




Speech By
Hon. Bart Mellish

MEMBER FOR ASPLEY

Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2024

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Community Safety Plan

 **Hon. BJ MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (9.47 am): Keeping Queenslanders safe is the first priority of the Miles government—whether that is at home, on our roads, on public transport or while enjoying all of the opportunities that Queensland has to offer. The Community Safety Plan for Queenslanders outlines a comprehensive, detailed and holistic plan to address crime and serious antisocial behaviour in our communities and to address the tragic stories we heard from victims of crime yesterday. We all have a part to play in community safety, and the Miles government is doing everything it can. The Community Safety Plan for Queenslanders outlines extended powers for the use of wandering—Jack’s Law. We know that this is working to keep our community safe. Every weapon taken off our streets thanks to Jack’s Law stops future potential offences or harm being caused to our community.

I would like to update the House on the success we are already seeing with Jack’s Law operating on our trains, trams and buses. Authorised transport officers, including our senior network officers and rail squad, work alongside Queensland police to ensure safety across the network. I am advised that TransLink and Queensland police meet weekly to discuss intel and trends to determine operational locations and authorised officers attend joint agency operations multiple times a week.

They work collectively through Operation Victor Course to conduct high-visibility passenger safety operations across the public transport network including wandering for knives and edged weapons under the provisions of Jack’s Law. To date there have been over 700 Victor Course operations on the bus network in South-East Queensland—including Brisbane, Logan, Gold Coast and Moreton districts—resulting in almost 2,000 wandering searches, almost 100 knives located, more than 450 notices to appear and more than 460 arrests.

Along with Victor Course operations on the bus network, there have been 318 rail operations conducted in South-East Queensland resulting in over 2,700 wandering searches, over 100 knives located, well over 600 notices to appear in court and 400 arrests. As a result of our safety initiatives, serious crime on the rail network remains low. On top of deploying more teams to the network, the Department of Transport and Main Roads and QPS are also sharing intelligence and data to improve safety right across the network. These are highly visible operations on our public transport networks to deter, detect, investigate and charge offenders for criminal and antisocial behaviour.

Queenslanders deserve to get where they need to go safely and reliably. That is why we are investing in our public transport network and investing in community safety with strategies and actions like Jack’s Law that work to keep Queenslanders safe.