




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

Record of Proceedings, 12 December 2024

MAKING QUEENSLAND SAFER BILL

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (12.11 pm): I rise today with a profound sense of duty to speak to the Making Queensland Safer Bill. This bill represents not just a set of legislative measures but also a commitment—a promise—to the people of Queensland that their safety, their security and their peace of mind are at the heart of this government's agenda.

To frame my contribution today, I want to start by sharing a story. During my campaign I made a promise to listen to the stories of the people in my community and today I bring one of those stories to this House. I had the privilege of meeting many remarkable residents who call Pumicestone home. These are people who have built their lives in our community, who contribute to its character and who deserve to feel safe in the places they live, work and raise their families.

One afternoon while doorknocking on Bribie Island I met Heidi and Clint Luck. Their story is a powerful reminder of why the Making Queensland Safer Laws need to be law by Christmas. In the early hours of 11 August, Heidi and Clint experienced a terrifying home invasion, a nightmare no family should have to endure. Awakened by the sound of their bedroom door opening, Clint discovered intruders rifling through their belongings. Thinking at first it might have been his nephew, he called out only to be met with an unfamiliar and chilling voice. Without hesitation, Clint sprang into action.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Marr): Excuse me, member for Pumicestone. I want to check that the example you are giving is not going through any court case or under any police instructions?

Miss DOOLAN: No, not at the moment.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may continue.

Miss DOOLAN: Three teenage boys—three intruders—had forced their way into their home. Clint, acting on pure instinct, chased them out to protect his wife and his three children, who were fast asleep. In that moment, Clint could not stop to consider whether these intruders were armed and how dangerous they might be. His only focus was the safety of his family.

Heidi, still shaken from the ordeal, described the chaos and fear that filled their home. For days they struggled to sleep, feeling vulnerable in the one place they should feel safest: their home. Sadly, Heidi and Clint's experience is not an isolated one; it is part of a growing pattern of youth crime that is leaving families across Queensland feeling exposed and unsafe.

During another visit, this time in Ningi, I spoke with a couple who showed me video footage of their new car being stolen by a 14-year-old. They recounted how the car was eventually found in a pine forest—damaged, trashed and unrecognisable. What struck me most was not just the material loss but also their sense of helplessness. They did not know what consequences, if any, the offender faced; they were left in the dark, unable to get answers or closure. This is unacceptable.

The problem with youth crime has been 10 years in the making and it will take time to turn it around. For the past decade, we have tried the path of simply cuddling young criminals and it has failed. However, it has not failed just us; it has failed the young people as well. We need to shift our approach.

From 2019 to August this year, the number of serious repeat offenders skyrocketed by 58 per cent. This year alone, more than 50,000 youth crime offences have been committed in Queensland communities. These statistics paint the clearest picture of the desperate need for tough laws to fight youth crime. Labor has been hiding the true state of the youth crime crisis from Queenslanders. This data is clear: while youth criminals were rummaging through Queenslanders' homes, Labor was misleading Queenslanders about how bad the youth crime crisis had become.

As Queenslanders grapple with these harsh realities, the conversations have shifted in a way that should alarm us all. Our Premier, David Crisafulli, in a recent speech made an important statement. The conversation about where to leave your keys in your house is not normal. The conversation about whether a road is a known hotspot for hoons or stolen cars and which way to drive to work is not a normal conversation. The conversation about which car park is safer at the shopping centre is not normal, yet these are the conversations people are having not just in Pumicestone but right across the state.

The Queensland youth crime crisis undoubtedly has its origins back in 2015, when the former government proudly boasted about watering down the laws. Victims called for change; Queenslanders voted for change. Our LNP government makes no apologies for delivering on our commitment to Queenslanders before the election that Adult Crime, Adult Time will be law by Christmas. If you murder someone, that is an adult crime; that deserves adult time. If you wound someone: adult crime, adult time. If you violate the sanctity of someone's home and you break in and rob them: adult crime, adult time. If you make the choice to commit adult crimes, you should know that we have made the choice to ensure there are consequences for that behaviour. These laws are tough but Queenslanders have backed them. They have backed the Crisafulli government to take strong action to end the youth crime crisis gripping our state.

The former premier criticised us for committing to lower the rate of youth crime and lower victim numbers and said that it could not be done. That might be his attitude but it was not ours. When his government removed consequences for actions, they created this generation. It appears that everyone but those opposite understands that if the laws are weak then more crimes will be committed. The young criminals know this. For a number of crimes, when a young person turns 18 they stop offending. They know that, depending on which side of 18 they are, there will be different consequences. Punishment does matter. Consequences for actions do matter. We are sending a message that if you do the crime you will be punished.

This bill prioritises victims. It removes outdated principles that place detention as a last resort, ensuring that the rights and safety of victims are front and centre in our justice system. No longer will victims like Heidi and Clint feel unheard. Their stories will inform the justice process and their voices will guide its outcomes.

I urge all members of this House to reflect on the stories of their own constituents. The Making Queensland Safer Bill is a response to these stories—a response to the real, lived experiences of Queenslanders, who are crying out for change. I commend this bill to the House.