




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

Record of Proceedings, 21 March 2017

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (5.06 pm): I could not go without adding to the debate on the scrapping of the gay panic law in Queensland. This is an archaic law. It is a law that not only offends all LGBTI members of our community but all fair-minded Queenslanders. It is an archaic law that is a licence to violence. Quite frankly, it is overdue to be scrapped and I am proud to be a member of the government that is moving to do so. I thank the Attorney-General for her leadership in this regard. I thank all members who are voting to scrap this discriminatory law which should be put into the dustbin of history, and I am very happy to be one of those who helped kick it there because it is an affront.

It is a law that has often been misused to justify violence and worse, as has been laid out by other speakers here, including the Deputy Premier, and it is an affront to the fair-mindedness and human rights of everyone in our community. I am thankful that we are finally getting to the point where we can scrap it, and we have a lot of support across the community to do so. It is a matter of equal rights, and in some ways it is hard to believe that it is 2017. This law has taken so long to scrap, but we are there and that is a good thing. It is a very important measure in terms of people's physical and mental health in our communities that people should be fully accepted for who they are and embraced. I might also add that it is an absolute affront to any fair-minded person that violence should be acceptable in terms of any human dynamics in that regard. Any fair-minded person can surely deal with any of those sorts of situations like anyone else in our community. It is 2017—not 1817—and I am proud that this law is going. It is overdue. It is about a fair go, and that is a very core Australian value. I could not not speak on this matter because it is a fundamental issue of human rights. It is a proud day for this parliament, and I thank all members who are supporting the scrapping of this archaic and discriminatory law.