

Criminal Code (Defence of Dwellings and Other Premises—Castle Law) Amendment Bill 2026

Submission No: 024

Submission By: David Dwyer

Publication: Making the submission and your name public

I am a Queensland resident living in Forest Lake and I write in support of the Criminal Code (Defence of Dwellings and Other Premises—Castle Law) Amendment Bill 2026.

I support the objective of providing clearer guidance and legal protection for people who use force to defend themselves or others within their homes and other premises. In my view, law-abiding Queenslanders should not live in fear of both intruders and legal uncertainty when they take reasonable steps to protect their family, visitors and property.

I particularly support:

codifying "castle law" principles in the Criminal Code

extending protection beyond dwellings to other premises (such as workplaces or garages), and

clarifying when force, including force that may cause grievous bodily harm or death, may lawfully be used against an intruder in aggravated circumstances.

I ask the committee to ensure the final legislation:

clearly distinguishes between genuine self-defence against unlawful intruders and any attempt to use "castle law" to justify aggressive or retaliatory violence

provides practical certainty to homeowners about what is considered reasonable in real-world situations, and

is supported by clear public guidance so ordinary Queenslanders understand their rights and responsibilities.

Thank you for considering my submission.