

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

**Submission No:** 59  
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**Submitter Comments:**



## Statement to the Crime Committee Hearing

### Re: State Government's *Making Queensland Safer Bill*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a statement on behalf of the Townsville Chamber of Commerce regarding the *Making Queensland Safer Bill*.

We commend the State Government's intent to introduce 20 new offences under this legislation. In particular, we welcome the inclusion of offences that directly affect the business community, including:

- Attempted robbery, if armed or in company, or armed and with violence
- Going armed so as to cause fear
- Threatening violence
- Deprivation of liberty

These are not abstract legal terms—these are behaviours our local businesses are experiencing all too often. Just in the past month, we've heard reports of a young female shopkeeper being locked inside her own store by an individual who verbally threatened her and displayed threatening physical behaviour. In another case, a person went shop to shop brandishing scissors, terrifying staff and customers alike.

These are deeply traumatic situations, and they must not be tolerated. By introducing these specific offences, we hope this sends a clear message that criminal and antisocial behaviour will no longer be accepted as the norm in our communities.

Our members frequently report incidents of antisocial and criminal behaviour—stolen vehicles, repeated break-ins, threats, and intimidation. Many have been forced to increase security, change trading hours, or go cashless as a safety measure. Others have seen insurance premiums skyrocket, pushing them to raise their excess so high they are effectively self-insuring for damages like smashed windows or stolen property.

It has now reached the point where some businesses can no longer attract or retain staff due to the real and perceived threat of violence. In the most serious cases, commercial properties have become un-rentable. Small businesses are closing their doors. Productivity is falling. Staff morale is deteriorating. Costs are rising. Confidence is being eroded.

As the independent voice for business in Townsville, we know this is not just an economic issue—it's a human one. These impacts affect the wellbeing of employees, the viability of

businesses, and the reputation and liveability of our region. They also hinder our ability to attract the skilled workforce we need to support future growth.

Crime is not victimless. Its effects are felt across entire communities—by business owners, employees, customers, and residents. We must stop treating these incidents as just background noise.

While we do not comment on every detail of the proposed legislation, our members are deeply frustrated by the cycle of repeat offending. Some individuals are reportedly responsible for more than 50 offences and are still free to reoffend. The stories shared by victims during this inquiry have been harrowing—and deeply humanising.

We support meaningful reform that restores public safety, strengthens trust in the justice system, and rebuilds business and community confidence. Real consequences for serious and repeat offences are essential to turning the tide.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share this perspective. We remain committed to working collaboratively with government, law enforcement, and the wider community to ensure North Queensland businesses are not just surviving—but thriving—in a safe and secure environment.

Sincerely

Heidi Turner

CEO

Townsville Chamber of Commerce