

TO BE IN TIME FOR CORRECTION
PROOFS MUST BE RETURNED
BY 12 noon TO THE
CHIEF HANSARD REPORTER

ISSN 1322-0330



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS (PROOF)

Hansard Home Page: <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/hansard>

Email: hansard@parliament.qld.gov.au
Phone (07) 3553 6344

**SESSIONNUMBER SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENTNUMBER
PARLIAMENT**

Thursday, 4 April 2024

Subject	Page
RIGHT-CLICK HERE, THEN SELECT 'UPDATE FIELD' TO SHOW THE TOC.....	1
Select 'Update Entire Table' if prompted	1

THURSDAY, 4 APRIL 2024

The Legislative Assembly met at 9:30am.

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.

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

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

Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—

'Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023'

Insert—

'Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024'

The following honourable member has lodged a paper petition for presentation and an e-petition which is now closed and presented—

Gold Coast Fishermen's Co-operative

Mr Langbroek, from 2,719 petitioners, 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. [384]

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

Sexually Explicit Publications

Mr Andrew, from 1,823 petitioners, requesting the House to do all within its power to ensure various prohibitions around sexually explicit publications.

Fire Service Act

Mr Bennett, from 1,532 petitioners, requesting the House to reject the draft amendments to the Fire Service Act 1990.

Motorcyclists, Protective Clothing

Mr Crandon, from 470 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the usage of protective clothing for motorcyclists and their passengers.

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

Shark Nets, Removal

2,493 petitioners, requesting the House to remove shark nets along the coast and focus on smarter technologies.

Petitions received.

Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

Amendments during consideration in detail to be moved by

The Honourable the Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing

1. Clause 8 (Amendment of s 21 (Reckless conduct—category 1))

Page 11, line 24 to page 12, line 8—

omit.

2. Clause 16 (Amendment of s 31 (Reckless conduct—category 1))

Page 16, lines 3 to 14—

omit.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

continuing

Ms FARMER: What we are facing now is the very real possibility that the LNP could actually get to government and the *Leader of the Opposition* could be the Premier, so we have to look really seriously at what they might do in education. We know that for them when it comes to balancing the budget schools are in the firing line. When they were in government they actually closed six schools - Fortitude Valley State School, Old Yarranlea State School, Toowoomba South State School, Charlton State School, [Stuart State School, [Nyanda State High School - and they had a hit list of another 50 schools that they were going to cut. We have no word from the opposition leader now on what he is going to do to fix the budget black hole that he is going to create.

We know he is going to support the big shiny new \$3.5 billion stadium. We know he does not support progressive coal royalties, so what is he going to cut? Do you know what the risk is? Schools are just a line item on the budget. You can see them going through the list. Will we cut widget? Yes. Will we cut chairs? Yes. Will we cut trucks? Yes. Will we cut schools across Queensland? Yes. Because they simply do not care. What is he going to say to his schools in Everton? What he is going to say in [Currumbin? What is he going to say in Lockyer?

Mr SPEAKER:

S

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

Ms FARMER: What is he going to say to the schools in Logan and Mackay? We need him to come clean and say whether he is committed to our kids' futures.

Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure

Mr POWELL: My question is to the [Minister for State Development and Infrastructure. The Premier has said the government did not receive any formal legal advice to cancel the games. Did the government receive any non-formal advice to cancel the games?

Ms GRACE: Formal. Nonformal. [Whingeing. Whining. Yes. No. You bet. You bet not. Yes, we will. No, we won't. No, we can't. Now I run. Now I walk.

It is embarrassing what you hear from those opposite, and the answer to the question is no.

We came out with a position. We have come out with a strong position to deliver the best games in 2032, and we did it under the new norm. We have done it under the

funding envelope which is fifty-fifty from the federal government and the state government. We have also done it with the IOC which we need to liaise with. We also need to talk further with the Commonwealth government in relation to the fantastic arena that we will be building on the new site in Roma Street. We will be upgrading [Suncorp Stadium. We will be upgrading [QSAC, and what a legacy - a legacy that was not left after Rio, London and Tokyo. It will be left here in Queensland.

We hear those athletes say for once a track is not going to be ripped up out of a stadium after the games. It will remain as a legacy for all of those 782,000-plus visits that go to that site. [Suncorp Stadium will be a shiny stadium that Queenslanders love and enjoy. The [Gabba will get the work that it requires as well, as an iconic venue for cricket and AFL in this state.

That is what this side of the House will do. We will also deliver the minor venues - with 50 per cent of them outside of Brisbane. We will deliver them and we getting on with the job.

They keep talking about an independent delivery authority, and we have said time and time again there will be a bill before this House very soon and we will have it in place by mid this year. That is what we stand for on this side of the House. We are not going to play cheap, [wishy-washy politics with an important event. We want to make sure we get it right. When it comes to delivering on those venues, I say to the Leader of the Opposition that we are going to deliver an Olympic and Paralympic Games that we will be proud of. The venues for the Paralympics we will be doing it in line with the budget, with the IOC, with the federal government. You bet.

