




Speech By  
**Hon. Tim Mander**

**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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**MAKING QUEENSLAND SAFER BILL**

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (12.04 am): I am very conscious of the time tonight. It is 12.04 am for anybody reading my transcript later. I am saying that because—

**A government member:** Thousands! Thousands!

**Mr MANDER:** There will be. Thank you. I take that interjection. I say that as an explanation. I want my contribution to be short, but it is important to put it on the record. Obviously, I am in favour of the Making Queensland Safer Bill. It is very rare to have one issue that dominates an election as much as community safety dominated this last election. I think most people in this House would recognise that a government's No. 1 priority is to ensure people are safe. That has been failing in recent years. I remember when I was shadow police minister one or two terms back, this issue started in Townsville and Cairns and it was isolated in those areas. It was incredibly serious there and, unfortunately, it was not until it left those two cities and came down here to Brisbane that I think people really understood how serious the issue was.

I remember going to South Africa in 2001 for football, believe it or not. Yes, South Africans play Rugby League. I had three weeks in Johannesburg and, during that time, I was in shock with regard to the security measures that were in place. Everybody had high walls or boundaries around their properties—barbed wire, broken glass on top to stop people coming in, and you had a security briefing wherever you went. The thing that really took me by surprise was the fact that many suburbs had decided to have their own security and had security gates and security guards to make sure those who should not be roaming the streets did not do that in those enclaves. I could not believe that that would happen, anywhere in Western civilisation. I reflect back now, as I look what is happening in our state, and that is now happening here. That is now happening in this state where people feel unsafe that they are engaging their own security officers to keep them and their families safe. That is simply not good enough.

I heard quite a few contributions over the last few hours. There is not much more to say other than to say this is a comprehensive policy. Yes, Adult Crime, Adult Time is an important part of that policy, but that applies to a very small cohort of hardcore recidivist offenders. We have to send a message that that behaviour is completely unacceptable, where they have thumbed their noses at society basically and saying to themselves, 'We can do anything we want.' That is not acceptable.

Of course, the other parts of the policy platform all talk about early intervention, rehabilitation, giving those young people a chance—those who make one mistake, maybe two mistakes, maybe three mistakes—but not when you steal 85 cars, not when you invade somebody's house, their privacy, armed and cause terror. That is not acceptable. This government has recognised that, and we are going to send a very clear message to those young offenders that we are coming after you and that everybody in society does not accept that behaviour and you either hear that message or you wear the consequences.

I want to thank the ministers who have been responsible for bringing this to the parliament. The police minister has been integral in this policy. I know he had a lot to do with Adult Crime, Adult Time. That is, I think, an unbelievably good policy.

If a 16-year-old commits murder and they get 20 years and they get out when they are 36, I think they have still done pretty well. Some think that is a harsh penalty when somebody has taken somebody else's life and they are convicted for that. I have had a couple of people from my community say, 'How dare you incarcerate innocent young people?' Well, guess what? In this state we do not incarcerate innocent people. We prosecute those who are alleged to have committed a crime, we go through a court process and if they are found guilty a sentence applies to them. I think if you commit murder—at whatever age—you deserve the full force of the law. If they are that young, they will still get out with plenty of life left and plenty of chances to rehabilitate and to show that they can make a contribution to society.

On that note, I want to congratulate all of the ministers involved: the police minister, the youth justice minister, the Attorney-General and the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, the member for Whitsunday. I commend the bill to the House.