

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

**Submission No:** 143

**Submission By:** Bruce Zhou

**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public

---

# Submission

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

### Introduction

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Bruce Zhou. An ordinary resident from Greenbank, QLD 4124 and I write to express my strong personal support for the Bill. The record-breaking e-petition of over 113,000 signatures shows a widespread public concern that the current law can leave law-abiding people uncertain about their rights when facing unlawful intrusion. I respectfully ask the Committee to support the Bill's passage.

### Reasons for Support

#### **1. Restore reasonable protection for residents**

Many in the community feel less safe at home because the law is perceived to favour offenders over law-abiding residents. The law should clearly protect those who follow it. This Bill helps restore that balance by making clear when defensive action by householders is lawful.

#### **2. Current tests impose unrealistic burdens in crisis**

Section 267's requirement that a person use only 'necessary' force and to hold a 'reasonable belief' about an intruder's intent sounds fair in theory, but is a poor fit for sudden, violent situations. In the shock and fear of a night-time invasion—especially when intruders may be armed or acting in a group—ordinary people cannot reasonably be expected to make calm, legally precise judgments. Requiring such precise post-hoc proof places victims at a real disadvantage compared with prepared offenders.

#### **3. The Bill clarifies aggravated circumstances and preserves safeguards**

The amendment sensibly lists aggravated circumstances (night-time intrusion; threats or use of violence; presence or pretence of weapons; acting in company; damage to property), which better matches how people actually respond under threat and gives clearer guidance to courts. At the same time, the explanatory notes make clear that: 'The Bill does not create a licence for vigilante conduct. It creates clarity and balance.' I support that balance — protecting victims while keeping legal limits against misuse.

### Conclusion / Recommendation

For the reasons above, I respectfully support the passage of the Bill. Clearer law will reduce uncertainty for victims, help the justice system apply consistent standards, and reassure the public that the law stands with those who protect their homes and families. This reform would help restore public confidence that the law stands with victims of unlawful intrusion rather than those who commit it.

Yours sincerely,

Bruce Zhou