




Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Furner**

**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 6 March 2024

**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**

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (12.02 pm): I want to make a short contribution in supporting these bills. This goes to the fundamental core of why we are in government. I want to commend the chair of the committee but also the relevant ministers for bringing these bills to the chamber. I want to reflect briefly on one of the comments in the chair's foreword which states—

It is not enough to call out the behaviour, draw attention to the statistics or have an awareness campaign. It is not enough to have White Ribbon Day or the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Deep, structural reform is necessary.

Back in 2008 when I entered the Australian Senate as a Queensland senator, that was one of the main reasons I decided to become a White Ribbon ambassador. Since then I have been advocating against domestic and family violence on a regular occasion with my department, with my colleagues and within my electorate.

There were two factors that brought me to that decision. Firstly, it was seeing mainly male supervisors in workplaces that I represented commit abhorrent actions against female workers—belittling them and reducing them to tears using fear and intimidation. That behaviour must stop. The second reason was the fact of living under my own roof and seeing my own daughter affected by coercive control. I will not refer to him as a man because a man does not conduct violence against women. A man does not abuse someone's privacy to look at their phones or to tell them what to wear out in public. A man does not do these things. That is why I am so proud to be part of this Miles government to see these changes and actions of introducing enforcement laws to prevent this behaviour. It has to stop.

The conduct you walk past is the conduct you accept and condone. I call on all men in this House, in our state and in our workplaces to stand up and speak out against domestic and family violence and, in particular, coercive control. Only then we will be in a position to stop this conduct right across our communities. I commend the bills to the House.