

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

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16 April 2024

Mr Martin Hunt MP
Chair
Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000
Email: JICSC@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Hunt

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

As a supplier of car immobilisers to installers in the Queensland Government trial cities of Townsville, Cairns and Mount Isa, I provided a submission to the Committee's Inquiry into the *Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024*, and am pleased to provide a submission to *Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025*.

I also provided a submission to the Expert Legal Panel that has informed the 2025 Bill.

In my submissions to the Committee on the 2024 Bill and the Expert Legal Panel, I referred to the December 2020 Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council report "*Sentencing Spotlight on Unlawful use of a motor vehicle*". The Council found that:

"Some offenders sentenced for unlawful use of a motor vehicle (MSO) were sentenced for other offences at the same court event. Of the 16,022 cases (MSO), 27.3 per cent involved a single charge of unlawful use of a motor vehicle.... One-fifth of the cases (n=3,092, 19.3%) involved one additional offence, with the remaining 53.4 per cent (n=8,557) involving 3 or more offences."

Therefore, I welcome the 2025 Bill to insert new offences into section 175A of the *Youth Justice Act 1992*, to which the 'Adult Crime, Adult Time' policy will apply. These new offences include:

- Damaging emergency vehicle when operating motor vehicle
- Endangering police officer when driving motor vehicle
- Stealing, if item 12 (a vehicle) or 14 (a firearm for use in another indictable offence) applies



As the Explanatory Notes for the 2025 Bill acknowledge, the Adult Crime, Adult Time policy is “a key component” of the Government’s Making Queensland Safer Plan; it is not the only element of the Plan.

Car immobiliser installations in Queensland

The Queensland Police Union’s proposal for a car immobiliser trial to the Queensland Parliament’s Transport and Resources Committee in April 2021 was implemented in 2023-24 providing vouchers of \$500 per vehicle installation in the cities of Townsville, Cairns and Mount Isa.

The trial ended on 31 December 2024.

The 57th Queensland Parliament’s Youth Justice Reform Select Committee, before the Government moved a motion to dissolve it, in its draft report -- recommended that: *“That the Queensland Government evaluate the trial, make the evaluation report public, and explore the feasibility of expanding to more locations: (i) the vehicle immobiliser subsidy scheme, including extending the deadline for using vouchers issued under this scheme; (ii) the helping seniors secure their homes initiative; and that the Government continue to monitor the effectiveness of these programs.”*

Prior to the Queensland election, on 27 September 2024, the then Government’s announcement included advice from the Queensland Police Service that: *“Police advise that early evidence from the Vehicle Immobiliser Trial indicates the trial has been very successful. The Queensland Police Service advises that there have been no reports of a vehicle fitted with an immobiliser being stolen. In fact, police advise there have been several instances where an immobiliser has prevented vehicle theft. Extending the deadline for the current trial, as well as expanding the trial to new areas, will enable more Queenslanders to access this cutting-edge crime prevention technology. The latest data from the Queensland Police Service indicates that this and other initiatives under the Community Safety Plan for Queensland are working. Within the trial areas we have seen (comparing July to June 2022-23 vs 2023-24):*

- *22% decrease in Unlawful entry offences in the Far North District (including Cairns).*
- *18% decrease in Unlawful use of a motor vehicle (UUMV) offences in the Far North District (including Cairns).*
- *16% decrease in Unlawful entry offences in the Townsville District.*
- *1% decrease in Unlawful use of a motor vehicle (UUMV) offences in the Townsville District.*
- *9% decrease in Unlawful entry offences in the Mount Isa District.*
- *14% decrease in UUMV offences in the Mount Isa District.”ⁱⁱ*

During the recent State election campaign, the LNP cited “car theft up by 116% from 2015”.



Recent car theft offences in Queensland

Despite these legislative moves, the rate of car theft in Queensland is at historic highs.

The latest Queensland Police Service data showed 1625 car thefts were reported last month (March 2025), compared to 1687 in March 2024.

Stunningly, March 2025 included the impacts of former Tropical Cyclone Alfred that caused so much flooding and kept so many Queenslanders in their homes and off the road for days.

Reported Car theft offences were at a rate 52 per day last month despite TC Alfred impacts compared to 54 in March last year with no Alfred. The number of car thefts in March 2025 were the fifth highest for the month since 2005.

Year	Number of unlawful use of motor vehicle offences	Ranking	Daily average
2005	1096	10 th	35.35
2006	943	14 th	30.42
2007	907	17 th	29.26
2008	828	19 th	26.71
2009	809	20 th	26.10
2010	755	21 st	24.35
2011	977	12 th	31.52
2012	1269	8 th	40.94
2013	1033	11 th	33.32
2014	917	15 th	29.58
2015	876	18 th	28.26
2016	913	16 th	29.45



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2017	970	13 th	31.29
2018	1216	9 th	39.23
2019	1352	6 th	43.61
2020	1710	2 nd	55.16
2021	1344	7 th	43.35
2022	1640	4 th	52.90
2023	1826	1 st	58.90
2024	1687	3 rd	54.42
2025	1625	5 th	52.42

In summary and recommendation to the Committee

I urge the Committee to acknowledge car theft rates remain historically high levels recommend that the Government to outline its additional policies and programs to “end the cycle” and specifically to commit to a timeline for a decision on the car immobiliser extension State-wide.

I would be happy to provide evidence to the Committee.

Lisa Cohen
Principal
LC Distributors



ⁱ Ibid, page 12

ⁱⁱ Queensland Government, “Media statement: Miles Government commits to extension and statewide expansion of nation-leading secondary engine immobiliser scheme”, 27 September 2024