

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

Submission No: 172

Submission By: [REDACTED]

Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name

I support the proposed amendment to section 267 of the Queensland Criminal Code to strengthen legal clarity and protection for individuals who use force to defend themselves or others within their homes. The home is the one place every Queenslanders should feel unquestionably safe. When that safety is violated by an intruder or offender, the law must provide clear, practical guidance that reflects the realities of sudden, high-stress confrontations.

The accepted Use of Force model offers that clarity. It recognises that a person under threat cannot be expected to make perfect, split-second judgments, but should be legally protected when responding with force proportionate to the danger they face. Incorporating this model into section 267 ensures that a home occupant may lawfully use force commensurate with the threat presented—no more, but certainly no less.

This reform does not expand violence; it reinforces fairness. It aligns Queensland with contemporary self-defence principles, reduces ambiguity for police and courts, and provides reassurance to the community that the law stands with those who act reasonably to protect themselves, their families, and their homes.

For these reasons, I support the amendment and the adoption of the Use of Force model within the Castle Law framework to deliver clearer, safer, and more consistent outcomes for Queenslanders. This doesn't remove the option for a resident to not engage, evade and call Police, but it does support those that either are forced to engage with the intruder, or who choose to engage and hold the offender to account. It is reasonable to assume the Police are available and in proximity to provide a timely and safe interdiction with such offenders. It is the offenders who choose to inflict violence on our community, not home residents.

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Submission No: 172

Submission By: Graham Easterby

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There is a typographical error in my submission I just submitted. To clarify, the sentence should read:

It is "unreasonable" to assume the Police are available and in proximity to provide a timely and safe interdiction with such offenders