ipswich City Council did include larger conservation buffers—500-metre buffers—as opposed to the average 80 metres, and also a large area of land that will now not be developed but remain as bushland. I note Springfield City Group has also sought some further changes in relation to when state interests are considered in planning approvals under the Springfield Structure Plan. The department has provided a comprehensive response to the parliamentary committee on this matter, noting that the state will continue to require consideration of state interests in DCP areas, and this will continue through the known and contemporary State Assessment and Referral Agency, or SARA.

As outlined in the SEQ Regional Plan, by 2046 our population is expected to be about six million, which is an additional 2.2 million people requiring almost 900,000 new homes and almost one million new jobs. Greater Springfield continues to play a key role in accommodating some of this expected future population. Ensuring planning certainty through the bill in relation to the Springfield Structure Plan is important in addressing this significant need. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (5.37 pm): I want to address some of the issues my constituents have been raising with me about housing, homelessness, the cost of construction and the distress that has come with the housing crisis. At a time when there are unprecedented numbers of people living in tents, even those we would not have expected historically to find in such dire circumstances—they may have a job—we are seeing that more and more people do not have many other options. This crisis is not due to COVID, which I heard the member for Bundaberg try to blame. This is a crisis that has been brewing because of failures of government and bureaucracy. They have not listened and understood that if you do not enable construction and investment in the housing market then you can, in fact, make a tight market worse. We will see it get worse than we have already seen. I do not like saying that, but I am talking to people in the industry who have a passion for building houses so that people can own their own or rent their own homes. They tell me that the government is not listening to the concerns that they are raising.

The bill before the House does not address housing affordability because this government is still adding extra costs and is not listening. I want to address the issue of the new construction code and the fact that Queensland, under this Labor government, decided to go it alone and not carve out exemptions. They persisted not only with the way that they were implementing the accessibility standards as a mandatory requirement but also with the energy ratings. Today a manufactured home builder told me that they are able to address the accessibility issues fairly effectively, but they estimate that the new energy system will cost them \$20,000 to \$40,000 extra per dwelling. That is a very efficient and effective builder of manufactured homes. That is a substantial increase.

This government is not listening. Guess what? You do not have energy ratings on a tent and yet they are putting energy ratings at a level 7 star rating which is actually adding to the homelessness issue. It is time they listened to the industry and the people who actually build things rather than to government ministers who prance around in construction hats and vests, saying, 'We know about the industry'. They are not listening. It is time that they listened because in this one example a builder estimates that \$20,000 to \$40,000 will be added to the cost of the dwellings that they build and they are an efficient and effective builder. However, there are other examples.

If they want to unlock housing supply and get people off the streets and into housing and get young people into homes that they can afford, rather than having government ministers prancing around in their little hats and vests they should listen to the people who hold a hammer. They should listen to the people who actually build houses and stop treating them with contempt. It has been disgraceful. They are still not listening and they still do not get it. It is extremely distressing to see people living in tents. Those 40,000 to 50,000 people might be on a waitlist for social housing, but I talk to people who are over the threshold for social housing but do not have enough to buy a house or enough to afford the rental hikes because there is no supply. It is time that the government got serious, rather than putting more barriers in the way of those who can solve the problem. It is time that, instead of denying there is an issue, ministers talk to the people who build houses. That is vitally important.

I spoke to one manufactured home builder whose company is a one-stop shop. They believe—and the minister can confirm whether this is right—that QBuild's approach to manufactured homes is to buy the building that has the floors, walls, frames and external cladding. It then goes to a factory at Pinkenba where it is fitted out. It then goes on site and somebody else installs it on the stumps and another company might come in and do the civil works for the connections and services. The minister can confirm whether QBuild does all of those steps or just one or two of those steps. I would certainly appreciate the minister advising which of the steps QBuild undertakes. In the industry there are very efficient and effective operators that do all of those steps. They are the ones who are telling me that the new regulations this government is bringing in will add substantial extra costs. They say there is a better way to do this and achieve not only energy efficiency but cost efficiency and affordability because it matters—all of these things matter.

We have heard about some of the provisions that were in the original legislation that have now been pulled out of the legislation. My colleague the member for Kawana has outlined that. There is chaos and crisis in regard to the way this government mishandles planning. It is time that they worked with local government to understand that, when they bring in changes without talking to people beforehand, there can be unintended consequences and confusion that not only adds to the cost but also delays the willingness to invest in the development that needs to occur.

We should not be seeing the level of homelessness that we are seeing in this state. I am sick of hearing people trying to palm it off on something like COVID. They need to bite the bullet and understand that government has a responsibility across all of its departments to listen. I know the government has tried to say that granny flats would be part of the answer, yet we still have not seen any evidence of that supply being unlocked. I would suggest they might want to talk to the utility companies. If you were to put a granny flat on your place or even build a granny flat within your existing home that may be compliant with all the rules, water utility companies can come along and say that it is a secondary dwelling. You do not have an extra service to your property and you do not have an extra meter, but they can charge you double the service access as an ongoing recurrent charge—not just an infrastructure charge, Minister. I suggest that you might want to find out about that.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Through the chair, please, member.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I say to the minister: there are utility companies such as water utility companies that will say, 'Whacko', because it is not just an infrastructure access charge; they will actually recurrently charge double the service access fees on that property.

These are some examples where others have got their fingers in the pie and are affecting housing affordability. They are affecting people's recurrent costs, as in the case that I have just outlined. Even though there would be no additional metering, the utility companies would do that in some of the examples that I am aware of. One home owner had an extra sink installed in his property and the local water utility company said it was a granny flat within the house, even though it was not actually occupied as such. The only way that they could avoid paying double the water access fees for that property was to rip the sink out. How ridiculous!

There are many areas where the government and some other entities are adding to the costs which, in turn, adds to people's reluctance to invest in some of the solutions. My plea to this government is: listen to those who actually build the houses. Do not keep adding to the costs. Do not refuse to listen when there is a lack of clarity. On the software that is necessary to assess the energy ratings on buildings, we are still talking to people who are finding that, where they have to have certified people to apply those ratings, it is not clear enough. In some of the examples I have heard from builders, the expense can be \$20,000 to \$40,000 extra per dwelling.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (5.47 pm): I rise to speak in support of these cognate bills, the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill and the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. We know many communities across Queensland, including in my electorate of Ipswich, are feeling the pain of current housing shortages. As I often say in this place, Ipswich is the fastest growing LGA in Queensland and more and more people are calling the western corridor of my area their home. Boosting Queensland's housing supply will require us to pull a number of levers to deliver housing faster and where it is needed most.

According to the ShapingSEQ 2023 plan, the Ipswich LGA needs to build almost 90,000 new houses by 2046 to keep up with our growing population, which is 10 per cent of the 900,000 new houses we need to build right across South-East Queensland. One of the biggest barriers to getting more homes delivered faster is our planning framework. We know that our planning framework needs to be more responsive. We know it needs to be more efficient and effective to deliver more housing to areas where there is a high area of need and where we expect high levels of growth.

It is no surprise that more people want to call Ipswich and Queensland home, given our lifestyle, enviable climate and environment. It is clear to see that, as our population grows, households are also changing. They are not the same households as when I was young. We see more older couples without children, we see single people living on their own, there are multigenerational households and there is a growing cohort of long-term renters. That requires us to rethink the way that we build our neighbourhoods to make sure most diverse forms of housing are built to accommodate that changing demographic. It also requires us to think about addressing inefficiencies in our land use and planning systems so that we can fast-track the type of housing we need for our increasingly diverse households.

In our Homes for Queenslanders plan we have set a target to deliver a million homes for Queenslanders across the state by 2046. That includes 53½ thousand new social homes for our most vulnerable Queenslanders. One of the key parts of this plan aims to increase housing supply across Queensland to put downward pressure on home prices and rents. It is a simple issue of supply and demand.


We are aware that our current planning system is slowing down our state's ability to fast-track housing at a time when we need it most and we are doing something about it. There is a real urgency to hasten these reforms because far too many Queenslanders are facing long-term housing insecurity and paying exorbitant rent prices just to keep a roof over their heads. We do not want to see age pensioners facing the threat of homelessness because their rent has gone up an extra \$100 a week. We do not want to see parents and children forced to share houses with other families and friends because their applications for rental homes are constantly being knocked back. We do not want to see young people giving up hope of owning their own home.

We have heard a lot of whingeing and whining from those opposite, but we have heard zero ideas coming from them. Most people just want to have a safe, secure home to call their own; and, unlike the LNP, who have no policies, this bill today is a chance for us to deliver that by improving our planning systems so we can remove the barriers that are slowing down housing growth. It is a promise we made at the Queensland Housing Summit in 2022. As a participant in that summit, I am proud to support it.

One of the amendments in this bill will give the state powers to acquire land to create easements to deliver critical infrastructure. The UDIA Queensland supports this reform, noting that 6,600 dwellings were held up by delays associated with obtaining easements for the delivery of trunk infrastructure. Q Shelter was also supportive of this measure, noting in their submission that land ownership fragmentation was one of the largest barriers to developing affordable housing as it prevented community housing providers from obtaining land of a sufficient size suitable for redevelopment.

A growing number of people want to live in neighbourhoods that are close to jobs, close to existing public transport and close to their community networks, but suitable affordable housing can be lacking or too costly. In my electorate we do have a number of low-density suburbs which have great access to rail and road infrastructure, hospitals and health services, education institutions and jobs. Unfortunately, a lot of our suburbs are filled with single-dwelling houses that are becoming increasingly unaffordable to rent or purchase. Unlocking more land, the housing supply, is one way we can help more people have a better quality of life.

I will just focus on that for now because I really do want to take the time to thank the housing minister for her work and her dedication to delivering these planning reforms in both of the bills as well as acknowledge the work done by former public works minister Mick de Brenni on the building industry fairness bill. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (5.53 pm): I rise to address these two bills being debated in cognate. As we have heard, the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill is designed to address housing supply with a primary purpose of amending the Planning Act to facilitate new housing. As we all know, social and affordable housing is desperately needed. This will be done by creating a state facilitated application process as an alternative development pathway for state priorities that overrides local governments. While there was support for this from the Planning Institute of Australia, Q Shelter and the Property Council, there were also criticisms, particularly from the Local Government Association of Queensland, which stated it is critical to maintain the autonomy of local governments to make decisions working with their local communities. My community would agree.

Noosa Council highlighted in their submission that under the new application process, the minister does not have to apply the local planning scheme for state facilitated developments and there is no appeals process. The question is: how much will the new power be exercised and local councils overridden? We do not know because we do not have a definition of what a 'state priority' is within the bill. This is of central importance.

The bill also makes provisions for the planning minister to direct local governments to amend their planning scheme without giving notice to protect or give effect to a state interest. This is to apply where adequate public consultation has been carried out. Again, we ask about the definition of 'adequate' in relation to the subject matter of the amendment. However, as Noosa Council reported in their submission, this could include matters covered in the *ShapingSEQ* 2023 update consultation such as increases in height and density, and I have expressed considerable concerns about these. The reassurance I received from the state was that heights are set in the planning scheme and not the regional plan and that the powers are not intended to be used widely, but rather as a last resort after the state has worked collaboratively with local government.

