




Speech By
Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

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CORRECTIVE SERVICES (NO BODY, NO PAROLE) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (4.54 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise to speak in the debate on the Corrective Services (No Body, No Parole) Amendment Bill 2017, being the deputy chair of the committee. Report No. 58 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee has been tabled. I note in my opening remarks that there are several amendments being moved by both the Attorney-General and the shadow Attorney-General, the member for Mansfield. It would seem that we are all on the one page in that regard. That is very encouraging in relation to the second part of the process that we will be going through this evening.

I thank the Attorney-General for her work on this and I thank the shadow Attorney-General, the member for Mansfield. I thank the shadow police and corrective services minister also for his work in this regard and his heartfelt contribution here this evening. I also, of course, thank Fiona Split and all others who worked with the committee in considering this bill. It was a difficult process for them. It should be acknowledged that they have changed the way the people of Queensland will look at this type of crime going forward. My committee colleagues and the secretariat all worked tirelessly in relation to this bill.

The objective of the bill is to amend the Corrective Services Act 2006 to introduce the policy that is colloquially referred to as no-body no-parole in Queensland. The policy is predicated on the notion that by making parole release for particular prisoners contingent on them satisfactorily cooperating in the investigation of an offence to identify a victim's location it will encourage and provide incentive for those prisoners to assist in finding and recovering the remains of a victim.

It is a fact that in November 2016 the LNP released a policy supporting the no-body no-parole laws in Queensland and, following recommendations from the Sofronoff review into parole, the Palaszczuk Labor government announced its support for the no-body no-parole laws in Queensland in February 2017. Once again we are on the same page moving forward. Here we are today on the verge of passing this very important legislation. These are important reforms that will strengthen parole and support the families of victims. All they want is a chance to find out where their family members spent their final moments and to say one final goodbye. It should be noted that these changes were instigated through a parliamentary e-petition from Fiona Split having lost her husband Bruce Schuler in 2012. Bruce's body, as has already been alluded to several times, has sadly never been recovered.

I share Fiona's pain. My family shares her pain, the pain of all of those people who lose a loved one in such a terrible way—to be murdered. I cannot imagine the pain they are going through in relation to the fact that they do not know where their loved one has been laid to rest, if that is the correct term to be used. I cannot imagine the pain for those whose loved one's remains were found but the perpetrator of their murder has not been found. They are compounding effects on something that my family and I have experienced. We knew who the perpetrator was. That perpetrator is in prison. We were able to properly put to rest that family member. That pain is so, so deep and I cannot imagine how much deeper it is for these people.

These are common-sense reforms. I will leave it at that. I know many others want to speak to this bill tonight. I will finish by simply saying that I commend this very important bill to the House.