




Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

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POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (8.39 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 which is perhaps not as lengthy as the member for Nanango's contribution but hopefully as passionate. Law and order is a big priority for our government and something we certainly will not shy away from. The opposition has focused on one part of our determined fight for law and order, but I can assure members that it is something that will remain a priority of this government. We will deal with what are deemed very petty matters right up to the most serious.

We have seen too often suburban parties spiral out of control, with people spilling onto the streets and causing havoc. That causes neighbours to live in fear. They wake up to damaged property. Police have been hospitalised. Ambulance officers have been assaulted. Partygoers have been injured.

Times have changed and the changes to these laws ensure we are changing with them. We have seen individuals take pride in irresponsibly pulling hundreds of people together by spreading the word online. These people must be held to account. There must be some punishment for those going out and advertising these parties on social media without supervision or security.

I have seen the scenes of mayhem from across the state many times, but one of these events sticks in my mind because it is from my own patch—my own electorate of Mundingburra. In September 2011 seven police cars were forced to respond to a house party in Heatley after it was advertised on Facebook. Neighbours were forced to make the call to police about excessive noise and disorder. Initially there were just a handful of partygoers. But this is how it starts. All of a sudden, multiple car loads of revellers arrived. The situation escalated out of hand. Within moments over 100 people spilt out onto the streets.

Our community cannot afford to continuously pump police resources into these kinds of parties time and time again. They are putting themselves and the surrounding community in danger. These laws are a deterrent to anyone who thinks that they can get away scot-free with throwing a party like this. Under the new laws a person who organises a party that becomes an out-of-control event, their parents or gatecrashers face a maximum penalty of 12 months jail or \$12,100. If police face aggravated and violent circumstances when shutting down wild parties, the party organisers may face fines of up to \$18,150 or three years in prison.

Some people say we are moving with the times. Some people say we are making the community safer. What I particularly like about this is that it makes people take responsibility for their actions. We cannot have the situation where just because something is modern or just because it is difficult it should not be policed. We cannot have a situation where people are responsible for something but do not bear the consequences. That is the fundamental principle of any good society. It is the way we raise our children—every action has a consequence. Just because that action is not

taken in a traditional way and just because it is done by electronic means does not mean that somebody should not take responsibility. There are no excuses. People must accept responsibility for their actions.

I say to the opposition who have attempted to defend a position which is very difficult that what the community need right across the political spectrum is leadership on issues like this. I absolutely struggle to think how anyone can mount a credible argument against holding people responsible for their actions. That is something that should unify the left and right. It does not make sense that we should live in a society where people are not held accountable.

Every Queenslander deserves the right to feel safe. Two years ago we said we would make our community a safer place. These laws as well as a swathe of others which have been introduced by this government represent the first steps taken towards coming good on that promise.