This collaboration is vital given the realities in our communities where for five years—and it has been a really long haul—we have worked to source suitable sites for affordable community housing and now we are coming to the pointy end. Each project that utilises this process must be individually assessed with full community consultation. Yes, we need the housing, but we also need our community alongside us. Being backed into a corner to ensure our residents have accommodation and relevant medical services as examples is never welcomed. However, that is the only rationale as to why these powers would be supported by our communities.

The bill does not acknowledge the various matters that I have raised that have contributed to our housing shortfalls and crisis, especially in the realm of social and affordable housing. Such matters would include materials and labour. However, if I go over those again I would just be taking up time and they have been well documented. In this cognate debate I am trying to be mindful of allowing other people to also have their say.


I will now turn to the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, which aims to improve security of payment protections for subcontractors by making amendments to the project trust account framework. Stakeholders were mostly supportive of the bill, although some such as the Housing Industry Association raised issues with the practicalities of the scheme and the red-tape burden imposed on builders, which is not what they need at the moment. They actually need less so they can get on and do the job.

The bill also implements the recommendations of the Queensland Building and Construction Commission, the QBCC, governance review report by reducing the size of the QBCC Board and transferring responsibility for setting plumbing and building qualifications to the department. This is welcomed because hopefully this will allow the QBCC to better focus on the job of protecting Queenslanders undertaking house building and renovations from the substandard work that is being experienced. Currently, the QBCC is failing in that mission.

Since 2020 I have raised issues being experienced by Noosa residents as well as other Queenslanders. Ongoing complaints have highlighted that it appears little or nothing has changed since then. The enormous time-consuming and unrealistic loops that are being experienced leading to financial and enormous emotional duress is unacceptable. What is deeply concerning is that it appears

from all reports that builders and contractors do not incur consequences should the works not be remedied in an acceptable time frame. We have cases now that have been going on for years. There needs to be immediate action to remedy slow and poor QBCC processes and in the longer term a review of the entire QBCC and its legislation. This is really important. When we talk about mental health within our communities, we need to start looking at some of the contributors, and this is one of them.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the minister and departmental staff as well as the committee, the secretariat, the organisations and Queenslanders who participated in the consultations for their examination of the bills. Even though I support the building fairness bill and there have been assurances regarding the housing affordability bill and it has good intent, I cannot support it given the lack of clarification around the definition of 'state priority'. In addition, local governments and communities should never be overridden without an identified need and rationale that is acceptable to those communities.


 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (5.59 pm): I support the cognate bills before the House because secure housing is a fundamental necessity for every person in our community. I want to touch on the member for Maroochydore's comments about seeing members from this side of the House with hard hats on and hi-vis vests. It is called PPE and you cannot go on to a worksite without the appropriate PPE. I hope that she is not trying to shame this side of the House to go on to worksites without PPE, because that would usually mean that there would be fines for the companies that have us on those sites. She will have to remain offended by seeing us in our hi-vis while we support construction companies. If she is seeing a lot of members from this side of the House in PPE, it must mean that there is a lot of construction going on out there, so we will just get on with Queensland's Big Build.

Housing underpins the ability for people to stay healthy and thrive in life. Without a secure and robust construction industry, we cannot produce the homes our community needs. The whole supply chain of the construction pathway needs to be secure to give all investors, mums and dads, home builders and suppliers the confidence to spend their money in this industry. The construction industry is a key economic driver in our state delivering infrastructure for our communities that we need to grow and also employs over 250,000 workers. In my region young people are applying for traineeships and apprenticeships in this important industry. They and their employers are taking advantage of Labor's fee-free TAFE courses that are delivering the skilled workers that our state needs.

The construction industry is putting roofs over householders' heads while underpinning the financial security of building industry workers' families. This side of the House has been a champion of the construction industry, bringing in sensible reforms to give protections to all parties engaging in the industry. Through our reforms we have created a safer, fairer and sustainable industry. We have introduced nation-leading protections against the use of nonconforming building products for safer construction for people to work, live and play in. We have also strengthened Queensland's Home Warranty Scheme and recognise that a strong building and construction industry needs a strong and independent regulator to support it. We have strengthened the Queensland Building and Construction Commission, the QBCC, which plays a vital role in providing a fair, consistent and stable environment that tradies and consumers can count on so that the sector can continue to thrive. People want to know that they can get paid if they engage in work as a subcontractor or a supplier. Also, consumers want to know that their investment will not be lost. The family home is the most important and the biggest expense that most of us will ever undertake.

Queensland leads the nation with our suite of payment protections under the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act. These protections ensure that everyone in the building industry gets paid for the work that they do. We have also introduced a trust account framework. People need to get paid. An independent audit has found that the assessment of trust accounts in the industry has been successfully applied to the fundamental requirements of its new framework.

To be able to construct homes we need land and a planning scheme that is smooth and flexible to unlock parcels of suitable land for development. We need thousands of more homes in Queensland as we see people choosing our state as their new home state. We need new alternative development pathways to deliver development that is a priority to the state, known as a state facilitated application, like unlocking an increasing supply of infill development that includes diverse and affordable housing. We need to enable local governments to better manage growth and sequence development through the introduction of a new zone called an urban investment zone and utilise land across Queensland to be unlocked. There are tools to unlock land under the guidance of this bill and ensure a supply of more land for homes while creating more jobs. I support the cognate bills.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (6.04 pm): I rise to address the cognate debate in relation to the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill along with the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill 2023. The two bills seek to address two important and significant issues: ensuring that construction subcontractors get paid each time and addressing the critical need for more housing right across Queensland—two bills that seek to address two important issues but both of which fall short of the mark. They are bills that promise a lot but bills that will deliver very little.

I am going to start with the building industry fairness legislation. We hear that the bill aims—

... to protect 'subcontractor' payments, encourage prompt payment by the trustee of subcontractor entitlements, and reduce the severity of insolvency impacts to subcontractors (who have little other form of legal protection).

That is a sound objective but one that I will show in my contribution this bill will not deliver on. Why do I say that? The evidence is clear that project bank account arrangements have not protected subcontractors when head contractors have gone into liquidation. I know of at least four entities where head contractors have gone into liquidation and subcontractors have not been paid the funds that they were owed by those head contractors.

It has been reported that when builder PBS went into liquidation its project bank account did not have sufficient funds to cover the debts owing to subcontractors who had worked on its sites. I am advised that, despite this, PBS management did not break any security of payment legislation. Nonetheless, despite complying with the state government's security of payment legislation, subcontractors on PBS sites did not receive payment for the services they had rendered and for the money that they were owed. If I look closer to home on the Sunshine Coast, builder NCM fell over early last year. I am advised that NCM was working on state government social housing projects that were required to comply with security of payment legislation. Despite this, subcontractors from my community of Buderim did not get paid for the work that they performed on NCM projects. Contractors who installed flooring, electricians and fencing contractors have all not been paid by NCM for the work they performed—not paid for work that should have been protected by this state government's project bank account provisions and this bill will do nothing to address the reasons why they were not paid.

The explanatory notes talk about the fact that since their establishment project bank accounts, or project trust accounts as they have now been renamed, have—

... secured funds in more than 1200 contracts to the value of more than \$20.7 billion ...

The explanatory notes imply that this was a measure of success for the security of payment regime when in fact the measure of success should be what happens when the head contractor goes into liquidation. Do subcontractors get paid when a head contractor falls over and goes into liquidation? Does security of payment legislation result, as the minister contends it does, in subcontractors being paid every single time? The answer is it does not. Security of payment arrangements in Queensland are flawed. While this legislation improves some of the regulatory requirements around the regime, it does not address the fundamental failings of these arrangements which means that subbies will continue to not get paid when they should.

I have listened extensively in my capacity as the shadow minister for small business to stakeholders such as Master Builders, HIA, Master Electricians and Master Plumbers and I acknowledge that there are a diversity of views around the security of payment arrangements. The LNP will not oppose the provisions that aim to make life easier for builders and head contractors who must comply with security of payment legislation, but it is my view that the measure of success for any security of payment regime must be ensuring that subbies get paid when a head contractor falls over. If we are going to impose this additional regulation on builders, then surely it must be able to at least deliver on the promise that subbies will get paid.

Turning now to the housing availability and affordability bill, supposedly this bill is going to fix the housing crisis afflicting so much of Queensland, but as is so often the case with this Palaszczuk-Miles Labor state government this bill is more about shifting the blame rather than taking real action. More than 20,000 Queenslanders are now living without a roof over their head because of the failures of this tired third-term Labor state government. We have skyrocketing rents right across the state because we have less land being released for new housing and a Labor state government intent on driving away investors.

After nine years and three state government housing forums, building approvals are down 31 per cent year on year. Even if they can afford skyrocketing rents, families cannot even find a home to live in and the number of people sleeping rough has exploded. Apparently this is success under Labor. I


beg to differ. As many members have mentioned, every week my constituents come to me asking for help to get a roof over their head. Sunshine Coast locals Emma and Robert Neil approached me after their lease ended and they found themselves and their three kids without a home. When I and the shadow Treasurer met with them, they had ended up living in a camper trailer in a Sunshine Coast backyard.

Two adults and three young kids living under canvas in a camper trailer is hardly what we should consider as acceptable in Queensland. Through no fault of their own, despite having a good rental history and having the income to pay skyrocketing rents, Emma and Robert found themselves homeless. In response, Emma and Robert have uprooted their family and moved away from the Sunshine Coast to the Darling Downs, not because they wanted to, not to move closer to family or for a job opportunity; Emma and Robert moved away from their friends, their children's schooling and their employment because they could not find a home. That is not good government. In our advanced economy we must do better for people like Emma and Robert. This legislation does nothing meaningful to address that problem.

Any solution to the housing crisis requires collaboration between state and local government; not a dictatorship—collaboration. A Crisafulli LNP state government will work proactively with local governments to protect the character of our suburbs and to improve housing affordability with more land supply. With new development we need more infrastructure like roads, rail and schools to support the growing population, something that this Labor state government has also dropped the ball on. When they cut critical projects like the Mooloolah River Interchange this Labor state government makes it harder for families who want to move to the Sunshine Coast. Trunk infrastructure like roads and rail support a growing population and without that adequate investment in roads and rail we are doomed to fail.

A Crisafulli LNP government will help Queenslanders realise their dream of owning their own home. Home ownership should not be out of reach for working Queenslanders. The last thing that we should accept is that young Queenslanders are giving up on the dream of ever owning their own home. Social housing is an important part of the housing mix, but far too often this state government forgets about home ownership and we should do everything we can to make it easier for every Queenslanders to own their own home and control their own destiny.

