




Speech By
Brittany Lauga

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

Record of Proceedings, 28 March 2019

JUSTICE LEGISLATION (LINKS TO TERRORIST ACTIVITY) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (12.45 pm): I rise to support the Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill 2018. Firstly, I would like to send my sincere condolences to the loved ones of everyone who lost their life in Christchurch recently at the hands of a terrorist.

The threat of terrorist attacks in Australia remains elevated, and Australians are viewed as targets by people who want to do us harm. This is why we must ensure that tough measures are in place to deal with people who have been convicted of terrorism offences. Sometimes this means taking extraordinary measures that may impact adversely on the rights and liberties that underpin our free and democratic society. Ultimately, what is important is ensuring that a balance is struck between the rights of all citizens to go about their daily activities free from acts of violent terror and the rights of individuals who come before our criminal justice system to be dealt with fairly. The threat posed by terrorism to the safety of our community remains ever-present. Nowhere is immune. All Australian governments have a duty in the interests of community safety to work together and take appropriate action to respond to this threat.

This bill implements the 9 June 2017 COAG agreement, wherein first ministers agreed that they 'will ensure there will be a presumption that neither bail nor parole will be granted to those persons who have demonstrated support for, or have links to, terrorist activity'. The bill will amend the Bail Act and the Youth Justice Act to reverse the presumption in favour of bail for an adult or child who has previously been convicted of a terrorism offence or who has previously been the subject of a Commonwealth control order. These presumptions apply regardless of the offence the person is alleged to have committed.

This bill reflects important lessons learned from previous terrorist incidents in Australia. It proceeds on the basis that the ultimate goal in our fight against terrorism is to prevent terrorist acts from occurring. The Queensland government is committed to continuing to work with the Commonwealth, other states and territories and industry to manage the shared national security risks arising from foreign involvement in Australia's critical infrastructure. The Queensland government is committed to doing whatever it can to keep Queenslanders safe from the enduring threat posed by anyone who wishes to do us harm and attack our very way of life. These new bail and parole laws form a very important part of the work this government is undertaking to confront the threat of terrorism in Queensland and Australia. I commend the bill to the House.