




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (12.41 pm): Here in arguably the most disaster-prone state, our first responders are world-class. In the most challenging of times, these are the heroic ones amongst us who run towards danger, instead of away from it. The Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) ensures that we are best placed to continually improve to create a public service that is more professional, delivering improvement and remaining contemporary.

I sat on the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee when we were first examining the police discipline system in the last term of parliament, so I followed with interest the amendments this legislation proposes to keep the system contemporary and as functional as possible. While the amendments proposed to this legislation are all worthy and need to be addressed, I think the substantive content in the amendment indicate to the public that this is a robust system that delivers. I was particularly interested in the provision that would see the dismissal from the QPS of a police officer or police recruit immediately on being sentenced to imprisonment, including a suspended sentence for an offence.

Recent corporate data breaches by multinationals have highlighted the very serious and real ramifications on everyday Queenslanders. Provisions in this bill will make the penalties more severe for the misuse of QPS information. We know that it is a detrimental practice not only for the individual but also, in this context, for criminal investigations and operations.

In respect to Weapons Licensing, the committee heard that as of 31 August 2022, there were 213,917 weapons licences issued in Queensland, and 962,374 firearms on the register. On a weekly basis, Weapons Licensing receives an average of 350 new licence applications, 360 renewal applications and 1,100 permits to acquire. An internal review, conducted by Weapons Licensing Branch, identified that there should be scope for an authorised officer to delegate powers to a police officer or a QPS staff member to address this high volume of applications. We have heard the minister speak of the high volume of applications here in this chamber.

As a local member, I have community members and representative organisations like the Shooters Union raise this issue with me directly, so I am very pleased to be part of a government that is delivering reform to provide a better service to the community. We know our weapons licence owners are responsible, upstanding members of the community, and I have a large number of them in my community. We always have very informative and productive discussions. Licensed weapon owners, legislators and the Queensland Police Service all want to achieve the same outcome when it comes to the weapons licensing system, and that is a system that is robust and timely. I commend the minister for making these adjustments to ensure the community's expectations are met in a sphere that is often sensationalised and politically weaponised.

I take the opportunity to place on record my community's heartfelt thanks to those wonderful first responders that we are fortunate to have. When it comes to the Jack's Law legislation, the QPS tells us that from 30 April 2021 to 29 January 2023, we had 21,362 people that had been wanded for knives or weapons, resulting in the seizure of 242 weapons and 656 offenders being charged with various offences. The weapons detected included folding knives, flick-knives, machetes, a bush saw, a tomahawk, sharpened screwdrivers, replica firearms, knuckledusters and tasers.

In our safe night precincts where we see a congregation of a large number of people in the evenings and on weekends, coupled with intoxicated and charged environments, of course antisocial behaviour does present. These measures take proactive action against knife crime. They provide greater public confidence and increase community safety.

I recognise the contribution of the Beasley family and their strong advocacy in bringing these reforms to this point. These reforms will undoubtedly save lives. In the words of Belinda Beasley—

We just want kids to understand that it isn't a video game, you can't press restart, it's real life and by them carrying a knife, that can be used on them.

We are not the first jurisdiction in Australia to permit limited scanning in public places; these provisions are already in use in Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. These are good, quality reforms, and I commend them to the House.