The LNP will work with local councils to develop timely plans for the future of every Queensland region. In doing so we will identify what infrastructure and services are needed to accommodate that growth. That is particularly important on the Sunshine Coast. On that note, I want to acknowledge the re-election of my local government representatives, Councillor Ted Hungerford and Councillor Christian Dickson. Christian Dickson was the only councillor on the Sunshine Coast to be elected unopposed, which is testament to the high regard with which he is held in my community. My commitment to both Christian and Ted is to work collaboratively to address challenges like housing affordability. I and my LNP colleagues will work collaboratively with local council to deliver critical infrastructure like the Mooloolah River Interchange, the Sugar Road-Mooloolaba Road intersection and the Sunshine Coast heavy rail all the way to Maroochydore, because without the road and rail infrastructure the Sunshine Coast needs we will not be able to house the many thousands of people who are moving to the coast every single year. Unlike the current Labor state government, we will listen and we will act because we know that Queenslanders deserve better. It is time to show Labor the door in '24.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (6.12 pm): I rise to support these important bills: the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill. We are seeing a very tough situation in the housing market as a result of the flowthrough of COVID, the number of people coming back to our country and, of course, the amount of migration coming specifically to Queensland because of the confidence in Queensland due to the strong stewardship and governing of this Labor government. These bills are important in a number of different regards. The Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill is all about making sure that subcontractors get the money that they deserve. Moving to ensure this next wave of reform means that subbies get paid during the Big Build. We are a booming state with the Big Build and we want that to continue.

We have seen a \$20 billion benefit since the 2018 reforms. More than 1,200 contracts benefited. The recent independent assessment shows that industry has adapted very well to it. This government has a track record of making sure that private industry is getting the money that they deserve in the marketplace. Those opposite suggest that they are always for the private sector. I did not see them


doing these kinds of reforms when they were last in power. They were too busy cutting, selling and sacking people and driving economic growth down to 0.7 per cent at one stage. The contrast between the economic incompetence of those versus the booming Big Build of the Miles Labor government is stark.

It is up to a responsible government like us to deal with what is a nationwide crisis in terms of housing that is accentuated in Queensland because of interstate migration. These new powers will give the minister new easement and acquisition powers in terms of achieving affordable, diverse housing types in infill areas. It gives a new alternate development assessment pathway to deliver development priority for the state and a new ability to declare particular types of use, for instance temporary accommodation for temporary periods of time to help people in need. It gives a new ability for assessment managers and referral agencies to impose a condition of affordable and social housing to get the outcomes we need to help the vulnerable in our community. That is what a responsible government does in terms of making sure people have a roof over their head.

It gives new powers to the minister to direct amendments to planning schemes. This is to ensure that where there are failures in those planning schemes in terms of housing that the state government can prioritise making those amendments to make sure that housing happens. That is what this government stands for and that is what we will continue to stand for. Many of these reforms flow through from commitments made from the housing summit to remove barriers and also to make sure that we have more levers to deal with the housing crisis as a responsible government.

We will not be hypocrites when it comes to housing. I hear criticism from those opposite, but when they were in government all they did was cut, cut and cut. Four hundred and fifty social homes were cut. Who did they appoint as their housing spokesperson for this so-called new LNP? The same member for Everton who cut, cut and cut. If ever you are going to see a way forward, you can see it right there. We have an opposition leader who called Campbell Newman 'special'. We all know that. It is in the biography. We know he loves Campbell Newman. The style of the opposition is very similar: promise the world and have no economic plan whatsoever to pay for it. We know they will slash progressive coal royalties if they get the chance, which means they are then unable to pay for anything and then come the cuts. They promise to build the multiple stages of the Sunshine Coast direct line when they did nothing when they were in power, with no way to pay for it and the department says it is not achievable to get it there by 2032. That shows the irresponsibility, recklessness and hollowness of the Leader of the Opposition. It is the same template used by Campbell Newman—populism without having any actual connection to make it work in the real world and then come the cuts.

I also point out the hypocrisy of the Greens party on housing. They criticise Labor, try to equate us with the cuts and devastation of the LNP—a dishonest position if ever there was one—while regularly opposing housing developments in their own electorates. Greens party members and members of parliament, whether they are federal or state, regularly oppose new housing. They use old class warfare terminology to justify it when the reality is we need all kinds of housing. We need social housing, we need affordable housing, we need private housing, we need units—housing of all kinds. We should be facilitating that as a priority. This government is getting on with the job of creating more housing. I commend both these bills to the House. They are a clear sign of a responsible government that is governing to get things done.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (6.18 pm): I rise to speak on the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill 2023. According to a statement by the housing minister, the bill is designed to reduce red tape, unlock land and allow new pathways for housing developments. Unfortunately, it seems to me that the only red tape this bill removes is the constraint on the state government from seizing full control of the state's planning process under the pretext of addressing a government policy driven housing crisis.

Before I discuss the provisions in the bill, I would like to comment on the context surrounding the bill. As the then deputy premier said at the time, the bill was being introduced in response to key planning reforms agreed to by all state governments at national cabinet level in August 2023. This commitment included the enactment of the federal Labor National Planning Reform Blueprint. The blueprint's reform platform includes updating state, regional and local planning schemes to promote high-density housing close to existing public transport connections, amenities and employment and streamlining development approvals pathways.



This context was acknowledged by the Deputy Premier when he said in his introductory speech that the bill would enable the government to 'get our fair share of the new federal funding, which is directly dependent on these types of planning reforms'.

According to the National Planning Reform Blueprint, the state's planning reforms must be aimed at: updating state, regional and local strategic plans; undertaking planning, zoning, land release and other reforms such as increasing density; streamlining approval pathways, including strengthened call-in powers; planning amendments that support diverse housing across a range of areas; promoting medium- and high-density housing in well located areas close to existing public transport hubs, amenities and employment; reforms to address barriers to the timely issuing of development approvals; and consideration of the phased introduction of inclusionary zoning and planning.

Clauses 4, 39 and 43 of the bill significantly expand the state's powers for acquiring privately held landholding—including by compulsory acquisition—and creating easements to facilitate high-density developments. While local governments currently have the same powers under section 263 of the Planning Act to take or purchase land for a planning purpose, it is a power that has seldom been used. It is critical that the power to acquire land by the state for development purposes must be fairly balanced with protecting property rights. The bill removes this balance. Moreover, the state's new powers for acquisition will allow the state to confer beneficial rights to a third party or give measurable benefits to a third party. As one submitter pointed out—

... the proposed change in legislation creates a nexus whereby a landowner is effectively subject to a pincer movement by both private and government interests working in unison to force landowner into submission.

Clause 106D of the bill creates a new alternative development approval pathway, called a state facilitated application. This gives the minister a reserve power to declare a development a state facilitated application provided it relates to an urban purpose and has been determined a priority for the state.

Designated state facilitated applications will be assessed by the minister through a streamlined assessment process. In assessing the application, the minister may consider a planning scheme but, then again, he or she may not. Ultimately, however, normal assessment rules requiring a referral and public notification process as well as code and impact assessments will not apply for developments deemed a state facilitated development. Third party appeal rights through the Planning and Environment Court have also been removed. Included in the bill is a new reserve power enabling the planning minister to direct a local government to amend its local planning scheme to reflect a state interest. This is pretty much like the Native Title Act's section 24KA, which takes away their rights to stop the government from being able to do anything with tribal people in this state. If the local government does not make the amendments as directed, the minister may take action to enforce the amendment and recover the cost of doing so from the local government.

The only limitation placed on the state's new power seems to be that the minister must be satisfied that the matter has been subject to adequate public consultation. There has not been a lot of consultation with what goes on. I bring to the attention of the House e-petition 4044-24 by Amanda Dapontes. She talks about the threshold for land tax. It is a current petition and I would like to think that all landholders in Queensland would sign it. There has not been any adjustment to the threshold for 16 years. If this government were serious about ensuring housing affordability, that threshold would have been adjusted. It is in this petition. Basically, it does not keep up with the median house price, which increases land tax and stamp duty, which is very important and makes housing affordability very difficult.

We have to look at all the situations that would save money and allow people to move into and out of houses at the right price, and the government must keep up with these thresholds. The only limitation to be placed on the state's new power seems to be that the minister must be satisfied that the matter has been subject to adequate public consultation. I say that again because there has not been much consultation with the government for quite some time. In terms of regulatory impact statements, consultation, anything to do with renewables, the dam in my electorate—and take a look at the homeschooling people who were here today—there is very little consultation. The wording of this provision makes it clear that it will be at the minister's own discretion as to what adequate public consultation may entail, which is probably zero given the government's track record on the last few bills it has pushed through the House.

This new power will allow the state government to circumvent local planning instruments prepared with and for local communities. All of this is completely contrary to the principle of transparent, democratic and best practice decision-making. Moreover, it will seriously undermine the ability of local governments, individual property owners and the community to decide what level of high-density development they are willing or able to accommodate. It is bound to seriously erode public trust in the state's planning system. As the Planning Institute of Australia submission points out—

In simple terms, if the State is able to disregard local planning instruments, the community may question why resources are put into making local planning instruments, including community engagement, when the State can declare that particular applications are not bound by this process.


Through the bill's changes, the government is abrogating for itself an automatic right to develop any unbuilt or infill land and to permit changes of use on already developed sites—powers that will no doubt be used to increase the density and height of developments within our suburbs and facilitate the demolition of current buildings to make way for much higher density developments. This is a policy the government is already pursuing, along with its incentives for high density living through build-to-rent public-private partnerships with foreign owned investment trusts.

In Britain, a similar overhaul of the country's planning laws allowed developers to convert commercial offices to homes without going through a proper approval process. Between 2016 and 2019, an estimated 70 per cent of the United Kingdom's new housing was one-bedroom apartments or studios. Some 60,000 new homes were created from converted office spaces at the clear expense of people's living standards. Some were as small as 16 square metres or 172 square feet. In some cases, apartments were built that did not even have windows. Designed for low-income residents with few options, such housing became known for its poor quality, with developers rightly accused of 'human warehousing'. The bill before the House should be called the 'Smart Cities Bill' or the 'Smart Housing Bill', because I believe that is what it is really aimed at achieving.

In New South Wales, the state government has been much more up-front about its implementation of the National Planning Blueprint Reform Agreement. A summary of planning changes being introduced include: a maximum building height of six storeys; no minimum lot size or width; new design criteria for midrise apartment buildings, including building separations, setbacks, vehicle access, parking spaces, visual privacy and open space areas; mandatory affordable housing contributions; and developers to access an accelerated approval process if the development adopts the endorsed pattern book designs for buildings. I think we can take it as given that the same measures will be adopted in Queensland. However, in Queensland's case, as usual, they have elected for these measures only to become known once the bill's broad regulatory powers are engaged after the primary legislation has passed.

The bill's new state facilitated development pathway overrides local government and the democratic will of our communities. It will also have a major impact on individual property rights. That alone should have driven home the need for comprehensive regulatory impact statements to have been carried out. As usual, that has not been done. How surprising! This ongoing refusal to conduct a RIS on important and consequential new bills is totally unacceptable and undemocratic.

*(Time expired)*


 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (6.28 pm): I rise to speak to the cognate bills and support their passing—the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill and the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The former State Development and Regional Industries Committee, in its report No. 51 of the 57th parliament, tabled in this assembly on 24 November 2023, and the Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee, in its report No. 3, tabled in this assembly on 12 April, both recommended to the assembly that these bills be passed.

The primary objective of the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill is to amend the Planning Act 2016 to optimise the planning framework's response to current housing challenges. The bill does this by introducing a suite of new planning tools and making operational and process improvements to the existing planning framework.

