




Speech By  
**Brent Mickelberg**

**MEMBER FOR BUDERIM**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 February 2024

**SUMMARY OFFENCES (PREVENTION OF KNIFE CRIME) AND OTHER  
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (6.58 pm): Knives, blades, machetes, axes—they all have no place on the streets of Queensland, let alone in the hands of young, violent thugs who unfortunately we increasingly see running riot across the state. I am sure all Queenslanders are appalled at the bloodshed and some of the incidents that have occurred and, to be frank, have occurred in most electorates across the state. The pain that victims' families must be experiencing can only be described as unimaginable.

The often forgotten sufferers in this escalating youth crime crisis are Queensland's small and family businesses. They are being robbed at alarming rates, and staff are being threatened with knives while just doing their jobs. In fact, the Leader of the Opposition spoke about one such business in his MPI earlier today. The physical harm that is caused by knives speaks for itself, but the ongoing psychological damage to employees who have had a knife waved in their face should be taken just as seriously.

Let's also talk about the financial costs of crime—the cost of paying for what has been stolen from businesses and the cost of fixing vandalism and damage to shops, smashed windows and broken doors. I know that many small businesses are having to employ security guards to protect their staff and belongings. At a time when the cost of living is escalating, this strain must be addressed. What Queenslanders want is for the government to get tough on youth crime. They want swift action taken to protect the innocent and to ensure there are consequences for actions. Getting tough on small business is not getting tough on youth crime.