




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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SUMMARY OFFENCES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.55 pm): I rise to speak on the Summary Offences and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. When this prospective law was announced by the Premier, it was one of the great misrepresentations that this government have done—and they have done many. The Premier came out talking tough and basically saying that these laws they were proposing had to be fast-tracked because they would solve the problems we have at the moment in Brisbane with these protesters who persistently act illegally.

The government had a real tension here. They had the pressure coming from the public who were saying, 'We've had enough. We are sick of being disrupted as we come into work every day. We are sick of emergency services vehicles being diverted. We are sick of not being able to get to hospitals to attend our surgical appointments.' There was that tension on that side coming to the government and they felt they had to act. The tension on the other side was coming from the left of the Labor Party which was saying, 'Let them go. Let them protest as long as they want and in any way they want.' In fact, I would contend that half the cabinet of this government would love to be out there with those protesters. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads would love to be out in front of those protesters, leading them and talking about the great injustices that are happening in this state at the moment.

Ms Grace: They've got a right to do it if they want to.

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection from the minister. The whole argument of people coming up here is that they are so worried they are going to violate the rights of those to protest—which no-one disagrees with—rather than stopping the disruption that is happening. This bill will not do that. They have come out and talked tough, saying that this is going to solve the problems. What is going to happen next week? We are going to have people gluing themselves to the road. What is going to happen the week after that? We are going to have people hanging off bridges, waving to people. What is going to happen the week after that? We are going to have people setting up tripods and hanging from the tripods disrupting traffic once again.

These laws are a great misrepresentation. They were thinking, 'What laws can we bring in that sound tough and will have no impact? Let us see if we can think of something imaginative that these laws can address. Let us talk about booby trap devices locked on to people.' I do not agree with the Greens member for Maiwar very often, but I have some sympathy for his argument in this case when he was asking them to come out and give clear evidence of where there were booby trap devices.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Stop the clock. The House will come to order or some semblance thereof.

Mr MANDER: What evidence was there of booby trap devices? What evidence was there? None! There was none whatsoever, so they had to confect this issue so they had some sort of law to bring into parliament to make it look like they are tough, to make it look like they are acting with authority, which they are not doing whatsoever. No-one in their right mind would agree with this bill, which seeks

to ban booby trap devices. No-one will be against that. Who would be? This side of the chamber is not against that. The point we are making is that this was a misrepresentation. Those opposite talk tough and they cannot back it up. We are going to see people continue to come out and protest and continue to disrupt unlawfully. That is why we will agree with this bill, but we will move amendments which mean there will be consequences for people's actions.

We are not talking about lawful protests; we are talking about unlawful protests. We are talking about people who go out and protest without permits. We are talking about people who go to court, get bail and then breach their bail conditions not once, twice or three times, but time and time again with zero consequences.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr MANDER: Again I will take the interjection from the education minister. Let it be in *Hansard* that the education minister has no issue whatsoever with these protesters in her electorate every day, every week, disrupting people going to work, disrupting emergency services personnel—

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Pause the clock, please. Member for McConnel, you have a point of order?

Ms GRACE: I will not be verbally by the member for Everton.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, what is your point of order?

Ms GRACE: I take offence to what he said and I ask that he withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton, the member for McConnel has taken personal offence. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw. I look forward to the minister's contribution to this bill and to hearing what she will do to stop the disruption in her electorate day after day, week after week, of people not being able to get to work, police and paramedics' time being wasted—

Ms Grace: You're so tough! What are you going to do?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for McConnel.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, pause the clock. Member for Kawana, you are not sitting in your assigned seat and you are interjecting. You are now warned under the standing orders.

Mr MANDER: I will take the interjection from the minister that we are tough on crime on this side. We will take that as a compliment. We will bring in amendments that will have consequences. Is it any wonder that those people keep coming back day after day? Is it any wonder they keep breaching bail conditions? If there are no consequences for their actions, they will continue to break the law. Our laws are all about protecting the people of Brisbane in particular but also right across the state if that is where these people will eventually extend themselves to, which they will. We will do that to ensure we do not have the disruption we have seen day after day and to protect our police and paramedics as well.

I want to commend the amendments to the House that have been brought to us by the shadow police minister. These amendments are commonsense amendments. These amendments are all about consequences for actions. If people do something wrong consistently they will be punished, and it will not be a slap on the wrist. It will not be a \$200 fine so they can go out and do it again and then get a \$250 fine, after which they wave to the crowd as they are put in the back of the paddy wagon once again defiantly telling the people of Queensland, 'We don't give a stuff about the laws. We are just going to keep coming out here breaking the law.' There needs to be consequences.

I want to say this again: when the Premier announced these laws to the public, it was one of the great misrepresentations we have seen for some time from this Labor Party. They are talking tough, trying to make out they are going to solve the problem that everyone wants to see solved, but this will do nothing like that whatsoever. We will support the bill because it is a no-brainer of a bill. Who would not want to protect our police, paramedics and firefighters who are addressing these issues? However, we also expect the government to support our very commonsense amendments—amendments that will have impact and will stop these protests, which is what the people of Brisbane want.