The objectives of the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill seek to build on reforms implemented under the Queensland Building Plan 2017 and its update in 2021 to create a safer, fairer and more sustainable building and construction industry. The amendments to the regulation are expected to simplify and clarify trust record keeping requirements, the types of subcontractors that are covered by the trust protections and the trust account review engagement and report requirements.

We here in this esteemed House all know that Queensland is a great place to live, which is evidenced by the fact that we all live here. I have lived in Queensland all my life, and while I am very happy to share the amazing weather and the fantastic lifestyle, more and more people now want to call Queensland home. With the population increasing by more than 125,000 people each year, in South-East Queensland alone the population will grow by a further 2.2 million to six million by 2046, meaning almost 900,000 extra homes are needed. We know these extra homes cannot be built overnight, so we need to start planning for these extra homes now.

Hand in hand with addressing the current housing challenge is ensuring that we support the building and construction industry by strengthening the security of payments to subcontractors in Queensland's building and construction industry. We want to make it easier for small businesses in the construction industry to understand their rights and responsibilities and reduce the administrative effort for trustees in assessing whether a subcontractor payment must be held in trust or not. As a means to simplify the payment provisions, the Building Industry Fairness Bill provides a regulation-making power to prescribe simplified record keeping requirements for industry. It also introduces a head of power to make guidelines about these matters. Based on the evidence presented to the HBBMC, the committee found that the Project Trust Account framework is an important mechanism to strengthen the security of payments to subcontractors. I commend these bills to the House.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (6.33 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I wish to address the Speaker's statement this morning in the House concerning correspondence from the Leader of the House. This is the first time this matter has been drawn to my attention. In response to the Speaker's request, I confirm that I have removed my social media post which said that not a single minister made a ministerial statement on the day in question. I wish to correct the record and advise that my social media post should have instead said that only one minister made a ministerial statement on the day in question and that 18 of the 19 ministers did not make statements on the day in question.

This bill has been touted by this state Labor government as a solution to the housing crisis, and that could not be further from the truth. This bill in fact does nothing to meaningfully address the housing crisis that Queenslanders face. There are now more than 20,000 Queenslanders living without a roof over their head, and it is because of the failures of this state Labor government.

Today I am going to give a voice to one of these individuals. His name is Matthew. His experience with homelessness paints a stark picture of the challenges faced by so many in our community. I want you to imagine, Mr Deputy Speaker, that you have lost your home and you are forced to sleep wherever you can find shelter, such as on a park bench, a covered doorway or on the ground outside your local shopping centre. I recently met Matthew in Kirra. He was sleeping on the bench outside my office. He was cold and he was the victim of youth crime. His wallet with what little cash he had and the shoes off his feet had been stolen overnight by youth criminals. This was not the first time it had happened. Matthew told me that he is regularly robbed of his possessions while sleeping in the streets of Coolangatta. Matthew is one of the most compassionate people I have met. Despite his own dire circumstances, Matthew commits his time to aiding others who are in similar situations to his own. He spends his week distributing food and warm clothes that are donated to him by local businesses to support others who are experiencing homelessness in our area. He connects them with support services.

Matthew has been on this state government's social housing waitlist for four years. He has been living without a roof over his head for four years while waiting for this state Labor government to do something meaningful to fix the housing crisis plaguing our state. Last month the Premier made a commitment to another Queenslanders facing similar conditions. He said, 'If it stops you sleeping in a car, then the state government will pay for hotel accommodation.' I say to the Premier and Minister for Housing that there are more than 20,000 people like Matthew who are living without a roof over their heads right now. What is this state government doing right now to fix the housing crisis for people like Matthew? Matthew has been on the social housing waitlist for four years. For four years he has been waiting to have a roof over his head, and because of the failures of this state Labor government he is still sleeping rough without housing. This bill will not help Matthew.

This bill will not help Matthew or any other family experiencing homelessness. In fact, despite what the government is claiming this bill seems to be less about delivering homes for Queenslanders and more about shifting blame. That is not the leadership our community deserves. This state government is in a constant state of chaos and crisis. This bill was introduced by the then minister for state development, infrastructure, local government and planning. Despite making an absolute mess of the bill, he is now Premier and the new minister has to come in to clean up his mess. As late as this

morning she came into this House and removed items from the bill because Premier Miles refused to listen to stakeholders and LNP committee members who told him there were issues with this bill. Instead, the Premier pushed these changes through.

The LGAQ said as much about the unworkability and impracticability of the urban investigation zone in their submission to the committee. They said—

As the bill is currently drafted, we are concerned, and local governments have raised concerns with us, that the utility and application and the workability of that zone and the effectiveness, therefore, may not actually deliver the intended outcome.

Instead of listening to all of the stakeholders who shared their views, this Premier pushed ahead. He forged ahead to serve his own political gains instead of supporting Queenslanders. We saw that evidenced in question time again today. When the Premier was asked about youth crime, the Premier admitted that they vacated the field on youth crime and they are putting politics above people yet again.

This will be the 14th change to the Planning Act 2016 since Labor came to power in 2015. Their priorities are clear. The housing crisis is getting worse. It is because of nine years of Labor government inaction and mismanagement and incompetent ministers that we find ourselves in this position today. There is not enough housing. There have not been enough lots released, and there is not enough infrastructure to support our great state's population and growth.


Premier Miles and this minister are directly responsible for those failures. The Premier had the opportunity to fix the housing crisis when he was the relevant minister and he allowed it to happen. Under his watch, over the past nine years, we have seen this housing crisis unfold before our eyes and people like Matthew are paying the ultimate price. A record number of Queenslanders are living in tents and cars. A record number are homeless right now. Every day I see messages from my community and my constituents on the southern Gold Coast who are struggling to pay their rent, who are having to make a choice between putting a roof over their family's head and eating good nutritious meals and who are considering leaving our beautiful state and city for somewhere more affordable.

Meta and her beautiful young family are working hard in our community. She has two jobs. Her partner works full-time. They have a small business but they are struggling to find a home. Jess and her fiancé are in the same position. The rental property James has been living in for the past two years is now up for sale. He runs his own business but is struggling to find a home. Andre and his partner are working multiple jobs but are struggling to find a home. Ashleigh is a nurse. She too is struggling to find a home. The message in our communities is clear: the housing crisis is getting worse under this state Labor government.

For those who have secured housing, the crisis does not end there. They are facing continuous pressure from skyrocketing rent as a result of the Palaszczuk Labor government's failure to release land for new houses. The Gold Coast now has among the highest rental rates in Australia. Vicki's rent has gone up \$100 a week. Naomi's is up \$120. Jennelle's is up \$190. Natasha's is up \$200. Cheryl's is up \$250. Alana's is up \$300 and Nat's went up \$320. They are real people who are facing the very real and dire situation that has been created by this state Labor government through its failure to increase land supply so that we are now in a housing crisis. The great Australian dream is getting further and further away and young Queenslanders are losing hope that they will ever be able to afford to buy their own home.

This bill does not give us hope. This bill does not give Queenslanders hope. This bill does not even give the minister hope. In fact, she could not even bring herself to use the full 30 minutes when speaking about one of the biggest issues facing Queenslanders. She had two bills to speak about but she could not bring herself to use the full amount of time allocated to her to speak on this bill and the serious housing crisis that Queenslanders are facing. There were two bills to speak about.

Year on year, building approvals are down 31 per cent since Labor came to power. On the Gold Coast, the reality is even more stark: residential lot approvals are down 52 per cent. As a result, the amount renters are paying has skyrocketed by 64 per cent. For those trying to buy a house, on average, they are paying 88 per cent more than they were paying when this state Labor government came to power in 2015. This state government is completely out of ideas when it comes to fixing the housing crisis. They have run out of housing forums. They have run out of ideas and the only way Queenslanders are going to see this crisis fixed is if they change the government in October and show Labor the door in 2024.

 **Mr SKELTON** (Nicklin—ALP) (6.43 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Miles government's Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill and the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Before I speak to that,

I put on the record an acknowledgement of the great work that my electorate staff do in addressing housing and homelessness and of the many community groups and community housing organisations that operate in my electorate and really are on the front line of this issue.


Both of these bills represent part of the Miles Labor government's commitment to building more well-located homes faster. I start with the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill. This bill amends the Planning Act 2016 to optimise the planning framework's response to current housing challenges through a suite of new tools. The need for more housing is an issue facing the country and Queensland is no exception. More than 125,000 people are moving to Queensland each year. In South-East Queensland alone, population growth means we will need an extra 900,000 homes by 2046. That growth comes in the middle of an already strained housing market. To ensure we maintain our great Queensland lifestyle, we need to plan for that growth. We need to be able to pull new levers in the planning and development system to deliver more homes where they are needed faster.

To that effect, one of the bill's provisions will create a reserve power for the state in the Planning Act to take or purchase land or create easements for planning purposes in order to facilitate the delivery of development infrastructure to unlock development. Planning reform like this is critical for the future of Queensland's housing, although I note that those opposite and some on the crossbench do not necessarily agree. Indeed, one of the crossbench's federal colleagues, the member for Griffith, proclaimed on national television that it is just not true about putting more supply in the market. I would ask those members of the crossbench—that is, the Greens—whether or not they agree with their federal colleagues.

In the interests of time, I will move to the other bill being considered in this debate, the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This is fundamentally a bill for Queensland's construction sector which, in turn, is a key economic driver for our state. The building industry generates around \$50 billion per year for Queensland's economy and employs an estimated 250,000 workers. It is an industry that will continue to support more and more Queensland jobs as it delivers new housing and infrastructure, including our Homes for Queenslanders plan. Under the Queensland building plan, our government has created a safer, fairer and more sustainable construction industry, along with increased protections for consumers. We have introduced nation-leading protections against the use of nonconforming building products that ensure the building materials used in Queensland are compliant with relevant standards, fit for purpose and meet community expectations.

Through all of these enhancements to the building and construction industry, our strong focus has been on improving security of payment protections for subcontractors. The cornerstone of these protections is the project trust account framework enshrined in the Building Industry Fairness Act. We believe that, if you do the work, you should be paid in full, on time and every time. This bill supports the continued rollout of the trust account framework by making it easier for industry to comply.

To support industry to manage their business, accounting and financial responsibilities, the bill allows contractors to get on with their work delivering our Big Build. Our government will always back fairness and transparency in our construction industry. This stands in stark contrast to how those opposite conducted themselves while in office. The difference between this side of the House and theirs is that we regulate for a fair and equitable building industry while those opposite will cut, sack and sell. I commend these bills to the House.


 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (6.48 pm): I rise to speak to the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill 2023. I realise that I might only have a couple of minutes but in that couple of minutes I want to reiterate, stress and identify that the housing crisis in this state is not just restricted to the capital city or the south-east of the state; it is right across the state. It is right across rural and regional Queensland.

