




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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YOUTH JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.58 pm): It is eight o'clock on a Friday night. A young mother has just taken her child and her friend to get an ice cream on the Strand. She drops her friend off and proceeds home, cautiously traversing an intersection she has been through many times before, when suddenly her life changes. I am not going to seek to prosecute the innocence or otherwise of the alleged offender—a court will do that—but today in this House I intend to tell the story of this incident because it is a story that involves someone I know well: the wife of the first person who ever played sport with me in my backyard, a couple and their family who have been in my home, a young mum going about her business when all of a sudden she is the victim of an incident involving yet another alleged stolen vehicle in the city of Townsville. It was 8 pm. She was taken to hospital and upon arrival the doctor said, 'You're the fourth car crash we've had here this evening.'

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Pause the clock. I just need to check with you that the matter that you are speaking about is not already before the courts.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I do not seek to cast any aspersions on anyone involved and I am stating the facts on behalf of somebody who was involved in an accident.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are the facts of the matter before the court?

Mr CRISAFULLI: Yes.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Then there is the potential that you are breaching the sub judice rule.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I will certainly stay away from discussing the incident. This is an issue that must be addressed—that is, the issue of stolen vehicles and the issue of a youth justice system that is in crisis—and today we do not seek to do anything other than attempt to strengthen a system that is broken. The amendments in this bill—the changes that have been put forward—will be supported by the opposition, but we have asked for one thing to be added, and that is for a bit of common sense when it comes to the breaching of bail.

Having that suggestion ridiculed in the way it has been by the government is sad. It is sad for everyone who is demanding action in cities across this state. Whilst I reflect on one incident in one regional city, I can tell the House that communities across the board have had enough. We have received repeated feedback from residents in Hope Island in the last fortnight where there has been a youth crime spree. This is the same feedback we received from Cairns, Mackay and the Sunshine Coast, and it is a system that is in crisis.

Everybody deserves a second chance, but that is not what we are discussing today. We are discussing a system that allows people multiple chances, in some cases 20 chances. The amendment that the opposition seeks to put forward ensures that those people who are given the opportunity to be out on bail can be held accountable for their actions. We support the contents of this bill. We support the provisions to clamp down on hooning. We support the trial which will enable the police to stop those

carrying knives, and I acknowledge the member for Bonney and the work that he has done with the Jack Beasley Foundation—good, honest Queenslanders who just want the memory of their son protected and to prevent other families in that tight-knit community and indeed everyone involved in the Helensvale Hornets and that local area from going through what they have gone through.

We support the GPS monitoring and will hold the government to account to see how many times that is used. We look forward to seeing how effective that is, but we support that. All we ask in return is for the government to listen to Queenslanders. We have not sought a shopping list of changes. The member for Burdekin has not come forward with a grab bag of suggestions that can be knocked away. Instead, he has taken a mature approach and we are putting forward one simple suggestion, and that is for the offence of breach of bail to be restored. There must be consequences for actions and if those opposite come into this House and suggest that that is not a sensible reform they are quite simply wrong.

The government has now attempted to change youth justice laws in this state three times in 18 months. The government has had multiple point plans. The only thing that has changed has been the number of points in the point plan, and still nothing happens. Still lives get ripped apart. Still families have to suffer the heartbreak of getting up in the mornings and knowing that somebody has rummaged through their possessions—possessions that they have worked hard for. Still there will be tradespeople who will wake up tomorrow morning and go to hop in their vehicle in order to earn an honest day's living and the car that they have worked hard for—and are working hard to pay for into the future—will not be there. They will have to go through all of the rigmarole with insurance companies, and all they want is to know that there are consequences for those actions.

Those consequences are not happening in this state and have not been happening in this state for a long time, and I will explain to the House why. Despite all of the changes that have been made, the government is unable to articulate whose side it is on. It does not know whether or not it wants to be tough on crime or whether or not it wants to have a soft social side and, as a result, it walks both sides of the street and is a friend to nobody. The truth is we can have a system that provides compassion for those who make mistakes but can also be strong for those who habitually break the law. We can have a system that provides a second chance but prevents somebody from offending again when they are on bail and have that privilege offered to them, and that is all we are asking for.

We have not come into this place with a million demands saying, 'If you don't agree to every one of those, it's no deal.' We are not doing that. We are asking for one thing: we are asking the government to back Queenslanders. We are asking the government to respond to what everyday Queenslanders said at those hearings that were conducted over the length and breadth of this state, and there was a consistent theme throughout them. Throughout those hearings people said that breach of bail must be an offence. If the government refuses to make any changes, I would suggest to it that everyday Queenslanders will make changes of their own. They have had enough. They have had enough of their MPs saying one thing where they are domiciled and another thing in this place.

Today is the opportunity for members of parliament who had hearings held in their cities to stand up and be counted, to say that enough is enough, to say that if a person is afforded the ability to leave under a set of conditions they will comply with those conditions or there will be repercussions before they commit another offence. That is what this is about. The question is: does the government want one car to be stolen or does it take two before it takes action, because if a person has to wait for another offence to be committed then breaching their bail condition does not really mean much and people will continue to go about their business?

In the very brief time remaining I want to again place on record my strong desire for the policing resources across the state to be improved as well as the laws. Our police officers do an amazing job, but they have a legal system that lets them down and they need better resources, and so it is in my electorate. Hope Island is running a campaign to be transferred into the Runaway Bay police district. As well as the resources attached to that police district, there is also greater policing in that area. The member for Coomera has been very strong in stating his desire to see more police in that northern growth corridor, and currently that station services the Hope Island area. It is our strong desire to see the suburb of Hope Island come under the jurisdiction of Runaway Bay. We will continue to advocate for that, as we will for more resources and tougher laws to back the police up.

(Time expired)