Regional Queensland, Mine Rehabilitation

Mr SAUNDERS: My question is of the Premier. Can the Premier advise how his government is supporting regional communities and the environment in mine clean-up obligations, and is he aware of any alternative measures?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Maryborough for his question. It also gives me a chance to address the interest that the member for Traeger had. There are a lot of things that we disagree with the Katter party on, but one of them we agree on is that [Glencore should absolutely do the right thing by the [workforce in Mount Isa. We are 100 per cent behind those workers and the town of Mount Isa. We share the disappointment of the member for Traeger in their decision to close the copper mine. Our primary concern is for the 1,200 workers who could be affected by that decision in 2025, as well as the impact it could have on the town and the wider region.

While we cannot force [Glencore to keep the mine open, we can invest in those workers and in other opportunities in the region. We know that copper is just one of many critical minerals there in the [North West Minerals Province, and we want to see those resources turned into jobs and investment for Queenslanders, and that is what we will support. We have \$30 million on the table to support that. We have a detailed plan to see critical minerals extracted and processed here. We have the [CopperString project, which is all about connecting Townsville to those renewable resources to the critical minerals in the north-west, and we will continue to invest in those.

With regards to the member for Traeger's interest in the environmental obligations of [Glencore in Mount Isa, I can assure him that we have some of the toughest environmental laws in the world and we will ensure that every single obligation is met. If he sees any evidence that they are not meeting them, then the environment minister and the resources minister will get their agencies immediately to take action.

With regards to [Glencore's proposal to capture carbon emissions in the [Great Artesian Basin, they have applied for an approval to do that - as is their right - and it will go through the appropriate processes, which are very rigorous processes, but of course we are concerned about the potential impact of that project on the water in the basin. It is an incredibly valuable resource for our state and any possible impact on that or our farmers must be avoided. I am very concerned about that project.

Ms Leahy interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Warrego, you are warned under the standing orders. You need to heed my cautions. The period for question time has expired.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Further Answer to Question, Logan Hospital

Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (11:07): In relation to questions today asked by the opposition relating to [Logan Hospital, I can confirm and am advised that this internal entry was part of a normal ongoing process of measuring and mitigating potential risk at Queensland hospitals. It is a standard process to ensure our hospitals are as safe as possible. For the benefit of the House, I think it is important to clarify a few points.

Two of the biggest contributing factors to these pressures, as noted by staff, is the [skyrocketing demand and the lack of access to primary care. Since this internal entry in the Logan Hospital system in early 2022, we have put on additional nurses in waiting rooms to provide more care for incoming presentations; we have put on ED flow commanders and a medical commander role, an idea that came straight from our [hardworking doctors and nurses; and we are bringing online hundreds more hospital beds. Our \$1 billion expansion of Logan Hospital is bringing online 318 new beds at the Logan Hospital. We have also refurbished the maternity service with state-of-the-art maternity suites. We are delivering new operating theatres, new endoscopy suites, a new cardiac catheter lab and a new pharmacy. Since 2022, Metro South has hired over 920 additional frontline doctors, nurses, midwives and allied health professionals. That is what investing in our health system looks like.

Once again, the LNP, and in particular the Leader of the Opposition, have proven themselves to be slippery with the truth and short on detail. This is entirely misleading, Mr Speaker, and I will be writing to you about this matter.

Eos

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Motions of Dissent from Speaker's Rulings

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, since 1860, Speakers have made rulings from the chair which form precedence to be followed into the future. These rulings are often interpretations of the standing orders or sessional orders, but on occasions rulings may deal with novel situations or matters not covered by any source of procedure.

A member may dissent from a ruling of the Speaker. Not every Westminster style parliament allows dissent from a Speaker's ruling. The rationale for dissent is to enable a member who feels aggrieved by a procedural decision an avenue of appeal

to a higher authority - the Assembly itself. A dissent motion is in effect an appeal to the Assembly about the decision of the Speaker on a matter of procedure. By way of guidance for members, debate on a motion must be relevant to the decision of the Speaker.

BILLS

Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2023

Message from Governor

Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (11:10): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. I have just received the letter from Her Excellency the Governor. The message from Her Excellency the Governor recommends the Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I now table the message for the information of members.

Take in message 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.

Introduction

Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (11:11): I present a bill for an act to amend the Economic Development Act 2012, the Planning Act 2016 and the Public Sector Act 2022 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of

compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 28 March 2024, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 28 March 2024.

I rise to introduce the Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Queensland is growing. It was May 2018 when Queensland's population hit five million. Today, according to the Queensland Government Statistician, our population stands at 5.56 million people. This growth is just shy of relocating the entire population of Tasmania into Queensland, most of them in south-eastern Queensland over a six-year period.

