




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

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**POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (3.56 pm): Today I rise to speak about Labor's strong child sex offender laws. I thank the committee for their work on this bill. The Palaszczuk government understands the community's concerns. This government knows that the community wants action to protect our precious children. That is why we have introduced these new laws: laws that will protect our community; laws that will ensure dangerous child sex offenders will continue to be monitored, even at the expiration of supervision orders; and laws that ensure those child sex offenders remain reportable offenders for the rest of their lives. Laws must not only protect the community but also be robust enough to withstand challenge in the courts.

You cannot be strong on child protection if you are weak on the law. Labor has a strong track record legislating laws that stand the test of time. It was a Labor government that brought in the toughest, strongest and most effective laws to deal with dangerous sex offenders once they had served their sentence. In 2003, it was a Labor government that introduced the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act. Under that act, the court decides whether an offender receives a continuing detention order or a supervision order on their release. Since 2003, those laws have been strengthened. All new orders must contain conditions, including curfew and electronic monitoring. Further, the court can extend those orders if deemed necessary, as you well know, Mr Deputy Speaker. There are consequences for breaches, including jail time for the removal of monitoring devices.

In 2016, this government took GPS tracking devices to the next level through the use of geographic information systems that more accurately track sex offenders and pinpoint their exact location on a map. We took that tough action to keep Queenslanders safe. Our dangerous prisoner and sexual offender legislation means that sexual deviants are stringently monitored with around-the-clock GPS tracking and tough reporting conditions. When they leave jail, they are subjected to strict 24-hour curfews, drug and alcohol tests, and surveillance so that the authorities know their every move. Senior managers keep watch over the worst offenders through targeted and tough supervision. If they breach the order or in any way are not compliant, swift and immediate action is taken. They are sent back to jail. This government brought in GPS tracking for sex offenders and we make no apology for using that Big-Brother tactic to track down offenders.

With these new laws we are introducing yet another layer of community protection. Dangerous child sex offenders will be monitored by police for the rest of their lives. Our laws will withstand challenge. They are strong laws. They are laws that our Queensland community deserves.

Let us consider how we got to this point. Who brought in GPS tracking devices? A Labor government did. Who introduced the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act? A Labor government did. Who improved the ability for GPS trackers to pinpoint the exact location of a sexual predator on the map? A Labor government did. Who introduced new laws to keep track of dangerous child sex offenders for the rest of their lives? A Labor government did. That is right—when it comes to protecting the community it is a Labor government that Queensland can rely on to get the job done.

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all the police officers of the Holland Park Police Station and the Upper Mount Gravatt Police Station for their commitment and responsiveness to the community of the Mansfield electorate. Whether it be their response to critical and emergency situations or preventative and proactive community policing, the officers in my electorate, under the leadership of Sergeant Murray Chrono and Sergeant Leonie Scott, are always willing to assist. Their support of our community is immensely appreciated. I commend the bill to the House.