

Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025

Submission No:	39
Submitted by:	Cairns Regional Council
Publication:	Making the submission and your name public
Attachments:	See attachment
Submitter Comments:	



15 April 2025

Queensland Parliamentary Committee
Parliament House
Cnr George and Alice Streets
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Committee

I write in support of the proposed amendment to section 175A of the *Youth Justice Act 1992*, which will expand the “adult crime, adult time” provision to include an additional 20 serious offences.

This reform reflects a clear and necessary response to escalating community harm caused by a small cohort of repeat youth offenders. It reinforces a core expectation: that our justice system must protect the public, uphold accountability, and be equipped to deal with serious crimes in a serious way.

Offences such as armed robbery, sexual assault, and attempted murder cause lifelong trauma and fear. When committed with intent, they must be treated with the gravity they deserve. This amendment does not mandate adult sentencing in every case but gives the courts the discretion to apply it where it is warranted.

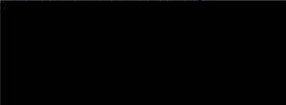
Importantly, judicial discretion is preserved. The courts remain able to assess each individual's background, maturity, and prospects for rehabilitation. This ensures that fairness is upheld, but not at the expense of safety or public confidence.

Queensland has been described as the youth crime capital of the country, with Cairns named among its hardest-hit regions. These are not throwaway headlines — they reflect reality residents are living with every day. Fear in their own homes. Businesses under siege. Lives disrupted. The public has spoken clearly: they want a justice system that doesn't turn a blind eye to repeat and violent behaviour, regardless of age.

Rehabilitation should always be a priority. But we must also acknowledge when it is not enough on its own. Accountability must have real weight—especially for crimes that cause significant harm to others.

The proposed amendment gives courts the necessary tools to act decisively and appropriately. It is a clear signal that serious crimes will be met with consequences that reflect their impact—and that community safety is not negotiable.

Yours sincerely



Cr Amy Eden
Mayor