Without a doubt, people are moving to Queensland because it is the place to be due to the economic success and job opportunities this government is delivering. We have restored frontline services cut by the previous LNP government. We protected Queensland from the worst aspects of COVID, both from a health and economic perspective. Our economy has grown year on year, and we have had record low unemployment and continue to record strong interstate migration into our great state.

However, that success also brings its challenges, and one of those challenges is the pressure placed on housing supply. While there have never been so many people in Queensland in good jobs with low unemployment rates, at the same time we see pressures on housing supply and rental increases due in part to recent unprecedented interest rate rises at a national level and, sadly, some people sleeping rough. By 2046, we need around a million new homes to house our growing population.

Through our [Homes for Queenslanders policy, the Miles government has made it clear that every Queenslanders should have a safe, secure and affordable place to call home. All levels of government - federal, state and local - have a role to play in achieving that objective, but so, too, does the private sector, community housing providers and financial services and real estate providers. The factors driving the housing challenges are complex and there is no simple solution to resolving those challenges. The Miles government is committed to using every lever at our disposal to identify solutions and implement them, and this includes all government agencies.

This bill is about the Miles government pulling one of those levers, building on the role of Economic Development Queensland - EDQ - the Queensland government's land use planning and property development agency, and putting it to even better use to deliver more homes for Queenslanders faster.

One of the actions of the historic housing summit was to expand the remit of EDQ, to drive the delivery of social, affordable and diverse housing in the context of urban renewal and precincts, and we are driving this initiative with EDQ-led projects in [Northshore Hamilton, Carseldine and Southport.

EDQ has been charged with leading actions to increase the supply of social and affordable housing. It is all part of our [Homes for Queenslanders plan. Stakeholders from planning, development industry, professional services, community housing and public agency partners have worked with us on exploring ways to do things differently to get more homes built by the state government.

This bill will: increase the supply of quality, social and affordable housing where it is needed across the state; build capacity of government and the housing sector to deliver tailored social and affordable housing outcomes in a flexible manner; leverage government intervention to maximise industry government, alternative delivery models and funding sources; deliver within accelerated time scales; and require developers

to deliver on social and affordable targets that are supportive of a broader statewide strategy.

To achieve this, this bill focuses on four key areas: housing supply, affordability and diversity; the introduction of a place renewal framework; EDQ's corporate structure; and operational refinements to existing functions and powers.

The bill is focused on outcomes that will enable EDQ to deliver more homes faster in a way that also delivers thriving communities with jobs, services and everyday facilities close to home.

This bill directly supports two of the key pillars of the Miles government's [Homes for Queenslanders policy - to build more homes faster and to boost our social housing [Big Build.

EDQ has achieved much, from land sales that translated into major private sector investment, to the creation of thousands of jobs for Queenslanders, to helping industry by [master planning communities and streamlining approvals processes. Northshore Hamilton, for example, is Queensland's largest waterfront urban renewal development where over 3,000 homes have already been delivered.

EDQ has been pivotal in working towards building a sustainable, connected precinct that will ultimately house more than 25,000 people in 14,000 homes.

PDAs are parcels of land within Queensland identified for development to deliver significant benefits to the community. Northshore is one of 35 priority development areas that have been declared across the state to unlock land supply. Caloundra South PDA on the Sunshine Coast is another. EDQ has been instrumental in supporting development of this new greenfield community and has already approved over 20,000 lots for homes, with 7,000 already delivered, and a further 13,000 either approved for development or under construction. This development has proved especially popular for first home buyers and workers in essential services with half of the lots sold in 2023 purchased by these groups. In just the first half of 2023-24, almost 2,400 residential lots and over 1,900 apartment dwellings were approved for development in priority development areas.

This is on top of the more than 2,700 residential lots and 750 apartment dwellings approved in 2022-23. As well as enabling housing development, these streamlined approvals will facilitate \$736 million of private sector investment and support 2,380 jobs.

[EDQ is hundreds of new homes on urban renewal precincts like Songbird Oxley, Parkside [Yeronga and Carseldine Village which has delivered 100 per cent net zero energy emissions terrace homes in greenfield precincts like Greater Flagstone, [Ripley Valley and [Yarrabilba to name a few. They are co-investing with councils, developers and utility providers in critical infrastructure like water and roads to unlock residential lots, like at Oonoomba in the [Far North and [Yarrabilba in the south.

We are finding places for businesses to grow and creating new jobs for Queenslanders. For example, from the delivery by EDQ of more industrial land at the Sunshine Coast and Coolum Eco Industrial Parks, and business innovation parks like the EDQ-led Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct, Lumina. In Bowen Hills, great outcomes have been achieved, including the delivery of more homes and businesses and the redevelopment of the RNA Showgrounds. But there are parts of the Bowen Hills PDA where greater coordination would create more homes and places that the community can enjoy. This bill will help to do that.

This bill will support EDQ to deliver an additional 1,300 dwellings over the next five years, as well as approve a further 15,000 homes in priority development areas, effectively doubling the amount that is currently forecast. The bill also enables EDQ to play a more meaningful role in the provision of social and affordable housing.

