




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (3.50 pm): I will not be opposing this bill, but I will make comments along the same lines as the member for Condamine who quite rightly points out the role of the committees. In a unicameral system the committee process is more important than ever. The government that seeks to mock it and say that a committee member should not be able to put in a dissenting report is a government full of hubris.

It was the committee that first-led the charge on the section I intend to talk on, which is clause 51. Whilst I acknowledge the government has seen the error of its ways on the back of a concerted campaign, including in the media, it would be wrong of us not to point out why the contemplation of what was going to occur in that clause should be highlighted for all that it is. Communities across this state are crying out for tougher laws. The member for Surfers Paradise has been articulating how bad things are at the moment in his patch on the Gold Coast. One only has to pick up the *Cairns Post*, the *Townsville Bulletin* or speak to the member for Burdekin and one will find out how bad things are in those regional communities, yet the only changes that this government makes to law and order seek to weaken them. Talk about a tin ear.

Whether or not the threshold would have moved from \$30,000 to \$80,000 or from \$30,000 to \$30,001 is irrelevant. The message that this government continues to show, that somehow law and order is not a major issue in this state, is one that must be screamed from the rooftops. This House has removed breach of bail as an offence. This government no longer thinks that jail should be used unless it is a last resort, despite how many times an offender comes before that same magistrate with the same crime time and time again. We speak about the lifting of the threshold as though somehow a car break-in or a minor offence does not change lives. I will read the following from a constituent in my area. Marni says—

I'm getting so sick of this. I live in Sickie Avenue and our garage got broken into last year and I haven't felt safe ever since. I'm constantly paranoid of someone walking around my house at night while me and my children are sleeping. I now keep a bat close to me.

In the last week there have been car break-ins in Coombe Avenue, Shinnecock Close, Barbirra Street, View Line Terrace and Sickie Avenue, all on Hope Island. I say to those opposite that law and order is a major issue. Law and order must be taken seriously. Today, within a 24-hour period, we had a police minister who was seeking to say that the highest priority for this place was to allow prisoners to be released early at a time when the community is worried sick about their livelihoods and their way of life as a result of COVID-19.

This government has its priorities all wrong. I say to Queenslanders that if you think you will see more pieces of legislation that strengthen crime under this government you are sadly mistaken. Worse than that, you will see a constant erosion of law and order. This government will not listen to a committee after 31 October if it is returned to office. The slide towards a society that is weak on crime will continue. The opposition will not be opposing this bill following this amendment. This is a reminder of just how weak on crime this state has become under a dreadful, dreadful government.