

## Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024

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16 May 2024

Committee Secretary  
Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Via email: [CSLAC@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:CSLAC@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Committee Members

### **Inquiry into the Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024**

Cairns Regional Council (Council) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the above inquiry, conducted by the Queensland Parliament's Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee.

Local Government is a key player in enhancing and maintaining community safety. As a public space manager, the role of Local Government spans from community-based crime prevention, including providing monitoring and intelligence, city-wide and site-specific safety planning and place-making, to setting protocols for behaviours and building social capital. Consequently, Council has a significant interest in ensuring that police and judicial powers are effective and contribute to the broader community interest of protecting public safety for residents and visitors alike.

Council's Community Safety Plan 2022-2026 outlines its approach to working with all agencies to increase levels of community safety, amenity, and wellbeing in the Cairns LGA. Within this focus Council supports any measures that strengthen policing powers whereby reasonable suspicion is held that persons may be armed. Cairns much like many other localities in Queensland have seen the increased severity of a variety of offences with the now all too common and much publicised carrying and concealment of weapons, most notably knives and other bladed objects. Providing expansion and extension to the successful trial of police being able to wand persons in public that may be seen as a potential threat can only be seen as beneficial in the broader community interest.

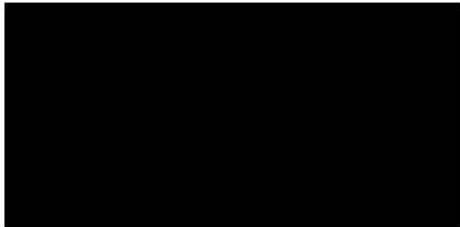
Council also supports any improvements to judicial and custodial processes for youth offenders that protect the safety of the general population as its priority, where other forms of intervention and prevention are likely to be unsuccessful. Unfortunately, some children do present unacceptable risks to the community, either through the level of the criminality or through the recidivism of their offending.

We do however urge the Queensland Government to consider further investment and policy reform in the areas of:

- Expansion of place-based early intervention and prevention programs that encourage pro-social and protective behaviours and reduce the instances and severity of antisocial behaviour in young people (e.g., Youth Forum, Safe night youth shelter or similar models – Cairns LGA Community Safety Plan (CBD Pilot) – May 2022);
- Long-term, mandatory health-based rehabilitative sentencing for serious repeat offenders;
- Greater connectivity and alignment between the policing, youth justice and judicial systems and sentencing principles to ensure sentences that allow a meaningful rehabilitative outcome;
- Service coordination and integration that provides consistent, evidence-based, therapeutic wrap around supports for young offenders that span sentencing, incarceration, and reintegration;
- Increased focus family and community wellbeing to improve reunification and reintegration outcomes.

We thank you for your consideration of the recommendations above and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss the matters outlined in more detail. Should you have any further enquiries or require additional information, please contact Destry Puia, Director Lifestyle and Community, on the phone number above.

Yours sincerely



Cr Amy Eden  
Mayor