




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

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)**

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (6.40 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate and speak in support of the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill and the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2). I thank the members of the Community Support and Services Committee for their examination of both bills and all those who appeared as witnesses during the committee's hearings and inquiries. I note that the committee recommended that both bills be passed.

I turn first to the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill. As the mother of two young boys, I can only imagine the incredible pain and devastation that Brett and Belinda Beasley have experienced since the death of their son, Jack, after whom this legislation is named, in December 2019. Jack was senselessly assaulted in Surfers Paradise and tragically died just three months short of his 18th birthday. To their credit, Brett, Belinda and many of their family and friends lobbied for changes around security and knife detection to help prevent this senseless violence from taking place in the future. The Palaszczuk government listened and acted, initiating a 12-month wanding trial in the Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach safe night precincts in 2021.

The goal of the trial was to reduce the opportunity for serious violent offending involving knives and other serious weapons to prevent senseless and violent attacks in public spaces. As good governments do, we commissioned Griffith University to undertake an independent review of the wanding trial after 12 months. The review provided a number of recommendations which have been incorporated into Jack's Law, including the expansion of the trial to all safe night precincts as well as to public transport infrastructure. Griffith University's review also recommended a number of additional safeguards for the community which have also been incorporated into this legislation.

There is absolutely no reason for members of the public to be armed with knives and other serious weapons in our community. Many say when a weapon is detected on their person that it is for their own personal safety or use; however, it only takes a split second for carrying a knife or other serious weapon to have a devastating outcome. The bill sends a clear message: if you go armed in public, there is now a greater chance that you will be caught and will face serious consequences. With the exception of those involved in law enforcement, there is never a good reason to go armed in public. It is my hope that this message gets through to everyone in our community. I thank the member for Bonney for kindly introducing me in passing to Belinda and Brett recently. I again acknowledge the incredible fortitude they have shown in advocating for these reforms out of such deep personal loss.

I turn now to the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2). This bill will deliver several operational improvements and efficiencies for the Queensland Police Service and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. There are a number of different aspects to this bill; however, in the interests of brevity, I will focus on just one. I know that the residents of the Nudgee

electorate hold their local police officers—indeed, all sworn QPS officers and the civilian staff who support them—in high esteem. They do a fantastic job in keeping our community safe and, on behalf of my constituents, I cannot thank them enough, particularly our local officers at Hendra and Boondall, for the work that they do. However, with that esteem of course comes the expectation that our police officers will meet the highest possible standards of accountability and trust. There is no place for officers who do the wrong thing in the QPS. Their actions risk tarnishing the reputation of the overwhelming majority of officers who each and every day turn up and keep our community safe and do so by the rules.

The amendments in the bill will enable the immediate dismissal of a police officer or police recruit when they are sentenced to imprisonment by an Australian court for an offence including a suspended imprisonment sentence. This is important to maintain the confidence in our hardworking frontline officers. I again acknowledge the tremendous work of the Queensland Police Service in keeping our community safe. I am confident that the changes being made through these two bills will ensure that our police have the tools they need to do their job and that our community will be the safer for it. I commend the bills to the House.