**Mr Lister:** In Warwick and Stanthorpe.

**Mr LAST:** I note that my counterpart, the member for Southern Downs, agrees with me on that. In my electorate, it is in the Burdekin, it is in Bowen, it is in Moranbah, it is in Dysart. I was out there last week and they critically need affordable housing in Dysart. We had teachers this year who could not take up their positions in Bowen because there was no housing. We have housing in Moranbah where the average rent is \$600 a week and people are living in cars. I have a family in Bowen with a young newborn baby who are living in a tent. In this day and age, that is a disgrace and something needs to be done.

We hear about reform and we hear about all of these promises, but it needs to translate to housing across this state and I mean right across the state—not just the capital city, not just the major metropolitan areas, but all of those rural and regional towns across Queensland. Those communities are actually withering and suffering horrendously because of the critical housing shortage.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, I call the minister to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works) (6.50 pm), in reply: I thank all members for their contribution. I acknowledge the member for Currumbin's sudden interest in affordable housing. I am not sure where that brave soldier was when her colleagues in the federal parliament were voting against the Housing Australia Future Fund and right now are blocking the Help to Buy scheme.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Member for Pine Rivers and member for Whitsunday, you will cease your quarrelling across the chamber because you are both on a warning.

**Ms SCANLON**: I take the interjection from the member for Everton—the man who the Leader of the Opposition has appointed as the shadow housing minister but who sent social housing backwards.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

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

**Ms SCANLON**: He sent social housing backwards in this state. As I said in my opening remarks, with these bills we are putting our Homes for Queenslanders plan into action, sticking to our principles, making sure we are building more homes faster and making sure our tradies keep getting paid for the work they do. This bill is also about making sure that Queenslanders have safe, secure, affordable places to call home; that essential workers—our nurses, teachers and police officers—can afford to rent or buy close to where they work; that young people can grow up and start their own families in the communities that they love. To achieve that, we need to make sure that underutilised land and infrastructure we have works harder and we need to build more houses faster and close to shops, public transport, workplaces and services, and that is what this bill is all about.

I would like to address some of the specific matters raised by members during the debate, beginning with the very important issue raised by the member for Kawana and the member for Currumbin. They were upset that I did not take the full 30 minutes in my second reading speech. If the member for Kawana spent half the amount of time he put into his performances in this House into developing a housing plan, then the LNP would actually have something to talk about, but of course they have nothing. The member for Kawana claimed the bill was rushed, despite the fact that it went through the proper parliamentary process and the committee process. Those opposite might want to slow things down, but I am focused on speeding things up, making good decisions faster and building more homes. That is what industry wants and that is what Queenslanders want.

This bill is a priority for government to ensure the right mechanisms are ready and available through Queensland's planning framework to get the delivery of more homes off the ground faster. The bill recognises that the private industry builds 95 per cent of dwellings in the state, and through this pathway the state government assists in mobilising them to boost the supply of more housing and, in particular, affordable housing. The delivery of more supply will benefit the people of Queensland, as there will be more homes overall which will mean more affordable housing overall. That is what the state facilitated development pathway is about—reducing red tape and delivering more homes faster. These measures were welcomed by the UDIA and the Property Council of Australia.

This bill also supports making sure we have the right kinds of housing. That is why the proposed amendments include the ability for the state to condition social and affordable housing on private developments. This new team in the department will use these laws to deliver inclusionary planning pilots. This is something the Greens have advocated for, and now they seem to be disappointingly railing against the very tools that will enable us to do that in a way that stacks up.

The member for Kawana also questioned our record, which is a bold move given he was a member of the Newman government. Let me be clear: on average per quarter our Queensland Labor government has approved, commenced and completed more homes than under the LNP. This bill continues the Premier's record from when he was the planning minister. As planning minister, the Premier put us on track for success, delivering the South East Queensland Regional Plan, the South

East Queensland Infrastructure Supplement, the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Plan and the Caboolture West Interim Structure Plan. The bill delivers the tools to action these plans because on this side of the House we deliver more than just slick slogans.

The member for Kawana said the answer is 'supply, supply, supply', and I could not agree more. I would like to know how the LNP will actually achieve supply if they do not support housing in their own backyard, they do not support modular housing, as we discovered today, they do not support the Housing Investment Fund or the Housing Australia Future Fund, and they do not support the Help to Buy fund. I am not sure what the LNP do support. We know the real answer is the only thing they do support is cuts—so 'cuts, cuts, cuts' should be their slogan. Those opposite sent social housing backwards—not only was private supply lower under the LNP but also they managed to actually reduce the amount of social housing stock they had in this state.

I want to respond to some of the comments made by the member for Burleigh. As well as being the planning minister, I am the Minister for Local Government. I am committed to working with local government and that is why we are funding things like Works for Queensland, it is why we are funding local housing action plans and it is why we are providing more funding to increase planning capacity within local governments. However, it is also my responsibility to make sure local government is delivering on the housing and diversity targets set out. On this side of the House, we will work with local government—

**Ms Richards** interjected.

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Redlands and member for Burleigh, cease your quarrelling.

**Ms SCANLON:**—but we cannot keep doing the same thing and expect to get a different result. When it comes to the urban investigation zone provisions, I want to be clear. Local governments had asked the state government for assistance in this space. The Council of Mayors (SEQ) said in their submission—

The introduction of an Urban Investigation Zone ... is acknowledged as a potential tool to assist councils in identifying and protecting future growth areas.

The LGAQ said that they 'appreciated in principle' the urban investigation zone. I have listened to their feedback and I am proposing amendments to the bill to remove this element so that we can continue to undertake further consultation.

On housing and development more broadly, I want to reflect on some of the comments made by those opposite about developers. Let us not forget which side of the House banned developer donations. It was this Labor government that did that. Meanwhile, the LNP fought that ban all the way to the High Court and I think we can all draw our own conclusions about what that says.

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the member's interjection; they are still defending it. We also heard a series of frankly bizarre contributions from those opposite that had little to do with the substance of this bill and more to do with attacking the rights of renters.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms SCANLON:** And unions.

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Gregory, comments will come through the chair.

**Mr Millar** interjected.

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

**Ms SCANLON:** This included, disturbingly, the Leader of the Opposition who now is apparently concerned about the war on landlords. We know that those opposite have nothing but contempt for the 30 per cent of Queenslanders who rent, but we make no apologies for delivering reform so that all Queenslanders can feel safe and secure in their homes.

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Burleigh is warned.

**Ms SCANLON:** I will now turn to the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The members for Burleigh, Everton and Surfers Paradise asked for evidence that the trust account framework works. Well, here is some evidence for the benefit of those opposite. Since the trust accounts were first introduced in 2018 by Minister de Brenni—who I should acknowledge did a lot of work on that reform—they have secured funds under more than 1,400 contracts to the value of more than \$25.1 billion. I am also happy to advise the member for Everton, who complained about the size of the QBCC board and the conflicts of interest—matters specifically dealt with by this bill—that the bill formalises actions that have already been taken in response to the QBCC governance review. It will make the QBCC more efficient and effective in enabling industry and protecting consumers. We heard from industry that they want an efficient, transparent regulator and that is exactly what we are delivering.

A number of those opposite also said that the GST should not be included in trust money. Without GST, there is a real risk of shortfall in trust accounts. That means a shortfall in money owed to tradies. It was always intended that the full amount payable to subbies would be set aside in trust accounts, and this bill clarifies that.

While I make no apology for protecting money owed to tradies, I will also listen to Queenslanders. We have taken on board the feedback from the committee process, and my department has been working with the independent taxation expert to obtain advice and engage with the ATO to inform guidance material for industry. We will keep working with industry to ensure they understand the clarification in this bill.

I conclude by acknowledging and thanking all of those who met and made submissions to the department throughout the development of these bills. As my opening remarks emphasised, with these bills we are putting our Homes for Queenslanders plan into action and sticking to our principles.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the officers of the department and my ministerial office for their continued hard work in progressing these bills along with a number of other reforms. Those opposite like to look at things in silo. We are doing a lot of work across government to increase housing supply. I commend the bill to the House.

Question put—That the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.


Question put—That the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be now read a second time.


Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

### Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

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


 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House, the time allocated for this stage of the bills has expired, I will now put all remaining questions. The House will consider the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill first. I call the minister to table the explanatory notes to amendments and statement of compatibility with human rights.

 **Ms SCANLON:** (7.01 pm): I table the explanatory notes to my amendments and a statement of compatibility with human rights.

*Tabled paper:* Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill 2023, explanatory notes to Hon. Meaghan Scanlon's amendments [\[580\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Meaghan Scanlon's amendments [\[581\]](#).



 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** In accordance with sessional order 4, the House must now consider clauses or remaining clauses, schedules and any amendments circulated by the minister in charge of the bill. I note that the minister's amendments Nos 14, 16, 33, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45 and 54 are outside the long title of the bill and therefore will require leave of the house. Is leave granted?

Leave granted.

Question put—That the minister's amendments Nos. 1 to 54, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments as circulated—

**1 Clause 2 (Commencement)**

Page 10, line 13—

*omit, insert—*

(d) schedule 1, part 2.

**2 Clause 43 (Insertion of new ch 7, pt 2, div 2)**

Page 47, after line 17—

*insert—*

(iii) for land that is to vest in a public sector entity other than a department or part of a department—the entity has been consulted about the taking and vesting of the land; and

**3 Clause 60 (Insertion of new ch 8, pt 9, div 2)**

Page 71, lines 4 and 5, from 'New' to 'area'—

*omit, insert—*

**Development in development control plan areas**

**4 Clause 60 (Insertion of new ch 8, pt 9, div 2)**

Page 71, lines 6 to 9—

*omit.*

**5 Clause 60 (Insertion of new ch 8, pt 9, div 2)**

Page 71, lines 11 and 12, 'the application'—

*omit, insert—*

an application, made after the commencement, for a development approval for development on premises to which a development control plan applies

**6 Clause 60 (Insertion of new ch 8, pt 9, div 2)**

Page 71, lines 21 to 27—

*omit.*

**7 Clause 60 (Insertion of new ch 8, pt 9, div 2)**

Page 72, lines 8 and 9, 'for a development application'—

*omit, insert—*

to the carrying out, after the commencement, of development on premises to which the plan applies

**8 Part 5, division 3, subdivision 4, heading (Amendments relating to State facilitated applications and compensation)**

