




Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Record of Proceedings, 30 March 2023

**POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (JACK'S LAW) AMENDMENT BILL;
POLICE SERVICE ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT
BILL (NO. 2)**

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (4.49 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the cognate debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill 2022 and the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2022. From the outset I wish to associate myself with the contributions of Liberal National Party colleagues and the state member for Bonney in particular. I add my support to this important legislation and the amendment as foreshadowed by the Liberal National Party opposition.

I also want to acknowledge and pay tribute to Belinda and Brett Beasley who have worked tirelessly in Queensland to honour the memory of their 17-year-old son, Jack Beasley, who was attacked and fatally stabbed in Surfers Paradise just 12 days before Christmas in 2019. At the very heart of their work to honour the memory of Jack is their continued effort to ensure the prevention of knife crime in the future. Belinda and Brett Beasley certainly endured a pain and grief that no parents should ever have to go through, yet only weeks after the senseless attack on their son they found the strength and the courage to pursue reform and they launched the Jack Beasley Foundation. This foundation has led the fight for change to see additional security and detection measures and resources made available to further prevent unnecessary and violent attacks, especially those involving weapons and knives. Such advocacy is best captured by the stated mission of the Jack Beasley Foundation—that is, 'Detect knives, save lives'.

As the Liberal National Party shadow minister for education, I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge and again commend Brett and Belinda Beasley who, through the Jack Beasley Foundation, have also developed and delivered the One Moment education program. This important and life-changing program educates students and young Queenslanders on the dangers of carrying a knife and the long-term effects of youth crime on offenders, their victims and others, including friends and families. This program is presented in cooperation with the Queensland Police Service. It is a one-hour education program which has been delivered to many schools in Ipswich, Logan, Brisbane and the Gold Coast. I note that the Jack Beasley Foundation have plans to present to even more schools throughout 2023, with their hopes and aspirations being to further expand into other regions, including Townsville and Cairns as well as New South Wales and Victoria.

Specifically, in relation to the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill, the main objective of this legislation is to extend and expand the trial of handheld scanner provisions to detect unlawfully possessed knives beyond the current Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach safe night precincts. Through this legislation, the scope of prescribed public areas for such scanning by the Queensland Police Service will include all 15 safe night precincts in Queensland and all public transport stations including public transport vehicles.

The facts speak for themselves, and the expansion of the wandling scanning trial is absolutely warranted. The Queensland Police Service advised the Queensland parliament's Community Support and Services Committee that between 30 April 2021 and 29 April 2023 over 21,300 people were wanded for knives or weapons. This resulted in the seizure of 242 weapons and over 650 offenders being charged with various offences, with weapons detected including folding knives, flick-knives, machetes, a bush saw, a tomahawk, sharpened screwdrivers, replica firearms, knuckledusters and tasers. I find those statistics alarming; it is extraordinary that people would be carrying those weapons concealed, and for what purpose? It is an indictment of our current society that people think they can carry these weapons even when there are real consequences when they use them. That is 242 weapons that might otherwise have been used to seriously harm or kill another Queenslanders, but they were taken off our streets.

It is worth noting and placing on the record the support that the Queensland Police Service has given to the extension and expansion of the trial to all safe night precincts and public transport stations and vehicles. I acknowledge that some concerns have been expressed about the broad powers, but they are absolutely needed. Again, the Liberal National Party through its proposed amendment supports the requirement for a legislated review to occur after two years, and I echo my support for that. I support this legislation and I certainly encourage all members to support the LNP's amendment.