

Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

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14 April 2025

Committee Secretary
Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Commission
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Via email: JICSC@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary

**RE: POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (MAKING JACK'S LAW PERMANENT)
AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on *Police Powers And Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) And Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025* (the Bill).

The CCC notes the primary purpose of the Bill is to enhance community safety and security through the expansion of Jack's Law which proactively prevents knife related crime by authorising police officers to use a handheld scanner to detect knives or other weapons in authorised places. To achieve this, the Bill proposes to *inter alia*:

1. make Jack's Law permanent by removing the sunset clause that schedules its expiry on 30 October 2026;
2. allow police officers to use handheld scanners in a relevant place without the need to obtain an authority to do so from a senior police officer;
3. expand the application of Jack's Law to include public places, that are not relevant places, by allowing police officers to use a hand held scanner in these areas provided they first obtain authority to do so from a senior police officer; and
4. improve policing efficiencies by streamlining the legislative framework underlying Jack's Law reducing minimum notice and publication requirements.

The CCC recognises the strong public interest in ensuring safety and security in the community including combating the incidence of knife related offences in public places.

Independent reviews of Jack's Law

The CCC notes that an evaluation of police officer use of handheld scanners to detect knives or other weapons in authorised places was conducted by the Griffith Criminology institute (Griffith University) in August 2022 (Griffith Report).¹

The Griffith Report evaluated the first 12 months of the QPS wandering trial in Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach from 1 May 2021 to 30 April 2022. The Griffith Report intended to evaluate the impact, effectiveness, equity and efficiency of the trial over the 12-month period. The report noted that the confinement of the evaluation to a 12-month trial period meant that the review was not able to accurately identify longer term outcomes, and was limited to short-term outcomes only.² The report also acknowledged that the trial and its evaluation coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns, which impacted crime rates and the volume of interactions between police and members of the community, thereby limiting the reliability and generalisability of the evaluation findings.


In February 2023, the Community Support and Services Committee recommended that the extended and expanded trial introduced by *PPRA (Jack's Law) Amendment Act 2023* should be independently evaluated.³ There was then a further extension of the wandering trial by the *Queensland Community Safety Act 2024* for the purpose of allowing the expanded framework to be independently evaluated.⁴

The CCC is not aware of any independent evaluation having then been undertaken to give effect to the Committee recommendation.

CCC recommendation to enshrine review in the Bill

The CCC submits that an independent, contemporary review of the expanded wandering trial would give effect to the Committee recommendation made in 2023 and would assist in evaluating the effectiveness and impact of Jack's Law. The CCC recommends that such a review should be enshrined in the Bill.

Yours sincerely



Bruce Barbour
Chairperson

¹ Griffith University, *Review of the Queensland Police Service Wandering Trial* (Report, August 2022).

² Griffith University, *Review of the Queensland Police Service Wandering Trial* (Report, August 2022) iii.

³ Community Support and Services Committee, Parliament of Queensland, *Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill 2022* (Report No 27, February 2023) 32.

⁴ *Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024* Explanatory Notes, 2.