




Speech By
Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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

 **Mr BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (6.27 pm): I rise to support the bill. Knife violence and crime is an abhorrent thing. It is an act of hatred and violence against other people that has no place in our community. For someone to be violated, to be hurt, to be permanently marked, and in some very tragic cases to die from being stabbed is a vile act. I acknowledge that people have died: Jack Beasley—and I acknowledge Brett and Belinda, his parents, who have campaigned so strongly on this issue—and Vyleen White from Redbank Plains recently. It is a terrible thing.

Sadly we have seen subcultures and cultures take a turn for the worse in terms of knife crime, particularly amongst some youth subcultures. That is why I support this bill to crack down on it. It is very important that we do so. No-one should be walking around our community carrying a knife. It is as simple as that. There is no reason to do that. This new bill toughens measures against that behaviour and the consequences of that behaviour becoming more prevalent in terms of people who commit crimes using such a weapon.

The bill prohibits the sale of knives and other knife-like weapons to minors who have no reason to have one or to use one. Of course, it will not affect those who have legitimate work purposes, as has well been outlined by other speakers. The bill includes amendments to increase the ability of a police officer to search and confiscate a concealed knife. It also prohibits advertising and marketing of knives and other weapons in a way that promotes combat or violence, including the manner in which it is advertised, as well as markings and words on the product itself.

Using provocative words or slogans that imply, depict or promote violence will be banned, and these are matters I support very strongly. Given how globally connected we all are these days, it is not surprising that this increase in knife violence and crime is happening in other jurisdictions. It is happening internationally and there have been various actions happening elsewhere as well. No doubt jurisdictions have been talking to each other, including our state. Retailers will have to lock away sharp weapons like knives, tomahawks and other weapons, and ID checks will be required. The bill prioritises community safety, which is something I very strongly support on behalf of the people of Miller. We see increased penalties for both first offences and repeat offences, and we also see the ability for police to use metal wands to ensure searches are done quickly, non-invasively and effectively.

In terms of community safety this is a very good bill. This is a very positive step forward by government reacting to something that is in our community. It is disappointing to see that those opposite are trying to politicise this issue by moving amendments that are not evidence-based and which are more likely to promote a cycle of dysfunction and increase crime rather than prevent it. We have to work with the evidence base if we are serious about this, and I support the Premier's comments in that regard. We need to make sure what we do is effective. It is not just about the next media headline or grab; it is about breaking that silence—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: Those opposite in the LNP laugh at that comment. It is very disappointing that they think this is a laughing matter. This is a serious matter.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: We continue to get interjections from those opposite when they are trying to politicise and gain advantage on an issue. The evidence base is critical to us breaking that cycle. We know it is a difficult issue, but this legislation will mean greater intervention for young people. We know that at times young people get off the track, so we have to give our first responders, our police and others, the ability to intervene and get them away from dysfunction and onto a more productive path in life, being able to get to them early when they have made the mistake of carrying a knife around. It is important for them to understand the values of our community. Our values should be that people do not carry weapons around with them, and that is a way of getting to them earlier. I think that is a really positive thing about this bill. It is one of the many reasons I support it, and I thank the minister and the cabinet for bringing it forward.