




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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**CRIMINAL LAW (COERCIVE CONTROL AND AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT) AND
OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; CRIMINAL CODE AND OTHER
LEGISLATION (DOUBLE JEOPARDY EXCEPTION AND SUBSEQUENT
APPEALS) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (11.58 am): The cognate bills before the House are important for community safety. The mechanics of the cognate bills have been spoken about previously, so I will not again go over those. It is quite significant that we are debating these bills during International Women's Week. I would like to thank the strong women in our community for working to bring these bills before the House.

In my community there are two special women I would like to acknowledge: Vicki Blackburn and her daughter Shannah. Since the murder in Mackay of their sister and daughter, Shandee, they have tirelessly campaigned to ensure the full truth of Shandee's brutal murder is known. Their relentless campaign will benefit victims of crime and their families. I thank them for their grace, dignity and compassion in fighting for justice.

I would also like to acknowledge the wonderful workers in the Mackay Women's Centre, the Broken Ballerina team and the teams who are looking after our women in women's crisis accommodation centres. These locals are looking after victims of domestic violence on a daily basis, and I thank them.

We know that there are shameful statistics of sexual assault on women and also of violence against women and men by partners with whom they are cohabitating. The Miles government is committed to stamping out all forms of domestic and family violence in Queensland.

The women who came forward led to the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce and the recommendations in those *Hear her voice* reports. It is important that we follow that advice, and that is what we are doing here today. We want to make sure that coercive control and the pattern of behaviour that is used to isolate, intimidate and humiliate women is stamped out of our community. We know that this type of behaviour wears away women's skills to navigate life.

I have had many exhausted and distraught young women come to my office because their ex-partner who is under a DVO is using their mates to continue that harassment—to do the drive-bys, to toot the horn at all hours of the night, to call out abusive expletives—thinking that they are helping their mate. It is cruel behaviour. I am glad that this bill will address that behaviour.

There is a lot of change in my community. I would like to mention that the police in my community work hard to keep our community safe. Unfortunately, two of our hardworking police officers are retiring. Sergeant Nigel Dalton liaises with schools and community groups to get the message out about changing violent behaviours in our community. In our schools Sergeant Nigel runs Safe Circus for primary aged students and Be safe and watch your mates for high school students as they prepare students for schoolies. With clever messaging through theatre and song they pass on those messages

that will help our students to be safe around sex, alcohol and drug behaviours when they are at schoolies and beyond. Sergeant Rowena Wallace supports victims of domestic violence. She rolls out programs to help her colleagues to deliver the support and programs that we need out in the community. I wish Sergeant Nigel and Sergeant Rowena a retirement where they get to do whatever they like because they deserve it.

There are many celebrations happening around Women's Week and International Women's Day. I am looking forward to supporting Zonta on the weekend, because they do a great job to say no to domestic violence. I commend the bills to the House.