

Expanding Adult Time, Adult Crime and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill 2026

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I write in support of the proposed legislation, drawing on experience within the Nambour community and extensive reporting on public safety concerns across our town centre.

For decades, but especially in recent years, Nambour residents, families, seniors, business owners and community groups have raised consistent concerns about anti-social behaviour in public spaces, particularly within the CBD and surrounding parks. These concerns are not abstract. They relate to regular & predictable incidents involving aggression, public intoxication, drug use and behaviour that makes people feel unsafe in spaces intended for everyone.

Local advocate Helen Tagg, through the Nambour Now community group and a widely supported petition, has articulated a position that reflects the sentiment of many: compassion must be paired with clear boundaries. The community is not calling for the arbitrary removal or marginalisation of vulnerable people. Rather, it is asking for public spaces to be safe, shared environments, supported by coordinated responses across government.

One of the persistent challenges has been the lack of practical, immediate tools available to police when dealing with repeat or escalating anti-social behaviour. The proposed powers to issue 24-hour move-on directions and longer banning notices of up to one month would provide a necessary and proportionate response. These measures would allow police to intervene early, de-escalate, disrupt harmful behaviour and restore a sense of safety and order in key public areas.

Importantly, this legislation should be viewed as one part of a broader response but one that works at the friction point of this complex issue. Homelessness, addiction and mental health require sustained investment in housing, treatment and support services. However, the absence of enforcement tools has left communities exposed in the meantime.

Nambour's experience demonstrates that without clear boundaries, public spaces can become contested and, at times, unsafe. This has flow-on effects for local businesses, community participation and a demoralising effect on confidence in the town centre.

This Bill strikes an appropriate balance. It does not seek to criminalise vulnerability, but to address behaviour that impacts others and undermines shared community spaces. It supports both community safety and the dignity of those experiencing hardship by reinforcing expectations of conduct while broader supports are developed.

For these reasons, I support the passage of the Bill. Because everyone has a right to feel safe in their home town.