




Speech By  
**Scott Stewart**

**MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE**

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### **CORRECTIVE SERVICES (NO BODY, NO PAROLE) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (5.32 pm): I have no doubt that anyone living in Townsville will never forget the fateful day of Wednesday, 27 June last year when Townsville police discovered the tragedy that was the murder of beloved grandmother, mother and aunty Beth Kippin. Beth was murdered by a man who had been released from Stuart prison that same day.

From that tragedy has come changes to the parole system that we have with us today and that we are debating this evening. While it will never console the Kippin family for the loss of their matriarch, it has, however, changed the parole system in Queensland—and I acknowledge Fiona Splitt for her petition and her continuous work in Queensland—through a review process implemented by the Palaszczuk government which has now contributed to the no-body no-parole bill that we have before us today.

This legislation will help families right across Queensland with their grieving process when a loved one is killed—families like Julie Hutchinson's from Townsville. They said following the trial and subsequent conviction of Julie's husband, Michael Geoffrey Hutchinson, of her manslaughter earlier this year—and this comes from the *Townsville Bulletin*—that they will never forgive nor will they ever forget. More importantly, for Julie Hutchinson's family, finding the body will bring some form of closure. Until that happens, as Julie's sister Christine Teitzel said, the family just want to find her so they could get some respect for her. Christine said, 'She's out there. He's treated her like a dead animal on the road—no respect, no remorse, nothing.'

This legislation will enable those convicted of killing someone and hiding them so that their body cannot be found an opportunity to cooperate with police to recover the body as an incentive for parole. Unless there is change we will continue to have people like Michael Geoffrey Hutchinson who show no compassion for the family or remorse for what they have done. As Justice David North said in his concluding remarks on Michael Hutchinson—

Your lies and your continued lie in not revealing where your late wife's body could be found has deprived your children, Julie's family, your friends, members of your family, of knowing how she died. You deprived all of those persons of a chance to say farewell at a funeral.

You thus reveal yourself as a deceitful man, a selfish man, preferring your own smug silence to the sorrow and uncertainty caused by your silence.

While I, like Julie Hutchinson's family, fully support this bill, an aspect of this work is the retrospectivity of the legislation. According to the bill before us today, it is proposed that the new policy apply to all parole applications regardless of when the prisoner was convicted or sentenced for the homicide offence including where the prisoner—and I will touch on only two of them—is convicted and sentenced for the homicide offence before commencement of the bill and was convicted of the homicide offence before commencement but sentenced for the offence after commencement of the bill. The others have been addressed as well.

While I and perhaps every other person in this chamber today never fully understands the pain and suffering that families go through when a loved one like Julie Hutchinson—and I also acknowledge Fiona Splitt and her family and Leanne and Gary Pullen and their family—has their life robbed from them and their body never found, this legislation takes steps in a positive direction to help give families the opportunity to recover the body and pay their last respects. I commend the bill to the House.