




Speech By  
**Natalie Marr**

**MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 December 2024

**MAKING QUEENSLAND SAFER BILL**

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (10.26 pm): This is a very proud moment for me to be standing here tonight to speak on the Making Queensland Safer Bill, and I will tell the House why. Thuringowa, this is for you. Crime: yes, finally you have a member for Thuringowa who is not afraid to talk about crime. The word 'crime' may not have been spoken by the former government. You told me that you did not have confidence that your previous member fought for you when it came to calling out the crime crisis, but I made a promise to you and the almost 6,000 people I doorknocked during the campaign: we will be tough on crime and we will make the tough decisions to ensure the rights of victims and community safety are prioritised over criminals.

The Making Queensland Safer Bill holds great importance to the people of Queensland who are currently bearing the burden of a decade of inaction by the previous Labor government. The youth crime crisis has impacted so many communities across Queensland; however, it has been regional areas such as my electorate of Thuringowa and the wider Townsville community that have seen the true extent of this horrible crime crisis. It was the people of my community who first called out the youth crime crisis and spent almost a decade fighting to be heard after the former Labor government weakened the Youth Justice Act.

To the people of Thuringowa: you were ignored and let down by the former Labor government when it came to your calls for help to address the youth crime crisis. You were made to feel unsafe in your own home. You were made to feel as if the never-ending cycle of crime was to be the new normal of living in our community.

I am proud to be on this side of the House as a member of a government that will put the rights of victims in front of the offenders. I am proud to be part of a government that will stand up for regional Queenslanders. We are putting the rights of victims first. We are making it clear that the damage done by offenders will no longer be swept under the rug, that their actions will have consequences and that the people of Queensland will not stand for a system that fails to protect them.

Unashamedly, we stand for the countless victims of crime in this state who have been constantly ignored and disregarded. We listened and today we deliver on our commitment to you. At the core of this bill is the establishment of a clear expectation that the rights of victims are prioritised before those of the offenders. The bill also instils a clear expectation that offenders will be held accountable for their serious violent offences.

It gave me great pride to be appointed to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee. As a member who represents the community that was the epicentre of the youth crime crisis in this state, I am honoured that I get to be the voice of North Queensland. Our voices are finally being heard.

It was crucial our committee went to Townsville to listen to victims. We heard some of the most terrifying and heart-wrenching stories from those who have been left traumatised by the youth crime crisis. The committee heard from the business community which has been punished with additional

costs of doing business due to the high levels of crime in Townsville. I am not sure I heard any comments from the other side on the victim statements during the committee process. There were stories that were important to shine a light on the truth about the impact and victimisation of communities due to inaction by the former Labor government.

Following the introduction of this bill to parliament, it gave me great pride to be able to return to my community and give them confidence that we are listening, and we are taking urgent action to restore safety in our community. My community is over forums and talkfests. They want a government ready to take action and listen to their concerns. That is exactly what the Crisafulli LNP government is doing, and it begins with this bill that delivers community safety for all Queenslanders.

Following the election, I met with our local police who are absolutely exhausted from dealing with the same group of repeat hardcore offenders and having to constantly attend to the victims left behind by this group of untouchables. They highlighted the fact that they had not once been visited by the former Labor premiers, but maybe that is because their carpet is not red. However, it was the first priority for the leaders on this side of the House to get out and see our frontline police, to let them know we support them, and we will do everything necessary to give them the resources they need to keep our community safe.

This bill is a first step of many by the LNP government as part of our Making Our Community Safer plan, to clean up the mess left by those opposite. This bill is very clear in its objective: making Queensland safer. We promised Queenslanders we would deliver on this by Christmas, and we will. They gave us the mandate and their backing to deliver this bill.

This bill removes detention as a last resort. This bill will ensure that an offender's criminal record is considered when sentencing. This bill will instil consequences for action, and this bill will enhance victim recognition in sentencing. The Making Queensland Safer Bill will also complement the Crisafulli LNP government's broader plan to restore community safety through gold standard early intervention and mandatory, result-driven rehabilitation programs to ensure there are fewer victims of crime.

To those opposite, including the Katter party, who are unsure on what position they would take on this bill, I pose a very simple question: will you stand with the many victims of crime across this state who have been traumatised by the youth crime crisis, or will you continue to ignore them and stand on the side of offenders and those who let this crisis get to the point it is today? To those serious violent offenders, the message is very clear from the Crisafulli LNP government: if you commit an adult crime, you will face adult time. To the people of Thuringowa and Queensland, I stand with you. The Crisafulli LNP government stands with you. We will fight hard for you and take every step necessary to restore safety in our community, starting with the Making Queensland Safer Bill.