




Speech By
Michael Hart

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

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YOUTH JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (4.14 pm): I rise to speak on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Before I do that can I send best wishes from myself and my family to the member for Stretton—or as I like to call him ‘the heavy hitter from Stretton’—and his family.

As we all know, unfortunately the Labor Party is soft on crime. That has been to the detriment of the people of Queensland since 2015. There are good parts of this legislation. I listened to the contribution from the member for Traeger. The member for Traeger talked about some very sensible options. We need to have these conversations frankly and openly with the people. The member for Traeger also talked about his constituents. I too have people come into my office and say, ‘I am not happy with what is happening in this electorate now. There are problems with all sorts of criminal activity. What are you doing as my local member?’ I have to say to them that it is going to take a change of government before this issue gets fixed.

There are some good things in this bill. Codifying the sentencing principle, currently found in common law, that the fact that an offence was committed while subject to bail is an aggravating factor is a good start, but it needs to go further. That is why the LNP is suggesting an amendment to bring back breach of bail. Providing for a trial of powers for police to stop a person and use a handheld scanner to scan for knives in safe night precincts is another good start. I congratulate the people who have been involved in bringing that to the House. Enhancing the enforcement regime against dangerous hooning behaviour by strengthening existing owner onus deeming provisions for hooning offences is good too because hooning is a massive issue.

A day does not go by in my electorate where somebody does not come in and tell me, or I see a local Facebook community page, that somebody’s house has been broken into or a car has been stolen. Lately it has been dogs being stolen, believe it or not. I live in a high-rise now. We had some kids caught on the camera trying to break into our car park. We have had a local shopkeeper who was attacked by youths. She was pushed over by the youths and her arm was broken. We now have drug deals and fights in Palm Beach. We have not seen this in my area before.

All of a sudden these things are starting to happen. We are seeing a lot of hooning. There are a couple of areas in particular where this takes place. I talked to my wife earlier this morning and she said she was woken up in the middle of the night by cars screaming around the roads through Palm Beach. Cars are tearing up a circular road at Township Drive in Burleigh. On a Monday morning after a weekend it is always full of rubber. This is constant.

The problem is that there are no consequences for these people who are breaking the law. Our laws need to reflect some sort of consequences for these kids who are breaking the law. We need those extra police resources that some members have talked about. The Palm Beach Police Station has a manning level of 35. Most of the time they only have 30 officers there. Their morale is very low because they know they cannot do anything to stop crime as they do not have the necessary resources.

The best thing to stop hooning issues that we have seen lately is the use of the police helicopters, which are fantastic. We can thank the LNP for that. The police helicopters are operated by the lifesaving fraternity. It provides them with an income stream that allows them to fly their red and yellow helicopters. Their contract, which was extended for two years, expires next year. The reality is that they are using old helicopters. They need to buy new helicopters, but you cannot invest in new helicopters if you do not know whether you will have a long-term contract. I urge the government to put in place the necessary contracts to make it viable for Surf Live Saving Queensland to buy new helicopters that they can operate for the next five to 10 years or whatever it will take.

Cars are being stolen all the time. My car was stolen so I know exactly what it is like. Somebody broke into our house, took the keys and stole my car. They were young people. I will not talk any further about that because they were caught and the matter is before the courts. Sometimes when you make a speech in this parliament things actually happen. During the last sitting I gave a speech about EV chargers and last week suddenly three EV chargers appeared downstairs. I thank the parliament for supplying that.

People breaking, entering and stealing is obviously an issue all over the world. Yesterday Apple announced that they will be selling little tags that track things. In Australia they will cost, I think, \$45 each or \$149 for four of them. That is going to be fantastic for a company such as Apple. It will sell millions of those things because crime is almost out of control. They will sell thousands of those trackers here in Queensland.

We need to support the LNP's amendment to restore the breach of bail provision, which will mean that there will be a consequence for someone who is caught committing a crime while on bail. It is an extra punishment. It is a consequence. As I said before, those people need to be faced with consequences for breaking the law. I urge members to support the LNP's sensible amendment and to look seriously at the KAP's amendments as well.