




Speech By  
**Nikki Boyd**

**MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS**

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### **INSPECTOR OF DETENTION SERVICES BILL**

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (11.45 am): I am pleased to rise and support this important legislation which will establish the Inspector of Detention Services, a legal framework allowing for independent oversight of places of detention and detention services through a system of regular inspection and reviews. This is legislative reform that demonstrates this government's commitment to protecting the human rights and upholding humane treatment and conditions of people in prisons, community correctional centres, work camps, youth detention centres and police watch houses.

This bill proposes to achieve its policy objectives by establishing the role of the inspector to be held by the Queensland Ombudsman and set out its function and powers with a focus on prevention of harm, providing a framework for inspections and reviews of places of detention and detention services, and providing a framework for independent and transparent reporting. I acknowledge the stakeholders that appeared before and submitted to the committee and also note that all of the submissions received indicated support for the establishment of an inspector in Queensland.

This bill also addresses recommendations from a number of reviews into the Queensland criminal justice system including: the independent review of youth detention; the Queensland Parole System Review; Taskforce Flaxton, an examination of corruption risks and corruption in Queensland prisons; and the Queensland Productivity Commission's report titled *Inquiry into imprisonment and recidivism*.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the relevant government ministers for ensuring that all of our Queensland prisons are publicly owned and run. This is an issue which I campaigned for, and I am so pleased to see our government deliver on. I campaigned on this issue because, through working with custodial officers in privatised centres of detention in my capacity as a union organiser, I saw firsthand the perverse prioritisation of saving money. That prioritisation was ahead of custodial officers' interests, ahead of all of the interests of those detained, and ahead of any investment to assist in diversion from recidivism. I saw firsthand the overcrowding of these centres of detention. I represented custodial officers who had been attacked in the most heinous ways. I sat across the table from these multinational corporations and argued against their motivations and bizarre incentives. No-one wins through a privatised detention system, and I am so proud to be part of a government that has eradicated them.

In closing, I especially acknowledge the tremendous job that our custodial officers do in really tough circumstances and thank them for that work. This reform will bring them greater security while performing this tough job, and it is for these reasons that I commend the bill to the House.