




Speech By  
**Hermann Vorster**

**MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 December 2024

**MAKING QUEENSLAND SAFER BILL**

 **Mr VORSTER** (Burleigh—LNP) (12.34 am): For my own sanity I have to believe that at least some things are objectively true, and one of those things surely is that actions have consequences. If we hold that effort deserves reward, then surely we should demand that violence deserves justice. For a decade there has been no justice for communities across Queensland. Instead, they have had salt poured into their wounds—emotionally and physically—by a Labor government that was either disinterested or incapable of owning its mistakes. However, I am happy to report that there is hope. The people of Queensland have spoken and a new government in this new parliament will right these wrongs and make Queensland safe.

Safety is surely the primary obligation of any government, because without safety we cannot have prosperity. If you as a citizen or a provider are fixated about keeping you and your family safe you cannot do those other things—those aspirational things, those things that will deliver a better tomorrow—because you are too consumed about being safe today. While there are hundreds of thousands of victims in Queensland who have been directly affected by the youth crime crisis, I want to acknowledge those indirect victims—those who have been impacted by rising insurance costs but also those who have been impacted because they have been robbed of the opportunity to enjoy that great Queensland lifestyle. Like many members on this side—and I have to be confident that it is true of those on the other side—I did a lot of doorknocking during the campaign.

**Ms Bush:** Grow up!

**Mr VORSTER:** I did grow up during that doorknocking, and how could you not grow up when confronted by harrowing stories? They are growth opportunities. I would hope that the opposition has the opportunity to grow through this debate and realises that the electorate has spoken. What the electorate has said is very clear, and that is that we cannot continue down the current path because, if we do, we will create more victims and those victims will sometimes pay incredible prices. In my own community, having doorknocked many thousands of homes, I was keen to ensure that I had a social licence, that I had a licence from my community to walk in here and back in these laws. I was very proud to launch a campaign called the Stop Burleigh Crime campaign. It was available at [stopburleighcrime.com.au](http://stopburleighcrime.com.au). I knocked on doors and put flyers through letterboxes and by the end of that campaign, which ran but a few months, 800 families had joined our campaign for change.

They did not want anything extraordinary. They wanted more police and they wanted stronger laws so that they could get on with the job of raising their families and running their businesses. What occurred to me during that process is that these 800 families were not only distressed with the weaker laws that had been foisted upon them by a government too disinterested to deal with the problem but also confronted by a lack of resources on the ground. What I mean to say is they had fewer police in 2024 than they had had in 2015 despite our population growing. That is why I talked about rubbing salt

into the wounds of the problem. It was the former Labor government who created this crime crisis by weakening the laws and they did not respond with more police to play catch-up, they reduced the number of police.

**Ms Bush:** That's a lie!

**Mr VORSTER:** In the Burleigh electorate police numbers went backwards. It is not a lie. I will take the interjection.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Member for Burleigh and member for Cooper, I have heard both of you in the last 20 seconds use unparliamentary language. Member for Burleigh, would you withdraw?

**Mr VORSTER:** Of course I would withdraw and I would—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Just take a moment. Just withdraw, please.

**Mr VORSTER:** I do withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Cooper, would you please withdraw your unparliamentary language?

**Ms BUSH:** Of course, Mr Deputy Speaker, I withdraw.

**Mr VORSTER:** I will certainly be seeking your guidance after this contribution to better understand how to make my point. It is important that I do make my point because my community has said unequivocally that they need a voice in this parliament championing their concerns. My colleagues on this side of the chamber have done a remarkable job articulating how these laws will work—and they will work—so what I would like to do instead is reflect on the concerns of my community, to speak up on behalf of those 800 signatures.

I consider Burleigh to be the jewel in the Gold Coast tourism crown. Every member loves their patch of Queensland, but I regard Burleigh as an incredible place. Unfortunately, the attention on Burleigh has brought with it an unsavoury cohort. We have young offenders tearing down shopfronts, we have young offenders abusing staff members and we have young offenders assaulting visitors along the Burleigh Esplanade. This is a concern for me because this youth crime crisis and its associated antisocial behaviour in not only putting property and safety at risk but also putting our economy at risk as well because when you have a tourism asset—and Burleigh is a tourism asset for the Gold Coast—at risk of permanent reputational damage then you have economic consequences. We can ill-afford that.

To answer the call of the community, I am very proud to stand with my LNP colleagues and support the Making Queensland Safer Laws, but I do also want to say that we will do something that the ALP refused to do in government and that is to properly resource local police. I want to thank the Minister for Police. He came down to the Burleigh community and he said that we would right Labor's wrong. As part of our election commitment the LNP will deliver a \$4.1 million boost to public safety initiatives in Burleigh. We will have \$2 million for new wages for extra police. We will have \$500,000 dedicated to CCTV initiatives. We will have more lighting.

What I am most excited about is we will have a permanent police presence in Burleigh. That is important, as I said, to address issues in the economy, but it is important for another reason: at the moment an underresourced Palm Beach police station is having hardworking police officers dragged out of the suburbs at night into a night-time hotspot. Delivering a permanent police presence and \$1 million for Friday and Saturday night duties into Burleigh will free up resources into the cul-de-sacs and the streets where people are doing it tough—where people have been affected by stolen cars, by assaults and robberies. I give my full support to these laws. I give my full support to a government that will deliver extra police to enforce those laws. Actions must have consequences. I hope the members opposite realise that their inaction has consequences as well—electoral consequences.