




Speech By  
**Ann Leahy**

**MEMBER FOR WARREGO**

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### **QUEENSLAND COMMUNITY SAFETY BILL**

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (5.58 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Queensland Community Safety Bill. The bill contains amendments to no less than 14 pieces of legislation and this guillotined debate limits members' time to speak on this legislation. Some of the legislation amended is, in fact, watered down legislation from 2015-16. I want to thank the many people who have contacted me in relation to this legislation and raised their concerns. I particularly want to thank the shadow minister for police and member for Ninderry for his advocacy in relation to seeking changes from the government to a definition of 'conviction' that ensures there are no unintended consequences from this bill. I want to thank him for his advocacy. Clarity on this definition was certainly needed.

There are also changes relating to access to small arms ammunition agreed to by the government. This will be of assistance to many of the mixed businesses in my electorate that sell ammunition. The bill talks about how the number of firearms reported as stolen has increased by 21 per cent in the last decade. The explanatory notes state that there were 779 firearms stolen in 2023 alone. Whilst the bill talks about illegal firearms, there is not one penalty for illegal firearms; nor is there one new offence for illegal firearms in the bill, and the bill does nothing to crack down on these illegal firearms. If the government is so concerned about them, why not take this opportunity to crack down on illegal firearms?

Whilst Labor talks about firearm theft, it does not get tough on it, and that is what is needed. In this bill the Labor government has missed that opportunity to get tough on the illegal gun owners. The difference is that the LNP is proposing to crack down on illegal firearms and crack down on those involved in organised crime through drive-by shootings. In 2019 the LNP proposed an increased penalty for the stealing of firearms or ammunition and the shadow minister for police has proposed amendments that increase the maximum penalty for stealing firearms and ammunition from 10 years to 14 years imprisonment. What we know from the evidence in other states is that this increased penalty on those illegal firearms and ammunition purchases has shown that firearms theft has decreased.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Member, I ask you to resume your seat. Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, I call the minister to reply to the second reading debate.