




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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POLICE LEGISLATION (EFFICIENCIES AND EFFECTIVENESS) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (12.11 pm): I rise today to speak to and support the Police Legislation (Efficiencies and Effectiveness) Amendment Bill 2021. In Queensland we have a world-class frontline service in the men and women who serve in the Queensland Police Service. We know that there are many demands, and ever-increasing demands, placed upon them. There are calls for a lot of things that the Palaszczuk government is stepping up and providing for the service. Those demands are around the growth that is happening in the service at the moment. We see increasing complexities with regard to social issues right across our communities. Our Police Service does such a wonderful job in disaster management, both with health emergencies and with natural disasters. There is a growing community expectation in relation to a QPS officer's role and responsibilities right throughout our community.

When thinking about the contribution that I would make today, my mind was taken back to 24 November last year when I joined with the Minister for Police, the commissioner and the member for Bancroft at the Moreton Police District Medal Service at the Norths Leagues Club. Medals were presented there to sworn and unsworn officers. These included the National Police Service Medal, the National Medal and clasps, the Queensland Police Service Medal and clasps and other awards and certificates. To sit in that room and to hear in many instances the very longstanding, remarkable services that were made by those men and women was truly a humbling experience and highlighted to me the risk and the responsibility of the role that our Queensland Police Service men and women take on each and every day.

I would like to officially congratulate those officers who received medals, clasps, awards and certificates at that ceremony, and also to congratulate the service on the recovery effort that we have seen throughout the February flood event which my community experienced. That extreme weather event saw a combined effort from the Queensland Police Service, the QFES, the SES, our Rural Fire Service and also community volunteers. I want to particularly thank, on behalf of the community of Pine Rivers, all of those officers who were involved in response to that particular weather event. I particularly single out Inspector Lee Jeffries and Sergeant Ken Robinson for their community efforts. The support that they provided for our homes, businesses, farms and sporting clubs was absolutely remarkable.

I note that the member for Aspley is here in the chamber. We needed to get some intervention on Linkfield Road to ensure there was a smooth flow of traffic while Strathpine Road, the AJ Wylie Bridge at Petrie and Youngs Crossing were closed. Our roads were really decimated during that weather event. I thank those officers who stood up and helped out at that particular juncture during the events, and I thank the member for Aspley for getting that resource reinstated.

In my community today there are still roads that are not open. One of them is Mount Nebo Road. As it is a closed road on such a steep incline, with many landslips and many obstacles on it at the moment, we have had to call on officers to be present and to ensure the safety of the community. I know that they are doing that in an ongoing way. I thank them very much for that.

I turn to the amnesty that has been outlined by many other speakers on this bill. Through my long dialogue and regular meetings with the Shooters Union, this is something that they have raised with me. It is great to see that there will be a permanent national firearm amnesty. I commend the minister on joining with his counterparts in other jurisdictions through the ministerial council to have this as something to continue on in our community. These amnesties have provided great success in the past for people to identify. I know that before weapons licensing came about, I lived in a house that had a couple of firearms. They were given up through amnesty rather than Licensing. They were firearms that existed in our house due to my family having a rural background and the use for which they were needed, but that use was no longer there as our circumstances changed.

I know that there are many families who, either through bereavement or other means, end up with firearms. The amnesty provides the community with a great amount of confidence. It also relieves the unnecessary day-to-day burden on our police officers in that, rather than having citizens walking into police stations, they can enlist the help of firearms dealerships where firearms can be surrendered. I could only imagine, but I am sure that citizens walking into a police station with firearms would be a cause for alarm. I also acknowledge the folks in my community who are firearms dealers and who run these businesses for the work they are doing on an ongoing basis.

I also lend my voice in support of the initiative to extend the period of time for temporary possession and the application for obtaining a licence out to six months. We know that there is a really fine balance that exists, and it is a really big responsibility to get the balance right, between providing and weighing up community safety with the processing time. We know that checks and balances need to be in place and that it is not just a tick-a-box exercise. We know that people's circumstances change, whether that be individual health circumstances or other things. To have the duration doubled is a really sound provision—one that I am sure will provide the community with the certainty it needs and provide some surety around where licensed firearm owners go next.

I turn next to thanking the committee for the work they have done. Although I have not spoken about it in any detail, I would also like to thank the justices of the peace throughout our community as well as the commissioners for declaration. I was speaking with a group of them the other day about this very matter, bail affidavits. Through the time and motion study done in 2020, we know that it took an officer between 30 minutes and two hours to get 6,321 bail affidavits completed with an average time of 60 minutes. We know that if we make some adjustments in this particular area we can save 22,000 hours of police time annually.

I know through talking to local officers in my community that community policing is something they have really honed in on. They are putting in a lot of time and effort and are dedicating energy to it. I know making changes to these provisions around bail affidavits will free up that time and ability.

I also thank those who appeared before the committee and those who submitted to this bill and also the folks who attended the public hearing from the Shooters Union, the Shooting Industry Foundation and the Queensland Law Society. I think this bill is a really thorough piece of work and makes the changes that are needed for a modern, flexible and adapting Police Service.

I will finish my contribution by thanking all of our emergency services, particularly our Queensland Police Service for the really tough job they do day in and day out. They literally put their lives on the line every single time they put on their uniform. We are extraordinarily indebted to them. On behalf of the community I represent I thank them from the bottom of my heart.