Page 72, lines 26 to 28, 'State facilitated applications and compensation'—

*omit, insert—*

**applications for State facilitated development**

**9 Clause 61 (Amendment of s 17 (Minister's guidelines and rules))**

Page 72, line 29 to page 73, line 5—

*omit.*

**10 Clause 62 (Amendment of s 25 (Reviewing planning schemes))**

Page 73, line 6 to page 74, line 1—

*omit.*

**11 Clause 63 (Amendment of s 30 (When this division applies))**

Page 74, lines 2 to 20—

*omit.*

- 12 Clause 66 (Amendment of s 81 (Assessing change applications for minor changes))**  
Page 76, line 6, 'a State facilitated application'—  
*omit, insert—*  
an application for State facilitated development
- 13 Clause 67 (Amendment of s 82 (Assessing and deciding change applications for other changes))**  
Page 76, lines 26 and 27, 'a State facilitated application'—  
*omit, insert—*  
an application for State facilitated development
- 14 After clause 69**  
Page 77, after line 28—  
*insert—*  
**69A Amendment of s 86 (Extension applications)**  
Section 86(1), note—  
*omit, insert—*  
*Notes—*
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | For the making of an extension application for a development approval that was a PDA development approval, see also the <i>Economic Development Act 2012</i> , section 51AL. |
| 2 | For the making of an extension application for a development approval given or changed by the chief executive under part 6A, see section 87A.                                |
- 15 Clause 70 (Amendment of s 87 (Assessing and deciding extension applications))**  
Page 78, lines 10 to 13—  
*omit, insert—*  
Minister.
- 16 After clause 70**  
Page 78, after line 13—  
*insert—*  
**70A Insertion of new s 87A**  
After section 87—  
*insert—*  
**87A Extension applications for development approvals given or changed under pt 6A**
- (1) This section applies in relation to a development approval given or changed by the chief executive under part 6A.
  - (2) Sections 86 and 87, other than section 87(4) and (5), apply in relation to the development approval as if a reference in the sections to the assessment manager were a reference to the chief executive.
  - (3) Despite section 87(5), the chief executive must give a decision notice for a decision about the extension application to—
    - (a) the applicant; and
    - (b) the assessment manager; and
    - (c) if the assessment manager is not the local government—the local government; and
    - (d) each referral agency other than the chief executive.
- 17 Clause 74 (Insertion of new ch 3, pt 6A)**  
Page 79, lines 10 and 11, 'State facilitated applications'—  
*omit, insert—*  
applications for State facilitated development
- 18 Clause 74 (Insertion of new ch 3, pt 6A)**  
Page 80, after line 2—  
*insert—*  
*Example—*  
A development application that is for a material change of use of premises, as well as operational works, is a relevant application if the decision-maker for the application is a person other than the Minister or the chief executive.
- 19 Clause 74 (Insertion of new ch 3, pt 6A)**  
Page 80, lines 4 and 5, from 'that is' to 'change application'—  
*omit.*

**20 Clause 74 (Insertion of new ch 3, pt 6A)**

Page 80, after line 7—

*insert—*

- (4) However, this part does not apply in relation to a relevant application that—
- (a) has been decided by the P&E Court; or
  - (b) is not substantially different from an application that has been decided by the P&E Court.

**21 Clause 74 (Insertion of new ch 3, pt 6A)**

Page 81, line 4, 'a State facilitated application'—

*omit, insert—*

an application for State facilitated development

**22 Clause 74 (Insertion of new ch 3, pt 6A)**

Page 82, line 11, 'State facilitated applications'—

*omit, insert—***applications for State facilitated development****23 Clause 74 (Insertion of new ch 3, pt 6A)**

Page 82, lines 14 and 15, 'a State facilitated application'—

*omit, insert—*

an application for State facilitated development

**24 Clause 74 (Insertion of new ch 3, pt 6A)**

Page 84, line 27 to page 85, line 2—

*omit, insert—*

- (2) If the declaration notice is given before the decision-maker decides the application, the declaration notice may direct the decision-maker to assess all or a stated part of the application.

**25 Clause 74 (Insertion of new ch 3, pt 6A)**

Page 85, line 28, 'a State facilitated application'—

*omit, insert—*

an application for State facilitated development

**26 Clause 74 (Insertion of new ch 3, pt 6A)**

Page 86, lines 19 and 20, 'State facilitated applications'—

*omit, insert—***applications for State facilitated development****27 Clause 74 (Insertion of new ch 3, pt 6A)**

Page 86, lines 24 and 25, 'a State facilitated application'—

*omit, insert—*

an application for State facilitated development

**28 Clause 74 (Insertion of new ch 3, pt 6A)**

Page 86, after line 32—

*insert—***106IA Notice about publicly notifying application**

- (1) This section applies if the application is made to the chief executive under section 106I(b).
- (2) Section 53 does not apply in relation to the application.
- (3) The chief executive may give the applicant a notice stating requirements for notifying and consulting with the public about the application (a **notification notice**).
- (4) The applicant must comply with the notification notice.
- (5) However, the chief executive may assess and decide the application even if the notification notice has not been complied with.
- (6) To remove any doubt, it is declared that a notification notice may be given under this section whether or not—
  - (a) any part of the application requires impact assessment; or

- (b) the application includes a variation request; or  
(c) the application is a change application for a minor change to the development approval.
- 29 Clause 74 (Insertion of new ch 3, pt 6A)**  
Page 87, line 21—  
*omit, insert—*  
(v) section 64; and  
(vi) section 275ZL;
- 30 Clause 74 (Insertion of new ch 3, pt 6A)**  
Page 89, after line 13—  
*insert—*  
(5) If the decision is to approve the application or a part of the application, the decision notice may state a currency period for all or part of the development approval.
- 31 Clause 74 (Insertion of new ch 3, pt 6A)**  
Page 90, line 17 to page 91, line 8—  
*omit.*
- 32 Clause 74 (Insertion of new ch 3, pt 6A)**  
Page 92, lines 1 and 2, 'a State facilitated application'—  
*omit, insert—*  
an application for State facilitated development
- 33 After clause 75**  
Page 93, after line 1—  
*insert—*  
**75A Amendment of sch 1 (Appeals)**  
Schedule 1, table 1, item 3, after 'Minister'—  
*insert—*  
or made to the chief executive under section 87A
- 34 Clause 76 (Amendment of sch 2 (Dictionary))**  
Page 94, lines 22 to 25—  
*omit.*
- 35 Clause 94 (Insertion of new s 26A)**  
Page 109, line 19, after 'prohibited'—  
*insert—*  
development
- 36 Clause 94 (Insertion of new s 26A)**  
Page 109, lines 21 and 22—  
*omit, insert—*  
(iii) section 43(5); or
- 37 Clause 96 (Amendment of s 43 (Categorising instruments))**  
Page 111, lines 7 to 23—  
*omit, insert—*  
(1) Section 43(5)—  
*insert—*  
(d) may not include an assessment benchmark about the effect or impact of development on the stated cultural heritage significance of a Queensland heritage place.  
(2) Section 43—  
*insert—*  
(5A) To remove any doubt, it is declared that subsection (5)(d) applies even if the Queensland heritage place is also a local heritage place.

**38 After clause 96**

Page 111, after line 23—

*insert—***96A Amendment of s 45 (Categories of assessment)**

Section 45(5), note—

*omit, insert—**Notes—*

- 1 See section 275ZI in relation to restrictions on impact assessment for particular applications.
- 2 See section 275ZJ for the matters the chief executive must have regard to when deciding an application involving a State heritage place.

**39 After clause 96**

Page 111, after line 23—

*insert—***96B Amendment of s 55 (Referral agency's assessment)**

Section 55(2), note, '277'—

*omit, insert—*

275ZJ

**40 After clause 96**

Page 111, after line 23—

*insert—***96C Insertion of new s 65A**

After section 65—

*insert—***65A Regulation about particular conditions**

- (1) A regulation may provide that a development condition imposed on the following development approvals may relate to the provision of an affordable housing component on the premises the subject of the approval—
  - (a) a development approval given or changed by the chief executive under part 6A;
  - (b) a development approval given for an application that—
    - (i) specifically proposes the provision of an affordable housing component; and
    - (ii) complies with the criteria prescribed by regulation.
- (2) Section 65(1) does not apply in relation to a development condition imposed under subsection (1).
- (3) In this section—
 

**affordable housing component** means a component of development that—

  - (a) involves housing that is affordable for particular types of households; and
  - (b) complies with the criteria prescribed by regulation.

**41 After clause 96**

Page 111, after line 23—

*insert—***96D Amendment of s 66 (Prohibited development conditions)**

Section 66(3), note—

*omit, insert—**Note—*

For other restrictions on development conditions, see section 275ZI and the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014*, section 14.

**42 After clause 96**

Page 111, after line 23—

*insert—***96E Amendment of s 105 (Deciding called in application)**

Section 105(4)(a), 'section 64'—

*omit, insert—*

sections 64 and 275ZI

**43 After clause 96**

Page 111, after line 23—

*insert—***96F Insertion of new ch 7, pt 4D**

Chapter 7—

*insert—***Part 4D Heritage places****275ZI Restriction on impact assessment and conditions for particular applications**

- (1) This section applies in relation to a development application for assessable development if the assessment manager for the application is a person other than the chief executive.
- (2) If the development application requires impact assessment, the impact assessment must not be carried out against, or having regard to, the effect or impact of the development on the stated cultural heritage significance of a Queensland heritage place.
- (3) Subsection (2) applies despite section 45(5)(b).
- (4) The assessment manager must not, under section 60, impose on a development approval given for the development application a development condition that—
  - (a) relates to the effect or impact of the development on the stated cultural heritage significance of a Queensland heritage place; or
  - (b) is inconsistent with a development condition that—
    - (i) is required to be imposed under a referral agency's response; and
    - (ii) relates to the effect or impact of the development on the stated cultural heritage significance of a Queensland heritage place.
- (5) To remove any doubt, it is declared that this section applies even if the Queensland heritage place is also a local heritage place.

**44 After clause 96**

Page 111, after line 23—

*insert—***96G Amendment, relocation and renumbering of s 277 (Assessment and decision rules for particular State heritage places)**

- (1) Section 277, heading, after 'particular'—  
*insert—*  
**development involving**
- (2) Section 277(5), definition *Queensland heritage register*—  
*omit.*
- (3) Section 277—  
*relocate* to chapter 7, part 4D, as inserted by this Act, and *renumber* as section 275ZJ.

**45 After clause 96**

Page 111, after line 23—

*insert—***96H Amendment of sch 2 (Dictionary)**

Schedule 2—

*insert—****Queensland heritage register*** see the Heritage Act, schedule.***stated cultural heritage significance***, of a Queensland heritage place, means the cultural heritage significance of the place as stated in the Queensland heritage register under the Heritage Act, section 31(3)(e) or (f).**46 Clause 101 (Amendment of s 12 (Declaratory jurisdiction for Minister's call in of development application))**

Page 114, lines 11 and 12, 'a State facilitated application'—

*omit, insert—*

an application for State facilitated development

**47 Part 7, heading (Amendment of Planning Regulation 2017)**

Page 115, lines 1 and 2—

*omit.***48 Clause 103 (Regulation amended)**

Page 115, lines 3 and 4—

*omit.*

- 49 **Clause 104 (Insertion of new pt 5A)**  
Page 115, lines 5 to 14—  
*omit.*
- 50 **Clause 105 (Insertion of new pt 13)**  
Page 115, line 15 to page 117, line 18—  
*omit.*
- 51 **Clause 106 (Amendment of sch 2 (Zones for local planning instruments))**  
Page 117, line 19 to page 118, line 5—  
*omit.*
- 52 **Clause 107 (Amendment of sch 10 (Development assessment))**  
Page 118, line 6 to page 120, line 10—  
*omit.*
- 53 **Schedule 1 (Other amendments)**  
Page 121, after line 2—  
*insert—*  
**Part 1 Amendments commencing on assent**
- 54 **Schedule 1 (Other amendments)**  
Page 121, after line 22—  
*insert—*  
**Part 2 Amendments commencing by proclamation**  
**Queensland Heritage Act 1992**  
1 **Section 8(1)(e), note, 'section 277'—**  
*omit, insert—*  
section 275ZJ

Clauses 61 to 63, heading of part 7 and clauses 103 to 107 omitted.

