




Speech By
Bruce Saunders

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

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STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SAFETY BILL

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (5.05 pm): I rise in support of the Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the chair of the committee, the member for Logan, and the committee members. It was a pretty tough task they undertook, going around and listening to people. I would like to commend them and the secretariat for the work they did for the House. I commend also the police minister who is in here today. I know he, the youth justice minister and the Premier have been working very hard on this. The police minister has always listened to me and the concerns of my community about this. I take my hat off to him because these are very complex issues. There are a lot of issues involving the families that you do not read about in the *Courier-Mail* or you see on the Instagram or Facebook pages. There are a lot of back stories behind the misbehaviour of some of our youth in our state.

Let's have a look at the bill. Our breach of bail provision will work. We have the strengthening conditional release orders, the new declaration of serious repeat offenders and increasing the penalties for stolen vehicles. That is an interesting one. We hear the other side talk a statistic of 215—and we know they did not give the right stats—but social media was not as big then as it is today. Social media plays a major role in youth crime today. We know that the criminals are on Instagram and SnapChat. This is a problem facing not only communities in Queensland or Australia, but if you look around the world, social media plays a part. It is happening everywhere. What is happening on social media is a concern for all people of this state, this country and the world.

The government is expanding the number of offences with a presumption against bail to include the people who are passengers in stolen vehicles or who enter premises to commit an indictable offence; they will now be subject to an offence with a presumption against bail. That covers the fact also that when some of these young people get in the cars, they know exactly what is going on, and they will now be treated accordingly.

Extending the Youth Crime Taskforce is a big plus to get the police out on the beat talking to the community and also ensuring that we have high-visibility police patrols. This has already commenced in my community. We have had the police out working very hard. There is the expansion of joint flying squads, help for seniors to secure their homes, a trial of vehicle immobilisers, and enhanced assistance to victims of crime.

The government has listened. We are listening. I am in my community every day talking to people. It is important that we as a whole community—not just Labor, the LNP, or whoever—make sure that people feel safe at home, on the street and at work. That is what this bill does. It covers a lot of the areas of concern that people have come to me and talked to me about in regards to youth crime and crime in general. I feel the bill covers everything.

The minister has listened. He has listened to me. The education minister has listened, too. We heard earlier the LNP talking about what is going on in schools. Members should come up and have a look at what is happening in my schools and what the teachers are doing in my community. We have

some great programs happening in the state schools. I take my hat off to them. They are working under very stressful situations with families, and they are doing an amazing job with some of these families who are stretched.

It requires a whole-of-government approach. Everyone is working together—Youth Justice, the Department of Education and the Police Service. The police in my electorate are absolutely brilliant. They are out on the street, doing their job every day. I would like to congratulate and thank the police in the Maryborough electorate because they are responding to crime and responding to everything very quickly. We often hear, 'The police do not turn up.' I can tell honourable members that is not happening in my electorate because I talk to the police constantly and I talk to people who have had crime committed against them and the police are there very quickly. I commend this bill to the House.