




Speech By  
**Brent Mickelberg**

**MEMBER FOR BUDERIM**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 February 2020

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

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (11.27 am): I rise to make a short contribution to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. It is the intent of this bill to better protect Queenslanders by enabling law enforcement to more easily access information on electronic devices such as cloud services. It is increasingly common for child sex offenders to use various types of cloud services to upload, distribute and promote criminal activities against children, such as child pornography. The amendments within this bill—which intend to clear up any ambiguity and make it clearer that any information can be accessed by police within the terms of a judicial order—are welcomed.

The current law defines incriminating information as stored, relating to things such as hard disks and memory sticks. This bill extends that definition to any information, meaning it may include a suspect's cloud based activities, including things like Facebook, Instagram and cloud storage. As the technology people use into the future changes, this bill's new definitions should permit police continued access when a person is suspected of a crime. This bill is not only limited to child sex offenders, as we have heard; it includes anyone suspected of committing a crime in which the police would like to access information via a judicial order. This includes but is not limited to those suspected of homicide or terrorism related offences, and that is why I welcome these changes.

I note the submission received by the Queensland Law Society opposing these proposed provisions. While I accept the position that these powers could be misused, I consider the community benefit associated with the prevention of harm to the vulnerable, along with the associated facilitation of prosecutions, to outweigh these concerns.

The LNP supports tougher measures on crime, especially those which target child sex offenders. As a father of three, I will support any measure which better equips our police officers to protect children from predators. It is my hope that easier access to a suspect's electronic information by our police will assist in catching those who prey on our children's vulnerability sooner, thereby reducing further harm and damage to our communities.

Briefly, I also note the changes in relation to the Weapons Licensing branch and I share the concerns that were expressed yesterday by the member for Condamine. In my experience as a licensed firearm owner, the activities of the Weapons Licensing branch are frustratingly slow as a consequence of under-resourcing. It is clear that additional resources would improve the relationship between law-abiding firearm owners and the Queensland Police Service.

Given we are addressing matters concerning the police, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the 20 years service of the former member for Bundamba, Jo-Ann Miller. It would have been fitting for us to acknowledge her through the motion we just attempted to move but unfortunately Labor have blocked that. I personally would like to place on the record my acknowledgement of the contribution of the former member for Bundamba in her tireless fight against Labor's corruption in the Ipswich City Council and more broadly.