



Speech By  
**Samuel O'Connor**


**MEMBER FOR BONNEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 9 November 2022

## ADJOURNMENT

### Knife Crime

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (8.54 pm): Three years ago next month, Jack Beasley was murdered in the middle of Surfers Paradise at just 17 years of age. It was an unprovoked, unspeakable act of violence that devastated his mum Belinda, his dad Brett and his best mate and big brother Mitch. It traumatised his friends, young people who saw their mate brutally attacked, who saw him dying on the footpath in front of them. This is a story and an issue I have raised in this place and outside of it more than any other because Jack's death devastated my part of the Gold Coast—whether it was his schoolmates from Pacific Pines State High School to everyone he played footy with since juniors at the Helensvale Hornets, to his neighbours in Parkwood and to so many others, to people Jack's age and to many other parents. Their story and their passion for change resonated.

Brett reached out to me a couple of weeks after laying his son to rest, and ever since I have been proud to stand behind him and all the supporters of the Jack Beasley Foundation we have built in the memory of this young man. Our advocacy started with a simple message: 'Detect knives, save lives'. After almost two years, the campaign led to the police knife wandering trial in Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach—a first step towards making our city safer. Now Acting Deputy Commissioner Mark Wheeler was outstanding, being there from the start and championing these laws within the Queensland Police Service. His successor, Chief Superintendent Rhys Wildman, has been equally commendable in the warmth he has shown towards the Beasleys and everyone involved with the foundation.

Today's news that these powers will be expanded to every safe night precinct across Queensland and every tram, train and bus and all public transport vehicles and infrastructure is what we have been calling for. In fact, metal detection at Helensvale station, where Jack's murderer got off the train and onto a tram to get into Surfers Paradise on that tragic night, was where our first petition was about. We have been wanting to see this expansion for some time, from as soon as it was clear that the trial on the Gold Coast was pulling so many weapons off our streets, which was over 200 on the latest figures.

We have wanted this since we saw it was doing something to stop this happening to another family, but it is still just a trial. There are some good recommendations in the Griffith University review of the trial's first year which the minister tabled today. They can improve how these powers are used. They are important measures to get the balance right. If these are put in place, there will be nothing to stop making these powers permanent. I welcome the firm commitment of the Premier and the police minister to have this introduced to parliament as 'Jack's Law'.

Finally, congratulations to Brett and Belinda for being announced today as finalists for the Queensland Australian of the Year Local Hero. I was very proud to nominate them for that. No matter whether they win or not, they are heroes to me and so many others.