




Speech by

Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

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CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (8.11 pm): The primary objectives of the bill are to increase the non-parole period for multiple murders from 20 to 30 years imprisonment, to increase the maximum penalty for the offence of serious assault against a police officer to 14 years imprisonment, to amend the Corrective Services Act to increase the non-parole period for murder from 15 to 20 years, to abolish Queensland's Sentencing Advisory Council and to amend the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act to introduce a mandatory minimum penalty of \$5,000. I fully support those objectives. Besides not having enough police, one of the biggest issues we have is that police are unable to be police. They need a sentencing regime that will support them so that they can do their job.

When I was 19, we feared the police. I do not know what went wrong. Many people have different theories about that. Now the police are in a situation where they wonder if they will be the ones who will end up in jail, because of a system that works against them. This is a good bill. It is time that we allow the police do their job. As many speakers have said, a lot of them are spat on, kicked, bashed, threatened, they receive phone calls at night in which their families are threatened and that has been reported to me on many occasions. Their biggest challenge is being able to do their job. Communities are looking for law and order. People want to live in a community that is safe. We cannot provide that unless we give the police the powers they need, but we must ensure that criminals will be hit with the full force of the law if they take that out on police officers.

I could bring up a lot of things about the Juvenile Justice Act. I understand where the minister is coming from with boot camps. I fully support that. The *Sunday Mail* reported that in Charters Towers a bunch of juveniles smashed the window at Red Rooster. They walked in with baseball bats and threatened staff. They asked people to get out. They stole everything from the soft drink machines. One police officer arrived, but he could not do much. He apprehended them and they said, 'You can't touch us, we're juveniles.' Such issues also need to be addressed. This is a good bill. This needed to be done a long time ago. I fully support the bill.