




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR LOGAN

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

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (4.24 pm): Our Police Service and our police officers, like the rest of us, live in a rapidly changing world. Their job is to protect us, and they protect us in a highly and properly regulated and limited way. They are limited in the powers they have and limited in what they have to do their investigations, but we want to give them the correct powers so they can do their job and have the ability to protect us. We also need to ensure that the police, in the administration of their duties, are above reproach and continue to have the overwhelming and strong support of the public in their investigations and their actions.

This bill seeks to adapt the regulatory environment in which police do their duties to changes in our world and to different approaches that are required to protect us through our Police Service. I support the bill and recognise that these changes are happening in our own suburbs. I want to recognise the new Yarrabilba Police Station which was opened by the minister and specifically Senior Sergeant Nathan Booth, the sergeant in charge there.

Mrs McMahon: Hear, hear!

Mr POWER: You know Boothie? He will be right on top of these new police powers and giving them to the new staff there. Speaking of new technology and new access, I note they have a whole wall of monitors where they have the key intersections of Yarrabilba and Logan Village on display. Whenever they are called, they have the ability to use the closed-circuit in Logan and broadcast any particular camera they know will be useful in their investigations. We are living in a rapidly changing world.

I want to recognise Senior Sergeant Peter Waugh of the Jimboomba police. When they are dealing with domestic abuse, they deal with situations involving high emotion and often drugs and alcohol. Sometimes they need to be able to separate people during the proper course of their duties, and these police powers give the officers in Jimboomba the ability to be able to remove that person to either the Jimboomba Police Station or perhaps the new Yarrabilba Police Station and have that administration done there. In that way, they can settle it down and administer this properly.

I also note there is a set of regulations for the protection of both the officer and the person involved, and the officer must satisfy an obligation to remain in the person's presence. It is very important that they are protecting the person who is in this emotionally charged and difficult state—that is why they have asked them to be removed and separated to a different area—and also protecting themselves in case there is any concealed weapon or dangerous object.

Senior Sergeant Waugh and the Jimboomba police are on the periphery of Brisbane and they also deal with the Weapons Act. They would want the weapons register to be up to date with the types of weapons people have. That is better for the police who have to engage with those people. Overwhelmingly, they are lawful citizens who enjoy using their firearms in a safe, recreational manner or they use them on their farms or travel to a farm further out and use them for the control of pests and other animals.

Specifically, this is about those who seek to increase their magazine capacity. The armourers who do that need to ensure they are registered and have checked to see if that person has the correct type of licence to be able to hold that firearm. That is essential. When the police go to do those inspections or if there is another incident and they are checking on the weapons and the correct storage, they need to know that the weapons that are there are actually as described and that they are entitled to be held through their licence. I think that is also better for the person who holds the licence because they know where they stand.

I would like to take a moment to recognise that the police in our state are Queenslanders like us; they have families and they face the same trials and tribulations as we do. I was very moved by the member for Macalister's speech about Charmaine Leafe. Senior Sergeant Michael Leafe is the officer in charge; he has been out on secondment, but he is now back. He does a fantastic job at Browns Plains Police Station. The whole Boronia Heights and Browns Plains community feels for the Leafe family and their two kids after the passing of Charmaine. We know that police officers go through these things. That is why we want to give our police all of the tools they need to do the job. We must remember that they are trying to do a tough job and in their own lives they face the same difficulties and trials and tribulations that we do.

I also want to mention that all police—and all Queenslanders—find crimes involving the hurting of children abhorrent. We have seen that our Police Service has conducted fantastic investigations, participated in international investigations and sometimes led international investigations and found perpetrators overseas through their work, leading to arrests of people who do incredibly destructive things to children. We know that these perpetrators can move from one type of technology to the next in an attempt to hide information. It is important that through bills like this we keep up with the technology these people are using. This bill does this by recognising that there is a certain ambiguity created about the storage of images. Where those images are so destructive and criminal it is important that our police clearly have the power to search images stored in a cloud fashion not just in bits and bytes but actually physically stored on the devices they are searching. I notice there are limitations about this as well.

I commend the bill to the House and I ask that we look carefully at the responsibilities we give the police. In order to support our police, we need to make sure they continue to enjoy community support. I know that the Yarrabilba police, the Browns Plains police and the Jimboomba police certainly have that community support, and long may it be so.