

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

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I strongly support the Criminal Code (Defence of Dwellings and Other Premises—Castle Law) Amendment Bill 2026.

Core Principle

Any person who chooses to unlawfully enter a home or premises is knowingly creating a dangerous situation. In doing so, they accept the risks that follow.

Law-abiding Queenslanders should not be placed in a position where they must second-guess their right to protect themselves, their family, or others on the premises.

Right to Defend

People have a fundamental right to defend:

- Their own life
- The lives of their loved ones
- Their home and place of work

In a real-world situation, decisions are made in seconds under stress and fear. The law should support those acting to protect themselves, not expose them to legal uncertainty afterward.

Need for Stronger Protection

Current laws around "reasonable force" are too unclear and leave too much room for interpretation after the fact.

This Bill is necessary because it:

- Provides clearer legal protection for victims
- Recognises the seriousness of unlawful intrusion
- Supports people forced to act in self-defence

Application to Businesses and Other Premises

Protection should not be limited to the home.

Business owners and people attending commercial premises also face risks, particularly outside normal hours. They deserve the same legal clarity and protection when defending themselves and their property.

Conclusion

If someone unlawfully enters a premises, responsibility for what follows should rest with the intruder—not the person defending themselves.

This Bill is a practical and necessary step toward restoring that balance.

I support its passage.