




Speech By
James Lister

MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS

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)**

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (4.23 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the cognate debate of the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) and the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill. I do not want to labour the point because we have heard a great deal about the parents of Jack—Brett and Belinda Beasley—but I would like to add my remarks of admiration of them and thank them for having been present for so much of this important debate. One thing I know from talking to people who have been involved in the starting of a foundation is that it is a very significant undertaking. It is not just a committee getting together and writing to the department of fair trading; this is a very onerous creation. It shows the great dedication that Mr and Mrs Beasley and those who have assisted them on that journey have put in. I place that on the record.

I would also like to say what people have said to me—that is, what has happened to our society where those in the prime and flower of their youth have to arm themselves with deadly weapons for a night out on the town? That is the sort of thing we would laughingly have previously attributed to north English football hooligans or something like that, but of course it is no laughing matter. Collectively, society needs to have a good look at itself to try and arrest the sorts of trends we are seeing in terms of violent crime and people arming themselves with deadly weapons.

In my view, the use of wands and wanding is entirely appropriate and, on the balance of public interest, the benefits completely outweigh any concerns that civil libertarians might have about their use. I note what the Greens said in the House yesterday. I also support what the member for Whitsunday said in response to them. They are on the wrong track in saying that this is an inappropriate enhancement of police powers. The member for Maiwar made remarks which I think reflected poorly on the Police Service and indicated—

Mr Purdie: Shame.

Mr LISTER: Yes. I agree with the member for Ninderry, a fine former police officer and detective, when he says 'shame'. Our propensity is to judge the Police Service by the worst examples of its behaviour rather than the best. That would be akin to saying that all Greens are bad because vegan farm invaders go on to people's property, harass their staff and so forth. I am sure that many of them do not. I will leave the remainder of the criticism of the Greens to my honourable friends in the Labor Party, because I know that that is something they are very keen to do. I do condemn the Greens for what they said. I think the discipline system for the police is appropriate, very well thought out and ensures that the excellent proportion of the Queensland Police Service who are hardworking, respectable officers of integrity—

Mrs Frecklington: Hear, hear!

Mr LISTER: Thank you, member for Nanango. I certainly have no problem with it and I totally disagree with the remarks made by the member for Maiwar.

The amendment which will be moved in the name of the member for Burdekin, shadow police minister Dale Last, is a very good one. It is quite self-evidently true that the idea of safe night precincts and of enforcing, for the safety of all, not carrying dangerous weapons is very important. I certainly will be supporting that amendment. I thank the government for bringing this law forward. I thank the Beasleys and all those who have supported them, including the members for Nanango and Bonney. I commend the bills to the House.