Queensland's growth means that we need to ensure there is enough housing, and the right housing, for everyone. The bill includes amendments to the main purpose of the act to specifically include the provision of diverse housing, including social and affordable housing. This amendment is not only important from a practical perspective, but it also sends an important signal. It reinforces the role that EDQ plays in driving new housing supply across the state.

The bill will enable the minister for Economic Development Queensland to enter directly into agreements with third parties, like community housing providers, to deliver social and affordable housing projects. This will make it easier for EDQ to lead the delivery in partnership with the housing portfolio of new social housing projects like the proposed new West Tower development at Southport. This supportive housing project will provide a home to hundreds of vulnerable Queenslanders, with access to on-site health and employment services. These new powers will complement the powers of the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works by providing additional capacity across government to respond to the housing challenge. EDQ already sets targets for social and affordable housing within PDAs. The bill will improve the government's ability to plan the location and require delivery of these targets, while giving EDQ and industry more flexibility for how these obligations are conditioned and met to ensure the right type of housing is delivered when and where it is needed.

The bill acknowledges the role of EDQ in delivering commercial and industrial land to market which will help ensure we are building jobs, as well as homes for Queenslanders. Our next focus area for these amendments is called 'place renewal areas'. It is a chance to bring more coordinated renewals sooner to some of Queensland's greatest development opportunities. In some of our PDAs, there are multiple parties developing complex infrastructure and development projects where a more coordinated and collaborative approach will deliver a better outcome faster, in particular, where there are multiple landowners and fragmented ownership. For example, the Bowen Hills priority development area is a key inner urban site that has significant government and private sector investment. It includes major precincts like the RNA and it is a transport hub thanks to the Bowen Hills railway station and the new Exhibition Cross River Rail station. But there are areas within Bowen Hills where multiple development and infrastructure projects are proposed that are not progressing, for different reasons, and that would benefit from stronger coordination between government and the private sector.

This bill enables the minister for Economic Development Queensland to declare a place renewal area within a priority development area. This will give the minister broad coordination powers to drive better outcomes. This is about finding new ways to work across industry and government, to respond to challenges and to seize opportunities and it is another example of EDQ demonstrating innovation. The framework will set out the vision, purpose and outcomes of the precinct and will be prepared in a collaborative way with government, community and industry stakeholders to deliver increased value and a better place-based outcome for the precinct. In addition, the bill allows the minister for Economic Development Queensland to acquire land in a place

renewal area where there is a barrier to progressing critical development and all other options have been exhausted.

Our final focus area is improving EDQ's corporate structure, accountability and governance and improving the effective and efficient function of EDQ. For example, the bill includes expanding the minister's existing directions power to include distributor retailers and provides EDQ with similar land acquisition powers for the delivery of critical infrastructure within PDAs that are provided to other similar planning authorities like local governments and the [Coordinator-General.

The bill will also require distributor retailers and local governments to inform the minister for [Economic Development Queensland of certain infrastructure charges they have collected within a PDA and, in some cases, provide those charges to the minister so they can ensure those funds are spent on infrastructure within the area they are collected. Amendments are included in the bill to provide flexibility around planning instruments. This includes, for example, if there has been a significant weather event within a priority development area, the ability for a temporary planning instrument to be put in place quickly to assist.

Regarding EDQ's structure, it will continue to be accountable for the minister for [Economic Development Queensland but it will no longer sit within a government department. This will create a more agile and more responsive organisation that can scale up to respond to key government priorities, as required, and allow for approvals and processes to be further streamlined. A chief executive officer will be appointed and a new EDQ employing office will be established. EDQ staff will become employees of the employing office and all the remaining and future staff will be employed under the [Public Sector Act 2022, with all their rights and entitlements under it retained.

A new eight-member skill-based board that is accountable to the MEDQ will be appointed. The board will include two government board members, the chief executive of the minister's department and the under-treasurer but, for the first time, the board will also include external experts, including an independent chair. The MEDQ's regulatory functions, such as approving development applications or declaring new PDAs, will remain with the minister but for development projects and [day-to-day operations, this will give EDQ greater direct access to development industry expertise for strategic leadership.

Delivering more diverse and affordable housing in an accelerated [time frame is vital for our state and it is in line with our [Homes for Queenslanders plan and is in direct response to the [Housing Summit. EDQ will be given the powers and abilities to deliver the outcomes that are needed for Queensland. By implementing the changes in this bill EDQ will be better placed to fast track sustainable and affordable places that people can call home. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. MAJ SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works) (11:07): 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 Portfolio Committees

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

Before I call the Clerk to read the next order of the day I remind members in the House of members who have been warned. This might take some time. They are the members for Ninderry, Currumbin, Maryborough, Chatsworth, Nanango, Toowoomba South, Buderim, Bonney, Toowoomba North, Mudgeeraba, Kawana, Moggill, McConnel, Waterford, Capalaba, Broadwater, Callide, Coomera, Everton and Warrego.