Question put—That clauses 1 to 108 and the schedule, as amended, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 108 and the schedule, as amended, agreed to.

### **Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill**

Question put—That clauses 1 to 73, as read, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 73, as read, agreed to.

### **Third Reading (Cognate Debate)**

Question put—That the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Question put—That the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

### **Long Title (Cognate Debate)**

Question put—That the minister's amendment No. 55 be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment as circulated—

**55 Long title**

Long title, 'the *Planning Regulation 2017*—  
*omit.*

Question put—That the long title of the Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill, as amended, be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## ADJOURNMENT


### Gold Coast Light Rail

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (7.04 pm): When light rail started on the Gold Coast, it was averaging \$35 million a kilometre. When stage 3 was put in place by this government that cost had increased to \$100 million a kilometre—a real blowout. That falls to former minister Bailey's contempt for spending money on behalf of the people of Queensland. Since then, we have seen Light Rail stage 3 blowout from \$770 million to \$1.3 billion, and it has only just started to be built. At this stage we have no idea how much that will cost by the end of the project.

Surprisingly, last week, out of the blue, the new transport minister, the member for Aspley, came out and said that Light Rail stage 4 would cost somewhere between \$3 billion and \$7.5 billion—a \$4 billion gap. You have to wonder why they cannot figure out how much money this project is going to cost when there is a \$4 billion gap. What are we talking about here? We are talking about Light Rail stage 3, which is 6.7 kilometres at a cost of \$1.3 billion, and twice that distance—about 14 kilometres to the airport—costing a minimum of \$3 billion. It is basically twice the length and twice the amount. However, the end cost could be \$7.5 billion. I wonder why this minister, unprovoked, is telling the people of Queensland this could blow out so far that any private-public partnership would be at risk.

I think the answer to that question is that they want to axe it. They are setting it up for a future federal government or a state government to say, 'This is not viable, it cannot work, it is unsustainable and we are going to shoot it down.' That is what they are doing here. They are making an excuse to shut down something that the previous minister, the member for Miller, was dead keen to have built through the middle of my electorate and destroy my electorate. He would not listen to any consultation; he would not listen to any other opinion. They are making up an excuse to cancel this project.

### Cost of Living

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (7.07 pm): When out doorknocking in Pumicestone every single week, I meet with locals who are struggling to cope with rising cost-of-living pressures. Dion is a local single dad whom I met whose rent has doubled. He told me that sometimes he skips meals to make ends meet and that he cannot afford to go to the doctor. Jamie has several teenage boys and, as they have gotten older, their power usage has gone through the roof and that has raised her bills. Susan used to travel from Caboolture down to the Golden Circle outlet on the north side to buy her groceries as they were cheaper, but now she cannot afford the petrol to drive there so she is shopping at Coles instead and her grocery bills are much higher than they were.

Stories like Dion's, Jamie's and Susan's are why we have taken real action to support households facing the rising cost of living. We have limited rent increases to once per year to put downward pressure on rents and make rents more predictable for renters. We have made more rental assistance available to more people and we have closed loopholes to prevent dodgy practices like rent bidding. Under our progressive coal royalty regime, every Queensland household is getting a massive \$550 off their energy bills and seniors are saving well over \$1,000. We launched our supermarket pricing inquiry to crack down on dodgy grocery pricing practices. We are building satellite hospitals in the heart of our communities so that locals can get 100 per cent free public health care close to home.



However, locals like Dion, Susan and Jamie need even more cost-of-living relief, so that is what I and I know all of our colleagues will be pushing for in our next state budget. The biggest risk to households in Pumicestone, though, is not just the rising cost of living—

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Gregory, you are under a warning. You can leave the chamber.


*Whereupon the honourable member for Gregory withdrew from the chamber at 7.09 pm.*

**Ms KING:** However, the biggest risk to households in Pumicestone is not just the rising cost of living; it is the prospect of an LNP government. Every aspect of our cost-of-living support is at risk under the LNP. The last thing that Dion, Susan or Jamie need is empty promises from the LNP's right-wing priorities pamphlet.

The LNP have been clear that they do not support our progressive coal royalties. Their right-wing priorities are mining profits, not lower household bills. When the LNP leader says there is a war on landlords, what he will do is bring back rent bidding and strip away our annual limit on rent increases. Renters would be much worse off under an LNP government. When the LNP leader says that there is a war on resources, what he will do is cancel our progressive coal royalties so that households cannot get their Cost of Living Rebate because there will be a \$9 billion hole blown in the Queensland budget. Households will be much worse off under an LNP government. When the LNP leader said that satellite hospitals are not fit for purpose, it is because what he would do is sell them off straight down the line. Queenslanders cannot afford the LNP.

*(Time expired)*

### **Bruce Highway; Chinchilla Hospital, Maternity Services**

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (7.10 pm): The deadliest stretch of the Bruce Highway is in the electorate of Callide at Kolonga north of Gin Gin. I table a chart showing evidence of this from TMR's own data.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, depicting a graph titled 'Bruce Highway Fatal Crashes, By location, 2015-2024' [\[582\]](#).

Not only have there been far too many fatalities, there have also been many serious crashes and injuries. You would think the deadliest and most dangerous stretch of the Bruce Highway would receive a lot of attention and an increase in road safety initiatives—not under the Miles Labor government. Labor bulldozed the Gin Gin Driver Reviver only half an hour up the road from this deadly stretch of our most significant highway, ripping it out from under the passionate community and volunteers who fundraised to build the shed in the first place. Last year I tabled a petition on this with over 700 signatures, and this call from the community fell on deaf ears. The Labor government claimed it would cost \$400,000 to bring the driver reviver up to standard. I call this absolute garbage. It was a shed, and a small one. I do not know what planet the government is living on to get to this figure. Further, they did not go to the community to work through a solution—they tore the shed down. I call on the government to rebuild the Gin Gin Driver Reviver immediately. If it does not, it is further evidence that Labor does not care about the bush.


Tonight, in response to questions about the maternity services at the new Chinchilla Hospital, minister Shannon Fentiman told the Seven Network that the new hospital is expected to maintain its existing service level of 10 beds and equivalent spaces and that further services will resume when they have appropriate staff. Once again, the minister has failed to place on record that the Miles Labor government backs maternity services in Chinchilla and in the bush. This 7News revelation follows a question on notice asked of the Minister for Health and Minister for Women about the facilities and maternity services at the new Chinchilla Hospital that will be built next year following a hard-fought local campaign. Labor has continuously said that they are returning maternity services to Chinchilla after they placed them on temporary bypass in 2019, nearly 2,000 days ago, yet they have failed to commit to restoring maternity services once again. Now they have doubled down.

This is a disgraceful admission from a government that has given up on women in the bush. Premier Miles closed the Chinchilla maternity unit as health minister, now Premier Miles has turned his back on pregnant women in the bush and is failing to restore maternity services for a community that always had them before Labor came along. It is clear that Premier Miles and Labor have given up on

health, given up on local maternity services and, frankly, given up on women. Commit to restoring maternity services at the new Chinchilla Hospital. Further, today marks 600 days since the Biloela maternity ward bypass. Show Labor the door in 2024.

*(Time expired)*

### Health Infrastructure


 **Hon. C MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (7.13 pm): If members want to see Labor's Big Build in action, then look no further than in the mighty Logan and Ipswich regions. The growing community that I represent deserves good quality health services and our Labor government is delivering with our health Big Build. In fact, we are delivering hundreds of new health beds to our growing regions through a range of major hospital expansions and new builds. How many exactly? Let's count them. The \$460 million stage 1 expansion of the Logan Hospital is almost complete. It will provide 206 beds and treatment spaces. There are four new floors and new wards, including a new cardiac ward, coronary care unit, medical assessment and planning unit, general medical ward and a palliative care ward. With a new intensive care unit, additional emergency department capacity and minor refurbishment works remaining, this is one of Queensland's largest ever hospital expansions. It is fantastic to see that it is already providing additional care for locals in Logan. Plans have now been released for the \$530 million stage 2 of the Logan Hospital expansion, which will deliver 10 operating theatres and 112 additional beds—all due to be completed by the end of 2026.

In the Ipswich region, we have seen stage 1 of the \$146.3 million master planned expansion of Ipswich Hospital completed. This has delivered a 26-bed ward and a refurbished space for allied health, oncology and outpatient care, as well as a brand new state-of-the-art MRI suite. Only last month I toured the construction site for the further \$710 million stage 2 expansion of the Ipswich Hospital. This stage will deliver 200 new beds, a new and expanded emergency department, additional operating theatres and a range of additional clinical services.

Of course, our new public hospital in Springfield, which is currently springing up from the ground, is an important health project that we are delivering in partnership with Mater Health Services. This is another 174 public overnight and same-day beds, an intensive care unit, a much needed emergency department, maternity services and additional high-level clinical services that are all under construction.

Of course, there are another 50 beds in our new acute mental health unit in Ipswich which we opened earlier this year. Ninety additional overnight subacute beds will be delivered at the Ripley Hospital subacute expansion that is currently under construction, and 45 beds at the new alcohol and other drugs withdrawal management and rehabilitation facility are also underway. So, how many health beds are we delivering? We are delivering over 900 health beds. Along with the over 3,600 frontline health staff that we have employed since 2015, only a Labor government can be trusted with the health of our communities in Logan and Ipswich.

### Wyer, Ms B; Hamilton Plains, Flooding

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (7.16 pm): As a young woman Bette Wyer worked in the Department of Primary Industries before joining the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps in 1973 as an ambulance driver where she met her now husband, Terry, who was an Army paramedic. Her daughter reflected in her eulogy that her favourite job was as the coaching director for netball for the Whitsunday region. She would get up to travel from the south of Sarina to all of the western mining communities and up as far as Bowen, taking netball to everyone. In 1993, her daughters decided they wanted to start their own netball club to play with their friends, so Bette took that on with great energy and 31 years later we have the Brothers Netball Club in Mackay—her one true love.

Over the years we have seen thousands of players come through the club, as well as parents, coaches, umpires and administrators. She was always there with an encouraging word, a skill correction, advice on anything netball and sometimes a little bit more. She has supported and influenced many. On behalf of our netball community and broader community we say, 'Thank you, Bette'. Mayor Greg Williamson paid tribute to her at her funeral last week. Our deepest sympathies to her husband, Terry, her daughters, Melissa, Raeleen, Charmaine, and their families. I had the privilege of sitting beside Bette at many regional netball games. She was a true champion of the sport and a true champion of our region.

To the Minister for Transport, I say: many in this House would have driven through Hamilton Plains. It is the connection road between Proserpine and Airlie Beach—the beautiful gateway to the Great Barrier Reef and the Whitsundays.


