




Speech By  
**Linus Power**

**MEMBER FOR LOGAN**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 July 2020

### **CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (4.05 pm): I wish to speak on the Corrective Services and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. A theme of my speech is that on these issues the LNP is really contradictory. Last night we heard the member for Ninderry's motion on a really ill-conceived policy purporting to tackle juvenile crime, but it was really attempting to tackle inadequacies in the LNP's election policies and in what it took to the public. We heard members opposite say that we were soft on crime, but less than 15 minutes later we heard others say that we have locked up too many people and as a result our prisons are too overcrowded. When we reveal some of these hypocrisies and doublespeak, members opposite start yelling and crying.

**Ms Scanlon** interjected.

**Mr POWER:** That is why they do it, member for Gaven. They cannot hold a consistent line on this for 15 minutes, but we know that that is what they are like on so many issues.

As an aside, during the 2015 election campaign, after three years of the LNP government, a prison educator came up to me in the street when I was in Crestmead and said that he wanted to help out my campaign. I said, 'Are you a local?' He said, 'No, I actually come from a little bit of a different place, but I have driven past here and I want to help you out.' He taught in our prisons. I note that the member for Ninderry gave extensive speeches on training in prisons and the need for them, so I am responding to that.

This man was a prison educator. He taught at a trade school—I will not mention the name as I might give him away. He said that he felt so diminished as they were all getting sacked by the LNP and that people coming out of the prisons did not have trade skills or skills. He felt that he was in the literal sense a servant of the public, giving these guys something that they could take away which gave them a little bit of confidence. He felt massively undermined by the LNP in what he was doing for these troubled young people and in terms of the public benefit he felt he delivered, because he knew he could give them a little bit of confidence in work and set them on the right path. But the LNP sacked so many of them. That is why he came out and wanted to get rid of the LNP. We do not want to go back there in those terms.

I have also listened to some opposition about the original inclusion—this is when COVID was at its height—to release prisoners on parole a couple of days earlier if it works better in terms of getting people out of the prison community and back to a stable home community where we can manage these situations. We are not doing that. Members opposite know we are not doing that, but they wanted to continue to talk about it. That is not considered a priority.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stevens): Order! Members on my left. The member is not taking your interjections. Please cease interjecting.

**Mr POWER:** This has become something of a distraction. As the opposition knows so well, we have done so well in terms of COVID but we have such a long way to go.

**An honourable member:** Thanks ScoMo.

**Mr POWER:** He did a good job in Victoria, didn't he? I am advised that the member for Kawana oversaw the release of over 1,000 prisoners when he was the member who loved pink jumpsuits so much. That is 1,000 prisoners who did the crime but did not really do the time or did the time but less a day or two. There may have been good administrative reasons for that. It may have saved the prison service by doing only one trip. That might have been the case so I do not intend to condemn the member for Kawana for those 1,000 prisoners who were released early, but I will condemn him for his hypocrisy in this place and the hypocrisy of the LNP on this issue.

I now refer to a particular type of replica pistol and gun included in this bill, and that is gel blasters. We heard one member opposite say that members of the public should not be fooled by the appearance of gel blasters, but that is precisely the problem if someone feels intimidation and fear by thinking that it is a real weapon. I have spoken to some residents who saw someone cocking what they thought was a real weapon—a rifle—at their household and various different directions, including towards them. They were fooled by the appearance of the weapon and did have genuine fear.

The other issue is that that meant that police had to interview those people, and that was taking those police resources away from elsewhere. This legislation is absolutely clear about how these weapons are used and creates a safe framework. This creates a safe framework, protects the community and protects small businesses but allows people to continue safely enjoying a popular pastime. Everyone can enjoy a popular pastime. Almost all gel blaster owners behave responsibly. They would not be framing their sights on others, but unfortunately these incidents—and I have just told the House about one that was real—can be a significant issue. The State Coroner recommended that the government consider regulating replica firearms and the commissioner was asked to consider what steps this should take. These issues are quite important.

It is interesting—and remember that my theme is hypocrisy and doublespeak—to note that on 30 August 2018 Deb Frecklington on Seven News said, 'I think Fair Trading should take a look into banning them.' She was absolute; she wanted a ban. However, we know that—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stevens): Member for Logan, I ask you to correct the record and call the member by their correct title, please.

**Mr POWER:** My apologies. We know that there is hypocrisy in that the member for Nanango said that she thinks that Fair Trading should ban them. That is the hypocrisy that those opposite display on these issues and that is why I think much of what those opposite have said should not be taken seriously. I commend the bill to the House.