BILLS

Body Corporate and Community Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

Second Reading

Resumed from 19 March (see p. 712), on motion of Mrs D'Ath—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Mr ANDREW (Mirani—PHON) (11:30): Nowhere does the bill acknowledge that gambling is, in fact, a fun and relaxing activity for many people. It is not my cup of tea, but many people feel otherwise, and this government is certainly no stranger to its economic benefits. Last year the Queensland government raked in a whopping \$1.9 billion in gambling taxes.

Addiction is an extremely serious issue, but it is certainly not limited to gambling. Millions of Australians show signs of alcohol dependency and there is no doubt that alcoholism ruins lives and families just as much as, if not more than, gambling. How long will it be before we hear calls for legally imposed limits on alcohol? That is another question.

Over-regulation almost always proves [counterproductive to the society at large. This gambling bill is running against the backdrop of the toughest restrictions on our civil liberties and individual rights in our state's history. We should be trying to identify ways to become a freer society, not a more paternalistic one.

Practical solutions, not the blunt tools of technocratic overreach should be made the focus of the government policies and programs. As the Queensland government continues to move towards digital service delivery, we should be careful about using real problems to justify the introduction of a mandatory and automated payment system which invariably comes with strings attached. As the bill's mandatory carded play regulations are rolled out, we will see casinos all over the country collecting more and more data on their patrons, which is exactly what this type of technology was made for: building databases. All over the country the government has everyone building these databases to store as much highly sensitive and personal information as they can lay their hands on. There is no absolutely no reason to put someone in a database like this. You put someone in a database because they are a criminal. If people agree to a company's mandatory card system when visiting a casino it should be limited to a specific use. Agreeing to participate in the company's mandatory card system should absolutely be limited to a specific use. Consent is for a single use. It is

not transferrable to other companies, agencies or jurisdictions. This is a human right and civil liberties issue of massive importance.

What happens to the information after it has been uploaded and shared with all these shadowy third parties and unnamed stakeholder partners? The public are not being told, but they have a right to know. What safeguards and limitations are being put in place over all these data-sharing arrangements? None - nothing that I could actually see.

As I said earlier today, it is time we started thinking more critically about the issue of rushing to these new technologies without properly assessing their costs and the society-wide impacts.

Eos\

Ms BUSH (Cooper—ALP) (11:33): I rise also to make a contribution to the [casino control bill. Before I get to the substance of the bill I am inclined to comment on the contributions made by those opposite in yesterday's session. We can see already where they are going with the criticism and the complaints that it has taken too long and that it has not gone far enough. Does anyone in this House seriously think that this bill would be before this House if those opposite were in power?

They did not introduce one piece of legislation when they were in power relating to casino regulation - sorry, I will correct the record. They did introduce one piece of legislation relating to casino regulation. They introduced the [Liquor and Gaming ([Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, which according to the explanatory notes was about reducing the regulatory burden on the liquor and gaming industry. If anybody thinks that they would be moving on this in the way that we are, that is incorrect.

Those opposite are saying that it has taken too long for this bill to come before this House. What they are not saying is which bills they would have pushed back in order to bring this one bill forward. Would they have pushed back our nation-leading [coercive control bill, leaving Queensland women less safe? Would they have pushed back our midwife-to-baby ratio legislation? We know how they feel about nurses and midwives. The shadow minister for health has come in here and referred to regional nurses as 'duds'. We know that when they were in government, they sacked over 4,000 [health care workers and they have not ruled out doing that again. Maybe it was that piece of legislation they would have pushed back to introduce this piece of legislation.

Actually, I know what it would have been. I think it would have been our legislation that we introduced into this House and debated to provide women in the regions greater control over their reproductive rights. We know how the Leader of the Opposition feels about that. Those opposite voted against giving women the choice as to whether they should be able to access early and safe termination of pregnancy. The Leader of the Opposition has not ruled out winding back the laws on safe termination of pregnancy in Queensland if he were to become Premier in October, which absolutely terrifies me.

Mr WEIR: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on 118(b). There is nothing I have heard so far that is relevant to the bill that is being debated at the moment.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have to agree with the member for Condamine. You have strayed quite a long way from the substance of the bill. I would invite you to return to the long title, member for Cooper.

Ms BUSH: It is about priorities and which piece of legislation we would be debating if we were not debating this bill. I am terrified for all women in Queensland about what those opposite would do if they were to get into power in October, and all women in Queensland ought to be terrified. Those opposite in yesterday's contribution, which I am directly responding to now in my contribution, said that this bill did not go far enough. Let's not forget they never did anything to address casino regulation when they were in power, so do we really think that the Leader of the Opposition would have a position on this?

Mr WEIR: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order, again on 118(b), relevance to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Cooper, you have continued to stray away from the substance of the bill. I understand you are responding to remarks made earlier in the debate, but it is important that you do remain relevant. I would invite you to return to relevance.

