

Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024

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Submitter Comments:

As a proud Wakka Wakka woman who has participated in a number of these hearings previously, I am disappointed to not be able to attend the community consultation in Townsville on Tuesday 3 December due to the short notice of these proceedings. It barely seems worthwhile wasting time preparing a submission as the quick turnaround for this Bill indicates little interest in widely consulting and supporting broad engagement. I just want to go on record for the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee to state that the LNP government's underhanded approach to bypass usual parliamentary process with an urgent bill including 'other legislation amendments' to repeal the Path to Treaty Act and abolish the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry IS NOT representative of JUSTICE or INTEGRITY and will have a negative impact on COMMUNITY SAFETY. Where is the JUSTICE for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples that were willing to share the truth of their experiences to assist us all to reconcile with the true history of Queensland? What INTEGRITY has been demonstrated through the disrespectful way that this independent inquiry has been shut down for political reasons? How is it not understood that these ongoing efforts to deny the truth-telling of and healing from past injustices will only set us all back in making progress for COMMUNITY SAFETY. We need government to act with integrity for truth-telling and healing in order to be best placed for our early intervention and prevention initiatives to be effective. The longer we are held back with this, the more division that is stoked, the harder this work gets. And it is already hard enough! All I see is political play that divides us further and directs more hate towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young peoples, such as the political grandstanding of this Make Queensland Safer Bill 2024. Real leadership, with real respect for the justice and integrity of truth-telling, is what is needed to support healing and improvements in community safety.