




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

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

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (4.54 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill and the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) before us today. With regard to the Jack's Law bill, I want to thank the minister and all of the Beasley family. The family has made a true and lasting change in Queensland: it has made our state safer for every Queensland family. As the minister said, this is a law that protects all Queenslanders and is a lasting legacy. It is welcome news from the minister that the QPS is ready to go as soon as Jack's Law is passed. They will be back out on the streets, always vigilant, always making sure that our streets are as safe as possible. I want to pay tribute to my local police who are on the streets working hard, as always. I asked the officers in charge of the stations in Bancroft—Mick Moate in Mango Hill-North Lakes and Jason Higgs at Deception Bay—if there was anyone at those stations that I should mention in particular today. Mick Moate said that all of the people working for him should be commended. He said—

The troops will be out and about tomorrow evening from 6 pm until 10 pm for extreme high vis patrols around North Lakes.

This flows from the changes that we made last month. He said that Detective Senior Sergeant Guy Ford now works out of North Lakes in the VPIU and that it is working hard on deterring or interrupting any young offenders. Jason was just as effusive about his officers. He said—

Honestly, I am so proud of all of the troops here it would be hard to single anyone out.

They work hard in a challenging environment but always yield great results in striving for a safer community.

Well said, Jason. Thanks to Jason and to Mick and all of the QPS members who work in our local communities.

I want to touch briefly on the police service administration bill. The changes in the bill will not only improve the operation of the QPS; they will increase public confidence in the Police Service. Queenslanders would surely support the initiative that we brought in of summary dismissal of a police officer or a police recruit upon being sentenced to imprisonment. It will also boost the confidence of the public to know that we have improved the framework around disciplinary hearings. It will make it fairer, more effective, more responsive and ensure that there are consequences.

I know that police disciplinary proceedings can be complex, and in a way that is how it should be. We need to be careful when we are dealing with people's careers and people's rights and we need to make sure that we get everything right whilst ensuring that victims are supported as well, and that will mean that there is better protection for our officers and better protection for the public. People will be relieved to know that we have also focused on the improper use or release of information. Once again this helps build confidence in our police and it makes sure that there is a consequence if something does go wrong.

Ever since I became a member of this parliament my appreciation of our police has grown and grown. I see their bravery. They show me what dedication to duty is, but I also see their human side. I see beyond the blue uniform; I see the very human people inside it. I know that at once they are remarkable and yet also ordinary Queenslanders doing an extraordinary job. I commend the bills to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Whiting, adjourned.