




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Record of Proceedings, 15 March 2023

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SAFETY BILL

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (11.17 am): I rise to speak to the Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023. This bill amends the Bail Act 1980, the Criminal Code Act 1899, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and the Youth Justice Act 1992. The bill will work with repeat youth offenders, address the very complex issue of youth crime and invest in community safety. I begin by thanking my community, our hardworking and committed Queensland Police Service officers, our youth workers, our teachers, our PCYC as well as our Brisbane City Council workers who work in the youth space and my team from BABI. I thank them for their ongoing support and dedication to helping the young people in my community.

As we know, young people, specifically teenagers, respond positively to clear and defined, firm and psychological boundaries. They respond best when they understand the consequences of their actions. They are hindered in their decision-making by a range of factors external to their control. These factors may include but are not limited to a lack of adult or parental supervision, neglect, fetal alcohol syndrome, substance abuse and addiction, learning difficulties, cognitive impairment, sexual abuse, their chronological age and cognitive development. These are issues that are confronting our young people. We need to make sure that these young people are looked after. We also need to make sure that our community feels safe.

As I have already thanked my community, I would like to remind everyone that our community is the backbone of supporting each other and families. Members of my community support each other each and every day. I am really heartened to see the genuine commitment by locals to support everyone, whether it be victims of crime or young people.

I acknowledge the ministers who have been involved in this important piece of work—Minister Ryan, Minister Linard and Minister Grace—and thank them very much for listening to me when I have spoken to them about my concerns and the issues that are important to my community. I put out a community survey after this bill was introduced. I have had positive feedback and heartening and encouraging support for the legislation and also for those members of our community who need support. We are a supportive and kind community and we look out for each other. We want to ensure that we are safe in our own homes and that our young people are given the support they need. This bill will do that.

The bill amends the Bail Act to make breaching bail a criminal offence for young offenders, strengthens conditional release orders and creates a new declaration of serious repeat offenders. It will increase penalties for stolen vehicles. It enables criminal history to be taken into account. It also extends the GPS electronic tracking to include 15-year-olds and will be expanded to Cairns, Toowoomba and Mount Isa.

The bill will also expand intensive case management and youth co-responder teams and early action groups. There is a further investment of \$4 million in On Country programs and more investment in early intervention. We will also extend the Youth Crime Taskforce with high-visibility police patrols,

expanded joint flying squads and support for seniors to secure their homes. Vehicle immobilisers will be trialled in Cairns, Townsville and Mount Isa. As I have said, I acknowledge the great work of my community in supporting each other. I commend the bill to the House.