




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR TRAEGER

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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**

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (11.40 am): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I say at the outset that there are a lot of areas of the bill with which we agree, and we do not need to pad it up with more encouragement or praise for any positives done. However, the point I want to make at the outset is we are still very frustrated with that which is not done and that we are spending this time in debate on issues that, we would argue, are peripheral to the real issues that require reform around the grip of youth crime in Queensland. I start by saying that.

On the hooning laws, whilst it might capture what you might describe as youth, the kids who fall outside those laws are still causing a lot of those accidents and deaths. There are kids as young as 10 now who have been in accidents and driving around and displaying unsafe behaviour on the roads and there has been nothing done in that area to curb that behaviour of the kids. It still exists. However, there are some aspects of the hooning laws that do help; we will acknowledge that. At the same time, it is blindingly and blaringly obvious to everyone out there—you can kid yourselves in here if you want—that there is so much more work to be done in curbing hooning, and this is in no way going to stop or be anywhere near commensurate with the level of risk and safety concerns that we have in the community, particularly in North Queensland.

The cybercrime aspect of the bill needs no commentary. Anything positive being done to address those dark areas and breaches of the law that are happening these days is welcomed.

In regards to the expansion of the drug diversion program, to elaborate on the points made by the member for Hinchinbrook, it becomes interesting. This is very new to us. It has been difficult to have a really strong view of this one way or the other, but morphing together the schedule 1 and 2 drugs is concerning. There has been a push—a progressive and you might say liberal-type approach by government, liberalising the laws around marijuana. I was talking to a couple recently who said, 'Look, we thought we were pretty progressive and liberal in our views, but we went to New York and it just did not feel right having that waft of gunja up the main street on Fifth Avenue.' We can joke about it here, and I guess it is pretty funny, but there is a drift and you just want to be careful that we are not moving into that space where it becomes normalised and then over the next year or two we are in here debating how we treat different types of drugs in schedules 1 and 2. We raise that as a caution. We understand the benefits, but it does raise the question of how the police feel about this. I did not see much commentary on that, and they are the ones at the forefront—

Mr McDonald: Police on the street do not like it.

Mr KATTER: I take that interjection from the member for Lockyer that the police on the street do not like it. I am sure there are plenty who disagree with this, putting it through the health system, so we do have concerns around that. Otherwise, the rest of the initiatives of the bill are quite positive.