

Executive Summary

On 10 December 2025, the Hon Laura Gerber MP, Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services, introduced the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2025 (the Bill) into the Queensland Parliament. The Bill was referred to the Education, Arts and Communities Committee for detailed consideration.

The Bill proposes amendments to the *Youth Justice Act 1992* and the Youth Justice Regulation 2016 to expand the use of electronic monitoring as a condition of bail for youth offenders.

Key objectives of the Bill are to:

- make electronic monitoring permanent by removing an expiry provision
- make electronic monitoring statewide (unless the court is advised the child does not live in a location with services to support the condition)
- remove the current eligibility criteria that the child must be at least 15 years of age, charged with a prescribed indictable offence and previously charged with certain offences
- simplify the matters a court must consider when determining if an electronic monitoring condition is appropriate.

Stakeholders were invited to make written submissions, and the committee received 30 written submissions. The committee held public hearings in Brisbane, Townsville, and Cairns.

Common themes raised throughout the inquiry were:

- prioritising the rights of victims and putting community safety first
- the use of electronic monitoring as a public safety tool
- the evidence supporting the trial and making electronic monitoring permanent
- the evidence of the limited number of young people subject to electronic monitoring during the initial years of the trial and operational issues with the initial implementation of the trial
- the importance of electronic monitoring being accompanied by genuine wrap-around supports including programs highlighted by the 2025-2026 budget
- proposed changes to what the chief executive must consider in assessing the child's suitability for a monitoring device.

The committee made one recommendation, that the Bill be passed.