




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

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JUSTICE LEGISLATION (LINKS TO TERRORIST ACTIVITY) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (5.28 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill 2018. I do not oppose this bill, however, I would like to raise a point that the minister may care to address: what denotes terrorism? Many people would link terrorism to people with bombs or guns who have radical ideas in relation to a political ideal or a religious view and who seek to impose that view on others against their will. That, to me, brings into question our moral principles and our attitudes to tolerance.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen said—

Moral principles do not depend on a majority vote. Wrong is wrong, even if everybody is wrong. Right is right, even if nobody is right.

Again Venerable Sheen said—

Tolerance is an attitude of reasoned patience towards evil—a forbearance that restrains us from showing anger or inflicting punishment. Tolerance applies only to persons, never to truth.

...

Tolerance applies only to persons, but never to principles. Intolerance applies only to principles, but never to persons.

We live in a world where acts of terrorism are nearly a daily event somewhere. The question is: what are we doing about it? I think this bill has the best intentions to try to further protect our citizens from terrorist threats.

Recently we have seen activists invade a feedlot business—I repeat for the benefit of those opposite, in particular agriculture minister Mr Furner: a feedlot business—on the Darling Downs and incite their political view and ideals whilst flagrantly breaking the law and against the wishes of the owners. Are they terrorists? No, perhaps not. I do not deny people the right to protest, but in doing so I take great exception to them breaking the law. Why is it that the law does not seem to apply? Are we too tolerant? What are our moral principles? If just one of those people were to introduce an exotic disease to Australia, for example, foot-and-mouth disease, that would bring the grazing industry in Australia to its knees. In my view, that would be an act of environmental terrorism. It is time we applied the full force of the law to these people who knowingly break the law. It is in my view an issue that needs our most urgent attention as lawmakers before it manifests itself into a huge problem. I support the intention of this bill and for the moment rest my comment on terrorism.