Ms BUSH: I will address that. The point I will make is that this bill would not be being debated in this House under those opposite. It is only a Labor government that is willing and able to take on gambling reform in Queensland.

Gambling is a major public policy issue in Australia. It affects individuals, families and communities with estimates that Australians lose \$25 billion each year in gambling losses. Australia has the unenviable reputation of representing the largest per capita losses in the world. I want to jump straight in here and acknowledge Tim Costello, the former CEO of World Vision Australia and chief advocate for the [Alliance for Gambling Reform, who made submissions to the committee which I am sure we would all agree was incredibly helpful. I will quote something he said in the public hearing that illustrated the very serious nature of Australia's relationship with gambling. He said -

... [the American blind spot of guns is perplexing to us. The rest of the world looks at us and cannot believe the level of gambling losses. It is our blind spot ... I use the guns analogy because what happened here was effectively like the guns analogy. You have a second amendment, which is that every American has the right to a ball and musket rifle. That second amendment ... became semiautomatics and the right to carry them. What happened with pokies is that they went from coin operated and pulling a lever, where they did ... hardly any damage at all. Once they were digital they became like the semiautomatic rifle and regulation just did not keep up with the freedom to play.

4\

Mtc\
Bushn\
The amendments contained in this bill are aimed at minimising the destructive impact of problem gambling and criminal influences inside casinos and I am proud to stand and support them. The bill will facilitate the implementation of recommendations 1 to 11 within the [Gotterson review, including introducing mandatory carded play; implementing cashless gambling for transactions over \$1,000; mandatory and binding [precommitment, including play and break limits; providing for the collection of mandatory carded play data and making this data available to inform research and casino supervision; and establishing a compulsory code of conduct for the sector. [Gotterson's recommendation that the [Casino Control Act be amended to reflect these requirements which are consistent with enhanced integrity, probity and harm

minimisation as well as increased public confidence is enabling us to introduce some really important reforms today in Queensland.

Arguably, the most important aspect of the bill provides a framework for carded play, cash limits and precommitment and play and break limits. This framework is in the form of a regulation that may prescribe a range of matters. The key features around full, mandatory and binding precommitment that includes play and break limits will have a significant impact on reducing gambling harm. We heard during the public hearings about the need to create friction in the passage of play for those gambling and 'friction' was explained to us as a level of restriction that makes it difficult to be harmed. In terms of carded play, we heard you can add friction and reduce harm caused to others by adding these additional steps, so making it harder for people to gamble easily, to lose big and to exceed limits and lose quickly. It creates opportunities for gamblers to pause and consider, 'What's my limit, what can I afford to lose and what's the impact on my relationships and my life?' These steps create friction in the process and enable players to make really different choices.

The bill provides that a regulation may prescribe a maximum limit on the number of cash transactions that a person may carry out in a prescribed casino within a 24-hour period. Currently the Casino Control Act does not require the collection of player data, and we heard that that is a real issue. Accordingly, the Gotterson review recommended that player cards collect data on things like the time that players participate, their spending, times of play, wins and losses. The review further recommended that data collected should be used for the purposes of research and to inform casino staffing levels and the proper supervision of casino activities. The bill will make those amendments and this was supported by the Alliance, which noted that the evidence often lacking in gambling research is due to independent researchers and governments not being able to access a de-identified gambler's data. It strongly supported the provision of de-identified data from the card system being made available.

Finally, the bill seeks to remove stigmatising language like 'problem gambler' from the act. This was again supported by the Alliance, which shared with the committee that - [Gambling ... causes everything from increased domestic violence, financial distress, mental health problems, anxiety, depression - everything through to suicide. We know there is significant harm from suicide related to gambling ... All of those things are better served if we are approaching this from a public health perspective that accepts it is a harmful product, we should be mindful of the language we use around this, and it is not about blaming the individual. It is about acknowledging that Australia, as the country with the biggest losses in the world by a mile compared to the next country, is obviously experiencing a normalisation of gambling that does cause a great deal of harm as well. 4\

The work to reform gambling and to improve our national picture on this is far from over, but we are taking another important step in the right direction through this bill. I commend the bill to the House.

Eos\

Mr JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Shadow Minister for Home Ownership, Shadow Treasurer, Shadow Minister for Investment and Trade) (11:43): I was not intending to speak on the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, but after listening to the contributions of those opposite yesterday and again from the member for Cooper, who just spent 4? minutes talking about a bill of something of a completely different subject

matter, I decided I wanted to speak. Those on the opposite side of the House have left out a significant part of the history of why we are standing here today debating this bill. I am going to come in particular to the member for Redcliffe, the [Attorney-General, but what I wanted to put before the House again - and we heard it well articulated yesterday by the [shadow Attorney-General and the shadow youth justice minister - is why we are here debating this particular bill.

