




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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**POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL 2022 AND THE POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2023**

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (11.44 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government has a strong history of creating safer communities. From the outset, I place on record my appreciation of the hardworking members of the QPS who serve our community, particularly those stationed out of the Petrie, Dayboro and Ferny Grove police stations.

Strengthened child protection laws will come about by increasing the reporting periods for offenders held on the Australian National Child Offender Register. We know that lengthening the reporting periods and monitoring of offenders who have committed sexual or serious offences against children will directly reduce the likelihood that they will reoffend. These reforms will directly provide an additional layer of protection to children, meaning safer communities. I welcome the minister's announcement regarding additional resourcing, along with the reforms in the legislation.

My community is not immune to the problem of hooning on our roads, be it on the winding mountain roads of Mount Nebo, Mount Glorious or Mount Mee, or in the quiet vacated industrial zones of Lawnton or Brendale, or on the remote, isolated, rural or semi-rural roads through the west of my community. While our government has already made legislative changes to make it easier for QPS to enforce our anti-hooning legislation, these reforms improve the capacity of the QPS to target hooning events and mitigate the harm from them.

What is included in the new provisions as illegal? New offences will prohibit people: joining a group of others and using a motor vehicle for a speed trial, racing, burnout or other hooning offence; organising, promoting or encouraging others to participate in, or view, a group activity involving a motor vehicle being used to commit a hooning offence; and filming, photographing or publishing a film or photograph of a motor vehicle being used for a hooning offence for the purpose of organising, promoting or encouraging a group activity involving a motor vehicle being used to commit a hooning offence. We know that these are really well organised meets that these people are putting together and these reforms go to addressing that. The measures also prohibit a person from possessing a thing that is being, is to be, or has been used to commit a racing, burnout or other hooning offence—things like numberplates, spare wheels and hydraulic jacks.

When it comes to the practice of burnouts—and I love the smell of burning rubber as much as the next person, but there is a time—

Mr Perrett interjected.

Ms BOYD: I take the interjection from the member for Gympie. There is a time and there is a place for this. It is to be done in safe, controlled environments. There are plenty of opportunities for people in our community to participate in that, but these provisions here are really about community safety to stop this underground practice from happening in our community streets.

When it comes to the practice of burnouts, there are two new offences. They capture behaviour where someone intentionally engages in a sustained loss of traction in circumstances where the noise and smoke are not generated—and this usually occurs in the context of a substance being placed on the road to reduce friction—and circumstances where the conduct occurs in an area such as a public park or is not a road or road-related area. I think that that is a really important reform in terms of capturing where these events are taking place.

In terms of the member for Traeger's contribution around these reforms being peripheral to Queensland and the issues that Queensland is facing at the moment, I entirely disagree. When it comes to the stronger provisions regarding the addition of aggravation for evading police, that is a measure that we have committed to in terms of our youth justice reforms. It is very central to ensuring that these people realise that they are not part of *Grand Theft Auto*; that they should not think they can actually get behind the wheel of a vehicle and take it for a joyride around our communities, putting at risk not only themselves and other motorists but also pedestrians and others in our community.

In terms of the contribution made by the member for Hinchinbrook, I want to clarify that when we talk about these reforms and what they contain, we are not talking about motorsport, we are not talking about motoring enthusiasts. We are actually talking about illegal underground activity that is being coordinated at a high level by people. It is antisocial behaviour that is dangerous to our community. In terms of the member for Hinchinbrook, I place on the record of the parliament my admiration of his car collection. I saw one the other day; it was merely a frame of a car. It looked quite cool. I would love to be able to get around my electorate in a motor vehicle like that. I do not think it is a vote winner, but good on him for pulling that off.

When it comes to individuals who come into contact with the law due to a small amount of illicit drugs for their personal use, the data tells us that the best way to deal with them is through a health-based approach, not one of law enforcement. Treating this as a health issue allows for individuals to address the underlying causes of substance use and encourages help-seeking behaviours. The police drug diversion program has diverted 158,000 people away from the criminal justice system to health interventions since the program began in 2001. Of those people who completed drug diversion, 72 per cent did not reoffend during the four-year evaluation period. We know that these are solid outcomes because when we compare them with interstate jurisdictions in this country, they reflect similar outcomes. Other benefits include saving police time and resources and freeing up those police resources so they can be focused on areas where they can have a bigger and better impact for community safety.

I am not sure if it was a concerted effort, but I got some serious Nixon vibes from the shadow police minister during his contribution. The LNP cannot say that they are serious about diversion and rehabilitation when they are just happy to let the status quo continue in this state. We know that this is not working. Expert opinion on the best way to divert and rehabilitate is not through a punitive approach. It is about time that the LNP get with the program.

Queensland does not want a Richard Nixon impersonator as their police minister. They do not want pink jumpsuits in their prisons or librarians locked away under failed anti-bikie policies. The LNP are not tough on crime. Their record demonstrates that they are just bad at managing it. Granted the 1970s war on drugs policies are probably modern by LNP standards, but by LNP standards, the shadow minister may well be age eligible for the wing of the Young LNP. It is clear that the LNP cannot progress past their 1970s view. A contemporary state facing emerging and serious challenges cannot have this kind of approach.

We rely on expert opinion, evidence-based decision-making and informed policy—not informed by ideology but informed by fact. It is for these reasons that I support these bills.