




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

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JUSTICE LEGISLATION (LINKS TO TERRORIST ACTIVITY) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (11.30 am), continuing: I rise to conclude my contribution to the Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill 2018. In my concluding remarks in relation to this bill I want to comment on the concerns of the Queensland Law Society and the Bar Association of Queensland in relation to the appropriate balance of these laws between the civil liberties of the individual and the collective right to community security.

I was recalling my experience in London in 2005 living through the terrorist attacks that occurred. Legislative change arose from those terrorist attacks. Amendments were enacted abroad and across Australia, such as warrantless searches and preventative detention. Rights that had built up over the centuries were taken away in some respects from individuals simply because it was necessary to protect the community at large. I take extremely seriously the right to privacy, freedom from arbitrary detention and freedom of speech. These are important rights and must be balanced appropriately. There is no doubt that the London terrorist attacks, which resulted in the deaths of 352 people and injuries to 700 people, had to be addressed. Lives needed to be protected. Anything that the legislature could do there or at home in Australia to address those attacks needed to be done.

Terrorists set out to create terror, and that is exactly what was achieved in London on that morning. Innocent Londoners, up to 400,000 who commute into and out of London, going about their day were attacked in a callous and indiscriminate way. There was terror on the streets that day. Phones were jammed. That evening, with the tube lines and buses down, hundreds of thousands of people walked home. I walked 2½ miles home from Fleet Street back to Notting Hill Gate where we lived. There was the sound of sirens echoing through the city streets amid the silence as hundreds of thousands of people walked home. Terrorists set out to bring terror to that city and that is exactly what was achieved. Two weeks ago in Christchurch, with that indiscriminate shooting, that most violent and vile offender sought to create terror and division. These are the attacks that the legislature has to address. While there must always be a balance between the two competing civil liberties, whether it be right to privacy, freedom from arbitrary detention or right to free speech, it must always be balanced against the community safety aspects.

In concluding, any changes to the law of this nature, and they are serious changes, which the Attorney-General has already spoken about, must be necessary and must be proportional. In my opinion, from my experience living through a terrorist attack, laws of this nature are necessary. In my opinion, the proposals contained in this bill are proportional to the risk. Reversing the onus of proof and presumptions are serious matters but they are proportional. They line Queensland up with other jurisdictions and ensure that Queensland has some of the toughest anti-terrorism laws in the world. That is why the opposition will be supporting them.