

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

Submission No: 191

Submission By: [REDACTED]

Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 21 April 2026 1:18 PM
To: Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee <JICSC@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Submission – Criminal Code (Defence of Dwellings and Other Premises—Castle Law) Amendment Bill 2026

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To the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee,

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

My opposition is not based on dismissing community concerns about crime. People deserve safety in their homes. My concern is that this Bill is the wrong response.

Queensland already has self-defence laws. Existing Queensland law provides protections relating to defence of dwelling, self-defence, and defence of premises. I do not accept that expanding legal protections for potentially lethal force is necessary when these protections already exist.
(legislation.qld.gov.au)

The Bill risks broadening legal justifications for deadly force in a way that may lead to escalation, mistakes and avoidable deaths. I do not support creating broader legal pathways that may make it easier to justify the use of potentially lethal force after a death has occurred.

This concern is heightened by broader legal principles beyond Queensland. Commonwealth law reflects caution about the use of deadly force in property and trespass situations. I believe that caution is important and should not be weakened.
(ag.gov.au)

I am also concerned about human rights implications. The Bill's own Statement of Compatibility acknowledges concerns relating to the right to life. That alone warrants serious caution.

If there are concerns about home invasions or repeat offending, the response should be stronger policing, prevention, victim support and effective justice measures—not expanding protections around potentially lethal private force.

Prevention and accountability measures should be strengthened

If governments are serious about community safety, greater responsibility should also sit with systems involved earlier in people's lives, including employment service providers and related support systems. Where young people and adults are engaged with job network providers or income support systems, stronger pathways should exist into structured programs, mentoring, training, diversion, rehabilitation and work-readiness support. Community safety will not be achieved through punitive responses alone. Prevention systems must also be strengthened and held accountable.

For these reasons, I ask the Committee to reject the Bill.

From:

Date:

To:

Subject:

Meeting on 10/10/2023

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I also wish to add the following brief supplementary point to my submission for the Committee's consideration, following our discussion:

Additional concern regarding focus of law enforcement responses

I also wish to raise a concern that community safety responses should place stronger focus on addressing the supply and trafficking of harmful drugs, and those who profit from that harm, rather than responses falling disproportionately on users or downstream consequences alone. In my view, if governments are serious about community safety, stronger action should be directed at the drivers of harm, alongside prevention, treatment and support.

I am concerned this Bill focuses on consequences at the point of crisis, rather than addressing upstream causes of violence and instability.

I would be grateful if this supplementary point could be read as part of my submission.

Thank you for forwarding my submission to the Committee for consideration.

Kind regards,

Meeting on 10/10/2023

