




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 21 April 2021

YOUTH JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (6.19 pm): I rise this evening to support the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. In particular, I want to speak to the amendments that strengthen the criminal law in relation to hooning. Hooning is sadly too common on the streets of the electorate of Woodridge in the city of Logan, as it is in the city of Brisbane, Gold Coast, Townsville, Cairns, Mareeba and every town in-between. The staff of my electorate office can attest to the direct impact hooning has on the quality of life of local residents. Staff in my electorate office often receive numerous complaints in relation to hooning, with frustrated residents calling for more action by government to address their concerns.

Constituents contact my electorate office frequently to raise their concerns about hooning on local streets. Recently a resident of Heritage Park contacted my office to express concern on behalf of their family about the sharp rise in the number of extremely loud modified vehicles hooning in their neighbourhood. That family has lived in Heritage Park for over 20 years. As that constituent rightfully put it, there are laws that already exist in Queensland relating to the inappropriate use of modified vehicles. All she and her family ask is that members of the Queensland Police Service be given relevant powers and resources to enforce those laws, and that is exactly what this bill does.

Members of my community are tired of having their radios and TVs and their own voices drowned out inside their own homes. These frustrations are at the heart of the legislative reform being moved in the parliament. In addition, our government is also acting to improve safety on Queensland streets and in Queensland suburbs by making these legislative changes. Put plainly, reckless and dangerous driving, including hooning, damages lives and causes suffering and death. As the police minister, Mark Ryan, put it so clearly in his explanatory speech on the bill, each death in a traffic accident on a Queensland road is a heartbreaking and senseless waste of human potential.

Our government is acting through these legislative reforms to improve the amenity of life in Queensland suburbs and to improve safety on Queensland roads. If a vehicle is identified as committing a type 1 vehicle offence as identified in the bill, the vehicle owner will be held responsible for the offence except in circumstances where the vehicle is stolen or where the owner can show that another person was driving. This reverse onus provision is a significant change to the criminal law in Queensland and I am very pleased to have advocated for this change within the government on behalf of the Woodridge electorate and residents of the city of Logan. In addition, our government will support this change to the law by supporting the hardworking members of the Queensland Police Service, whom I pay tribute to today, with advanced camera technology to assist in the enforcement of hooning offences.

I take this opportunity in conclusion to thank and commend the Minister for Police, Mark Ryan, and the Minister for Children and Youth Justice, Leanne Linard, for bringing forward this very important bill to address hooning and youth crime challenges facing communities across Queensland. The reasons for youth crime are complex and require a multifaceted approach by government and the

community in response, and that is what our government is doing through these reforms and by record funding for diversionary and other programs being rolled out across the state. I commend the bill to the House.