**Mr Krause** interjected.

**Ms CAMM:** I take that interjection. It was in 2017 when funding was secured. We have had another wet season where the residents of the Whitsundays have, once again, felt the impacts of the flooding. This has delayed emergency services, families, students—26 buses travel each day to the schools in Proserpine—and tourists who have been limited in their access to the airport. Tenders closed on 7 March in 2023—over one year ago—and there has been no action since. The tender was awarded and then pulled back by this state Labor government. Construction was meant to commence this year. We have seen no drain maintenance on the road. Now have record flooding within hours instead of what would have taken days.

I hear members of the government in this House talk about progressive coal royalties but we are yet to see a dime back in our electorate where hardworking coalminers live and work every day to produce revenue for this state. It is not good enough. Show Labor the door in '24.

*(Time expired)*

### Surgery; Anzac Day

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (7.19 pm): For those of you who do not know, I recently had to undergo some unexpected emergency spinal surgery. I want to take the opportunity to thank a few people who really looked after me during that time. I would like to begin by thanking my staff who stepped up and had to work exceptionally hard during the period I was out of action, and I want to acknowledge the great work they did. They are devoted, loyal, hardworking community members and I am very proud to have them as my staff and I love working with them. I say thank you to Jo, Nikki and Hugh; you do a great job. I also thank George, who has stepped up recently.


I would also like to thank my family: my sisters, Catherine and Maureen, who did a wonderful job looking after me, and my husband, who unfortunately was away so he was not able to look after me particularly much. Lucky him, he thinks.

**Mr Brown:** Convenient.

**Ms PEASE:** Yes, conveniently. I would also like to acknowledge the wonderful doctor and the staff at the hospital for the great care they took of me. I would also like to particularly acknowledge my local community. I have been really humbled by their kindness and generosity of spirit in their understanding and acceptance of my inability to attend the functions I would normally attend. I have kept working. I worked from home but I was unable to attend many events. I would also like to thank them for the many cards and gifts they sent me. I have been really humbled by their generosity. I would also like to acknowledge my parliamentary colleagues who had to step into the void while I was not here. I really want to thank the members for Capalaba, Mount Ommaney and Mundingburra for helping out and covering for me while I was not here.

I would also now like to remind everyone that Anzac Day is coming up; it is just around the corner. It is a great opportunity for us to acknowledge those who have served. We are really fortunate in Australia that we live in such a safe and beautiful country. Coming up we have to acknowledge those returned service personnel—current serving personnel and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Like many MPs in the chamber, we all have many services to attend, but I was unaware that we had three dawn services. We have one at 4.15, one at 5 and one at 6.10 in Wynnum and we rush from one to the next. Then of course we have the wonderful parades at Manly-Lota and again at Wynnum RSL. We are very fortunate in that we have the Wynnum RSL, the Manly-Lota RSL sub-branch and also the National Servicemen's. All of these events are incredibly well supported by our local community and sporting clubs, schools—you name it; they attend. I want to give a shout-out to all the wonderful volunteers who make these events so important in our community.

### Anti-Discrimination Act


 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (7.22 pm): I rise tonight to warn the government and all members of the proposed changes to the Queensland Anti-Discrimination Act through the proposed anti-discrimination bill 2024. These changes represent an alarming and direct assault on religion-based schools. This draft legislation, if enacted, would not only undermine fundamental human rights but also betray all faith-based communities that enrich our society.

Australia, as a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, has affirmed religious freedom as one of the most fundamental human rights, yet the proposed anti-discrimination legislation fails to uphold this sacred principle. These proposed changes will blatantly contravene article 18.4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which recognises the rights of parents to ensure the faith and moral education of their children according to their own beliefs, not the government's belief. It is unacceptable that religious institutions may be forced into compromising their core values which are central to an orthodox interpretation of their scriptures.

Imagine being told you can read and believe the Bible, but you are forbidden from living according to its teachings because they are deemed by the government to be offensive. This prospect enrages me and our religious institutions. This proposed bill is both ideological and discriminatory, threatening the freedom of millions who hold steadfast to religious convictions and seek to pass these values onto their children. If this disgraceful legislation is passed, the very existence of religion-based schools will be in danger, placing an immense strain on an already burdened state school system where overcrowded classrooms and staff shortages have become the norm. Just last week an alarming report surfaced of teachers in Queensland resigning in droves, with nearly 12½ thousand leaving since 2020. This drastic decline in the teaching workforce coinciding with rising student numbers signals a looming crisis. I have no doubt the government will avoid debate on the critical issue before the upcoming election in October but honourable members should not be fooled by this tactic. If re-elected, they will fast-track this legislation.

I encourage all Queenslanders to raise their voices now and contact their local member to demand a commitment to stand against this blatant assault on religious freedoms.

### Health System

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (7.25 pm): On this side of the House we support good quality, universal health care for all Queenslanders. In my electorate of Stretton, where people come from all over the world to settle and raise a family, I hear time and time again how important it is that the state government provides good quality, first-class, publicly owned and operated health care and hospitals for all. It is a priority for the Labor government but an irritation for the LNP.


On this side of the House we are getting on with the job of building the hospital and health infrastructure that we need. Locally, that means 112 new beds for QEII Hospital, new wards and surgical theatres, and more car parks. At Logan Hospital we are seeing a massive expansion, which is almost complete: four new floors, hundreds of new beds and also operating theatres. We have the Eight Mile Plains Satellite Hospital almost complete. It will provide life-saving care, dialysis, chemo, outpatients, minor injuries and illness and other services. Importantly, it will take pressure off the Logan and QEII hospital EDs.

We have employed more doctors, nurses, paramedics and health workers and right now we have jobs advertised for people to work at the Eight Mile Plains Satellite Hospital, which I know is very popular. We have the best performing ambulance service in Australia and, importantly, it is the only ambulance service in the country that is free. If people need help in the outback or if they need a helicopter, it is free and it will stay free under a Labor government. In other states it can cost people as much as \$7,000. Federally, Labor has helped to make medicines cheaper and they are also making it easier to see a bulk-billing doctor. We are also supporting pharmacies so they can do more to help with frontline health care. We are also prioritising mental health services for Queenslanders with our mental health levy.

In contrast, what is the LNP approach to health care in hospitals? The LNP sacked thousands of nurses and frontline health workers when they were in power. They sold off and closed down Queensland Health facilities like the Barrett Adolescent Centre that we heard the member for Inala speak about today in her first speech. We have heard the opposition spokesperson for health call Queensland Health workers duds and we have heard the member for Burnett attack the pay and entitlements of health workers online, claiming they want unrealistic employee entitlements. I am not sure what the member thinks is unrealistic. Perhaps it is sick pay, overtime, maternity leave or night shift payments. The LNP will have to come clean on what they think 'unrealistic expectations' are.

The LNP do not care about services like hospitals. To those opposite it is just a line item and an expense to be cut. On this side of the House we believe in building and providing the services that we need to maintain our great Queensland lifestyle to support the health of our friends and family and our fellow Queenslanders.

## Toondah Harbour Development

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (7.28 pm): The Toondah Harbour development in Cleveland appears to be literally dead in the water. The federal Albanese Labor government recently dealt a deathblow to the \$1.4 billion Toondah Harbour development when federal environment minister Plibersek declared that environmental approval would be denied. Toondah Harbour is a critical harbour. Each year a million passengers and 200,000 vehicles rely on Toondah Harbour for ferry transportation across Moreton Bay and to and from Straddie. It serves as the lifeblood to North Stradbroke Island's economy.

Over the years some locals have expressed concerns about the potential environmental and infrastructure impacts of Toondah and, under the Palaszczuk government since 2015, also about the increased scale of the project, particularly the amount of residential development into Ramsar wetland area. Many other Redlanders have been keen supporters of the project for the upgraded ferry facilities, housing opportunities, other amenities, better car parking, all-weather protection, 1,100 construction jobs, hundreds of ongoing small business jobs and other economic benefits that the project would have delivered. All of the benefits will be lost if this is an end, as it looks to be.

While we wait for more detail, it is my hope that a compromise that prioritises the critical transport elements can be reached, and I call on the federal government and state government to work constructively with Redland City Council and Walker's developers to reach a workable agreement. A smaller scale transport-centred project with a more land-based footprint is feasible in my opinion—one that does not impact significantly on Ramsar bird wildlife and marine environment like the original LNP development that I supported but that Jackie Trad changed. If this opportunity is squandered, then Labor needs to explain the role of Labor division and infighting in the project grinding to a halt. We have seen the dramatically different views of state Labor MPs amongst themselves and with their federal counterparts. I table a social media post from Tanya Plibersek, the environment minister, titled 'An update on Toondah Harbour' where she announces the scuttling of Toondah Harbour and her intentions.

*Tabled paper:* Extracts of social media posts from the member for Miller, Hon. Mark Bailey, and the member for Capalaba, Mr Don Brown MP [\[583\]](#).

This post was shared by two Labor state members—the Labor member for Miller, Mark Bailey, who said—

This is the right decision for future generations, and for the protection of Moreton Bay by @tanya\_plibersek


The Labor member for Capalaba, Don Brown, said—

Very disappointing result. \$3 bn is lost investment, hundreds jobs and thousands of homes in the middle of a housing crisis. Let's be clear, Toondah Harbour is not protected now, it is dredged regularly and has sediment from being a working port.

This division has played havoc on the—

*(Time expired)*

## Gidley, Mrs J; Graves, Mr W

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (7.31 pm): Tonight I want to pay tribute to two Birkdale South legends, the first of which is the immediate past president of the Birkdale South P&C, Jenny Gidley, who has just stepped down as the P&C's president after serving for 38 years as president and an executive. To put that in perspective, the school is only 42 years old. That has meant that Jenny has seen her kids go through, but she has also been there as president when her grandkids started at the school. That is hundreds of sausage sizzles, that is dozens of discos, dozens of election barbeques and dozens of fetes with plenty of fundraising by her over those years. She has also been a fierce advocate—she has recently had me to the school to advocate—for upgrades to the tuckshop, continuing to work right up until the end. At the end of the term it was fitting that we celebrated the contribution that Jenny and her husband, Mike, have given to the school with the school naming the volunteer of the year award after Jenny Gidley. She deserves to be remembered every single year. I look forward to working with the new president, Katie, in the future. This is such a great school at Birkdale South.

Straight across the road I want to pay tribute to Walter Graves, who unfortunately died last month at the age of 90. To his friends he was known as Wal, but to the community he was known as the 'Birkdale flower man'. He would sit outside his house selling his flowers in the afternoon with his massive black sombrero hat waving at every single car and giving his famous two thumbs up. He would brighten up everyone's day by sitting on the side of the road. He was born in Liverpool. He was a true Liverpool

soccer fan, with those who attended his funeral asked to wear red. There is a fitting tribute for Walter out the front of his house now with the Liverpool banners. Walter Graves framed it best himself when he said this in a *Courier-Mail* article—

I know I'm doing a good thing. One lady must have been having a bad day, but then she drove past and saw me and stopped and gave me a hug.

She said I had turned her whole day around.

It's never felt like a job because I love what I do. Plus, only nice people buy flowers.

Walter Graves, the Birkdale flower man, was a nice person. He brightened up people's days on Old Cleveland Road East. I would always give him a beep as I went past. He brightened up our community. These are two Birkdale South legends who have contributed so much to our local community.

The House adjourned at 7.34 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, McMillan, 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