

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

**Submission No:** 166

**Submission By:** Matthew Zwoerner

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Matthew Zwoerner

Date: 21 April 2026

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing as a Queensland resident to express my strong support for the Criminal Code (Defence of Dwellings and Other Premises — Castle Law) Amendment Bill 2026.

A person's home is their castle. The Bill rightly amends section 267 of the Criminal Code to give law-abiding Queenslanders clear and unambiguous legal protection when defending their dwellings and other premises from unlawful intrusion. It removes the unfair burden currently placed on homeowners to prove that their response was perfectly "proportionate" in the terrifying seconds of a home invasion. Instead, it codifies the long-standing principle that an intruder assumes the risk, not the family inside.

Queenslanders have made their views clear through the record breaking petition supporting this reform.

With ongoing community concern about home invasions and repeat offending, this Bill will restore confidence that the law stands with victims, not offenders. It provides the certainty and protection that honest citizens deserve without encouraging vigilantism — it simply ensures that people can defend themselves, their loved ones, and their property without fear of being dragged through the courts for doing what any reasonable person would do in the moment.

I urge the Committee to recommend that the Bill be passed without delay.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Zwoerner