




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 29 March 2023

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

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (3.11 pm): I rise to speak on the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill 2022 and the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2), addressed in cognate. With respect to the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill 2022, I acknowledge Mr and Mrs Beasley, who are in the gallery tonight. No parent would ever wish to suffer the loss of a child. On Friday, 13 December 2019, Mr Brett Beasley and Mrs Belinda Beasley received news that their son Jack had been stabbed on a busy street in Surfers Paradise. Jack passed away shortly after, just three months before his 18th birthday. The bill is named in honour of Jack Beasley. His family established the Jack Beasley Foundation and have since advocated for reform to youth justice laws and to educate young people about the dangers of carrying knives in public places. The bill also remembers the passing of Raymond Harris, who was fatally stabbed in Surfers Paradise in September 2020.

Knife crime is a concern for any community, particularly in safe night precincts. The bill proposes to extend and expand the trial of handheld scanners, or wands, to detect the unlawful possession of knives which was carried out in Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise SNPs. The trial will be extended for an additional two years and be expanded to include all 15 SNPs in Queensland as well as public transport stations and public transport vehicles.

The committee's task was to consider the policy to be achieved by the legislation and the application of fundamental legislative principles—that is, to consider whether the bill had sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals and to the institution of parliament. The committee also examined the bill for compatibility with human rights in accordance with the Human Rights Act 2019. The committee considered the views expressed in submissions and by witnesses at the committee's public hearing as well as briefing material from the Queensland Police Service. The committee recommended that the bill be passed.

Additionally, the committee recognises that using wands to search for and detect weapons is an extraordinary and nation-leading power to give to any police service. The Queensland government acknowledges the scope of these powers and will ensure evidence-based decision-making always prevails. Rights and liberties must be protected throughout the state of Queensland. For this reason, the committee recommends that the extension and expansion of the trial be externally reviewed so that future legislative options may be carefully considered. The committee acknowledges the work of the Queensland Police Service and the support of the Queensland Police Union on the architecture of this bill and the strength and courage shown by Mr and Mrs Beasley and the Jack Beasley Foundation in their tireless commitment and advocacy for these laws in Queensland.

I turn now to the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2022. Queensland's first responders are part of a Public Service that is constantly evolving to deliver essential services to the people of Queensland effectively, efficiently and responsibly and with the best

possible outcomes. The administration of these services is complex and must continually anticipate, reflect and improve its processes in line with community expectations. Accordingly, the bill's proposed changes aim to improve the operation and effectiveness of the Queensland Police Service and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services by amending the legislation that impacts on their operations, including the Police Service Administration Act 1990, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Weapons Act 1990 and the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990 as well as the Disaster Management Act 2003.

Again, the committee's task was to consider the policy to be achieved by the legislation and the application of fundamental legislative principles—that is, to consider whether the bill has sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals and the institution of parliament. The committee also examined the bill for compatibility with human rights in accordance with the Human Rights Act 2019. On behalf of the committee, I thank those individuals and organisations who made written submissions on the bills. I also thank the officers of the Queensland Police Service and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services who assisted the committee during the course of its inquiries and the Parliamentary Service staff for their ongoing support. I commend these bills to the House.