




Speech By  
**Christopher Whiting**

**MEMBER FOR BANCROFT**

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

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (12.33 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I stand as the chair of the committee that examined the bill. As we heard this morning, community safety is a primary focus for the Miles government because we want ordinary working Queenslanders to feel safe and to be safe, whether that is in their homes or in their local communities. I keep thinking about the key message that we heard from the Jack Beasley Foundation and the Queensland police: we want young people to be able to say, 'I live my life without a knife.'

At its core, the bill is designed to reduce knife crime and to enhance community safety by strengthening laws surrounding the sale, possession and storage of knives. The bill captures knives, machetes, axes, spear guns, spears and gel blasters. It is comprehensive. Obviously, one of the key objectives of the bill is to prohibit the sale of controlled items to minors, whether that be in shops, online or at markets. During our examination of the bill we heard that all of those retail possibilities are covered in the bill.

A notable objective of the bill is to prohibit the marketing and advertising of weapons that may be created to appeal to young people. That includes, for example, weapons that are advertised as suitable for combat such as can be seen in online gaming. It includes weapons that are advertised as 'zombie knives', which may be suitable for use in an imaginary apocalyptic scenario but belong only on a screen. They have no place in a civilised community. They are dangerous.

During the committee's examination of the bill it became very clear from all submitters that everyone supports the bill. I note that there was no dissension or statement of reservation to the committee's report by opposition members. I thank the Jack Beasley Foundation for coming along and presenting to us. Belinda Beasley and Sam O'Connor, who is a member of their board, came along to explain why these laws are important. I thank the police for their comprehensive submission to our committee.

I thank the retailers. It is very clear that, because of the foreshadowed changes, retailers will have to move quickly to cooperate with us as we control the sale of these items to minors. I thank the retailers for making suggestions on how we can further improve safety in public spaces such as shopping centres. I have no doubt that some of their opinions and submissions will be examined closely as further changes are considered carefully by this government.

In conclusion, this bill is part of a comprehensive response to decrease knife crime and increase public safety. This morning we heard the Premier say that on this side of the House we have a laser focus on community safety. We are providing more support to victims and we are putting more police on the beat. As the Premier said today, everyone deserves to feel safe and we are going to continue to make sure Queenslanders feel safe. I commend the bill to the House.