This is the second tranche of legislation. The first bill was passed in 2022. What we saw again then was, as is so common with this government, 27 pages of amendments that were dropped into the House about half an hour before the debate of second reading beginning, so we had a traditional approach by the Labor government. However, the House needs to be reminded of what it took for the government to reach that stage, because the government was dragged kicking and screaming to undertake a review of this important area of regulatory oversight in the very first place. Before it was dragged kicking and screaming to undertake a review and commission the [Gotterson review, we saw it through other jurisdictions in Australia with [Bergin, [Finkelstein, [Bell and [Owen - all the eminent QCs undertaking reviews of Star's activities throughout the nation - this government turned a blind eye to all of it for too long.

Before I come to the particulars of what is in the bill and what the Labor government has done in relation to it, it is worth recalling first the seriousness of the behaviour that Star was engaging in in terms of what was actually happening under the unwatchful eye of the [Attorney-General and the [OLGR for all of those years here in Queensland and around the nation. What was Star doing? It was bringing in illegal Chinese junket operators and their clients and Star casinos were providing customers with China [UnionPay facilities. That worked around Chinese regulations and facilitated the gambling of \$900 million across the nation and that was all noted - deceptively noted - as hotel fees or hotel expenses. That is the seriousness of the behaviour that was across the nation and in Queensland under the eye of the [Attorney-General, the member for Redcliffe, and the regulatory regime of the OLGR.

When the government was finally dragged kicking and screaming to undertake the [Gotterson review, we then saw that the [Gotterson review was severely curtailed in its terms of reference - severely curtailed - and the terms of reference were significantly pulled back from what we had seen in other jurisdictions around the nation. It is worth remembering what the [Gotterson review could not review, and that included the investigation of the role of the regulator, what the regulator knew, what it did not know, what it should have done and what it should not have done. The review had no power to compel statements from those who might have something relevant to say to that review and it had no ability to protect whistleblowers in that review process. That review process was undertaken and we had the first tranche of legislation in 2022 and here we have the second tranche of legislation here today which seeks to enact recommendations 1 to 11 of the [Gotterson review.

My question for all of this time has been this: what was the [Attorney-General doing? What was the [OLGR doing? The [Gotterson review could not invest the regulatory oversight and the regulatory environment, but it is a fundamental regulatory oversight responsibility of the state government. The review went nowhere near the regulatory oversight review that was necessary, so what was the [Attorney-General doing? I wanted to point to paragraph 560 of the [Gotterson review in particular where His Honour did not go into the regulatory review but noted the tension in particular between

those that seek to regulate it and the gaming revenues that come from it. In particular, at paragraph 560 he noted -

[... there is a real risk of Governments experiencing a tension between the duty to regulate casinos strictly and the revenue they derive from casinos ... 4\

So there is a clear tension. His Honour noted it and the review unfortunately was not given the broadest terms of reference that it could have had to investigate those matters. What in particular was the [Attorney-General doing? We know one thing for sure: thankfully because of the reporting of the [Australian, there were a whole bunch of different issues that had been raised by the reporting of [Michael McKenna and [Sarah Elks in the [Australian as to the conduct of the Labor government and the tension between the regulatory oversight and the personal interests in fact.

Mtc\

Eot\

The attorney-general of the time received a personal fundraiser from an entity that she was regulating. Who can forget the gathering of former Labor attorneys-general for a fundraiser? It was a great debate. It was personally paid for by staff and donated to the personal fundraising abilities of the member for Redcliffe. That is the kind of tension that -

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to two points of order. One is on relevance and the second is that I take personal offence at what the member is saying. The member is well aware that it has been investigated -

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not an opportunity to prosecute an argument. Take your seat.

Mrs D'ATH: I will be writing to the Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba South, firstly, the member has taken personal offence. Will you withdraw?

Mr JANETZKI: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: On the matter of relevance, am I To understand that you are speaking about the Gotterson review -

Mr JANETZKI: Yes.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: - and the bill is concerned with the implementation of the -

Hmsi\

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Bundaberg, are you on a warning at the moment? You are now. I will not tolerate levity and noise during a ruling. Member for Toowoomba South, can you assure us that you will be returning to the long title of the bill? If you are referring to the Gotterson review I will allow that, provided you do not stray too far.

Mr JANETZKI: Yes, Deputy Speaker. This bill is entirely about the regulation of casinos so I would have thought that the activities of the attorney-general of the day were directly relevant to the regulation of casinos in this state. His Honour said -

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is now misleading [parliament.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba South, please resume your state.

Mrs D'ATH: This is a matter of privilege suddenly arising. I was not the attorney-general at the time and the member is well aware of that. I will be writing to the Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Attorney-General, I have just ruled that you are not to prosecute an argument during a point of order. That is the second time. I am going to warn you under the standing orders.

