

## STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SAFETY BILL 2023

**Submission No:** 33  
**Submitted by:** Townville City  
**Publication:** Council

**Attachments:**

**Submitter Comments:**



24 February 2023

Mr Linus Power MP  
Member for Logan  
Chair, Economics and Governance Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

**TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
103 WALKER STREET**

**PO BOX 1268, TOWNSVILLE  
QUEENSLAND 4810**

**TELEPHONE 07 4727 9201**

**[enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au)  
[townsville.qld.gov.au](http://townsville.qld.gov.au)**

via email – [egc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:egc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Power,

**RE: Submission – *Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023***

Thank you for the opportunity to present a submission on the *Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023*.

At the outset, I support the Bill, and its stated policy objectives, and believe these measures are long overdue.

At a hearing of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee on 19 March 2021, in response to a question from the Member for Currumbin, Mrs Laura Gerber MP, I expressed support for a trial of the breach of bail offence. I welcome that the Government has finally come to the view that this offence be brought back, in addition to a raft of other measures.

I would like to make three general policy submissions for the Committee's consideration:

1. That detention be not considered as a "last resort" for youth offenders (or any offender, for that matter).
2. Without a floor on penalties for certain offences, there remains a risk that magistrates and judges in relevant courts will continue to err on the lower side of sentencing for youth offenders. I urge the Committee to:
  - a. Abolish the exception for youth offenders who are not subject to mandatory sentences which apply to adult offenders, and
  - b. Consider mandatory minimum sentences for offences that are plaguing communities, particularly in North Queensland.
3. Strengthening provisions about consideration of criminal history, including while as a youth, when sentencing both youth offenders and adult offenders.

The issue of youth crime in Queensland communities, particularly in Townsville and North Queensland is not new.

However, there is increased violence and frequency of these crimes, particularly by recidivist offenders.

Many residents in cities like Townsville, Cairns and Mount Isa are tired of this issue, and this legislation is welcome progress in addressing it.

Yours sincerely



**Cr Jenny Hill**  
Mayor of Townsville

CC:

- Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Premier
- Hon. Dr Steven Miles MP, Deputy Premier
- Hon. Mark Ryan MP, Minister for Police and Corrective Services
- Hon. Scott Stewart MP, Member for Townsville
- Mr Aaron Harper MP, Member for Thuringowa
- Mr Les Walker MP, Member for Mundingburra
- Mr Nick Dametto MP, Member for Hinchinbrook
- Mr David Crisafulli MP, Leader of the Opposition
- Mr Dale Last MP, Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Member for Burdekin