




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (4.32 pm): The LNP will not be opposing the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. I wish to use my contribution to highlight some areas and indeed those issues of relevance to the Gold Coast and, more broadly, across Queensland. We should be so very proud of our police and the rule of law in society. We need to properly resource them and provide them with not just the resources to do their job but the laws to back them up.

I want to start with the access to storage of incriminating information. I am mindful of the submission made by the Queensland Law Society, and I understand and respect their position. I do, however, say that when making the decision about expanding the access to this information we do so in the knowledge that without these changes we will continue to see modern technology used against our law enforcement officers rather than in their favour. Faced with the choice between expanding that access and allowing someone who is able to prey on our children, I will fall on the side of our children every single day. I do not use those comments to cast any aspersions of negativity against the Law Society. They are putting forward an opinion in a fearless and frank manner—and so they should. However, overwhelmingly, the need to allow our officers the resources to stop these people going underground and stop these people using those new means should always come out trumps.

I also wish to make a contribution regarding the changes to the Prostitution Licensing Authority, and I recognise the minister has said that that will be sent to the Law Reform Commission for further analysis. May I respectfully ask that as part of that the government also looks at the rise of the illegal massage parlour industry? The member for Mermaid Beach has made some excellent contributions in this House about that. I understand the intent of these changes was focused on the interactions with the legal brothel industry. Our shadow minister made some excellent points as to why we were not prepared to support some of those amendments. We saw them as nothing more than allowing people carte blanche to get off lightly, to roll the dice, particularly with younger people in that industry. May I ask the government to look at this as an opportunity to find a way to clamp down on what we are seeing, particularly on the Gold Coast, although I am mindful that it is happening in other parts of Queensland?

The LNP is also supportive of changes to the Weapons Act which will help ensure that a person does not possess a weapon they are not entitled to. I make my concluding remarks around the following. The reason the LNP will not be opposing the bill is because at the heart of it the bill allows our officers to do a better job, to free up their resources—and heaven knows they need that. The growth in the Police Service has not kept pace with the growth in population. The laws in this state are making it more difficult for our law enforcement officers to do their job and surely the government is feeling that. Surely local members are hearing that when they are going into their electorates. This bill seeks to give police the resources to do their job, but we must do better. We must review the laws that we have changed in this state with a view to making it easier for our police to do their job.

When there is the situation where breach of bail is no longer an offence, why on earth would people think a young offender would comply with that? When there is a situation where a magistrate must use detention as a last resort, of course the catch and release merry-go-round will continue. These are changes that this parliament has put in place in the last half a decade. Those figures are being seen in real people's lives every day. Whether it is bikies rolling back into town on the Gold Coast or whether it is law and order out of control in northern cities like Cairns and Townsville, we must do better.

Finally, and again with a view of demonstrating how important resources are, I pay tribute, as other members have in this place, to the role of the local police in my area. The bulk of Broadwater is covered by the Runaway Bay Police Station, a station of just 24 officers. They do a mighty job. I have to pay tribute to Senior Sergeant Scott Burness, who has taken over with some significant challenges, and he is doing an excellent job as indeed are his officers at that station.

We talk about the best use of resources. Part of my electorate is covered by the Coomera police district, and that is a district that is stretched. The member for Coomera and the member for Theodore will tell honourable members how stretched officers are. As a result of that and the growing pressures in the northern part of the Gold Coast, a small part of that station in the electorate that I represent is not getting the policing presence it would like to see. I refer predominantly to the area of Hope Island but indeed there is also a small part of Helensvale that I represent. Collectively, those communities ask that they come under the Runaway Bay police district. We also need some extra resources as we do not want to see such a transfer occur without such provision being made. I have written extensively on this and have indeed communicated with the QPS on this, but it makes a lot of sense to locate that area within the Runaway Bay station. It would enable a greater policing presence and enable Coomera to focus on what is an exploding population in that northern part of the city.

Finally, I again reiterate that the LNP will not oppose this bill. We stand for good law and order. We stand for a society that puts people ahead of criminals and for a properly resourced Police Service that has the laws in place to back it up.