

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

Submission No: 133

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My submission on the Castle Law bill is as follows.

1. I fully support this bill, noting that over 113,000 Queenslanders signed the biggest Parliamentary petition in our State's history, in support of it as well.

I am a martial arts practitioner with over fifteen years experience in Kempo, Karate, Krav Maga and other self-defense systems. Krav Maga in particular is an Israeli military self-defense system which I trained in for five years, specifically because of its superior knife defense training.

Even after extensive training it is quite clear that a knife is a very difficult weapon to defend against, is commonly available and concealable. Also as we have seen in the killing of Emma Lovell in 2022, of Vyleen White¹ and the Bondi mass knife attack in 2024², a knife is extremely lethal. A lethal knife attack may happen even before the victim is aware that the assailant has a knife, necessitating extreme care and pre-emptive action when dealing with a potential threat.

In one's own home escape is often impossible, especially if defending children or other vulnerable people. The best odds of defending against an approaching home invader is likely to be neutralizing them before they can kill you.

If that involves using force that seriously injures or kills the home invader, I consider it manifestly unjust that the victim may then be subject to legal action for grievous bodily harm or homicide. Victims of home invasions should not be put in a position where hesitation about what action to take, may put their own lives at risk.

The risks associated with hesitation in a self-defence situation are real and are used by assailants to bully their victims. I know because in recent years I have had a large, aggressive man shoving me and attempting to goad me into a fight, while making legal threats, when I was intervening on the street to stop him assaulting his female partner. I dealt with the situation without escalating to a fight, because I have the training to do so, though it was still very intimidating. This is especially the case, as there were no witnesses apart from his partner.

For an average person to already be in an extremely dangerous situation associated with a home invasion to have to weigh the legal risks of defending themselves, is just appalling and Governments should not allow it to happen. When Castle Law was raised in a question to Parliament in 2025, the Police Minister and the Attorney-General just repeated the police line that "You are entitled to defend yourself",

¹ <https://www.9news.com.au/national/vyleen-white-updates-appeal-upsets-slain-grandmothers-family/33adf4e1-d6d2-430b-8de9-4061ec9ea1ca>

² <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-05-31/nsw-sydney-westfield-bondi-junction-stabbing-timeline/105322154>

ignoring the legal reality that citizens face during a home invasion and the physical and legal risk it creates.

Home invasion victims also should not have to go through the stress and expense of legal proceedings, with the possibility of jail if excessive force is found to have been used. These risks are considerable, the case of the King vs Jason Moana Rimene being a good example³⁴.

Mr Rimene was charged with the murder of an assailant who threatened to attack his female friend and her house, where he was at the time, with a bottle of flammable liquid and a lighter. Mr Rimene grappled with the assailant, who fell to the ground and subsequently died. Mr Rimene was found not guilty based on the inability of the prosecution to prove that his physical actions had caused the death, but the judge made the point that the defence of dwelling defence would have applied in that situation.

The problem for Mr Rimene was that the case took three years and undoubtedly a great deal of money to resolve. Nobody who is forced into the situation of defending a dwelling and its occupants against a potentially lethal assault, should be subject to that.

If the Government does decide not to pass this bill, I urge Minister's to do citizens the courtesy of **explicitly** acknowledging the extra risk that the current law poses to our lives and liberty, as well as telling us why we should be subjected to that extra risk, when somebody has invaded our home. That is how democracy is supposed to work, you tell the truth and we vote based on whether or not we agree with you.

Despite what the Police Minister has recently said, that Queenslanders have voted on Castle Law, they voted on it after the Government failed to fully inform them of the legal risks of defending themselves in their own home. Therefore the Police cannot reasonably claim that the public's votes were fully informed and the Government cannot reasonably claim a mandate to ignore Castle Law.

Being truthful and frank is also an ethical obligation for the Opposition and all cross bench MPs as well. You are ethically obliged to acknowledge the facts and tell us where you stand, on our right to take all effective measures to defend ourselves, our loved ones and our property, against a home invasion.

Personally I would rather we forgo the politics, listened to the very large number of

³ [R v Jason Moana Rimene \[2023\] QSC 123](#)

⁴ [Man walks free from Qld court cleared of murder – The Queenslander](#)

Queenslanders who support Castle Law, pass the bill and save innocent Queenslanders' lives.

2. If the Parliament is concerned about the lives of criminals engaging in home invasions it should give law abiding citizens the option of owning and using non-lethal self-defence items, including pepper spray. I submitted to this opinion to the now defunct youth crime committee in the last term of parliament and predicted that a criminal would be killed by a citizen who has been forced to defend themselves⁵. That has subsequently happened at Kingscliff in 2024⁶, when a citizen was forced to use a knife to defend himself against an axe attack, and was subsequently subject to police investigation.

I also raised a petition to legalise non-lethal self-defence items in response to Vyleen White's murder, it raised 2563 signatures in a month.⁷ This petition was rejected by the former Government, which cited Queensland Police Advice that these items are too dangerous for citizens to use.

Subsequently the Northern Territory has commenced a trial of legalised pepper spray, which is reported to be a success.⁸ I ask that your committee note the potential life-saving complementarity of legalising non-lethal self-defence items with Castle Law, the success of the Northern Territory trial, and recommend that the Queensland Government legislate for these items to be made available to law abiding Queenslanders.

I also submit this video, which demonstrates the ability of pepper spray to be used to ward off a threatened knife attack, preserving the life of both the victim and the assailant.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l4Glg66gH-Q>

Regards,
Rhys Bosley

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⁵ <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/YJRSC-6004/YJRSC-54D8/submissions/00000022.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-04-10/police-investigate-fatal-stabbing-kingscliff/103688896>

⁷ <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Petitions/Petition-Details?id=4019>

⁸ <https://www.skynews.com.au/australia-news/crime/northern-territory-government-mulls-bringing-personal-pepper-spray-use-into-law-after-trial-success/news-story/aacfaad072103923c4c3af12de1383e2>