Mr JANETZKI: The conduct of any attorney-general, particularly the member for Redcliffe at the time that she was attorney-general, is directly relevant to the regulation, but I move on. What else was happening at the time in relation to how this important area of legislative oversight was being regulated? We also know that during that period [Anacta was appointed. I go to the Coaldrake review and Peter Coaldrake's findings where he talked about the conflict that was obvious between lobbyists who were acting for clients seeking to influence government and then actually running election campaigns for the government of the day. There was a clear --

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The standing orders are quite clear. Standing order [234 relates to imputations and improper motives. Notwithstanding that, I cannot see how the member for Toowoomba South's trip down memory lane is at all relevant to the debate. I ask you to rule in relation to standing order [236 and bring him back to the matters of substance contained in the bill. He did say earlier that he would get to that at some stage. He has one minute and 54 seconds left and we would like to see when that happens.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the House. I note that members have the capacity to rise and seek a withdrawal if there is an imputation that they object to. I do not believe that the member has strayed from normal practice. However, you have been sailing a bit close to the wind, member for Toowoomba South. Please make sure that you remain relevant. In fact, we have now reached the expiry of the time for this stage of the debate so I ask you to resume your seat.

Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House, the time limit for this stage of the bill has expired. I call the Attorney-General to reply to the second reading debate.

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11:53): in reply: I acknowledge and thank all honourable members for their contributions during the debate of the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. Not all of them are honourable. The bill introduces amendments to implement the remaining 11 recommendations of the *External Review of the Queensland Operations of The Star Entertainment Group Limited*, conducted by the Hon. Robert Gotterson AO KC. These amendments are aimed at minimising gambling harm and reducing the risk of money laundering and criminal influence in Queensland casinos, as well as increasing the accountability of those who have the privilege of holding a casino licence in this state. The bill also includes a number of other amendments to enhance the casino regulatory framework and ensure it remains fit for purpose.

I will now address some of the matters raised by honourable members during debate. Opposition members have questioned this government's commitment to gambling harm minimisation. That is somewhat ironic given that it was the Palaszczuk government that re-established the [Queensland Household Gambling Survey, which was axed by those opposite when they were in government. That survey provides the

government with data to gain an accurate picture of gambling activity in this state and inform harm minimisation strategies.

I would also add that the topic of this debate is a bill that provides for reforms such as mandatory carded play and mandatory pre-commitment at all Queensland casinos. These are, it must be said, significant reforms. In fact, it is no exaggeration to say that the reforms presented in this bill are among the most significant steps taken to reduce gambling harm in any jurisdiction in this country in the history of gambling regulation. These reforms sit amongst some of the decisions of previous Labor governments in this space, such as to ban pre 10 am gaming in the suburbs.

The bill presents a flexible approach to the implementation of the reforms. Reforms of this nature require not only legislative development but also technical and procedural development. There are a range of considerations that must be taken into account and that is why a regulation-based approach is not only necessary but optimal. The regulation-based approach will not only allow the reforms to more fluidly adapt to changes in gaming technology that may become available in the future but will also allow the reforms to be implemented as soon as practical.

For example, the bill is drafted in such a way that the application of mandatory carded play and related reforms, such as mandatory pre-commitment, to gaming machines need not await the greater technical and procedural work required to apply those reforms to other casino activities. The proposed legislation is flexible enough to apply those reforms to chip purchases and redemptions should application to table games be unduly delayed. The proposed legislation is also flexible enough to allow these reforms to be applied to different casinos at different times.

As the Department of Justice and Attorney-General noted in its responses to the then Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, it is expected that the Star casinos will be very well advanced in the development of the necessary technology and procedures, and the government will be seeking to implement the reforms to the Star casino gaming machines as soon as possible, thus applying the reforms to almost 80 per cent of casino gaming machine activity in the first instance.

Smaller regional casinos may require longer to implement the reforms. It is those casinos for which the Department suggested the absolute latest implementation date of December 2025, in line with the default dates that applied to the implementation of similar reforms in some other jurisdictions, and this is evident from a plain reading of the committee's transcript.

The Opposition has again raised issues in relation to the Gotterson review, many of which the former attorney-general has already responded to during the debate of a previous bill in this House. Firstly, I will reiterate that this government was not slow to act on the issues raised by the media reports into the Star. In fact, the government proactively introduced a first tranche of legislative amendments into parliament, via the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, in response to casino integrity failures that were identified through inquiries conducted in other jurisdictions.

The 2022 bill represented a pre-emptive examination of the Casino Control Act 1982 to identify how the act could address those failures if similar allegations were substantiated in Queensland. The 2022 bill, which was subsequently passed, provided the regulator with greater visibility over casino operations through enhanced information-gathering powers and through obligations on the casino operator to self-report breaches and actively cooperate with the regulator. While the 2022 bill was before the House, the government commissioned the Hon. Robert Gotterson AO KC

to conduct an external review of The Star's Queensland casino operations in response to allegations raised specifically in relation to The Star.

This early draft is automatically published - it is not yet complete and reviewed.