

## STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SAFETY BILL 2023

**Submission No:** 10  
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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Economics and Governance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023  
**Date:** Thursday, 23 February 2023 10:44:44 AM

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To Whom it may concern:

On behalf of the Cairns Regional Council please note Councils support of the objectives verbatim to the Economics and Governance Committee inquiry as follows:

### **Objective of the Bill**

The objective of the Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023 (the Bill) is to give effect to legislative reforms announced by the Queensland Government on 29 December 2022 aimed at keeping the community safe, and to strengthen youth justice laws to respond to serious repeat offenders. The Bill will do so by amending the *Bail Act 1980*, the Queensland Criminal Code, the *Youth Justice Act 1992* and the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* to:

- increase the maximum penalty for unlawful use or possession of motor vehicles, aircraft or vessels from seven to ten years imprisonment
- create new circumstances of aggravation for the offence of unlawful use or possession of motor vehicles, aircraft or vessels where:
  - the offender has published material advertising their involvement in or of the offending on social media
  - where the offending occurs at night
  - where the offender uses or threatens violence, is or pretends to be armed, is in company and damages or threatens to damage any property
- provide that it is an offence for children to breach a condition of their bail undertaking
- extend and expand the trial of electronic monitoring as a condition of bail for a further two years and to include eligible 15-year-olds
- remove the requirement that police consider alternatives to arrest if they reasonable suspect a child on bail for a prescribed indictable offence or certain domestic violence offences has contravened or is contravening a bail condition
- provide that a child's bail history must be taken into account during sentencing
- create the ability of a sentencing court to declare<sup>3</sup> that a child offender is a serious repeat offender in certain circumstances to enable considerations such as community safety to be paramount
- enable conditional release orders to operate for a greater period of time
- ensure certain child offenders serve their suspended term of detention if they breach their conditional release orders
- expand the list of offences included within the definition of 'prescribed indictable offence' to facilitate greater operation of provisions of the *Youth Justice Act 1992* aimed at serious repeat offenders, including the presumption against bail provision under section 48AF and the new sentencing regime for children declared serious repeat offenders
- enabling the transfer of persons who have turned 18 years on remand and the earlier transfer persons who have turned 18 years serving a sentence from youth detention centres to adult correctional centres
- ensure the continuation of multi-agency collaborative panels which provide intensive case management and holistic support for young persons identified as high risk or requiring a collaborative response through a multi-agency and multi-disciplinary approach.

Should you require further consultation or communication on this matter please contact the undersigned.

Regards.

**Brett Spencer**

Executive Manager Community Life

Lifestyle and Community

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I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands, winds and water ways we all now share;  
I also pay my respects to Elders past, present and future.