




Speech by  
**Jon Krause**

**MEMBER FOR BEAUDESERT**

Hansard Tuesday, 21 August 2012

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## **CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (7.54 pm): I thank the member for Capalaba for his contribution to this debate tonight. It was a very personal reflection on the bill. If I could add to that, earlier in the debate I interjected that there is no society without order in society. What I meant by that is that for society to exist and to continue to exist communities need to respect order. Communities need to respect the law and communities need to respect each other. This bill goes some way towards demonstrating our solidarity with the police and the community of law-abiding people in Queensland. It is about respect for life, respect for the law and respect for our community.

I am only going to make a short contribution to this debate tonight. I want to speak in support of the measures to increase the non-parole period for multiple murders from 20 years to 30 years. As the member for Capalaba has just reflected, murder is a crime that has impacts beyond just the victim of the crime. That crime impacts on families. It can tear them apart and leave them never the same again. If the community is small, it can have devastating effects. So increasing the non-parole period from 20 years to 30 years when multiple murders are committed reflects the gravity of the crime. Taking more than one life in an act is, self-evidently, a more heinous crime.

I also want to comment on the insertion of a new minimum non-parole period of 25 years imprisonment for the murder of a police officer. In the past generation or two—particularly perhaps in my generation—I think it is fair to say that there has been a diminution of respect for police officers and for institutions generally. That is not a good thing. When respect for institutions upon which our society has been built is diminished, in particular the police, we all suffer. In some parts of our communities we have seen people who clearly have no respect for the law, no respect for law enforcement officers and they are not afraid of them in any sense of the word. When I was a little bit younger than I am now, I was. I had a healthy fear and a healthy respect for police officers and I think that is the way it should be. This bill will not go all the way towards putting back that respect. I do not think parliament can do that by itself; that respect has to come from families and communities itself. But this bill is a mark in the sand by this place that if a person murders a police officer, it is a serious crime and they will be imprisoned for a very long time and that there should be a minimum time frame for that.

I also want to make a brief mention of the amendment to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act in relation to the offence of evading police and the imposition of a minimum mandatory penalty of a \$5,000 fine and a two-year licence disqualification.

I thank the Attorney-General for taking on board some of the comments that I have made to him about this provision. I thank him also for his advice and reassurance that this provision is drafted in a way which can also meet the expectations of those in our community who may be a bit unsure about the police in their operations at times and for his reassurance that there are adequate defences in the criminal law to cater for all types of circumstances. He has been very helpful.

**Mr Bleijie:** A hooning granny you want to protect.

**Mr KRAUSE:** I do not want to protect hooning grannies.

**Mr Bleijie:** I know what's going on.

**Mr KRAUSE:** But I thank you for your assistance and reassurance.

**Mr Bleijie:** There are dirt roads in Beaudesert.

**Mr KRAUSE:** I am trying to fix some of those dirt roads. I also make mention of the increase in the maximum penalty for a serious assault on a police officer. This is not a minimum mandatory sentence provision, it is an increase to a maximum sentence provision. As I mentioned earlier, we need to show respect for our law enforcement officers, our institutions and for our parliament. That is not quite the point here, the point I am trying to make is that by increasing the maximum penalty available the result should be that the penalties imposed by the courts for these types of offences will be greater than they presently are. I think that is a good thing. There needs to be an element of deterrence for these injuries being inflicted on police officers in our society. Frankly, we all need to respect police officers, we need to respect the law and we need to respect law-abiding communities and uphold them whenever when can. This bill does that.